



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee State Parks system was established through legislation signed on May 21, 1937, and those laws, with modifications and additions over the years, remain the framework for park operations today; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee began its park development in cooperation with federal programs, such as Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and Tennessee Valley Authority, which provided a catalyst for planning, construction and operation with an emphasis on conservation and resource-based recreation activities; and

**WHEREAS**, TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remain critical partners today supporting state parks and effective water resource management practices along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and Reservoirs; and

**WHEREAS**, state leaders and communities sought to make sure there is a state park within fifty miles or an hour's drive of anywhere in Tennessee so there would be park locations to serve as a compelling destination for both in-state and out-of-state guests; and

**WHEREAS**, state parks provide positive economic impacts to local communities, particularly in rural areas of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, these special places reflect the inherent value of our natural environment, the important role of Tennessee in American history, the opportunity to pursue improved health and wellness across generations, and a quality of life unique to Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, for seventy-five years, Tennessee's state parks have delivered a rich fabric of natural landscapes, wild places, preserved ecologies, outdoor recreational opportunities and protected historic resources, together authentically representing Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's state parks are vitally important to the economic and environmental well-being of our communities, promote the health of all citizens, protect and contribute ecological beauty, and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee State Parks celebrate their Diamond Anniversary in 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of July, 2012, as,

## TENNESSEE STATE PARKS MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens 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 1st day of July, 2012.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hight in blue ink.

Secretary of State