



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, from Mountain City to Memphis, Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and rich natural resources, including parks, mountains, rivers, and trails that illustrate the unmatched beauty of the Great Outdoors; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Tennessee's state parks attract millions of visitors per year, creating more than \$2 billion in economic impact in Tennessee and directly employing nearly 1,500 Tennesseans, and in 2022 alone, Tennessee's State and National Parks hosted more than 40 million visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of our Great Outdoors 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, in partnership with the General Assembly, is committed to ensuring a brighter future for Tennesseans by investing nearly \$370 million to support the creation and expansion of our state's parks, natural areas, forests, and trails; and

WHEREAS, engaging in the Great Outdoors helps build strong communities, protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources and providing opportunities for exploration, recreation, and restoration;

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

Great Outdoors 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 seventh day of June 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State