

**NICKAJACK RESERVOIR
LAND
MANAGEMENT
PLAN**



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Prepared By

**Tennessee Valley Authority
Resource Development Group
Reservoir Lands Planning**

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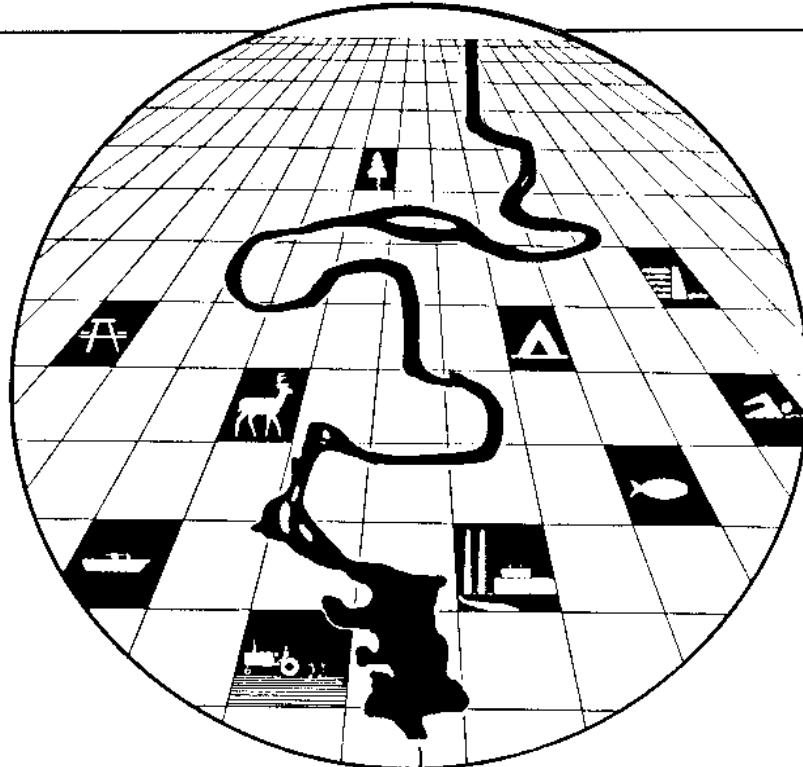
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NICKAJACK RESERVOIR PLAN

Introduction



INTRODUCTION

Throughout its history, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has managed the public reservoir lands under its stewardship to meet a wide range of regional and local resource development needs and to improve the quality of life, both within specific reservoir areas and throughout the Tennessee Valley. Reservoir properties, together with adjoining private lands, have been used for public parks, industries, and wildlife management areas and to meet a variety of other needs of local communities.

An increasing demand for and use of reservoir land sometimes results in conflicting and uneconomical land use patterns and friction between public and private use. These competing interests and development pressures, coupled with today's environmental awareness, underscore the necessity for a planned approach to the management of TVA's reservoir land and related resources. Consistent with TVA Code V, LAND USE, USE OF REAL PROPERTY, TVA uses the Reservoir Lands Planning process as the mechanism for evaluating and determining the most suitable use of TVA land.

The Reservoir Lands Planning process is based on active participation by TVA program staffs, other government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and the general public. Comments from these groups are used to identify regional and local land management needs and to develop reservoir-specific objectives for realizing TVA's valleywide reservoir land management goals, which include:

1. Promoting economic development;
2. Protecting the amenities and environmental quality of reservoirs and adjoining lands;
3. Providing a diversity of quality recreation opportunities on TVA reservoirs and adjoining land;
4. Protecting and enhancing the forestry, fisheries, and wildlife resources, as well as preserving the cultural and agricultural resources, around the reservoir area for future generations.

Specific objectives, or steps for realizing these goals, are developed from the advice and technical expertise of TVA staff, combined with public input about local values and priorities related to reservoir land use. Because the public's interests and the available resource base are different on each reservoir, the management objectives must be tailored to fit the specific reservoir. The PLANNING ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES section of this plan contains a detailed discussion of these objectives for Nickajack Reservoir.

The 46-mile-long Nickajack Reservoir, impounded in 1967, flows east to west through two counties in south central Tennessee: Hamilton and Marion. It is the most recent of nine mainstream reservoirs constructed on the Tennessee River. The reservoir extends from Chickamauga Dam to Nickajack Dam, creating 192 miles of shoreline at normal summer pool

level. The reservoir fluctuates only 2 feet annually, providing a relatively stable year-round water level. Towns closest to the reservoir include Jasper and South Pittsburg, Tennessee, located in Marion County. The nearest large city is Chattanooga, in Hamilton County, located at the most eastern point of the reservoir.

This plan will guide TVA resource management and property administration decisions on 3,171 acres of land under TVA custody and control on Nickajack Reservoir. Although the reservoir flows through both Hamilton and Marion Counties, all of TVA's landholdings are in Marion County. The plan identifies the most suitable use(s) for the land and provides sites for a variety of economic development, recreation development, and resource management purposes. The planned acreage is TVA fee-owned land and accounts for 30 miles (16 percent) of the total 192 miles of reservoir shoreline. The remainder of the shoreline not addressed in the plan falls into two categories:

1. 2 miles (1 percent) - Shoreline fronting TVA land that has been sold or transferred for commercial, industrial, or public recreation purposes, or that has been transferred to other government agencies for uses other than public recreation.
2. 160 miles (83 percent) - Shoreline fronting privately owned land which was not purchased by TVA, or shoreline fronting privately owned land over which TVA purchased flowage easement rights only.

Further details and documentation of the Nickajack Reservoir land management planning effort are contained in two appendices to this plan. Appendix A documents the public's involvement in development of the plan. Appendix B contains information about the data collected for this planning process. Both appendices are available on request.