

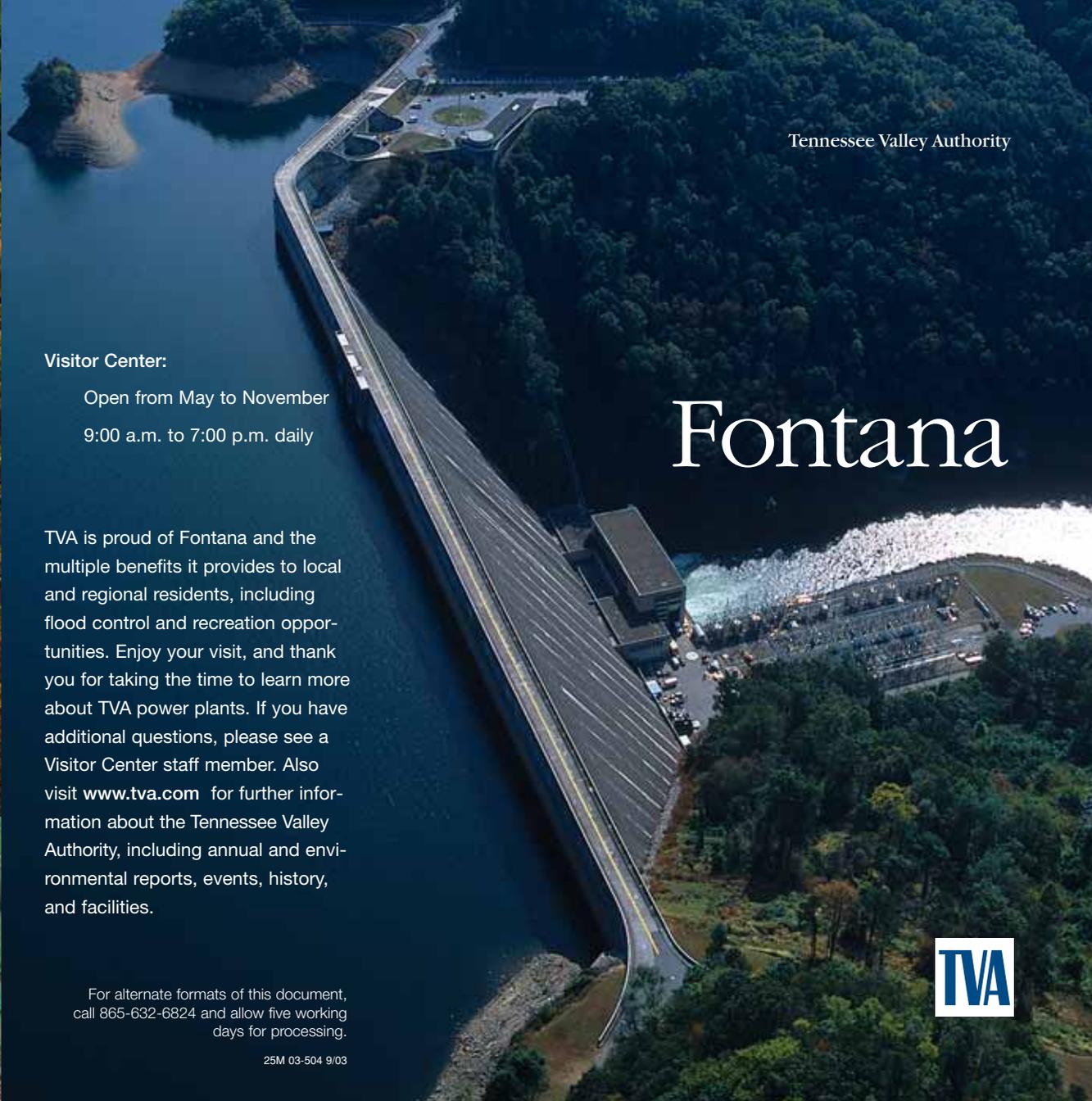
Visitor Center:

Open from May to November
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily

TVA is proud of Fontana and the multiple benefits it provides to local and regional residents, including flood control and recreation opportunities. Enjoy your visit, and thank you for taking the time to learn more about TVA power plants. If you have additional questions, please see a Visitor Center staff member. Also visit www.tva.com for further information about the Tennessee Valley Authority, including annual and environmental reports, events, history, and facilities.

Fontana

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At 480 feet —

*the equivalent of a 50-story skyscraper—
Fontana is the highest dam in the
TVA power system and the tallest dam
east of the Rockies. It's located on the
Little Tennessee River.*



Fontana Dam construction began in 1942, and because of the urgent need for electric power during World War II, it was finished in just 36 months.

Dam height 480 feet

Dam length 2,365 feet

Reservoir length 29 miles

Power capacity 3 units supplying
241 megawatts

Built 1942–44



How is hydroelectric power generated?

A hydropower plant consists of a dam and powerhouse. The dam serves to hold back the water in the reservoir, and the powerhouse encloses the turbines and generators that produce electricity. When power is needed, water is released from the reservoir through a large pipe called a penstock and into a turbine. The force of the water spins the blades of the turbine, which is connected to a generator that spins, producing electricity. After passing through the turbine, the water reenters the river on the downstream side of the dam.



Hiking Trail

Showers

Overlook

Powerhouse

Launching Ramp

Visitor Center

TVA Police Station

Camping

Interpretive Trail

Swimming

Marina

Restrooms

Picnic

