

# Tennessee RiverLine:

Vision and Action

Powered by Partnerships



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## Session

Monday, November 22, 2021  
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

North America's next great regional trail system is being advanced from a student's vision toward implementation by a dedicated consortium of federal, state and local partners. This session illuminates the transformational vision and committed partners– including landscape architecture students and NPS RTCA planners – that power the Tennessee RiverLine's success.

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## Learning Objectives

1. Understand the vision and origins of the Tennessee RiverLine; a historic regional economic development, public health and environmental stewardship initiative that stretches 652 miles throughout 32 counties in 4 states.
2. Gain insight to the dynamics of collaboration with federal, state, local and non-traditional project partners, including university faculty and students, in this vision-driven, regional recreation planning initiative.
3. Learn how diversity, equity and inclusion principles are integrated into the value structure, programming priorities and organizational culture of the Tennessee RiverLine.
4. How the NPS' Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance, now in its 20th year of partnership with ASLA, can be engaged as a catalyst resource to community-led and professional landscape projects.



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## Speakers



**Brad Collett**, *Associate Professor, University of Tennessee School of Landscape Architecture*

Brad Collett is an Associate Professor in the University of Tennessee Department Plant Sciences and School of Landscape Architecture. His teaching, research and creative activity center on regional water resource stewardship through landscape planning and performance. Brad was a 2016 U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Slovenia, and is a licensed landscape architect. He is Director of the Tennessee RiverLine. This regional consortium collaborates with UT Knoxville and TVA, as well as UT students and the Tennessee River Studio under his leadership, to realize the transformative, multi-generational vision for North America's next great regional trail system.



**Clay Guerry**, *Recreation Strategy Specialist, Tennessee Valley Authority*

Clay Guerry attended Francis Marion University where he received a BS in Biology. After a few years as a primate biologist on the coast, he moved to the foothills of the Appalachians for graduate school at Clemson University, where he earned an MS in Zoology as well as an MS in Parks and Protected Area Management. He has worked as an outdoor guide, instructor, naturalist, and for the past 15 years as a public land manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority focusing on recreation and natural resource management. Clay has been on the Tennessee Riverline team from its beginnings.



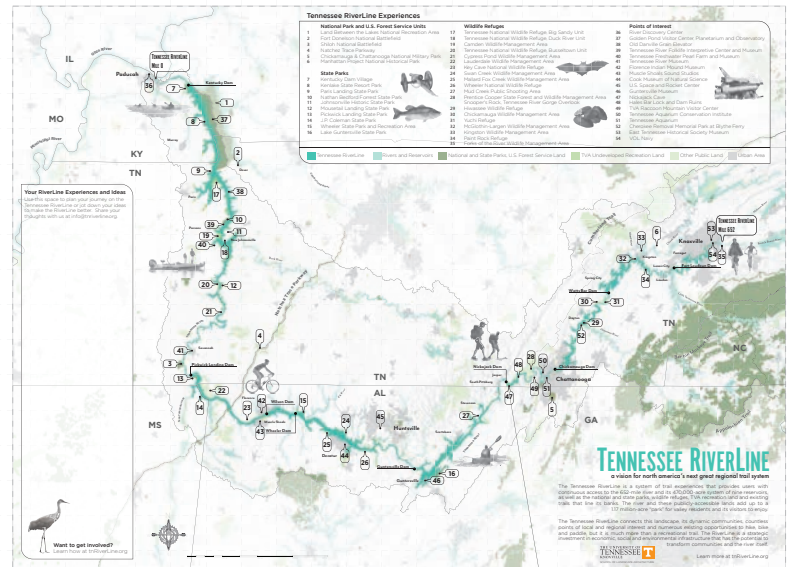
**Alison Bullock** *Community Planner, National Park Service RTCA*

Alison Bullock has served as a Community Planner for the Chattanooga Field Office of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) since 2000, providing technical assistance for trail and conservation projects in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and North Carolina. Prior to her career with NPS, Alison worked for the State of Tennessee as a Conservation Planner and Greenways & Trails Coordinator. Alison is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Master of Science in Planning. She helped lay the groundwork for the Tennessee RiverLine supporting UT's initial organizational development and community outreach.



### About the Tennessee RiverLine

The Tennessee RiverLine is a continuous system of paddling, hiking, and biking trails along the Tennessee River's 652-mile reach from Knoxville, TN, to Paducah, KY. First conceptualized by a UT School of Landscape Architecture student in 2016, this historic initiative was launched as a regional and local place-based strategy to promote economic development, enhance public health, increase equitable access to river experiences and cultivate new generations of river stewards. It benefited from a three-year collaboration with the National Park Service's RTCA program from 2017-2020. Today, its principal partners are the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Tennessee Valley Authority



46 cities and counties in AL, KY and TN have enrolled in the Tennessee RiverLine's Tennessee RiverTowns Program to date. The support and creative capacity offered through this innovative program by Tennessee RiverLine staff, with the invaluable insights, inspired effort, and ideas brought forward by each community, propels the vision forward and empowers participating communities of all sizes and means to establish their own reach of the Tennessee RiverLine. Over time, each community's effort and investment - driven by its unique opportunities, priorities, and relationship with the river - connects to become North America's next great regional trail system.

The Tennessee RiverLine is powered by partnerships. Its impact and trajectory for implementation is made possible through the effort of its full-time team and UT Knoxville faculty and students, the vision, support and leadership of its principal partners, the enthusiasm of its Tennessee RiverTowns community partners, and a regional consortium of organizations committed to the vision and guiding principles; the Tennessee RiverLine Partnership.



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## Notes



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## Additional Resources

1. Tennessee RiverLine Website - <https://www.tnriverline.org/>
2. Tennessee RiverTowns Reference Guide - <https://www.tnriverline.org/rivertowns-resources>
3. TVA Stewardship Books - <https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/stewardship-projects>
4. National Park Service RTCA Newsletter - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/the-tennessee-riverline-a-652-mile-regional-trail-system-connecting-communities-to-the-river.htm>