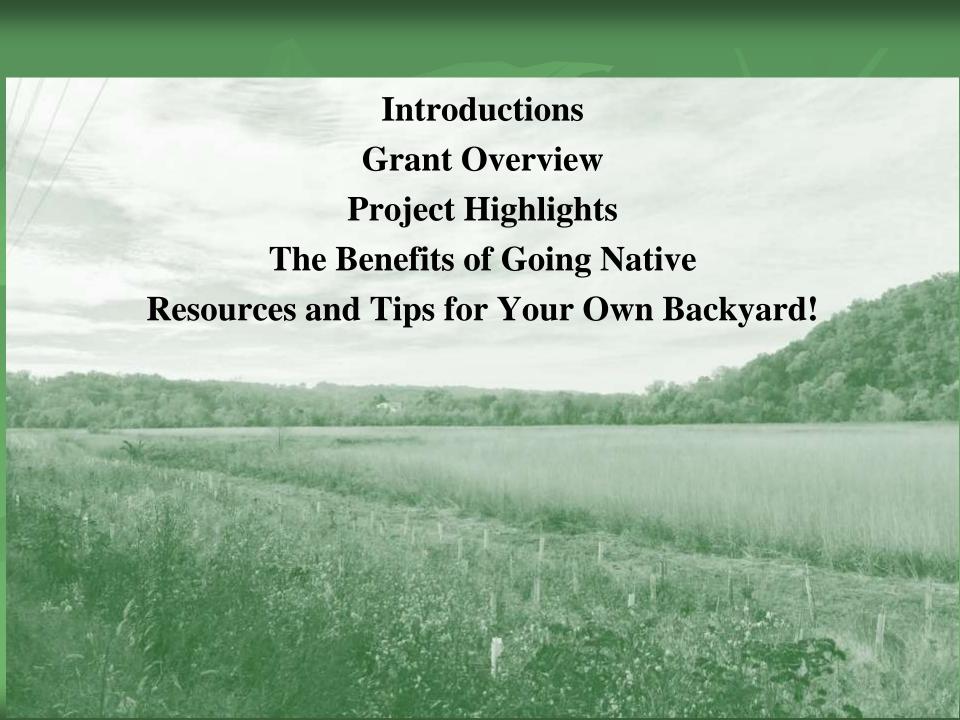


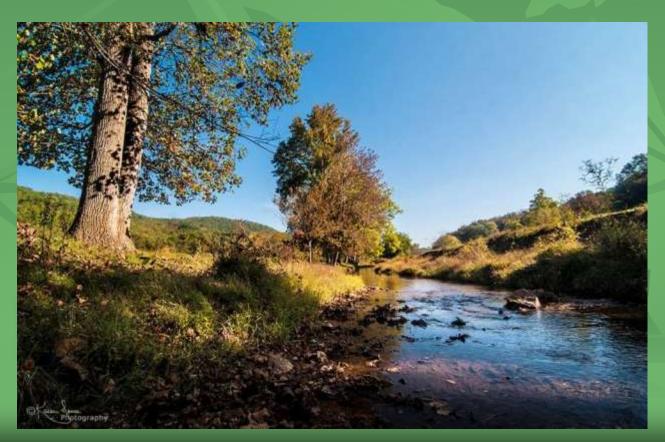
## Initiative supported through a 'Partnership for Trees' grant from the Alcoa Foundation and American Forests

The Partnership for Trees Program is a multi-year initiative to plant hundreds of thousands of native tree species on damaged and degraded sites around the world by engaging local communities in the restoration of forest eco-systems. This initiative, which began in 2011, builds toward Alcoa's goal of planting 10 million trees by 2020 and supports American Forests' mission to protect and restore forests.



## About Foothills...

FLC is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the lands and environments of the Southern Appalachian region and promoting the character of the land for the benefit of the general public, now and in the future.





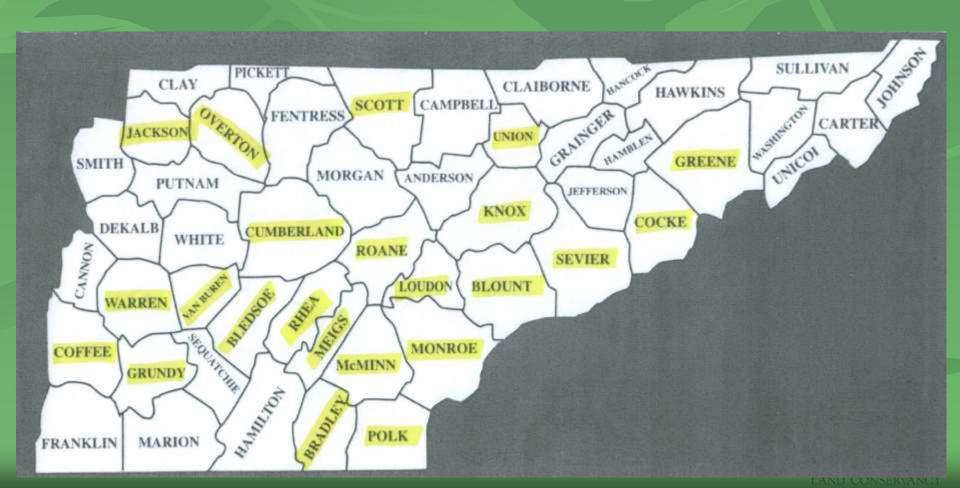
### What does Foothills Land Conservancy do exactly?





and stewardship of the property in perpetuity.

To date, FLC now has a total of 47,000 acres preserved and the number of our conservation easement partnerships has grown to over 125 throughout 26 Tennessee counties.



#### About the Grant...

- In 2013, FLC was awarded a \$5000 from the program and we committed to plant a minimum of 3200 native trees and shrubs across the East TN region.
- Planting areas include sites with stream bank erosion and locations
  where the addition of native bio-diversity assists with wildlife habitat
  diversity and the enhancement of view sheds.
  - Sites are to be qualified, managed and monitored by designated technical advisors and designated FLC Board and staff





## **Locations of Plantings**

## TWRA Properties

Forks of the River WMA
Kyker Bottoms
Foothills WMA

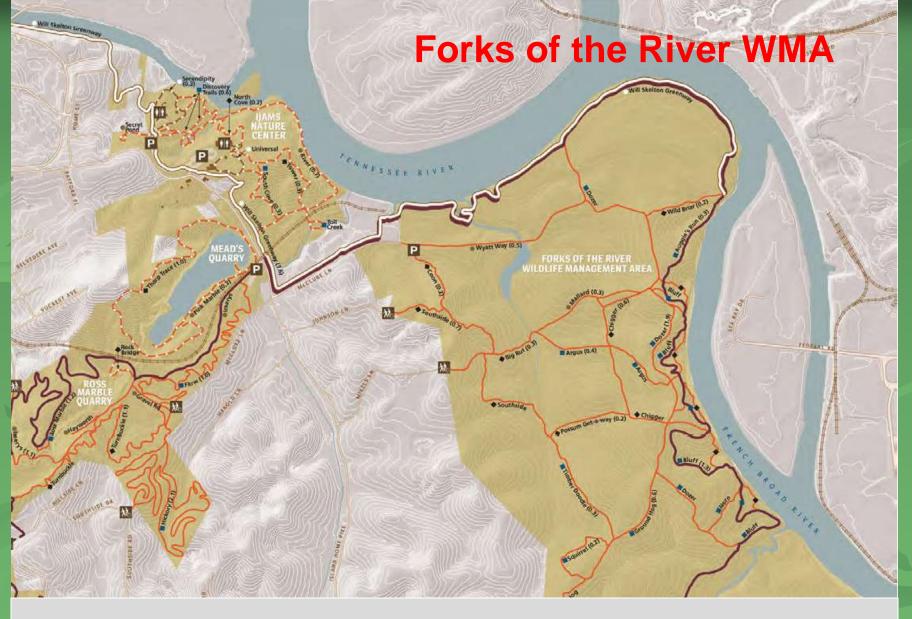
## Seven Islands State Birding Park

### TVA Public Hunting Areas

(Rhea, Meigs, and Hamilton Counties)

### Private Landowners

(4 with FLC conservation easements + 3 additional properties)



- 600 acre site managed by TWRA for wildlife habitat, hunting, and other uses
  - includes City of Knoxville greenway system and is a part of the Urban Wilderness Corridor established by the Legacy Parks Foundation

# Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area – Knox County



#### **Forks Project Overview:**

Alcoa Inc. personnel from their Knoxville office volunteered to assist FLC staff and Bill Smith plant trees and shrubs along established greenway, creating an edge between greenway and native grass fields. They also helped to establish a soft edge for wildlife cover and soft mast for food. These plantings will also add beauty for the many greenway users.



#### Forks of the River

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Planting:

300 trees were planted in late February 2014. Species included:

Southern Crabapple, Appalachian Spring Dogwood (antracnose resistant), Eastern Redbud, Black Cherry, Persimmon and Shortleaf Pine

2<sup>nd</sup> Planting: An additional planting of 200-250 trees as part of the grant was planted in late March 2014 by Bill Smith and his crew.



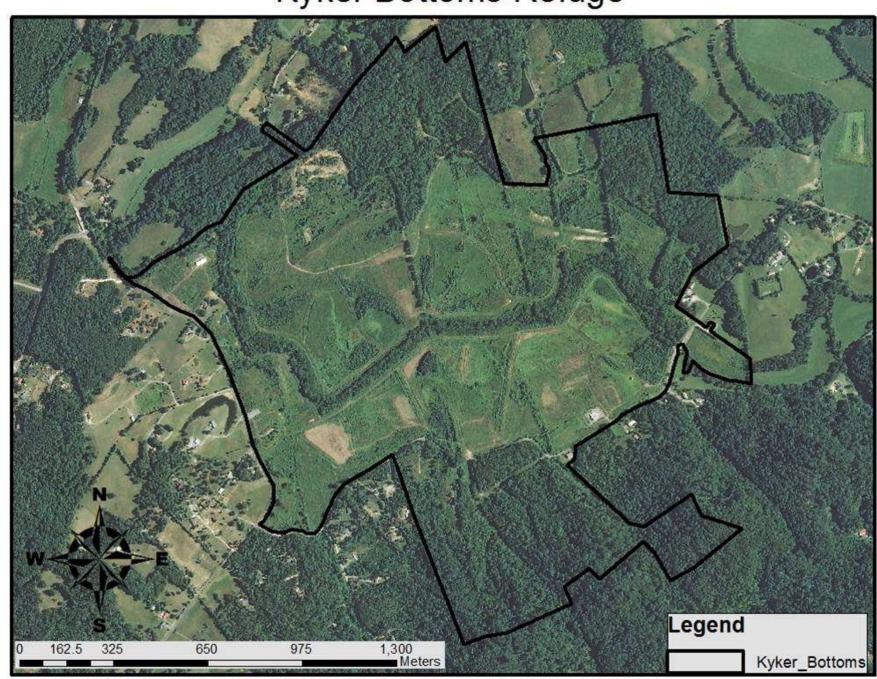








### Kyker Bottoms Refuge



## Kyker Bottoms Refuge – Blount County





- became a refuge 15 years ago with the help of several agencies and organizations including Foothills Land Conservancy.
- covers 500 acres and is primarily managed for wetlands and early successional habitat, which offers a variety of native grass and shrubs for over for over 220 bird species.

#### **Kyker Project Overview:**

Volunteers from Alcoa Inc., along with FLC Staff and Bill Smith planted native trees/shrubs next to the road way and along existing native grass fields and forested areas for a soft edge effect. Much of this area is visible from the road and would help many wildlife species and the beauty of the area.

Another area requires a Shortleaf pine border leading to an observation blind to prevent wintering waterfowl from being spooked before observers can reach the blind. This area receives periodic control burning it needs to have a fire resistant evergreen species, like the Shortleaf.



## **Kyker Bottoms Refuge:**

1st Planting: In late February of 2014, 300 trees were planted that included short-leaf pines, dogwoods, eastern redbud, persimmon, and plum.

2<sup>nd</sup> Planting: In late March of 2014 Bill and crew planted an additional 350-400 soft mast trees as part of the grant.







- In the mid-90's FLC initially worked to secure a 4600 acre tract, called the Abrams Creek Chilhowee Bear Reserve. Close to 400 acres was donated the GRSMNP and the remainder was donated to the TWRA re-named the FWMA.
- The property has grown to 10,000 acres as a result of various additions.
- This land is not only home to black bears but also 300 other vertebrate species and 950 plant species.

#### **Foothills Project Overview:**

Planting took place in late March 2014 with the goal of providing enhanced wildlife habitat diversity through the planting of hard mast trees at fields in early successional habitat. Bill and his crew removed Virginia Pines and planted white oaks between fields and forested areas for a softer edge.

They also planted s mix of 300-350 soft mast trees.

## Measuring Success

\*use personnel and volunteers to monitor these sites and track survival rates

\*disking and removing exotics (alleviate competition)



## The larger picture...

These tree planting projects and others are helpful but it's only a small part of the picture at TWRA's sites. Other land management practices that assist with habitat diversity include:

- \* prescribed burning
- \* thinning (disking)
- \* hunting





## Dick Conley's Planting Projects

Seven Islands State Birding Park

### **TVA Public Hunting Areas**

(Rhea, Meigs, and Hamilton Counties)

### **Private Landowners**

(4 with FLC conservation easements and 3 additional properties)



## Seven Islands State Birding Park

\*recently became a State Park in July 2014

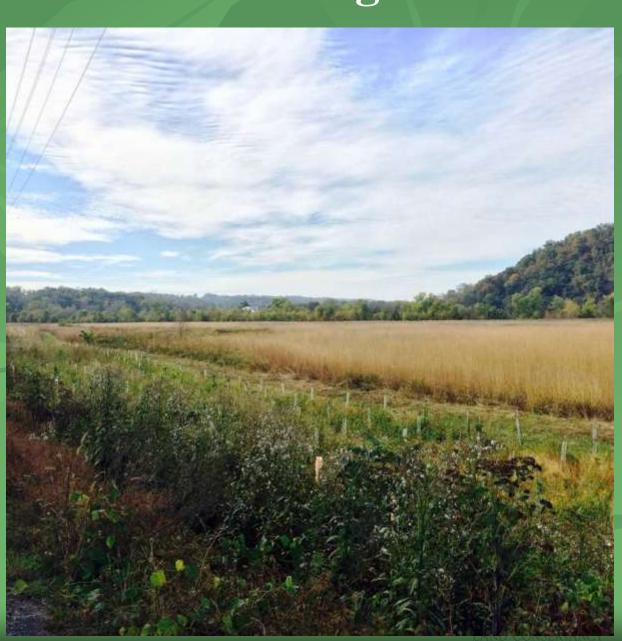
\*over 400 acres along the French Broad River that provides a diverse natural landscape of aquatic and grassland habitats

\*more than 180 species of birds have been sighted

\*includes eight miles of natural trails, rolling hills and views of the Smoky Mountains

\*the park is a research and educational facility for schools and other groups and a demonstration area for land use and habitat management techniques

\*park information courtesy of the Tennessee State Parks website



## Info on Seven Islands Planting

Last year, Seven Islands was awarded \$98,000 from the National Resource Conservation Association for the purpose of buying and plating 120 acres of wildflowers. They also received \$5000 from Tennessee Wildlife for invasive species eradication. Dick Conley also worked with these funds to plant 4000 tree seedlings and accompanying hedgerows along with 6 foot long tree tubes to protect from deer.

#### Planting Project:

To compliment the restoration work already being done at Seven Islands, Dick incorporated FLC's native tree/shrub inventory by planting a few hundred trees/shrubs like: American Beautyberry, Roughleaf Dogwood, Pecan, Southern Crabapple, Cherrybark Oak, Pawpaw, Buttonbush, and several others. Plantings were for wildlife restoration efforts and primarily assisted in the creation of hedgerows.



### TVA Public Hunting Sites

Rhea, Meigs, and Hamilton Counties

A total mix of 250 white and shortleaf pine, along with buttonbush, were planted at the various sites.

#### Private Landowners

7 Landowners (4 with FLC Conservation Easements)

An estimated 832 trees were planted among 7 properties in the counties of Knox, Roane, Loudon, and Rhea.

There private lands are sites where restoration efforts were ongoing and additional plantings would be beneficial.

#### Various trees/shrubs include:

American Beautyberry, Roughleaf Dogwood, Pecan, Baldcypress, Swamp White Oak, Buttonbush, and Southern Crabapple and Shortleaf Pines.

One of the planting projects was located near Strawberry Plains in Knoxville. The 146 acre property has an FLC conservation easement on it.





*Project Overview…* In March of 2014, FLC staff and Dick Conley assisted this landowner with planting hundreds of trees – a mix of American Beautyberry, Buttonbush, Indigobush, Roughleaf Dogwood, Plum, Blackgum, Pecan and a mix oak (Chinkapin), Nuttall, Swamp Chestnut, and Willow. The species will enhance the work being done by the land owner to put in a stream buffer and provide

diversity for wildlife.

Landowner has a grant from the National Resources Conservation Service to establish a 35' riparian buffer on each side of a stream that empties into the Holston river in Knox County. Project includes the removal and/or herbicide application to invasive species (privet and bush honeysuckle).

Last onsite monitoring occurred 8/19/2014. At the present time, 90+ percent of the plantings that FLC was involved in are living and work continues to eradicate competing grasses until plantings become established.



# Planting Native...

Benefits & Resources



## Benefits to Planting Native

- Adapted to regional conditions and may require less maintenance and are cost-effective.
- Hardy, withstand extreme winter cold, do not suffer from die back.
- Environmentally friendly, require fewer pesticides and fertilizers because of natural adaptations.
- Promote biodiversity and stewardship.
- Provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- Restore regional landscapes.
- Prevent future exotic introductions

\*Information courtesy of the TN-EPPC brochure "Landscaping with Native Plants"



## **Resources for Going Native**

#### "East Tennessee - Landscaping with Native Plants"

(Brochure made available through the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council brochure and pertains to the Unaka Mountains, Ridge and Valley, Cumberland Plateau and Mountains.)

#### "Backyard Conservation

#### **Bringing Conservation From the Countryside to Your Backyard**"

(Booklet made available through the USDA, National Association of Conservation Districts, the Willdife Habitat Council, and the National Audubon Society.)

#### "Field Guide to Sustainable Landscapes"

(Brochure courtesy of FLC Land Director, Meredith Clebsch)

#### "Little River Big Future"

(Brochure courtesy of the Blount Co. Soil Conservation Distric, UT Extensio, City of Alcoa)

#### \*Organizations to contact with questions and other resources:

TN Native Plant Society • TN Exotic Pest Plant Council
TN County Soil Conservation Districts
UT Master Gardeners • UT Gardens (offers Knoxville area workshops)





### A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests

James H. Miller, Steven T. Manning, and Stephen F. Enloe





Bill Smith recommends this guide...



#### Guides for Plants and Soil....

