



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 59 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 \$1.5 billion in economic impact, and directly employ nearly 1,500 Tennesseans. In 2023, Tennessee's State and National Parks hosted more than 340 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 \$60 million to preserve our outdoor heritage, including brownfield revitalization, nuclear energy innovation and advancement, blueway trail development, 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2024, as

Conservation 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 third day of September 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Reger

Secretary of State