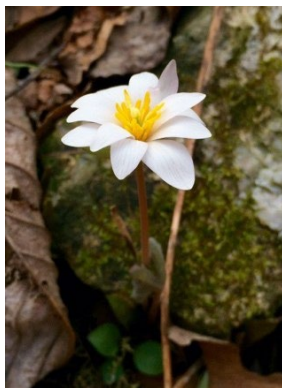
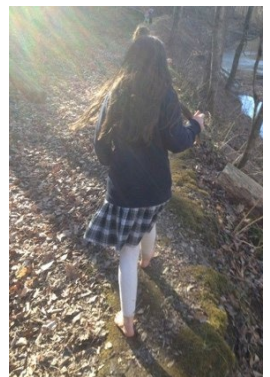


MANAGEMENT PLAN

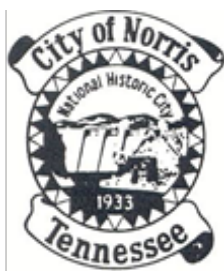
for the

NORRIS MUNICIPAL WATERSHED



Prepared by the
Norris Watershed Board

Current Members:
Ralph Jordan, Robin Sain,
Gene Lane, Allen Hendry,
Dennis Yankee, Don Barger
and Bill Griev e



March 2025

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	i
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
DISCLAIMERS	ii
INTRODUCTION	1
THE NORRIS MUNICIPAL WATERSHED BOARD.....	2
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	3
Water Quality Protection	3
Historical Perspective & Current Forest Characteristics	4
Forest Management.....	5
Priority Conservation Areas.....	8
Wildlife Management	9
Integrated Pest Management (IPM).....	10
Protection of Sensitive Species and Rare or Unusual Habitats	12
Watershed Property Protection	12
CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	13
RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE	14
Watershed Recreational Use Purpose Statement	14
Management of Recreational Usage on the Norris Municipal Watershed	15
STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND TASKS	17
Funding.....	17
Annual Work plan and budget.....	17
Annual report	19
APPENDIX A: WATERSHED USE: RULES AND PROHIBITIONS	20
APPENDIX B: WATERSHED-RELATED CITY ORDINANCES	27

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATFS	American Tree Farm System
ATV	All-terrain vehicle
BMP	Best management practice
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IPM	Integrated pest management
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
TWRA	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Norris Watershed Board would like to acknowledge the City of Norris and its citizenry for their contributions to this plan and for their ongoing stewardship and support of the Watershed. We would like to thank Joe Feeman for his many years of consultation and dedication to the enhancement and preservation of this valuable natural resource.

DISCLAIMERS

Any policies advanced or approved after the publication date of this management plan supersede the content described herein. Any references to fees included in this document are subject to change. This document may be modified at any time by the Watershed Board, with Norris City Council approval.

INTRODUCTION

The Norris Municipal Watershed (watershed) consists of approximately 2,300 acres of publicly owned land in the City of Norris (City), Anderson County, Tennessee. The majority of these lands were acquired by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), beginning in 1933, during TVA's construction of the Norris Dam Project and development of the City. In 1954, TVA transferred 1,854 acres to the City and an additional 453 acres were added through long-term easement. In 2006, 420 acres of the lands under easement were transferred in fee to the City. In its original transfer, TVA specified that watershed lands (both fee and easement) will be used solely for public recreation, while protecting water quality and managing forests upon a sustained yield basis.

The watershed includes the majority of the land drained by Clear Creek, an order II stream that empties into the Clinch River, approximately one mile downstream from Norris Dam. This watershed sources a large spring that is located adjacent to Clear Creek. It is this spring that supplies potable water for the City and select sections of Anderson County. During its construction of Norris Dam and the City, TVA built a pump house at a location 0.6 miles downstream of the Clear Creek Spring. This facility was used to pump water to a subterranean storage reservoir located on nearby Reservoir Hill. Thereafter, the City constructed an up-to-date water treatment plant to process the water and upgraded the pump station to pump the treated water to the original storage tank and a larger above ground storage tank, also atop Reservoir Hill. Collectively, the capacity of these above ground and subterranean tanks is 750,000 gallons. Because these lands are conveniently close to the populated areas of Norris, they also support a wide variety of public recreational activities, including hiking, wildlife observation, nature study and photography, cycling, horseback riding, hunting, and a rifle range.

This management plan emphasizes public recreation that is compatible with protection of the quality of ground and surface water, which is the principal source of the municipal water supply. Compatible forms of natural resource management, including forest and wildlife management activities, are also emphasized as tools for multiple use management. Revenues generated from forest management, quota deer hunts, cell tower rent, and the sale of rifle range permits provide funds that are used for a variety of management activities, including trail maintenance, repair and replacement of signs, bridges, and other amenities and enhancements. Another multiple use management objective is protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources.

From access roads, a multiple and single use trail system, wildlife openings, picnic tables, shelters, and resting benches have been constructed throughout the watershed to facilitate public use. Initially constructed by TVA and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), these improvements have been continuously upgraded and maintained by the City. TVA's Division of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Development established experimental forestry plots, permanent wildlife openings, and fisheries management facilities like the fish rearing troughs located downstream of the uppermost dam on lower Clear Creek.

In the mid-1980s, in response to public interest, a rifle range was constructed at a location previously used for plinking. The new facilities provide more structured opportunities for firearms related recreation, shooting competitions, and firearms and hunter safety education. In 2004 the range was upgraded to provide covered firing lanes, shooting benches, safety and impact berms, and parking improvements. Additionally, a 25-yard pistol range was completed in 2014.

THE NORRIS MUNICIPAL WATERSHED BOARD

In March 1954, the City Council (Council) adopted a resolution outlining three broad management objectives for the watershed which provide a demonstration of integrated multiple use of municipal forest land operations. These were:

- Protection of the city's water supply
- Natural resources conservation and education; and
- Public recreation

In 1959, Council adopted a resolution establishing the Norris Watershed Board (Board), a three member governing body, appointed by the City Mayor with advice and consent of the Council. This resolution further stated that this watershed board would be responsible for planning for and operating the lands and resources within the watershed. In 1975, the makeup of the Board was increased from three to five members. In 2015, an ordinance passed by Council increased the number of voting Board members to seven, adding one current Water Commission Board member and one Council member. In 2023, Council changed the composition of the Board to six appointed members and one Council member. Historically, Board members have been selected for technical expertise (e.g., foresters, wildlife biologists, recreation planners), and from those interest groups that make frequent use of the lands and facilities (e.g., hikers, cyclists). Council approves annual work plans and budgets submitted by the Board. The Board submits an annual report each August, highlighting accomplishments and any concerns associated with watershed management. This arrangement ensures oversight by the Council, while allowing the Board considerable latitude in accomplishing its management agenda.

As needed, and generally following the recommendations of the Board, Council enacts ordinances that protect and regulate public use. Examples of such ordinances include restrictions on open burning, littering, and prohibitions on the use of motorized off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Also, efforts have been made to restrict trail use in areas where sensitive resources exist, or with high potential for conflicts between trail user groups. For a complete list of rules governing recreational uses and resource utilization, please refer to the appropriate sections within the Appendices to this plan.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Figure 1. Images of natural resources of the Norris Municipal Watershed

Water Quality Protection

Water quality protection is the most important goal in managing the watershed. There are a number of springs that feed Clear Creek including the large spring, which is the source of water for the City. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has designated Clear Creek as “Exceptional Tennessee Waters” because of the excellent biological diversity of macroinvertebrates (e.g., aquatic insects, crayfishes, etc.), which is indicative of excellent water quality.¹ Clear Creek has been a reference site for the Ridge and Valley ecoregion for a number of years and, since 2013, it has been included in the Southeast Regional assessment to monitor climate change. Macroinvertebrates and fish are sampled annually by TDEC, along with a rare mayfly species found only in a handful of Tennessee streams.

Clear Creek is an order II stream that has a limited diversity of fishes, typical of similar small streams. The most common species are creek chub, bluntnose minnow, blacknose dace, common shiner, and banded sculpin. Crayfish, frogs, and snakes are common in and along the stream, as well as salamanders, including a couple of species that are somewhat rare. The two milldams on the creek prevent upstream migration by fish. According to Trout Unlimited, the major perturbation influencing water quality in the stream is runoff from the gravel county roads, Upper and Lower Clear Creek Roads. As a result of stocking, small reproducing populations of rainbow trout formerly in the stream above the mill dams do not seem to be extant at present. Seasonally, reproductively active brown and rainbow trout will migrate upstream from the Clinch River in Clear Creek in an effort to spawn on gravel bars and shoal areas downstream from the lowermost dam. For this reason, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) closed lower Clear Creek downstream from the uppermost dam, to fishing.

¹ Retrieved from TDEC on January 10, 2016:

http://environmentonline.state.tn.us:8080/pls/enf_reports/f?p=9034:34304:8579060631602::::

All but a small portion of the surface area of the Clear Creek Watershed is owned by the City. In order to further guarantee water quality conditions in Clear Creek, those private lands that are within the Clear Creek Watershed, but not owned by the City, should be closely monitored. Ultimately, the responsibility for protecting water quality within the Clear Creek Watershed, as affected by activities occurring on both the private and publicly held lands, resides with the Norris Water Commission, TDEC, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the provisions of the Clean Water Act. At a minimum, any earth disturbing activities planned or undertaken within the Clear Creek Watershed should comply with best management practices (BMPs) established by TDEC and EPA. In order to further protect the water quality within the City-owned portion of the Clear Creek Watershed, the Board coordinates any proposed resource management activities and public use enhancements with the Norris Water Commission.

Historical Perspective & Current Forest Characteristics

At the time of purchase, the watershed was occupied by a number of small family farms with nearly 800 acres in some type of active or recently idled agricultural use (e.g., pasture, cropland). At that time, the watershed was fairly typical of other east Tennessee areas—marginal farms with poor, overgrazed pastures and woodlots that were overcut, burned repeatedly, and grazed by livestock. TVA initiated stewardship measures shortly after purchase in an effort to restore healthy forests and to reclaim idle and depleted pastures. Over 300 acres of the agricultural lands were planted with shortleaf pine. Other idle and open land reverted, primarily, to Virginia pine and yellow poplar. The entire area was protected from grazing and fire, and timber cutting was limited to light selection cuts and salvage of storm and insect damaged pine. These forest protection efforts created a healthy and diverse forest that was dominated by oaks.

After the watershed was transferred to the City in 1954, forest management consisted of periodic timber harvests that involved low-volume selection cuts of timber over a moderately large area. At that time, and until 1995, TVA foresters provided forestry guidance and assistance. From 1955 to 1969, eight timber harvests were conducted, with all but one being hardwoods. The logs from many of these early cuts were sawed on site with portable sawmills. One shortleaf pine stand, planted in the mid-1930s by the CCC, was thinned. In 1971, the City entered into a 10-year contract with Longleaf Industries to sell three million board feet of hardwood timber from the watershed. It was during this period that the City implemented the first clearcut. Based on information from watershed files, approximately 292 acres were harvested by eight selective harvests and produced 1,247,000 board feet of hardwood; and 173 acres were harvested by five clearcuts and produced 1,026,000 board feet of hardwood. In addition, about 555,000 board feet of pine was cut during several pine beetle salvage harvests.

From 1980 to 1992, five timber sales were conducted (all by clearcut) to harvest mature upland hardwood. In 1993, TVA inventoried the watershed forest and found a total 11,534,400 board feet of standing sawtimber. Prior to the Longleaf contract, in 1971, TVA inventoried the watershed and found a standing sawtimber volume of 11,759,500 board feet. This indicates that the heavy harvesting during the Longleaf period was offset by growth. Since 1992, four clearcut harvests totaling 51 acres have been conducted, as well as one shelterwood harvest of 13 acres.

The forest in the watershed in this current year, 2025, is much different than in 1953 when the City took ownership. There are much fewer large sawtimber stands of upland hardwood, especially in the areas that are designated for cutting. The remaining large sawtimber stands are dominated by oaks, which have reached physiological maturity and are experiencing increasing mortality. The southern pine beetle eliminated most of the pine that was present and many of those former sites are now occupied by undesirable species that provide minimal value for wildlife and forest management. The aforementioned 1971 statistical summary found that pine species accounted for 22 percent of the forest vegetation. Currently, this species accounts for less than one percent. There has also been a shift in the composition of both canopy and understory hardwood species. The 1993 inventory found that oak comprised 50 percent of the canopy and only 8 percent of the understory. This trend toward a more shade tolerant composition is also evident with red maple. Red maple made up approximately 3 percent of the overstory but accounted for 14 percent of the understory. Yellow poplar, which is less shade tolerant than red maple, but more so than oak, made up 25 percent of the canopy, and 16 percent of the understory. Of major concern, from the standpoint of forest productivity, is the high percentage of dogwood (8 percent), blackgum (4 percent), and sourwood (12 percent) in the understory.

Forest Management

As stated in the 1954 transfer agreement from TVA, the watershed is managed to “develop, utilize, conserve, and manage, on a sustained yield basis, the forest resources.” A healthy forest is important for maintaining water quality, improving wildlife habitat, and providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities, while concurrently providing economic benefits and other amenities. Sustained yield ensures that the forest resource will not be depleted and will continue to produce forest products in perpetuity.

The watershed has been a certified tree farm by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) since the 1970s. To qualify as an ATFS tree farm, the landowner must manage their forest to a set of standards that ensure sustainability, maintain a management plan, and be recertified every five years. The ATFS has been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)² systems, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 that promotes sustainably managed forests. A revised management plan was submitted to ATFS in 2012 for the current recertification. It is advantageous to remain in the tree farm system because their certification confirms that wood products harvested in the watershed are from a sustainably managed forest.

² Retrieved from PEFC on January 27, 2016: <http://www.pefc.org/>

The goal of current forest management in the watershed is to achieve and maintain a desired future condition of: a diverse and healthy forest dominated by oaks; diverse wildlife habitat; natural conditions conducive to multiple use recreation; economically valuable timber, and protected water quality. A variety of activities will be conducted to meet this goal and to ensure the sustainability of the forest. The forest management system that will be applied to the majority of the forest stands³ will be even-aged. However, the condition of the watershed forest as a whole is desired to be uneven-aged. In the past, this has been accomplished by using even-aged harvests (i.e., clearcut and shelterwood) on small areas (up to 10 acres) scattered throughout the watershed area designated for cutting. This system creates a mosaic of different-aged stands of trees across the forest intended to increase habitat diversity, improve forest health, and produce future economic value. Although selective harvesting of hardwoods generally does not regenerate a forest dominated by oaks, it is considered a tool for enhancing forest ecosystem diversity.

A desired future forest condition is to maintain a diversity of wildlife habitat types by providing a diverse set of forest size classes. Seedlings are trees up to 1 inch in diameter; saplings are trees from 1-4 inches in diameter; poles are trees from 4-11 inches in diameter; small sawtimber is trees from 11-15 inches in diameter; and large sawtimber is trees larger than 15 inches in diameter. The 1993 TVA Forest Inventory for the Norris Watershed revealed that the watershed forest was composed of 5 percent seedling/saplings, 9 percent poles, 21 percent small sawtimber, 60 percent large sawtimber, and 5 percent various sized stands. In 25 years since the inventory, there have been slight changes in this composition, but the percentage of sawtimber is still very high and the overall balance of sizes equates to a less than desirable diversity of stand size. The desired composition is 50-70 percent sawtimber (large and small combined), 20-30 percent poles, 15-25 percent seedling/sapling, and 2-5 percent permanent open land (e.g., grasses, forbs). Timber harvest is one mechanism for achieving a balance of forest size classes. Any expansion of existing openings and creation of new openings will increase the open land component.

An important component of the forest is the oaks. These long-lived species are an essential wildlife food source, are of great economic value, and are aesthetically pleasing. Oaks have been the dominant tree species in this region since the demise of the American chestnut in the early 1900s. This dominance is owing to several conditions that were caused by humans. Native Americans routinely burned the woodlands to clear understory, remove leaves from the ground to facilitate nut gathering, maintain grasses under the trees, and for hunting animals. The burning continued when other settlers arrived in the area. Oaks are able to withstand repeated fires unlike thin barked species such as red maple, beech, and yellow poplar. When the chestnut blight ensued, the oaks in the understory were ready to grow. The oak dominance can now be seen in older forests; however, the next forest will have much fewer oaks because of the absence of fire and will likely be dominated by shade tolerant species such as red maple, beech, sourwood, and yellow poplar unless management action is taken.

³ A forest stand is a delineated area of trees that are similar in species, size (diameter), age, and density.

Regeneration of oaks is a management priority. A variety of harvesting methods can be utilized for accomplishing this goal. A dense forest with little or no sunlight to the understory limits the development and growth of oak seedlings and saplings, which require a moderate amount of sunlight. Future harvests and control burning can be designed to remove competition and increase sunlight to the forest floor in efforts to achieve successful regeneration of various oak species. One such strategy, a shelterwood harvest, utilizes an initial control burn followed by a two-stage system with an initial cut conducted to reduce the number of canopy trees and eliminate the mid and under story layers. Additional control burns may be needed to reduce unwanted trees. This helps ensure that oak seedlings and saplings in the understory receive adequate light for growth and development. When the young oaks reach a height sufficient to compete, the remaining overstory is then removed to further release them. The other strategy for ensuring oak regeneration is a clearcut harvest, which removes all of the trees one inch and greater, to create light conditions that allow oak regeneration to compete with other species.

To recreate historical conditions that were conducive to oak regeneration and development, it is desirable to initiate a control burning program in mid and older age stands that are dominated by oaks. This treatment should help control maple, beech, sourwood, and the other shade tolerant tree species that often suppress oak regeneration. Several burns may be required to achieve an open under and mid story. When TVA purchased the watershed area, about 800 of the 2300 acres were in pasture or other open farmland. As previously stated, to control erosion and stabilize the land, the CCC planted approximately 300 acres of shortleaf pine. Much of the remaining open land reverted to Virginia pine and yellow poplar. In the mid-1970s, southern pine beetle infestations devastated watershed pine stands. For this reason, only a few scattered individual yellow pines and one small stand of white pine exist today. It is desirable to maintain a healthy pine forest component in the watershed. This can best be achieved by planting shortleaf pine on existing open areas and converting inferior hardwood stands (i.e., stands comprised mostly of undesirable species, or trees of extremely poor quality) to pine and/or mixed pine-hardwood stands. Future management of these stands might include thinning and control burning.

It is desirable to keep some areas of the watershed in a relatively undisturbed or “natural” condition, by designating them as “no harvest zones.” With this in mind, this plan delineates over 600 acres of the 2300-acre watershed as no harvest zones or natural areas. These areas include riparian zones, mature forest stands, steep slopes, and all of the property located south of Clear Creek, from the creek to where the property meets Upper Clear Creek Road. Also included are areas immediately adjacent to Lower Clear Creek and much of Upper Clear Creek Roads. Designation of these areas will help protect water quality, provide “natural areas” for compatible forms of dispersed public recreation, maintain habitat diversity, and protect the aesthetic quality of highly visible areas. These zones will be protected from any cutting or other physical disturbance.

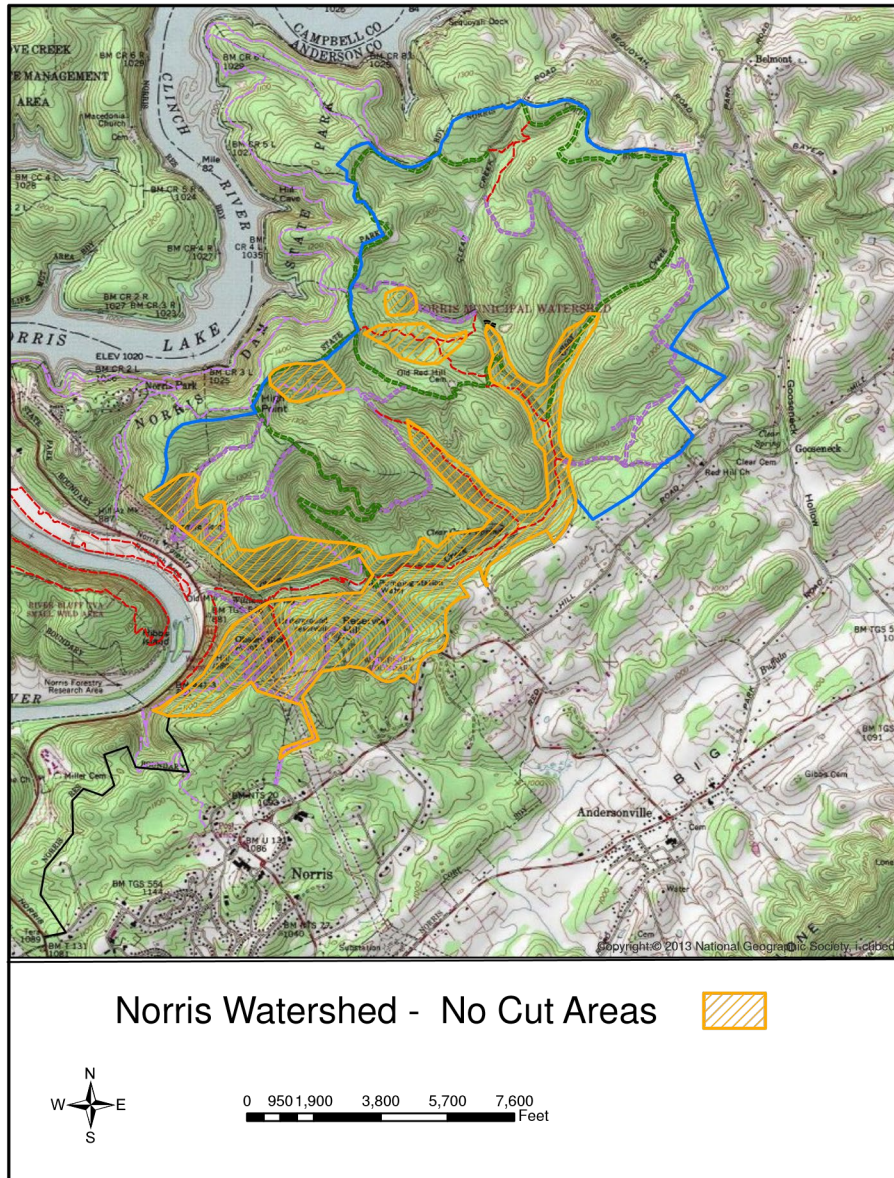


Figure 2. Map of “No Harvest Zones” within the Norris Municipal Watershed

Priority Conservation Areas

Preservation of old-growth forests is of utmost concern in the eastern United States. In the aforementioned TVA 1993 forest inventory, watershed stands were analyzed using criteria developed by the TVA’s Forestry & Wildlife Programs to identify forest stands that might qualify as “old-growth.” Eight stands met the TVA criteria. These oak-dominated old-growth stands are in a transitional state that will likely not replicate the current species composition unless management strategies are applied to control shade tolerant understory species (e.g., red maple, beech, and blackgum).

One of these stands, The Eli Nine Sinkhole, was designated as a natural area in 1980 by the Kentucky-Tennessee Section of the Society of American Foresters. This 15-acre area is

described as a “large limestone sinkhole approximately 30 feet deep and encompassing approximately 3 acres, rim-to-rim.”⁴ In addition to the sinkhole, the forest surrounding it is an excellent example of an oak-dominated (primarily red and white oak), old-growth hardwood forest. Although there are still many living large trees, mortality has occurred since the original designation date for the site. Monitoring of this area will continue and it will remain protected from cutting.

Wildlife Management

In 1933, there were fewer game laws and less game law enforcement than now. The watershed was like many other areas in East Tennessee—hunting had greatly depleted deer herds, and wild turkey were practically nonexistent. Trapping had also greatly decreased or eliminated many fur bearing mammals. Scattered subsistence farms had adversely impacted all wildlife, and unregulated hunting, while providing a source of food for depression era families, had all but eliminated most traditional game species. Following TVA’s purchase of the land, hunting and trapping were less prevalent and game species populations slowly began to recover. In the late 1940s and 1950s, TVA initiated successful demonstration projects with white-tailed deer. Then, in the 1960s, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission launched an intensive effort to restore populations throughout the state. This effort focused on deer trapping and reintroduction as a strategy for supplementing the residual natural population. Many areas were closed to deer hunting for a number of years, including the watershed. In 1974, Anderson County was again opened to deer hunting, which included the watershed. Several years later, the City began managing drawn deer hunts. TWRA initiated a wild turkey reintroduction program in the 1980s, and today, this species, in limited numbers, can also be found in the watershed.

Wildlife management activities in the watershed have focused on enhancing available habitats to support a diversity of game and nongame species, for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Currently, the most important game species is the white-tailed deer, which is the most sought-after big game species in Tennessee. Because the watershed provides a quality hunting area for white-tailed deer, annual quota deer hunts are conducted in the watershed, coinciding with statewide seasons for archery and early gun hunts, but are limited to nine days of each. Some revenue is derived from permit sales. During the quota archery and gun deer hunts, the watershed north of Clear Creek is closed to all other uses. Additionally, allowable firearms for the gun season include shotgun (rifled slug only) and muzzle loaders. Aside from white-tailed deer, all other game species hunting is allowed consistent with applicable Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations.

It is desirable to maintain a diverse array of habitat types within the watershed. Diversity of habitat increases the diversity of wildlife species inhabiting the area. Currently available habitats include a variety of forest vegetation cover types (e.g., upland hardwood, pine, and pine-hardwood), of various age, size, and density. Optimum habitat includes forest stands that offer a

⁴ The sinkhole is situated on property owned by C. E. (Eli) Nine when TVA purchased the watershed area in 1935.

combination of seedling and sapling, pole, and sawtimber sizes. Open grasslands with invading shrubs and forbs are also an essential habitat component, especially for small mammals, songbirds, raptors, and turkeys, that utilize such areas for feeding and nesting. A mosaic of habitat types is ideal for wildlife as different species require different habitat types. For example, scarlet tanagers and oven birds require older forest, while indigo buntings and yellow-breasted chats require early successional habitats, such as young forest stands and forest openings.

There are currently eight larger (1.0-3.5 acres), and seven smaller (0.2-0.9 acres) forest openings that total approximately 17.2 acres in extent, or 0.7 percent of the watershed area. These openings, which are scattered throughout the watershed, provide a variety of vegetative cover types. Older openings are established in orchard grass or fescue, native forbs, shrubs, and tree saplings, while newer openings are comprised of native grasses and wildflowers, or temporary cover crops. It is advantageous to eliminate orchard grass and fescue from openings because of their growth habitat, poor forage quality, and their documented detrimental impacts on both game and nongame species. This can be achieved through repeated soil disturbance, herbicide treatment, and periodic burning. One goal for open lands management is to promote the establishment of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and tree saplings that will provide improved food, cover, and nesting habitat for wildlife. The Board will utilize a full array of management options to maintain forest openings, including periodic mowing, control burns, native grass conversions, periodic soil disturbance, and other cost-effective methods for maintaining forest openings. It is likely that selected methods will be used on a rotational basis, applied every 1-3 years, as needed, to maintain optimal habitat.

Finally, there are four constructed ponds that provide water, at least seasonally. Two of these are small and were constructed in forested areas during timber harvests. The two larger ponds were constructed in open areas. A small ephemeral pond associated with a former farm is also located within the watershed and the newest opening has a sizable pond that normally maintains water year round

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is a coordinated system used for suppression or elimination of native or exotic pest plant and animal species. The watershed has a documented history of southern pine beetle infestation. Two previous outbreaks in the mid-1970s and early 2000s eliminated all but one of the pure pine stands in the watershed, although scattered stand remnants and individual pines embedded in hardwood stands still exist. Historically, this has been the only significant insect pest problem affecting the watershed. However, the watershed has experienced an increase in the number of exotic pests. In recent years the emerald ash borer has virtually eliminated all of the pole and larger size ash in the watershed. Active surveillance of the area for new pest species, such as walnut twig beetle (primary vector for thousand canker disease in black walnut), spongy moth (formerly called gypsy moth), long horn beetle, hemlock wooly adelgid and others, is necessary to identify pests early. If forest pests are discovered during the early stages of an outbreak, various treatment methods can be applied, such as trapping and salvage harvesting.

Numerous invasive plant species are becoming more prevalent and pose a significant threat to watershed forests. Kudzu and multiflora rose were planted in the 1930s by TVA and the CCC to help control soil erosion, and are still present, although not in a large number of areas. Three areas with kudzu now exist in the watershed and two of these are being treated and will hopefully be eliminated. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is common at old home sites and the Red Hill Cemetery and continues to spread slowly. Another species that has been spreading for more than 40 years is Japanese wineberry, a close relative of the native red raspberry. Also present are “pockets” of Japanese honeysuckle and privet. Most of these more established pests are relatively benign when compared to the exotic plants that have invaded over the last 20 years. Autumn olive and oriental bittersweet are present as scattered individuals and in small patches. In the case of bittersweet, in some areas this vine is smothering native vegetation and killing mature trees. Most of these species are capable of spreading rather quickly, especially bittersweet. In the summer of 2011, a small area of Japanese knotweed was discovered along East Trail. Since discovery, this area has been treated annually and will continue to be monitored and treated as needed. Bicolor lespedeza is another plant that was originally planted to benefit wildlife but is increasingly becoming more invasive. This species is becoming a problem in the small wildlife opening on East Trail and in an opening along Upper Clear Creek Road. Wild yam was detected in 2021 and has increased its area of growth. Other exotics that are present and known to have detrimental effects on native species are ground ivy, Nepal grass, and miniature beefsteak.

Careful, limited use of low toxicity herbicides is an important tool for resource management. Treatments can be used to suppress competition that shades oak regeneration in harvest areas and shelterwoods, eliminate unwanted grasses in wildlife openings, treat kudzu and other invasive plants, and in other situations. The Norris Water Commission has expressed concern about the widespread use of herbicides in the watershed because of the possible contamination of the City’s water supply. Therefore, herbicidal treatments will not be used without the full knowledge of both the Norris Watershed Board and the Norris Water Commission. Only herbicides that are labeled for use along streams will be applied near Clear Creek. All applications will strictly follow label directions for use and safety. Any areas that are treated near Clear Creek and its tributaries will only use herbicides that are labeled for aquatic use. Application methods would include foliar spray, cut surface treatment, and basal bark application. The preferred herbicides are Garlon 3A (active ingredient: triclopyr, a selective herbicide that kills woody plants and vines) and Poast (active ingredient: sethoxydim, a selective herbicide that kills grasses), but others may be considered in the future for specific treatment. Roundup or other formulations containing glyphosate will not be applied in the watershed. Non-herbicidal treatment strategies for controlling these invasive species will involve hand digging and cutting of plants, or selected use of control burns (burning can be effective on a limited number of species). A plan detailing the locations, preferred timing, and herbicides used in the watershed can be found in the approved annual plans for the Norris Watershed Board.

Protection of Sensitive Species and Rare or Unusual Habitats

A review of TVA's Natural Heritage Program database for possible occurrences of endangered or threatened plant or animal species populations confirmed that no such species have been documented from within the watershed. A population of Kentucky rosinweed (*Silphium wasiotense*), a formerly state-listed threatened species, does occur along Clear Creek. This area lies within the 33-acre tract that TVA retained as a part of the last land transfer in 2006 and similar habitat is in the adjacent Norris watershed. TVA has designated this area as a 'habitat protection area' and roadside mowing by the county road department has been discontinued to protect these rare plants. Large-leaved grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*), which is listed as being of 'special concern' by the State of Tennessee, is known to be in an area located within 500 feet of the watershed near the old grist mill. It is possible that these species could occur in the watershed but is unlikely because the area adjacent to the populations were surveyed as part of the Environmental Assessment for the transfer. Any activities that are conducted in areas with suitable habitat will be implemented only after surveys are conducted.

Watershed Property Protection

One of the most important elements of land management is maintaining property boundaries. The watershed abuts both private and other public land managed by TVA and Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment (Norris Dam State Park). Over the last 10 years, boundaries between the Norris Watershed and adjacent private properties have been resurveyed and marked with orange paint. Additionally, the boundary lines between Norris Dam State Park and the Norris Watershed were surveyed and marked (and signed) by the State of Tennessee in recent years. Well-marked boundaries serve as a cost-effective deterrent against illegal hunting and timber theft. Watershed boundaries require frequent re-painting and sign replacement especially along private properties. Removal of potential threat trees along watershed boundaries will follow procedures set by the City.

Maintenance of double-track trails (forest roads) is one of the most expensive management activities conducted in the watershed. Currently, there are more than 13 miles of forest roads that are routinely maintained. These forest roads facilitate access for recreational uses (e.g., hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding), as well as forest management, fire suppression, police patrols, emergency vehicles, and other permitted uses consistent with the Motorized Vehicle Access and Use criteria found in Appendix A.

Early residents who had no heavy equipment built most of the existing forest roads in the watershed. For this reason, such roads were usually located in areas that were relatively flat like ridge tops and in stream bottoms. Unfortunately, these latter locations are often poorly drained and subject to washouts and ponding. In order to protect forest roads and reduce erosion, rainwater needs to be drained from the road surface as quickly as possible. For this reason, properly sited forest roads are generally routed alongside hillsides, where out-sloping will allow for drainage. Guidelines for road construction and maintenance are available from Best Management Practices (BMPs) manuals developed by the TDEC, and the Tennessee Forestry Commission.

It is highly desirable and shall be considered a primary objective of the Board that all forest roads maintained on the Norris Watershed will eventually meet, or exceed, Tennessee BMP guidelines. Achieving this objective may require relocation of sections of some existing forest roads, which will require increases in budget allocation as forest roads are routinely renovated. Since 2016, to protect and improve forest roads within the Norris Watershed, cyclic maintenance has been accomplished on several previously degraded road sections. Additionally, access control structures, including steel pipe gates and post & cable barriers, have been installed throughout the watershed to prevent access by motorized vehicles. Since these protective measures were implemented, annual expenses for cyclic maintenance have been significantly reduced. Additionally, dumping of trash and littering, along with timber theft, loitering, and other unsavory activities, have been largely eliminated. Furthermore, restricting motor vehicle access to forest roads has allowed Norris Public Safety officers to focus their attention on pedestrian trailheads and vehicle parking areas along Lower and Upper Clear Creek Roads, and the rifle range off of Upper Clear Creek Road. Consequently, officers are able to spend more time patrolling within the City of Norris, and its immediate vicinity, thereby avoiding the necessity of hiring additional patrol officers.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The late Earl Olson, a longtime resident of Norris, was one of the most knowledgeable individuals regarding the historical and cultural resources of the Norris Watershed. Mr. Olson spent countless hours speaking with individuals with firsthand knowledge of the local community that existed at the time TVA purchased the property, beginning in 1933. Based on Mr. Olson's findings, the area that encompassed the watershed was a thriving community, with numerous small farms, water-driven grist mills, cemeteries, churches, and roads. With the exception of Red Hill Cemetery, which was not purchased by TVA and is still in private ownership, stone foundations and piles of field rock are the only remaining evidence of these earlier inhabitants.

Mr. Olson's findings are largely contained in two documents, The Clear Creek Mills and Notes on the Clear Creek Valley of Anderson County, Tennessee. In these papers, which can be viewed at the Norris Municipal Archives, Mr. Olson relays information on families and their home places, the churches, schools, grist mills, cemeteries, and other elements of community structure. It should also be noted that Mr. Olson installed concrete posts at various sites in the watershed that were important to the local community. The location of many of the houses, barns, smokehouses, sheds; orchards, toilets, etc. are shown on the maps TVA prepared when the property was originally acquired. The Norris Watershed Board now has copies of the majority of these maps, which are used to protect these historical artifacts as forest management activities and recreational use developments are undertaken. This information, along with early aerial photos, provides an important historical context for this area that can be used for both resource protection and public interpretation. The Norris Archives also has a wealth of information about the Watershed and has been quite helpful in identifying sites or areas of cultural significance.

The watershed trail map shows the locations for many of these historical sites. Mr. Olson’s papers can also be used to prepare a comprehensive historical account for the watershed, including TVA’s historical research activities, related natural resources management, and recreational use. A future project will involve the completion of a comprehensive inventory of old home sites and historic features. To inform users of the watershed about the historic sites identified by Olson and others that have been identified, it is a goal to post QR codes with relevant information on posts at the sites.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE



Figure 3. Images of recreational use (horseback riding) and public use (shooting range) at the Norris Municipal Watershed

Watershed Recreational Use Purpose Statement⁵

The Board seeks to preserve, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the watershed for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Permitted recreational use is designed to preserve and protect the watershed as a public resource pursuant to the land transfer agreements between TVA and the City of Norris. In its original 1954 transfer agreement, TVA specified that the Norris Watershed shall “be used solely for public recreation, in accordance with generally recognized standards of city operation.” In 1960, TVA and the City of Norris, under a jointly prepared Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreed that the lands within the watershed should be managed so as “to meet the needs of the residents for nearby and inexpensive forest recreation.”

5 Elements of this section are adapted from the 2010 “Plan for Recreational Uses on Municipal Watershed Lands” prepared for the Colorado Springs Utility and prepared by AECOM Design + Planning. Retrieved from; <https://www.csu.org/CSUDocuments/recreationalusesonwatershedsplan.pdf>. Additional elements were adapted from the Adirondack Park Agency retrieved from; http://apa.ny.gov/State_Land/Definitions.htm.

The watershed, being a wild forest area, permits a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness or primitive areas while retaining an essentially wild character. A wild forest area can be defined as an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness or primitive areas and one that permits a variety of outdoor recreation. Human use and enjoyment of the watershed should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context, as well as their social or psychological aspects, are not degraded. This conditional use is compliant with the vision of and restrictions per the land transfer agreement with TVA and enforced through Norris City code.

The watershed provides a public resource for recreation in a wild setting that is unique to the area in typology and history, and complements the more developed facilities of the neighboring state and municipal parks.

Management of Recreational Usage on the Norris Municipal Watershed

Management of the watershed is designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally sound use of its resources. The Board envisions the majority of activities to fall within the definition of “passive recreation” which aligns with other watershed obligations in that the protection of the City’s water supply, the quality of the environment, and the connection to the "naturalness" of the area is the focus of the recreational experience.

Since the late 1970s, the watershed has seen tremendous growth in the number and diversity of recreational users. Over the years, the area has been “discovered” by recreational users from Knoxville and other surrounding areas. The largest increase has been associated with the growth in popularity of off-road bicycling (mountain bikes) along with a moderate increase in horseback riding. Responding to an early onslaught of all terrain and off-road utility vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), and non-street legal motorcycles (dirt bikes), the Board has already promulgated restrictions prohibiting their use in the watershed. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail system of the Norris Municipal Watershed except in compliance with the Motorized Vehicle Access and Use criteria found in Appendix A. Future recreational activities and facilities will be managed to control the impacts of recreational usage and avoid impacts to water quality, quantity, and delivery.

Including the two TVA trails, the City maintains approximately 30 miles of multi-use trails for recreational use. Along with a revised trail map, narrative descriptions of the various trails including information regarding cultural resources and historical sites, common wildlife, and potential hazards (e.g., uprooted trees, rock slides, poison ivy) are available on the City of Norris Website at: <http://www.cityofnorris.com/index.html>. These trail descriptions should be helpful to hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders in making decisions regarding permitted uses and the most appropriate trails to meet their recreational use objectives.

Currently, about 7 miles of watershed trails are zoned for foot traffic only. For all multi-use trails, users are expected to adhere to commonly accepted trail etiquette, where off-road bicyclists yield to pedestrians and horseback riders, and pedestrian hikers yield to horseback riders. It is also good trail etiquette to yield to users traveling up hill, no matter whether they are on foot, horseback, or bicycles. Additionally, bicyclists should always alert other users when approaching on the downhill, especially when coming from behind. A number of old farm and woods roads still exist in the Watershed but are not maintained. Only trails displayed on the most current trail map are open to horses and bicycles. Repeated violations of trail zoning restrictions could lead to loss of trail usage privileges within the Norris Municipal Watershed, as well as increased Norris Public Safety services in efforts to reduce the incidence of inappropriate and destructive trail usage.

During the fall archery and firearms deer hunts, Watershed areas north and west of Clear Creek will be closed to other uses. Hunters should note, however, that a hunting safety zone of 300 feet has been delineated along Hi Point Trail from Hi Point to Upper Clear Creek Road, as this section of the trail is open to all users, even during the archery and firearm hunts. This exception is in place to allow non-hunting users access to trails within adjacent areas of Norris Dam State Park.

Over time, the water quality and natural resource conditions in the watershed may change. Management of recreational uses in the watershed needs to respond appropriately within the framework of the guiding principles and purposes of the watershed. The need to provide a balance between operational needs, environmental needs, environmental stewardship, and recreational uses is the primary consideration. An adaptive planning and management framework will allow the Board to be flexible and responsive to future opportunities, issues, and needs. Monitoring short- and long-term outcomes from the implementation of recreational programs will inform the Board of changes and potential need for adaptation. Strategies and actions should be continually identified, implemented, monitored, and evaluated over time, with opportunities for modification. An adaptive management approach to decision making can ensure sustainable and responsible management of recreation in the Norris Municipal Watershed.

In addition to the regular and ongoing work of the Norris Watershed Board described herein, anticipated goals within the 5-year timeline of this Management Plan are to:

- Explore the possibility of creating a “history trail” within the watershed which would include an inventory of historic sites, planning, and implementation.
- Examine potential trail relocations looking initially at the Ridgecrest Trail which could involve planning and implementation.
- Conduct a recreational use assessment of the Norris Municipal Watershed in the context of and coordinated with Norris Dam State Park and other regional trail systems which would

include looking at connectivity consistent with the purposes of the Norris Watershed, the need for consistent signage and the possibilities for volunteer trail maintenance options.

- Assemble information about the recharge zone of the City’s water source to better determine appropriate management actions on the watershed.
- Develop all necessary information to present options and a recommendation to the City Council in relation to the proposed expansion of the rifle range in the watershed to accommodate the needs of Norris Public Safety for the purposes of training.

Over the years, Board-set objectives for the watershed have been met, and new objectives of equal or greater priority arise. Each year, in keeping with these general principles and goals, the Board shall determine priority objectives to be integrated into an annual work plan. Such a plan will generally drive the overall effort for the year, though the Board reserves the right to add to or modify the plan as needed, given the nature of the ever-changing watershed environment.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND TASKS

The Board shall be held responsible for adhering to the agreed upon primary goals and objectives of the watershed as historically outlined and amended by previous and current stakeholders. The objectives shall guide and be met through the Board’s delivery of an annual work plan and budget to Council.

Funding

The funding needed to operate and maintain the Norris Watershed is mostly derived from activities occurring in the watershed itself. Such activities include:

- Periodic timber sales
- Rifle range permit sales
- Lease payments for the cell phone tower located in the watershed
- Permit sales from the deer hunt

Because these revenue sources are ongoing, the operations and maintenance of the watershed is largely self-sustaining in its financing. Additionally, supplemental funding for watershed improvements and maintenance has historically been provided by Norris City Council on a case by case, as needed basis.

Annual Work plan and budget

The Norris Watershed Board prepares a work plan and budget for each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) on or before May 1 (Table 1). When approved by City Council, this work plan and budget

shall become the department's guide for the year's work. Any revisions proposed by the Board during the course of the year shall have Council approval.

The City Manager will place the development of the work plan on the Board’s agenda in February of each year, and the Board will work to complete the work plan during the months of February and March. The Norris City Manager will complete the development of the budget accordingly for the Watershed Board’s review no later than the regularly scheduled April meeting. An example of a developed work plan checklist is shown as Table 1 below.

Table 1. Norris Watershed Annual Work Plan Checklist
Norris Watershed Annual Work Plan Checklist

TASKS	Weekly	Semi-Annual	Annual	Bi-Annual	As Needed
Bush Hog wildlife openings					X
Clean trail water bars			X		
Clean road water bars					X
Clear fallen trees from trails					X
Collect garbage	X				
Control burns					X
Disc wildlife openings					X
Erosion control					X
Maintain Carson Brewer Trail	X				
Maintain Observation Point					X
Maintain Reservoir Hill Overlook	X				
Mark Boundary					X
Plan timber harvests					X
Repair and improve trails			X		
Review signage			X		
Rifle Range Maintenance	X				
Seed wildlife openings					X
Special projects					X
Trim/mow trails/roads		X			

Annual report

The Board shall submit an annual report to Council within six weeks after the close of each fiscal year. This report shall summarize accomplishments for the year and reconcile any departures in planned activities and expenditures with those planned and approved in advance. Activities and policy actions to be covered in the annual report will include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Reports from City Water Commission
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- TWRA wildlife assessment(s)
- General environmental assessment, General recreational usage assessment/outcomes
- General Rules
- Rifle range/Risk Analysis- Insurance report
- Consultant needs (e.g. recreation)
- Trail map
- Signage system/new replacements/repairs
- Management of trail crew
- Maintenance
- Revenue
- No cut zones
- Timber harvests
- Preservation of historical markers and documents
- Public Safety
- Public works involvement
- Other activity/special projects.

The City Manager will consolidate the annual report from the Board's meeting minutes, to include results as reported by the City Manager, forestry consultant, or others as appropriate.

APPENDIX A: WATERSHED USE: RULES AND PROHIBITIONS

The Norris Municipal Watershed is a valuable resource to be utilized and appreciated by today's public, and for future generations. Rules governing public use in the watershed have been established by current and previous Boards to best protect not only the area, but associated natural and cultural resources.

Tree Cutting, Harming or Removal of Nongame Wildlife and Plants

Damaging or removing trees, and the killing, collecting, or harming of nongame wildlife and plants are strictly prohibited in the Norris Municipal Watershed unless specifically authorized by the City of Norris.

Theft and Vandalism

Persons found guilty of theft of public property on the Norris Watershed, or those engaged in vandalism acts affecting trails, signs, gates and barriers, or any other public assets, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Motorized Vehicle Access and Use

Operation of any motorized vehicle, as defined below, on Norris Municipal Watershed is strictly prohibited, unless specifically authorized by action of the Norris Watershed Board, the Norris City Council, or the City Manager.

Pursuant to this policy, a motorized vehicle is any self-propelled machine that utilizes an internal combustion engine or electric motor and is designed to serve as a means of conveyance for people and/or cargo. Specifically, this would include, but not be limited to, automobiles and trucks; various types of off-highway (OHV) vehicles (e.g. ATVs, UTVs, etc.); motorcycles and "dirt bikes"; and motorized, self-propelled and throttle-assisted electric bicycles (i.e., Class 2 and 3 E-bikes). Specifically exempted would be Class 1 E-bikes that are pedal assisted and lacking a throttle.

Hiking

Norris Watershed provides habitat for a large variety of plants and animals and provides significant photographic opportunities. Certain trails in the system are designated specifically for foot traffic only to protect not only the trail, but areas of adjacent habitat as well. For all trails, however, it is requested that you stay on the trail itself to minimize impacts to adjacent habitats.

- Hikers will always yield to horseback riders.

Most single-track trails are for foot traffic only, especially in areas of ecological concern (e.g., wet areas, rare plant localities). At present, approximately 7 miles of trail are designated as restricted for FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY.

Bicycling

- At all times, bicyclists will yield to hikers and horseback riders.
- Certain trails are reserved for FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY. Bicyclists are responsible for familiarizing themselves with restrictions related to the Norris Watershed trail system, and must plan their rides so as to avoid using foot traffic only trails.
- To help maintain the multiple use trails, cyclists will avoid using them during periods of wet weather, or when trail conditions are such that bicycle traffic could result in adverse impacts.
- Bicycle accidents have resulted in serious injuries, and at least one fatality, in the Norris Watershed. Therefore, use of helmets is required for children, and strongly encouraged for adults.
- The speed limit for cyclists on all single track and dual track trails is 10 MPH and will be enforced by Norris Public Safety Services.
- Bicyclists should always alert other trail users when approaching from the rear.

Horseback Riding

- As required by Tennessee State Law, horseback riders must have in their possession proper annual documentation proving that their mounts have tested negative on a veterinarian administered Coggin's test.
- Horseback riders must be considerate of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Riders must also familiarize themselves with the watershed trail system and refrain from using those trails where horseback riding is specifically prohibited.
- To help maintain the multiple use trails, horseback riders will avoid using them during periods of wet weather or when trail conditions are such that horse traffic could result in adverse impacts.
- A horse trailer parking lot has been constructed just east of U.S. Highway 441, between Norris Dam and the Grist Mill. From this parking lot, riders can access the Norris Watershed by using the trail that crosses Norris Dam State Park via Camp Sam.

Small Game Hunting Regulations – General

- Consistent with applicable State, federal, and local laws, regulations and ordinances, small game hunting is allowed north of Clear Creek to its intersection with Upper Clear Creek Road, and east of Upper Clear Creek Road. For this area, however, hunters should be aware that a 300' SAFETY ZONE has been designated along Hi Point Trail, from Hi Point to Upper Clear Creek Road. When hunting in this area, hunters should be on the lookout for yellow blazes and warning signs demarcating the safety zone which follows the meander for the boundary between Norris Municipal Watershed and Norris Dam State Park. The remainder of the watershed, located north and west of Upper Clear Creek Road and the area located east of Upper Clear Creek Road between East Trail and Boundary Trail is open for hunting. In the latter area, however, hunters should be especially mindful of the SAFETY ZONE surrounding the Norris Watershed Rifle Range. This zone is marked with yellow blazes and appropriate warning signs. Deer hunting is strictly prohibited on those areas of the Watershed located south of Clear Creek (See map at the end of Appendix A).
- All hunting shall be conducted in strict compliance with applicable State and federal regulations, as promulgated by TWRA and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Such regulations would include, but not be limited to, annually specified hunting seasons, quotas and harvest limits, firearms/weapon requirements and restrictions, etc.
- Anyone hunting on the Norris Watershed must also have in their possession a valid resident or non-resident Tennessee hunting license. Additionally, anyone born on, or after January 1, 1969 must possess proof of successful completion of an approved “on-line” or “in person” hunter education class, as well as any additional permits, stamps, tags, etc. as may be required by State and/or Federal laws or local ordinances.
- Hunters should note that portions of the Watershed located south of Clear Creek, and east of Clear Creek and downstream from its crossing of Upper Clear Creek Road, are managed as a nature preserve and wildlife sanctuary where hunting, harming, or harassing any game or nongame wildlife species is strictly prohibited.
- Large game hunting for white-tailed deer on Norris Municipal Watershed is permitted through a quota harvesting system administered by the Norris Watershed Board and the City of Norris in cooperation with TWRA. For a detailed explanation of this system, please see the following section.
- Due to the numbers of domestic dogs accompanying their owners on watershed hikes, trapping is not allowed on Norris Municipal Watershed.
- Violations of this policy may result in fines, forfeiture of personal property, and permanent revocation of Norris Watershed use privileges.

Large Game Hunting Regulations – Quota Deer Hunts

- Persons participating in the Norris Watershed Quota Deer Hunts shall be subject to lawful execution of police powers as exercised by the City of Norris, Tennessee in its

enforcement of such regulations as might be promulgated by the City of Norris by resolution or ordinance.

- Unless otherwise prohibited by State or Federal Law, or where jurisdiction has been or shall be conferred upon a State or Federal body, the City of Norris reserves the right, as promulgated by ordinance or resolution, to regulate the hunting of white-tailed deer on City owned/managed properties located within the Norris Municipal Watershed. Such regulations may include issuance of permits and collection of fees necessary to ensure safe and orderly hunting of white-tailed deer; and to adopt such other rules and regulations it may now or hereafter lawfully impose, in keeping with and not in conflict with, applicable State or Federal laws.
- Persons found hunting on lands located within the boundaries of the Norris Municipal Watershed shall be subject to lawful regulations heretofore or hereafter adopted by TWRA and/or any other similarly authorized State, or Federal agency having the appropriate jurisdiction.
- Anyone failing to comply with lawfully vested and applicable State or Federal Statutes, rules, regulations, orders, or conditions will be subject to the penalties prescribed, including fines and/or imprisonment, and have their hunting privileges revoked by the City of Norris.
- Deer hunting on Norris Municipal Watershed shall be permitted based on the recommendations of the Norris Watershed Board, as approved by the Norris City Council, for each season as may be legally set by TWRA, subject to all rules, regulations and limitations as may be imposed by TWRA. In addition to State and Federal regulations the following special rules shall be in effect during each authorized hunt:

1. Hunting of white-tailed deer is only allowed on the Norris Municipal Watershed during the open dates established by the Norris Watershed Board, as approved by Norris City Council in coordination with TWRA. During these open dates, harvesting of deer will only be allowed using shotguns firing rifled slugs, muzzle loading (i.e., black powder) rifles, and archery equipment. No other firearms, or primitive weapons will be utilized for harvesting deer in the Watershed. Anyone participating in the City of Norris administered Norris Watershed Quota Deer Hunts must have in his or her possession a valid Tennessee hunting license.

Additionally, anyone born on or after January 1, 1969 must possess proof of successful completion of TWRA offered/approved hunter safety education class, as well as a valid City of Norris issued quota for archery or muzzle loader permit. Such permits shall be valid for the length of time specified on the permit. Separate permits are required for each of the specified hunt dates.

2. Deer hunting permits shall be issued by the City of Norris. The number of deer hunting permits issued and the permit fee shall be determined annually based on the recommendations of the Norris Watershed Board, as approved by the Norris City Council. Permit fees will be utilized to defray the cost of administering the annual hunts, enforcement of regulations, and for improving wildlife habitat.

3. Deer hunting is allowed north of Clear Creek to its intersection with Upper Clear Creek Road, and east of Upper Clear Creek Road. For this area, however, hunters should be aware that a 300' SAFETY ZONE has been designated along Hi Point Trail, from Hi Point to Upper Clear Creek Road. When hunting in this area, hunters should be on the lookout for yellow blazes and warning signs demarcating the safety zone which follows the meander for the boundary between Norris Municipal Watershed and Norris Dam State Park. The remainder of the watershed, located north and west of Upper Clear Creek Road and the area located east of Upper Clear Creek Road between East Trail and Boundary Trail is open for hunting. In the latter area, however, hunters should be especially mindful of the SAFETY ZONE surrounding the Norris Watershed Rifle Range. This zone is marked with yellow blazes and appropriate warning signs. Deer hunting is strictly prohibited on those areas of the Watershed located south of Clear Creek (See map at the end of Appendix A).
 4. Because of the limited area available for hunting, camping is not allowed in conjunction with annual quota hunts and open fires are strictly prohibited at all times.
 5. The use of motorized vehicles is allowed one day prior to the first day of each specified hunt period. On these days, vehicular access is allowed for scouting and stand placement only. Anyone found to be hunting on a "scouting day" or illegally placing bait on Norris Watershed lands will have their permit revoked and disallowed participation in future quota hunt drawings. Only those forest roads identified as Open To Motorized Vehicles for scouting days will be used for scouting/blind placement. Operating vehicles off road by driving into the forest, wildlife openings, onto foot trails, or any area signed as "NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES" is strictly prohibited.
 6. Harvested deer shall not be dismembered to the extent that its sex cannot be determined.
 7. No person shall damage or remove any trees or other plants, soil, gravel, rock or sod from the Watershed without specific authorization.
 8. The use of wire, nails, or other metal materials is expressly prohibited in the building or attachment of hunting stands on or in trees, and hunting is prohibited from any stand permanently attached to a tree.
 9. Applicable State (i.e., TWRA) regulations will be used in establishing daily and seasonal bag limits for white-tailed deer on Norris Watershed.
- Violation of any State, Federal, or Norris City regulations will abrogate all Watershed use privileges of the violator for three consecutive years in addition to any fines or other penalties assessed by any court. Any person found to have violated any section of this ordinance could be fined up to \$50.00 for each separate violation.

Picnicking

- Picnic tables are located at the Carson Brewer Trail (0.1 miles from the parking lot), Reservoir Hill, Observation Point Pavilion, and near the parking area located adjacent to the Clear Creek pumping station, off of Hi Point Trail.
- Although there are no picnic tables, several wildlife openings throughout the Watershed can also be enjoyed.
- Please remember if you pack it in – pack it out.

Norris Watershed Rifle Range Regulations

- Target shooting and plinking is only allowed at the Norris Watershed Rifle Range off of Upper Clear Creek Road.
- This facility, originally constructed in the 1980s, has been greatly expanded and improved since its original inception.
- The range now includes covered firing points, 100-yard and 200-yard rifle ranges, 15 and 25-yard pistol ranges, and portable toilet facilities.
- Range permits are available for purchase at the Norris Public Safety Building and are issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1.
- Discharging of firearms elsewhere on Norris Watershed, unless the firearm is being used for a lawful hunting activity, is strictly prohibited.

Users of the Norris Watershed Rifle Range will adhere to the following general regulations at all times:

- Every person on the range, whether actively firing or not, must have in his/her possession a current and valid permit as issued by the Norris Department of Public Safety.
- When on the range, use common sense and obey all gun safety rules.
- Shooting is allowed only during daylight hours (dawn to dusk).
- Possession/use of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants is strictly prohibited.
- Use of fully automatic firearms, armor piercing or tracer rounds, and buckshot is not allowed on this range.
- Keep entrance gate locked at all times. Anyone found using the range with the gate left open or unlocked may lose their range use privileges.
- Always be mindful of, and courteous to, other shooters.
- Be sure that the range is safe, both at the firing line and down range, before firing.
- Due to the limited size of the range, trap/skeet (clay targets) is not allowed at the Norris Watershed Rifle Range.
- Only paper targets are permissible. The use of reactive targets made of steel or plastic is not allowed.
- You are responsible for any trash (including paper targets) brought to the range. Trash cans are provided so make sure all trash and litter is cleaned up before you leave. Used paper targets should not be left on the backer boards.

- Shooters are encouraged to “police” their brass/steel/aluminum cartridge cases and either take them with you when you leave, or deposit them in the appropriate trash container.
- Remember, vandalism or destruction of public property is punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Alcohol and Drugs

Consumption of alcoholic beverages, and the use of narcotics and other controlled substances, is strictly prohibited on the Norris Watershed.

Trash and Litter

Any form of littering and improper disposal of trash is strictly prohibited on Norris Watershed property.

APPENDIX B: WATERSHED-RELATED CITY ORDINANCES

2015 Ordinance 583, Watershed Board Member Amendments



ORDINANCE 583

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 20, MISCELLANEOUS, CHAPTER 1 - WATERSHED DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Norris has an established Watershed Department, and

WHEREAS, the City of Norris City Council wishes to amend certain aspects of the Watershed Department Code, and

WHEREAS, the City of Norris City Council is empowered to make changes to City Code per Article IV and Article V of the City Charter, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORRIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That Section 20-102 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

20-102. Governing board. The governing board of the department shall be comprised of seven members.

Five of these members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council. The term of each of these five members shall be for three years, except that original appointments shall be for one, two, and three years.

One member shall be a current member of Norris City Council, as determined by City Council, and whose term shall be concurrent with the two year elected term of Council.

One member shall be a current Commissioner of the Norris Water Commission, as determined by the Norris Water Commission, whose term shall be two years, but that the term shall begin and end in years off-set from the City Council member term.

A board chairman and vice-chairman shall be elected by the governing board. Terms of the chairman and vice-chairman shall be for one year, and shall be elected in January of each year.

All members shall be residents of the City of Norris.

SECTION 2: That Section 20-103 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

20-103. Secretary-treasurer. The city manager shall serve as secretary-treasurer of the department and shall maintain its books, records, and files and shall have supervision over the operation. He shall be paid an amount equal to 2% of his total annual City salary for such service from Watershed funds.

SECTION 3: That Section 20-109 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

20-109. General powers and duties. Other than the rights reserved to Council, as listed above, responsibility for operating and managing the watershed is delegated to the department in accordance with all City Ordinances, Policies, and Procedures.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

Adopted First reading: August 10, 2015

Public Hearing: September 14, 2015

Adopted Second reading: September 14, 2015

CHAPTER 5

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

11-501. Curfew for minors.

11-502. Removal or injury of trees or other growth on public lands prohibited without prior authorization.

11-503. Removal of dead or dying trees on city rights-of-way and waiver of removal fee.

11-504. Off road vehicles.

11-505. Injuring, damaging, or stealing property.

11-501. Curfew for minors. (1) Definition. The word "minor" as used in this section shall mean any person under the age of eighteen.

(2) Loitering of minors prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any minor to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places and public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lots, or other unsupervised places, between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week and between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 4:00 A.M. on Friday and Saturday of each week; provided, however, that the provisions of this section do not apply to a minor accompanied by his or her parent or guardian, or where the minor is upon an emergency errand or legitimate business directed by his or her parent or guardian.

(3) Responsibility of parents. It shall be unlawful for the parent or guardian of a minor to knowingly permit such minor to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds, or other public grounds, public places, and public buildings, places of amusement, vacant lots, or other unsupervised places between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, of each week and between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 4:00 A.M. on Friday and Saturday of each week, provided, however, that the provisions of this section do not apply when the minor is accompanied by his or her parent or guardian, or where the minor is upon an emergency errand or legitimate business directed by his or her parent or guardian.

(4) Penalties. Any minor under 18 years of age violating the provisions of subsection (2) shall be dealt with in accordance with juvenile court law and procedure. Any parent or guardian of a minor violating the provisions of subsection (3) shall be dealt with in the Norris City Court and may be fined under the general penalty clause for this code of ordinances. (1972 Code, § 10-209)

11-502. Removal or injury of trees or other growth on public lands prohibited without prior authorization.¹ It shall be unlawful for any person wantonly and unnecessarily to remove, cut, injure or destroy any tree, shrub, vine, moss or turf, growing or being located upon any public lands of any character whatsoever including all public parks, whether municipally owned or otherwise, watershed lands whether municipally owned or otherwise, "commons" or any other publicly owned open spaces and the entire right of way of all public highways, including state roads, county roads, and city streets without written authorization except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(1) Care and removal of trees and other growth, generally. The city manager or his duly authorized representative shall be responsible for the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees or other growth in any public way or place in the city.

Owners of property are hereby granted the right to maintain, trim, spray, prune, or remove trees (up to six (6) inches in diameter measured at the stump eight (8) inches above the ground) or other growth in right of ways, on all public highways, including state roads, county roads, and city streets adjacent to their property.

(2) Authorization methods for the removal of trees or other growth on public lands.

(a) The removal of trees or other growth on watershed lands shall be as provided in § 5-103 of the Norris Municipal Code "Procedure for Sale of Forest Products" and in accordance with the provisions of the "Norris Watershed Firewood Cutting Permit" as set out in this section:

Permit No. _____

"NORRIS WATERSHED FIREWOOD CUTTING PERMIT"

Issued to _____ Address _____

Date Issued _____ Date of Expiration _____

This is not a timber sale, but is a permit to remove tops and slash from lumbering operations, naturally downed timber, or timber otherwise designated by the Watershed Board for use as firewood.

The above named party is hereby permitted to remove firewood from the city watershed area subject to the regulations set forth below:

(i) No standing trees, either dead or alive shall be felled by the permit holder except in limited areas marked, announced

¹Municipal code reference
Procedure for sale of forest products: § 5-103.

and controlled by the Watershed Board except as otherwise provided in this section.

(ii) Trees or logs are occasionally felled across obsolete logging trails, roads and ditches for purposes of closing or repairing such areas. Such placed wood shall not be removed for firewood.

(iii) Hauling shall not be done when roads are soft or muddy so as to cause wheel ruts or damage to roads or water bars.

(iv) The city manager shall be responsible for the issuance of permits for firewood cutting.

(v) Firewood cutting permits are issued to residents or property owners of Norris and employees of the city. The city manager may authorize the issuance of permits to owners of property that borders watershed property when it is deemed in the best interest of the city.

(vi) Eligible permit holders who are not physically able to cut their own firewood may designate a representative by letter attached to their permit. However, wood harvested by the representative must be for the exclusive use of the permit holder.

(vii) Removal of firewood for the purpose of resale is specifically prohibited.

(viii) Individual trees with wind, fire, lightning or other damage can be cut only by special written permission of the city manager. Application for permission to cut individual trees must be made directly to the city manager or his duly authorized representative.

(ix) Open fires are prohibited.

(x) Conviction for violation of firewood cutting regulations shall be automatic grounds for revocation of a firewood cutting permit. The city manager shall have the authority to deny a firewood cutting permit to anyone convicted of violating the firewood cutting regulations.

(b) Any person desiring to remove trees or other growth from any public way or place other than watershed lands shall make written application to the city manager or his duly authorized representative for a permit to do so. The applicant shall set forth the act intended to be done, the number, kind and location of trees or other growth to be affected, the proposed manner of doing the act and such other information as the city manager or his duly authorized representative may require.

The permit shall be issued by the city manager or his duly authorized representative if the proposed act and the proposed method is satisfactory. The city manager or his duly authorized representative may issue comprehensive permits to any public utility, in accordance

with this section, to be valid for the fiscal year during which the permit is issued. If a permit is denied, a written denial shall be given to the applicant setting forth the reasons therefor. Any work undertaken by the permittee or his agent may be stopped immediately and the permittee's permit may be revoked by presentation of a written order of revocation of the permit by the city manager or his duly authorized representative, when, in his opinion, the work or conditions outlined in the permit are not being complied with.

(3) Point of inspection. The city manager or his duly authorized representative may inspect any tree or other growth on private property in the city to determine whether the same or any portion thereof is in such a condition as to constitute a public nuisance and in addition for the purpose of abating or correcting any condition or thing declared to be a public nuisance under this chapter.

(4) Public nuisance-certain conditions designated. The following are declared public nuisances:

(a) Any tree or other growth or part thereof growing upon private property but weakening the street or walk or interfering the use of any street or walk which in the opinion of the city manager or his duly authorized representative endangers the life, health, safety, or property of the public.

(b) A tree or any other growth which does interfere with, impair, or destroy any street improvement, sidewalks, curb, gutter, sewer, or other public improvement.

(c) The continued existence of any tree or other growth on private property within the city that is infested or infected with insects, mites, fungus, bacteria, virus, or growth which constitutes a threat or may be injurious to trees or other growth in the surrounding area.

(5) Abatement. The city manager or his duly authorized representative shall in writing notify the owner of the property on which a public nuisance exists describing the nuisance and stating the work necessary to remove the same. If the owner of the property does not correct or remove such nuisance within ten days after receipt of said written notice the city manager or his duly authorized representative shall cause the nuisance to be corrected or removed and the cost shall be assessed to such owner.

(6) Permit fees. The following schedule of permit fees shall be applicable:

Watershed Firewood Cutting Permit
\$10.00 per fiscal year

Removal Permit
\$5.00 per act

Comprehensive Utility Permit

\$15.00 per fiscal year
(1972 Code, § 10-212)

11-503. Removal of dead or dying trees on city rights-of-way and waiver of removal fee. The adjacent landowner shall be given first refusal on removal of dead or dying trees for his own use upon payment of the removal fee. Special consideration on an individual basis will be given for necessary multiple removal of dead or dying trees.

If it is in the best interest of the city that the tree be removed, the city manager can waive the removal fee.

The city manager and director of public works shall determine, on an individual basis, if for reasons of safety, the city shall fell the tree and clear the roadway. The timing of the felling shall be coordinated, if possible, with the person who has paid the cutting fee and such person will have fifteen (15) days to clean up the right-of-way. (1972 Code, § 10-213)

11-504. Off road vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to operate any all terrain or off road vehicles on any public lands, right of ways, watershed lands, or other public property within the corporate limits of the City of Norris. All all-terrain or off road vehicles for the purpose of this section shall be defined by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-3-101 and shall specifically include but not be limited to three and four wheelers, dirt bikes, dune buggies, snow mobiles, or unlicensed motor driven vehicles. (1972 Code, § 10-214)

11-505. Injuring, damaging, or stealing property. (1) Public property. No person shall injure, mar, or deface any public building, sidewalk, street, or other public property within the City of Norris; nor shall any person knowingly be in possession of any property of the city without lawful authority; and the fact that such property is marked as property of the city shall be prima facie proof of the knowledge that such property is that of the city.

(2) Private property. No person shall wantonly destroy or injure, or take, steal, and carry away or attempt to take, steal, and carry away any property belonging to any citizen or anyone else within the City of Norris. (1972 Code, § 10-202)

11-607. Litter thrown by persons in vehicles. No person, while a driver or passenger in a vehicle, shall throw or deposit litter upon any street, service drive, or other public place within the city or upon private property. (1972 Code, § 8-407)

11-608. Vehicles or loads causing litter. No person shall drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the city unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any load, contents, or litter from being blown or deposited upon any street, service drive, alley, or other public place. Nor shall any person drive or move any vehicle or truck within the city, the wheels or tires of which carry onto or deposit in any street, service drive, alley, or other public place mud, dirt, sticky substance, litter, or foreign matter of any kind. (1972 Code, § 8-408)

11-609. Litter in parks. No person shall throw or deposit litter in any park within the city except in public receptacles and in such a manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any part of the park or upon any street or other public place. Where public receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere as provided herein. (1972 Code, § 8-409)

11-610. Litter in fountains, lakes, streams, etc. No person shall throw or deposit litter in any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay or any other body of water in a park or elsewhere within the city. (1972 Code, § 8-410)

11-611. Throwing or distributing handbills in public places. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in or upon any sidewalk, street, service drive, or other public place within the city. Nor shall any person hand out or distribute or sell any commercial handbill in any public place; provided, however, that it shall not be unlawful on any sidewalk, street, service drive, or other public place within the city for any person to hand out or distribute, without charge to the receiver thereof, any noncommercial handbill to any person willing to accept it. (1972 Code, § 8-411)

11-612. Placing handbills on vehicles. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in or upon any vehicle; provided, however, that it shall not be unlawful in any public place for a person to hand out or distribute, without charge to the receiver thereof, a noncommercial handbill to any occupant of a vehicle who is willing to accept it. (1972 Code, § 8-412)

11-613. Depositing handbills on uninhabited or vacant premises. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in

Title 20, Chapter 1 Norris City Code

20-1

TITLE 20

MISCELLANEOUS

CHAPTER

1. WATERSHED DEPARTMENT.
2. CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION.
3. NORRIS ARCHIVES.
4. MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.
5. PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.
6. TELEPHONE SERVICE.

CHAPTER 1

WATERSHED DEPARTMENT

SECTION

- 20-101. Creation.
- 20-102. Governing board.
- 20-103. Secretary-treasurer.
- 20-104. Basic purposes.
- 20-105. Master plan for watershed.
- 20-106. Work plan and budget.
- 20-107. Annual report.
- 20-108. Timber sales and consultants.
- 20-109. General powers and duties.
- 20-110. Cooperation with other segments of city government.
- 20-111. Regulatory signs.

20-101. Creation. A department to be known as the Norris Watershed

Department is hereby created. (1972 Code, § 1-501)

20-102. Governing board. The governing board of the department shall be comprised of five members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of council. The term of each member shall be for three years, except that original appointments shall be for one, two, and three years. The board chairman shall be designated by the mayor and council at the time of appointment, and his original term shall be for three years. All members shall be residents of the City of Norris. (1972 Code, § 1-502) **20-103. Secretary-treasurer.** The city manager shall serve as

secretary-treasurer of the department and shall maintain its books, records, and files and shall have supervision over the operation. He shall be paid \$25 per month for such service. (1972 Code, § 1-503)

20-104. Basic purposes. All activities of the department shall be conducted in accordance with the basic purposes of the watershed transfer and lease, including recreation, watershed protection, and timber production. (1972 Code, § 1-504)

20-105. Master plan for watershed. The department's first job shall be the formulation of a master plan for development and multiple use of the watershed. Adoption of said plan is subject to acceptance and approval by council. Subsequent revisions shall have council approval before being adopted.

(1972 Code, § 1-505)

20-106. Work plan and budget. The department shall prepare a work plan and budget for each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) on or before May 1. When approved by council, this work plan and budget shall become the department's guide for the year's work. Any revisions proposed by the department during the course of the year shall have council approval. At no time shall funds be disbursed in excess of fiscal year budgets. (1972 Code, § 1-506)

20-107. Annual report. The department shall submit an annual report to council within six weeks after the close of each fiscal year. This report shall summarize accomplishments for the year and reconcile activities and expenditures with those planned and approved in advance. (1972 Code, § 1-507)

20-108. Timber sales and consultants. The department shall plan timber sales for execution by council as specified in § 6-103. Council shall also execute contracts for the service of consultants to the department. (1972 Code, § 1-508)

20-109. General powers and duties. Other than the rights reserved to council, as listed above, responsibility for operating and managing the watershed is delegated to the department, with autonomy to carry out annual work plans, expend budgeted funds, employ labor as needed, purchase materials and supplies, execute appropriate contracts, and otherwise carry out functions essential to the business-like management of the watershed. (1972 Code, § 1-509)

20-110. Cooperation with other segments of city government.

Council stresses the desirability of cooperation between the Norris Watershed Department, the Norris Water Commission, the Norris Fire Department, and other segments of the city government in the use of facilities, manpower, and equipment. Council also expresses the hope that the department will so conduct its activities that the area will serve as an outstanding demonstration of multiple use of a municipal watershed. (1972 Code, § 1-510)

20-111. Regulatory signs. The department shall erect such regulatory signs as deemed necessary for the safe and appropriate regulation of usage of the land. It shall be unlawful for any user to violate or fail to comply with any sign or device placed or erected by the city unless otherwise directed by a public safety officer or by the department. (1972 Code, § 1-511)

CHAPTER 3

NORRIS WATERSHED HUNTING ACT OF 1984

SECTION

- 10-301. Short title.
- 10-302. Definitions.
- 10-303. Authority to control hunting.
- 10-304. Compliance with applicable laws and ordinances.
- 10-305. Regulation by other agencies.
- 10-306. Special regulations applicable to deer hunting.
- 10-307. Penalties.
- 10-308. Interpretation.

10-301. Short title. The short title for this ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Norris Watershed Hunting Act of 1984." (1972 Code, § 3-301)

10-302. Definitions. For the purpose of this code, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivation shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural numbers. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory, and "may" is permissive. Words not defined shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

- (1) "Board" is the Norris Watershed Board.
- (2) "City" is the City of Norris, Tennessee.
- (3) "Council" is the governing legislative body of the City of Norris, Tennessee.
- (4) "Sanctuary" is that portion of the watershed designated a wildlife sanctuary, marked thereby on official city maps, and posted thereby with perimeter signs stating wildlife sanctuary.
- (5) "Norris" means the present municipal corporation of Norris, together with any future annexation made pursuant to law. Also referred to as "city."
- (6) "Designated hunt" shall refer to each separate period of time whereby hunting is legally sanctioned by the State of Tennessee in that portion of Anderson County wherein lies the city of Norris, Tennessee.
- (7) "TWRA" is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. (1972 Code, § 3-302)

10-303. Authority to control hunting. The city warrants it has a right to control and regulate access to hunting and to other recreational

purposes within the municipal corporate limits and that the Norris Watershed is entirely within said limits. (1972 Code, § 3-303)

10-304. Compliance with applicable laws and ordinances. A person shall be subject to all lawful exercise of the police power by the city and to such reasonable regulations as the city shall hereafter by resolution or ordinance provide. Unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal law, or where jurisdiction has been or shall be conferred upon a state or federal body, the city reserves a right by ordinance or resolution to regulate such hunting as to permit fees, quotas; to promulgate rules and regulation and necessary supervisory procedures to ensure a safe and orderly hunt; and to adopt such other rules and regulations it may now or hereafter lawfully impose in keeping with and not in conflict with applicable state law. (1972 Code, § 3-304)

10-305. Regulation by other agencies. Any person shall be subject to lawful regulations heretofore or hereafter adopted by TWRA and also to the lawful rules and regulations adopted by any similar federal or state body having jurisdiction. If any person shall fail to comply with any federal and or state statute, rule, regulation, order, or condition lawfully vested the city shall have the right to terminate any permits granted. (1972 Code, § 3-305)

10-306. Special regulations applicable to deer hunting. The hunting of deer shall be permitted upon recommendation by the Watershed Board and approval of council for each season as may be legally set by TWRA, subject to all rules, regulations and limitations as may be imposed by TWRA. In addition to state and federal regulations the following special rules shall be in effect during each authorized hunt.

(1) Hunting will only be permitted using shotgun with slugs, archery and muzzle loading rifles. All other weapons shall be banned.

(2) Each person who hunts upon the watershed shall possess valid state license, tags, and/or stamps and a city permit. Such permits shall be valid for the length of time designated on the permit. Separate permits are required for each separate designated hunt.

(3) Permits shall be issued by the Norris Department of Public Safety. The number of permits and the permit fee shall be determined from time to time upon recommendation by the board and approval of council. Revenues derived from the sale of permits will be utilized by the board for enforcement of these regulations and/or for wildlife management activities.

(4) Certification of successful completion of a hunter safety course shall be required for all minors under the age of 18. For those 18 and over a certificate of completion of a hunter safety course is required, although for 1984 only a certification by the hunter that he/she is familiar with the generally recognized safety standards and procedures and will utilize these same standards and procedures during the course of deer hunting is acceptable.

(5) Hunting is strictly prohibited within the sanctuary south of Clear Creek.

(6) Within state regulations a bag limit for deer hunting is hereby established at one deer per hunter per year. All other appropriate state regulations on sex or bag limits shall apply.

(7) Camping and open fires are prohibited during designated hunts.

(8) Operation of motorized vehicles is confined to gravel, or dirt roads and designated areas. Driving into woods, fields, foot trails, or areas marked "no motorized vehicles" is prohibited.

(9) No species of wildlife may be molested except those authorized for the hunt and no animal killed shall be dismembered to the extent that its species and sex cannot be identified.

(10) No person shall damage or remove any trees or other plants, soil, gravel, rock, stone or sod from the watershed without specific authorization.

(11) The use of wire, nails or other metal materials is expressly prohibited in the building or attaching of climbing devices or hunting stands on or in trees. Hunting is prohibited from any stand permanently attached to a tree. (1972 Code, § 3-306)

10-307. Penalties. Violation of any state, federal, or Norris city regulations will abrogate all watershed use privileges of the violator for three consecutive years in addition to any fines or other penalties assessed by any court. Any person found to have violated any section of this ordinance may be fined up to \$50.00 for each separate violation. (1972 Code, § 3-307)

10-308. Interpretation. Where a condition imposed by a provision of this chapter is less restrictive than comparable conditions imposed by any other provision of this ordinance or any other ordinance, the provisions which are more restrictive shall govern. (1972 Code, § 3-309)

ORDINANCE 668

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE TO AMEND TITLE 20, CHAPTER 1, WATERSHED DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE HOSTING OF EVENTS AND THE COLLECTION OF DONATIONS

WHEREAS, the Watershed Department was established to operate and manage the Norris Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Norris wishes to expand the powers beholden to the Watershed Department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Norris, Tennessee that:

SECTION 1: Title 20, Chapter 1, Watershed Department be amended by modifying section 20-102. Governing Board, as follows:

20-102. Governing Board. The governing board of the department, formally known as the Commission, shall be comprised of seven (7) members.

~~Five (5) Six (6)~~ of these members shall be appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. The term of each these ~~five (5) six (6)~~ members shall be for (3) three years, except that the original appointments shall be for (1) one, (2) two, and (3) years.

One (1) member shall be a current member of the Norris City Council, as determined by city council, and whose term shall be concurrent with the two (2) year elected term of council.

~~One (1) member shall be a current commissioner of the Norris Water Commission, as determined by the Norris Water Commission, whose term shall be two (2) years, but that the term shall begin and end in years off-set from the city council member term.~~

A board chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected by the governing board. Terms of the chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be for one (1) year, and shall be elected in January of each year.

SECTION 1: Title 20, Chapter 1, Watershed Department be amended by adding the additional section 20-112. Gifts for watershed purposes:

20-112. Gifts for watershed purposes. The Watershed Department may accept any grant or devise of real estate or any gift or bequest of money or other personal property or any donation to be applied, principal or income, for either temporary or permanent use for Watershed Department purposes, but if the acceptance thereof for such purpose will subject the city to additional expense for improvement, maintenance, or renewal, the acceptance of any grant or devise of real estate shall be subject to the approval of the city council. Money received for such purpose, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the gift or bequest, shall be deposited by the treasurer of the city to the account of the Watershed Department and the same may be withdrawn and paid out in the same manner as money appropriated for Watershed Department purposes.

SECTION 2: Title 20, Chapter 1, Watershed Department be amended by adding the additional section 20-113. Hosting of events:

20-113. Hosting of events. The commission may at times be authorized to host special events for the purpose of furthering the mission of the Watershed Department, utilizing any appropriations as the city council may designate.

SECTION 3: Severability. Each section, paragraph, sentence, and clause of this ordinance is declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or clause shall not affect the validity of any other provision of the ordinance.

SECTION 4: Repealer. All ordinances and parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5: Effective. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

Adopted First Reading:

Nov. 13, 2023

Public Hearing:

Dec. 11, 2023

Adopted Second Reading:

Dec. 11, 2023