



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, from Mountain City to Memphis, Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including parks, mountains, rivers, and trails that illustrate our state's unmatched beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating, and many more activities allow us to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to 13 national parks, including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited national park in the United States and a World Heritage Site; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to 57 state parks, hundreds of waterfalls, and thousands of miles of lakes, rivers, and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's state parks attract millions of visitors per year, generating billions in economic impact and directly employ nearly 1,500 Tennesseans. In 2022, Tennessee's State and National Parks hosted more than 40 million visitors from around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, enjoyment of our natural resources allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife, and lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee is investing more than \$500 million to help preserve our outdoor heritage, including brownfield revitalization, nuclear energy innovation, and the expansion of our state's parks, natural areas, and trails; and

**WHEREAS**, stewarding our natural resources builds strong communities; protects natural, cultural, and scenic resources; and provides opportunities for exploration, recreation, and restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Serves, an initiative of the First Lady's office, is spotlighting service opportunities throughout September to bring awareness to the importance of preserving our state's natural beauty and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with the National Parks Service, is celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> year of National Public Lands Day by inviting people across the nation to volunteer at a national park site;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023, as

*Tennessee Public Lands Day*

and encourage all Tennesseans to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eleventh day of September 2023.

Governor

Secretary of State

