



Tennessee State Parks

Park Strategic Management Planning Public Meeting

Response To Comments

Dunbar Cave State Park

The 10-year individual Park Strategic Management Plans for Tennessee State Parks are part of the overall planning processes within the department and are developed to guide the management and direction of each park. These plans steer continued success of each park and influence long term innovation by the park staff. Building on Tennessee State Parks' strong foundation they seek to address the various challenges anticipated for each park. The Strategic Management Plans present a strategic and actionable strategy for the next 10 years.

This response to comments document is shared publicly as a record of comments that were made at a public information meeting as well as online.

Location: Dunbar Cave State Park Visitor Center

Date: 12/17/24 at 5:30pm

Public Comments:

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I would like to see more activities that are not tied to fund raising. The cave used to be about the formation and that has navigated away and more to a specific narrative. Sad to see the beautiful pond is such disrepair. We used to go to Dunbar at least once a month, now maybe once a year.

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Due to the drab appearance of the lake and the fact that historically the lake was a stream, steps should be made to convert the almost 100-year-old artificial lake back to a stream. Multiple benefits would support a stream, including historical interpretation, less goose pollution, and increase area for walking paths.

"Please consider allowing organized events At the cave Such as music events,faith based activities Weddings, ect"

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"This park and the lake are so important to Clarksville and the State. As a child (over 60 years ago) I went on a guided tour of the cave, watched adults listen to bands & dance. I started taking my daughter to the park as a toddler (over 30 years ago) on a weekly basis. Years ago, I ran into older country stars at the park, telling me stories and sharing memories of the good old days there. I started hiking the trails over 15 years ago, and even though I moved to Nashville area, I still come back to hike the trails or just sit in the park and eat my lunch. It is one of the few places I feel safe in nature! I have seen the lake in its glory days and then as a ""natural"" area. It better served the area as a full lake. With work, it could once again be a great asset. I have made donations to the Friends of Dunbar Cave several times. They have done a great job of helping with maintenance to the park. The cave has ancient history written on the walls! It is a valuable piece of history. Please consider allocating funds to make improvements to the lake, and keeping the park an asset to the area! "

" The plan to drain the lake ignores the City's legally binding water rights to the lake for irrigation at the golf course. At current CGW water rates this new expense will be in excess of 100K per year. If drained, the city taxpayers will have to absorb the costs to purchase irrigation water. Additionally, the water from the lake is better for irrigation because it is not chlorinated. As a property owner who owns several properties in the City, I do not wish for this expense to be passed through to me. Thorough studies for impacts to wildlife, flood control, and general hydrology need to be performed so the potential impacts can be understood and evaluated prior to creating these impacts. Given the lengths that TDEC goes to to protect wetlands and aquatic environments, it does not make sense that the cost to do the project would be offset in mitigation credits for destroying these habitats. Having been involved with land development on several projects, I have seen TDEC protect small man made farm ponds that that do not represent 1/10 of the scale of this project. It seems entirely counterintuitive that the State would be issued mitigation credits for something I would have to purchase



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As a citizen that uses Dunbar Cave, I would greatly miss the pond and the wildlife that I have observed there. As an employee of the city and Parks and Recreation, I would strongly urge the proposed plan be stopped. We have a golf course adjacent to Dunbar Cave and for over 50 years, we've had a partnership that's allowed us to use the pond water for irrigating our golf course. Draining the pond would not only lead to eradicating a lot of of the wildlife, it would increase flooding and cause a huge financial deficit to our department and city because we would have to then pay to irritate and maintain the golf course.

Swan Lake provides an opportunity for children in the Clarksville community to fish and learn about wildlife in a safe setting. Numerous children have learned to fish at Swan Lake. Numerous children have learned to appreciate the outdoors and fishing at Swan Lake over the years. Swan Lake provides a unique habitat for migrating ducks and geese. Please consider keeping Swan Lake a Lake for the children and wildlife.

"The lake at Dunbar Cave is an instrumental aspect of the local history. Without evidence to back up the need to remove the lake, I feel that this decision is made merely of lack of routine maintenance and that should not be the reason. "

I am opposed to draining the large pond/lake at Dunbar Cave park and making it a stream. The Swan Lake GC uses the water to supplement their watering of their fairways and greens. Draining the lake and turning it into a stream not only takes away from the



beauty of Dunbar Cave park it also will cost tax payers more \$ to maintain Swan Lake GC if one of their primary irrigation water sources is taken away. As a community we have already seen the golf community upset at the possibility of Mason Rudolph becoming a park, and that course has been closed for 3 years. Swan Lake is a very well maintained course and if the quality starts to slip due to funding for irrigation, or not having access to the amount of water it needs to properly maintain the course, I think the ramifications would be worse than any reason the state, county and city have to drain the lake. Thank you for your time.

I would like to advise against draining the lake at Dunbar. Doing so may actually increase taxpayers taxes as they will now have to pay to irrigate Swan Lake Golf Course next door. The water in the lake is now used for this purpose.

I selected the link above and did not find Dunbar Cave State Park listed under the strategic management plan. However I think the largest disservice to Dunbar Cave State Park was the mismanagement of the pond/lake. This has been a huge draw for many tourist and a lovely addition to Dunbar Cave. Allowing it to be overrun with non-indigenous species and disrepair leading to the drainage and overgrowth of the area is disheartening. Not only was it wonderful to see the wildlife that the water brought into the park, It was also a thriving habitat for many decades. I also did not like the movement from educating on formations, outdoor life, animal life that was the past in Dunbar Cave to the more recent swing to a cultural pivot. I go to a state park not a historical park to enjoy the outdoors and natural habitats for animals. It appears Dunbar Cave's mission has changed in one of the reasons I do not frequent the location. Also the public facilities outside of "normal" duty hours is dismal. I now take people to state parks outside of Clarksville and even into Kentucky more often than visiting Dunbar Cave.

Please drain the lake. It's not supposed to be there. Is an eyesore in the warm months. The Beauty of a free flowing creek would far better serve the community, park and wildlife.

Don't do it ????? It's bad enough you can't fish there anymore if the damn's a problem, build a new one

Dunbar cave/swan lake has hosted many events, picnics, families, turtle, duck and geese families, as well as fish and blues heron. as a 5th+ generation of Clarksville I beg of you to consider not draining the lake & changing our beloved lake. the waters have been a source of comfort, home, and life for me in all of my years. I humbly request that you let it be and move forward. thank you.

I think we should restore the lake to it's natural state. There are so many animals and fish that call it home. It's beautiful to see the ducks and geese every year. It's past of



Clarksville and should stay part of Clarksville. We should return it to it's beautiful natural state and be responsible for keeping it beautiful. Once we get on a routine of restoration it will stay beautiful.

DONT CHANGE THE LAKE!!! Fix the issue with the damn and stop using that as your scape goat to make the park "more ada compatable", the park need to stay as it is and lake not be drained to make room for a parking lot and a paved trail for wheelchairs they have the parking lot access to get to the cave and a new paved access across the lake to make a loop already we don't need anymore access it's a wildlife area and beautiful as is !!

"I am completely in favor of removing Swan Lake and restoring the area to a free-flowing stream. Nature has been showing its displeasure in a multitude of ways with this man-made modification for nearly a century now and no amount of modern marvel or man-made innovation is going to counter that force. Swan Lake is not as indelible in the collective memory of Clarksville's residents today as the small group of meeting attendees on December 17, 2024 want people to believe. Climate change is rapidly and radically altering our environment here in Tennessee and we need to change our ways of dealing with the natural environment around us. Swan Lake is NOT part of the natural environment and should be removed. I would also like to know what happened to the artifacts found in Dunbar cave during the archaeological dig and why they aren't displayed on the premises for the public to see."

"To whom it may concern, I really don't want to see the lake go away. I have lived here for ten years and I used to live going and watching water creatures like fish and turtles swim around in the lake. I was sad to see the problems with the drainage in 2023. I hope that the state will repair the dam and protect the lake for future generations. It seems like the state just wants to get rid of the lake because it's an ass pain and invites liability. Please just provide for the people instead of your bottom dollar. Thanks, Steven"

Fix the dam and the spillway instead of draining the lake please.

Please do not permanently drain the lake at Dunbar Cave. It's a beautiful part of the community that everyone enjoys, and the wildlife that live there enrich the environment as well. I have been going there to see the geese and the turtles for 12 years; it's my favorite park in the city. I'm sure many people feel the same way. Please just fix the dam and the spillway so we can continue to enjoy it.

I appreciate many of the management/improvement plans for Dunbar Cave State Park, but I disagree with the plan to drain Swan Lake. Swan Lake visibly draws one's vision to the park, vs being like any piece of land that is driven by and not paid any attention to. When my family moved here in 2019, it was Swan Lake that drew us to Dunbar Cave



State Park. Sure, we saw the road signs, but if the lake was not there, it would have looked like a piece of land with a white building at the entrance, which would not have peaked our interest to go into the park, walk around the lake, etc. Please do whatever is necessary to keep the lake. Thank you!

I do not want the lake drained and turned into a stream and parking lot. The wildlife that depends on the lake deserves preservation of the lake.

Swan lake provides great views and allows for multiple types of activities in the park. We don't need more parking lots in the park either.

"We need to make decisions on what is best for the land and the wildlife /environment, not a person who ""likes"" looking at it. That is selfish and irresponsible. It is a man made lake and nature is trying to tell you it is time to return it to its original state. Please don't let whining crying public officials over ride common sense for what is best for the land and park. "

I was a wildlife officer with TWRA stationed in Montgomery county for 20 years before promoting to Nashville office. I recently retired from the state. So I like to offer my opinion on the draining of Dunbar lake. At no time in my history of working in Montgomery county has park officials reached out to work with us about management of the lake. The new goals to drain and make available to creek access make me wonder why in the last several years have the park denied access to fisherman. The lake use to be a great community fisheries and could provide so many activities but park officials want to ignore this. The lake should be saved and highlighted as a great community center piece. So many activities could be enjoyed and again allow fishing in this lake. With this large of a city we are lacking this. The river doesn't provide the best access for family's and the only other area is the Liberty park lake and that's not enough space. Thank you.

"Please, please do not drain the Dunbar Cave Lake (pond really). It is necessary to the beauty and ecology of the area. If a parking lot is required, which I doubt, purchase the empty lot across Dunbar Cave Road. Thank you."

I believe the pond at Dunbar Cave State Park should be retained and refurbished. This part of the Park is a historic element of the Park and is used by many residents of Clarksville and Montgomery County. Additionally, the pond is used by many bird species. Save the Pond.

"The plan of proposed draining of the lake at Dunbar Cave is not a good idea for the city of Clarksville and I totally do not support it. It was one of the first places I took my son fishing, before the park was redesigned and that privilege was taken away. I have not found anyone in favor of removing the lake from the people I have directly asked, whether



it be local officials, residents or my friends. If it is such an unpopular opinion, my suggestion is partnering with the city and the county to properly make the necessary repairs to the lake so it can be maintained properly. I would love to be able fish the lake again with my now adult son. I don't see how a state maintained area (first a "natural area" then later officially named a state park) has been removing features of a park away in the 30 plus years I have lived here. Please listen to the local public officials and residents to make an informed decision with a proposal agreeable to the majority of responses. "

"The public presentation showed only one alternative for the park which was dam removal. (1) What was your criteria for success? If dam removal was the goal of the project then that goal doesn't align with what the public wants. There could be other alternatives that meet your goals of protecting the cave art, reducing flooding, better WQ and less algae blooms and not remove the dam... Have you looked at any of this? I would suggest that you present all alternatives that were evaluated and the criteria for ruling them out. Which leads to my next questions. (2) What other alternatives were evaluated? (3) How were the alternatives ruled out? (4) If a cost estimate for repairing the dam was not generated as said during the meeting, how could you rule out dam rehabilitation as the least expensive technically sound alternative? (5) If you don't know the flow coming in due to the source being karst rock tunnels/spring fed stream and are planning to gage the stream to determine flows, how can you present a solution when you haven't properly defined the problem? (6) Have you coordinated with the city and TDOT on Dunbar Cave Rd? How does removing the dam help if the culvert and road embankment downstream end up acting as a dam anyway? (7) Have you conducted a study to show that the backwater effects from the red river do not control the flooding? Has a coincidental peak analysis been performed? (8) For any H&H modeling what was your Downstream Boundary Condition? It was a great presentation and I applaud your goals. I just think that there is a lot of information and background that needs to be presented to the public to support the assertions made that this is the best alternative when the city and public are not on board. I think the city and the public are on board with the goal but not the solution at this point without further information. "

I'm Austin Manness and the former President of Friends of Dunbar Cave State Park. I recognize that this is a state natural area, but it's a little different than many State natural areas and that it IS located within the heart of our city. And so, I think the aesthetic concerns for the community are a big part of why we're here. The previous renovation of the lake in after 2017 has left, as one gentleman noted, the environment just looks a little more rough. The back part of the lake is overgrown. I think there a lot of concerns that if this is infilled that you will have a sorta marshy area of overgrown environment in the front of the lake and there's a lot of appreciation of the aesthetics of the lake itself. And so that is my main concern just that there is just this aesthetic issue and that people in this community are used to driving by Swan Lake and seeing this, this waterfront, seeing



the ducks, seeing the geese, all that. And you know, that's something that needs to be taken into consideration.

I'm Randy Ruble and basically love the history of Clarksville and I've tried to preserve it a long time. I actually took part in the archaeological dig at Dunbar Cave. I'd like to know where the 30 something, no 27,000 Indian artifacts went to that came out of the cave. Most people probably don't realize that when we dug down, there were four floors. There were two concrete floors, 2 wooden floors and that was over 10,000 years of evidence that was brought out. I love this cave art right here and one of the things I'd like to just point out, I hope that you all save the lake. But I was also hoping, years ago, that by finding all of these Indian artifacts, two burials, that what I thought was gonna happen was we was going to turn this into a museum. Now, I don't know even know where the 27,000 Indian artifacts are. Thank you very much.

I'm Roger Manness. I'm part of a group of individuals who like to hike trails here for I know close to 30 years, probably 2 or 3 times a week. Ronnie Hunter grew up here and was a lifeguard here and Lionel Senseney grew up in New Providence. He's part of our group. The three of us have spent considerable time working on this space, linear state park building trails, (we've) probably built miles of trail in the Cumberland. So, we're deeply invested in Tennessee State Park system. The three of us are. Let me say this, It was a very, very good presentation. David, you raised some really, interesting questions. I'm a little concerned that this flooding is the Corp of Engineers issue more than something that we really couldn't control in any circumstances. Certainly, it's concerning... well, let me put it this way. I would say that from a public attitude section, what's been going on here, really about the last 10 years, there's a high level of skepticism about the investment of the state in this facility. And I'll always stay and visitors as Tara observed. Almost every State Park. I grew up in Chickasaw and Lionel grew up in Natchez Trace. So, we're the same park. You know, they're all man-made lakes all over the state. They're all silting in to some degree or the other. All of them are being fed nutrients and polluted with the golf courses, some of which are owned by the State. So, all these things have to be maintained and dealt with and they are being maintained and dealt with. But the dams are being repaired and drained facilities are getting repaired but the fact that this particular lake has been in the condition it's been in really since I'm certain 10 years cause it lay there. It sorta languished for about 3 years before that the repair compared with was perceived to be a half measure because something got started but ran out of money or something happened on it. So, in this community at least, I would say, I guess I would mirror the mayor's comments. There's a high level of skepticism about the State's commitment to follow through and do something as comprehensive and as expensive as what was depicted on the slide show. So, I want you to know that, and I appreciate your comments and we will be looking for the engineering analyses and the cost estimates and all those things. I think you've raised some interesting points. 'Cuz I can say with absolutely certainty. I didn't grow up here. Obviously, I grew up down in Chester County



but the community is deeply invested in this display psychologically and I think that's understandable. And there's really a high level of skepticism about the state parks commitment to this lake. I'll let someone else talk.

I'm a visitor. I walk the trails often except for one. Disabilities have hindered me but I come. I'm 100% disabled vet so I need, I like nature. I grew up in the country up in Wisconsin so I love going out into these woods and just watching the deer and they come down and seeing the birds. But when I see the changes that have happened like the 2017 that broke it. It kinda to me, it kind of spoiled it in my viewpoint. And then saying that algae being more than what it used to be. Well, when water temperatures change, algae grows. You know that and we have so much development in Clarksville and a lot of the farmland had ponds and they kind of dissipated and the geese are running and ducks are running out of locations to land and reproduce and that's one of the main reason I bragged about Dunbar Cave. All right then, the trails like I said, I come here. There's a couple of trails in Clarksville but this one, I like the most because it's natural and all the new stuff it's gonna be concrete. That's gonna cost a lot of money also especially filling in the pond. So, cost mitigation, it's gonna cost that much just to fill it in and do all this other work. Why not just fix the dam in my opinion? Dig it up. I just don't see getting rid of some of this history yet prior there was a creek. But, as humans that we are, we changed that. It changed in concept. Why go back again.? Why change something when it's been working and it's made lots of people happy. We, I'm talking to a lot of people from other states that come to visit their families, their soldiers, they come here. They love seeing the park. They're one family I talked to the other week. They're here every year and this is one of their main stops is to come and watch the waterfall and they're here 3 hours a day. And I met him three years in a row. And, if that's gone, they're like well, we're going to sit by a creek? So, I just left. I said I'll go and answer. I'll go ask. I'm going to state my opinion. I mean, like I said, I didn't grow up here but since I've been here, this is my home. And this is something that really is relaxing and I just would like to see it stay the same as it is.

Yeah, my name's Joey Mocassin. Born and raised around here. My father even worked as a tour guide back there when Roy Acuff worked it. I want to thank you all for what you did on this presentation. But, I totally disagree with it cause I'm from a golfing family and we've been here at Swan Lake since the mid 60's. We used to hit driving range, floating golf balls in the lake, when it was blue and beautiful and paddle boats on it. I wish that y'all could dredge it. Fix all the pipes that they've been overlooking while they knew something was wrong and they didn't fix them, and then put some kind of mesh around the output for the valve to release water and then for the irrigation funnel for Swan Lake cause that's big bucks there. If you could just keep, you know the irrigation running to Swan Lake you could save the city anywhere from \$5-10,000 a month on the water bill. I know it don't bother y'all on their water bill. But it bothers you know, when green fees



goes up and stuff like that but I really wish that y'all would change your mind on y'all's presentation. It's beautiful but it's not Dunbar Cave. Thanks.

Just want to say a couple things. And, one you gotta say it's a man made lake. Well, they're all man made so it shouldn't even be mentioned because we all already know that. But when you do build this and get rid of the lake, you still have a creek that we will have to maintain. So, if you are making a man-made crick cause you're not gonna let your creek wander where it wants to cause it's gonna get into your landscaped areas. You got to bring it back where you want it to go. And it does cost money to maintain. We just did one over at Billy Dunlop Park. We had to redo all the banking there where it all caved in stuff from nothing. Also, the way the state is starting to drain our wetlands you almost have to have man made wetlands. Couple things we will lose when this is turned to a creek is we'll lose a lot of turtles. You will not see any more bald eagles at Dunbar Cave. That would be totally out. And, Mayor's already said that City of Clarksville wants to keep this lake. That's it.

I'm here on my behalf. I grew up over in Huntington, down the road, been gone about 20 years. My wife's active duty, so we move around. But we're back. The proposal that you all are looking to fill in the lake and drain it and I was just curious. I was out for information. And I'd like to get those reports as well. I'm a licensed engineer in 8 states and I was sort of curious about alternatives you looked at but I was just coming out because then I have similar sentiments to everybody else as far as just, you know, the aesthetics. But, you know, David and his group with the West Tennessee. They're great. So, I'm sure they did a great job, but just curious. Sort of the drivers on some of these things so just mostly information.

I'm Dwain Etterling and I've lived in Clarksville for 40 years. I've been a county commissioner for 2006-2010. Brought our kids here. They've grown up. They have left home and have their own children now, and one son still resides here in Clarksville. And when I heard of Mr. Rubles, you put it online or something and I heard that they were going to fill it in, so I took information, put it online on my Facebook, my family and my friends and I haven't heard one person that's for this plan, whoever has brought it up. I believe in 2017 when they did whatever they did. Was that the when they put the little trail in and the little bridge? They screwed this place up! I don't know who did it. They literally screwed it up. It should have been dugout deep when you got a foot of water. We even went across the thing. You're gonna have that algae. It's been a nasty looking lake ever since they put that in 2017. I don't know what the problem is but you're going to have to dredge it out. Dig it deep as you can. Put some canoes and some paddle boats and make it some recreational area as well. As you know, we you gave a great presentation but I believe that already the plan has been made to do this and I think that when you do it, there's going to be a lot of people disappointed. But, I'm going to say a few more things. more things other than just this place, we, well I, love Swan Lake. So, I guess we'll



have Swan Creek that what it'll be. There are a lot of things that I don't understand. I've lived in Montgomery County and I have seen, and actually they're destroying Montgomery County by flooding this place with so many people. I thought I would never get here. I know where all these people are coming from and the traffic going up. What is that? Warfield to Madison St. What is that road there, Richview? You can't go anywhere in this town without being 30 to an hour. And I am really- you know it's, I think it's a little late for Montgomery County. We're taking all the countries, so just make another parking lot. The more people sit there and look at your little creek, that window when the water's coming down and just flush it out, you know, a gully washer. That's what will happen. So all that money you put in there, put money. Dig the thing out. Leave it at the lake and leave it as the natural beauty that it was before 2017 and they put this whatever they call it. I'm looking for an escape route to get out of Montgomery County to be honest and I'm 71 years old. When I came here, it was a beautiful place. It was a small country town and I don't know who advertised to bring them all here, but they're here. And I got a lot of new friends from all that, but I think, I'm going to have to move to Dover or someplace where there's very few people and there's more bears and critters and they're eagles. They're still eagles over there. Once I move over there. That you know, somebody'll probably open the floodgates there. I don't plan on being here much longer. I'm just passing through. One day my home is in heaven and I'm planning on going to a place that's beautiful and I'm going to tell you when I get there. There won't be man screwing it all up. Thank you very much.

. I live in Clarksville. So, I am- Personally, I like the lake or I liked the lake. It looked a lot better a few years ago than it does now. When I drive by now, it's like I'm not sure what happened to the lake but it doesn't look the same as it did 4 or 5 years ago. But I understand we also have to preserve the cave as well and keep it from flooding. So, is your study to find out where the flood water is coming from into the cave or do you know where the water's coming from in the cave? I mean, in East Tennessee proved that where ever there's water, it's gonna flood. I mean no one expected the flooding that occurred in East Tennessee of course back in 2010 I believe Clarksville flooded. So the hypothesis anywhere there's water there's prone to flood but it's like I said, my first home (unintelligible)

Well, thank you all for being with us today. We do appreciate it and I appreciate everybody behind me. Everybody's hearts in the right place. I can tell you that. And everybody here has been here or should I say about most people here been through Swan Lake and their glory days. And I know I have. I've played many rounds of golf with the Long family. I have history here. My parents danced in the cave back in the 50's long time ago. And I had an aunt that lived downtown. However, she moved to Idaho Springs in the summertime because it was much cooler and she was a woman of wealth. And so, I understand what's going on here. I understand the history of around here. You know, also, we've got all the people that love to use this place. The Friends of Dunbar Cave. I can't



say enough about them. I am a member. I don't get to show up very much but you know people around here that were lifeguards. The TWRA used to stock the lake out here. I mean everything. The big bands, that used to be out here. Tommy Dorsey was one my parents used to talk about, in particular. The Grasslands initiative. That's been done the collaboration between Austin Peay and here. You talk about burning and just phenomenal public private partnership and you know very successful. But I don't now why it is that all of a sudden, we can't fix it. You know, in 2017, I say, I think something was amiss. I think somebody left something out of the equation and I honestly think it's worth another attempt. You know, another effort to try to get it back on track. As it relates to money, there's a lot of parks in the State of TN. If you've been to Paris Landing lately, you can see the amount of money they've spent down there. If you've been to Fall Creek Falls, you can see the amount of money that's spent down there. We're not asking for an inordinate amount of money. We just want our history restored and we want this land back to its glory days when everybody was able to come here and enjoy it and want to live here. Unlike Dwain here, Dwain's left so he won't be but I am, maybe he'll vote for me, for but we just want to restore this place to it's glory days and that's what everybody in it. And not only that, we want to help you. Randy's got a, he's got a wheelbarrow and a sack and a shovel and but I don't think anybody's here, we don't want to get nasty about it. We just want to see life as we've always known it and we're somewhat, I think, everybody in here wants to give it one more try. You know, if we have to do that to make things right, I don't honestly, I don't have a problem but I think we need to give one more try before we go ahead and make such a radical change. Thanks everybody for being here tonight. Thank you all for being here and I appreciate you. And, if anybody has questions for me, I'm online. Thanks.

Thank you all. Thank you for the presentation. It was a good presentation and I've been on that side of the table before. These things were very difficult and very stressful. So I do appreciate what you all do. My son Nash is here as well. He caught his first fish over there in that lake. Our middle daughter, caught her fish in that lake as well. And you know that lake was built nearly 100 years ago. And I love history. And that lake has become part of Montgomery County's history. There's not one person in this room that remembers a time when that lake wasn't there and we've grown to love it. It's become a staple here in our community and bodies of water draw people. You know, I would be concerned if we got rid of the lake about the draw the park would still have. I would have concerns about the hit that our tourism dollars could potentially take as well. So, there could be a financial impact for us local leaders. You know, at one time was all prairie land, but we're not looking to cut down all the trees to restore it back to prairie land either, right? It means a lot. The flood problems we've talked about a good bit this evening. And, I've lived across the street over here for about 14 years and what I've seen is that water comes up from the Red River and crosses the street this way. So, I don't see that this will have an impact on the flooding and you know, one of the thoughts that I had originally was I wonder if the original creators of the lake put it there because of the flooding issues, right? You know, I



see what it does to the golf course and the amount of clean up that it takes to clean that area. I can only imagine what that impact would be if that was all green land over there instead of a lake after the flood, because we know what's going to happen and continue to happen. Lots of people couldn't be here this week, had other commissioners and folks that wanted to be here, but because it was the week before Christmas, they couldn't be here. So, I did send an email out to all of our Commissioners, expressing my thoughts about keeping the lake and every response that I received was thank you, Mayor Golden. So, I feel confident in saying that I'm speaking on behalf of our county and the County Commission. We have a large number of elected officials here this evening and we are elected to represent the people here in Montgomery County of about a quarter of a million people. And all of us are on the same page of what we want to see for this community. I do appreciate all of you all and I believe it should be up to the taxpayers on what's happening here and I'm like, somebody else said, I haven't seen anybody saying that they're for the removal of the lake and if you know in the end if it's the financial commitment that's the biggest problem; I haven't talked to any other elected officials or commissioners about what I'm about to say; but I would be happy to entertain into conversations about the ending ownership of the park itself. It needs to be transferred to the local government. I appreciate your time.

I am Jerry Clark. I have lived here for 77 years within a ½ mile of here. Still do except for the time I was in college in the military, I know this place. I first came here as a young child feeding ducks in the lake. I did that and so did other kids. This was way in the country when I lived here. We owned the Idaho Springs. My grandfather came to Idaho Springs from Elkton on a donkey and got water out of that spring to take care of his young sister who was sick and dying. And he was here every week his entire life on a horse from Elkton, KY because of that spring over there and we own it now. And I was here when the hotels were here. Ronnie Hunter is the oldest lifeguard left. I'm the second oldest and I ran the pool so I'm the oldest manager. I've led cave tours back in the days. When civil defense were looking at it, I led them through. And countless nights I spent nights in the cave showing Frank Meadow what was there. We didn't go through the scuba part. There's a lot that's been established since. When Jan Simek found the art, Jan called me. He was an architecture school dean at the time in an interim capacity. I went to Phil Bredesen and the Commissioner and got the money to build that gate. We kept that a huge secret for a long time. And Jan and I went all over that cave and I found some of that artwork myself back in the other regions and I'm very interested in keeping that! But I don't think this flooding issue is going to do anything to help it one way or the other. Nature is much stronger than any of us. And Randy, it hadn't been 10,000 years. According to Jan, it's been 12,000 since people been running up and down the street. And yeah, all that stuff is sitting in the museum in Knoxville, TN because Jan took me there. Jan is an anthropologist and he took me to see that. And it's in drawers in there and one time I had talked with Jan, I wanted to get money and start excavating and build a real museum with carbon dating and really do something grand. But I'll tell you this, as an



institution and an element, if you look at the world and then you see Paris, France, you think of the Eiffel Tower. If you think of Washington, DC , you think of the White House or Washington Monument. One of the things you think about in Clarksville, TN if you live here, it's Dunbar Cave and that Dunbar Cave Lake. The lake is as important as the cave itself. And this pool? I ran it. I sat here on the 4th of July before we had these roads down here and watched people pile in here by the hundreds and they went out on that lake on those paddle boats and on those canoes and fished and picnicked out there and went and listened to Roy Acuff. I know the Acuff family. I worked for them. They would be appalled today to see this lake go. They really would. They maintained. Brisco Acuff who was the brother of Roy was the guy that maintained this thing. It was in much better shape before the state ever took over. I've watched it deteriorate since the state bought it in 1973 and I thought it would be a good thing and I supported it when they bought it. And let me tell you something else I support. When the Ritter family, I was the one that negotiated the deal, that got the Ritter family to give us a sweetheart sale. I negotiated that. I was on the Jaycee Foundation with a number of you guys in here and we got money raised and got to the legislature. And with Curtis Johnson and other people there then, we are responsible for that other land up there. And that's a very valuable asset to this state property. I do not want to see the lake gone. I'll do everything in my power to see that it does not happen. So, I want you to know I appreciate what you guys did. You worked hard at it, but it's the wrong thing at the wrong time. And Bill, you guys at the legislature are going to have to come up with the money to see that doesn't happen. And Joe? And Mayor? We're going to have to come up with some money here, too. Several times in the history of this place, we've had these kind of crises when it's gotten bad and nobody wanted to step up at the state and do anything and Ted Crozier was one of them. And he said, "Let's buy it back". Well, maybe that time's come if we're not going to treat it with a historical context that we all want it to be. Thank you very much. I'll do everything I can to support this place but I'm against this point.

I'm Stacy Streetman and I serve on the City Council and I represent Ward 10, which is right here. I'm not sure which direction I have. It's right here across the street. There are several people here from my ward and I wasn't originally planning on speaking, but I'll tell you, Mr. Gregory is the reason I got up and spoke tonight. When he lives in my ward and when he said he felt like this was a done decision that he didn't see any mistake, I felt like I needed to speak on his behalf as well as others in the area that have told me they are not in favor of this change. We already heard Mayor Pitts and we'll hear him again. The city is not for this. And talking about the concern with Swan Lake Golf Course. I mean, that's what the golf course is and the irrigation for it. I really don't want it to be called city water golf course. I think this is, this is an important thing to us. You mentioned that when you're talking to people that come and visit the area and it's hard to tell them a story about what used to be there, that's what it would be doing if you take away that lake. That's what you're doing to all of us. It was a rite of passage for me as well. I grew up here. I came to the lake as a child, you know that was part of our field trips and everything. To



have it replaced and be something else to then try and turn around and tell others about the lake that used to be here, that's robbing all of us of our history. So, I would ask that you please reconsider what you're looking at. I asked questions about the flooding because I like I said, I have concerns about what the flooding potentially could be for everyone around it. Just as Mayor Golden referenced, the water comes up from the other direction. It's coming up from the lake and going across. So, I worry what's making those changes would do to everyone that lives around there. But this is an important piece of our history that really, absolutely needs to remain. And I ask that this not be a done deal and you take the time to look at what can we do to keep this as Swan Lake, as it's an important part of our history in our community. Thank you.

I think the lake should stay. This lake has memories of Montgomery. All these people has memories here, so go ahead and destroy it but I'm telling you, eventually you will regret it. Thank you.

I'm Joe Pitts. I'm the mayor of the City of Clarksville. As I say, everything's been said but not everybody said it. But I will just end as I began the comment period earlier, the QandA. The city would like to see the lake stay fully supported. But, we understand the situation you described David and we look forward to further conversations about how we can accomplish the goal. We certainly look at Dunbar Cave as an entirety of a State Park but the lake is so vital, so important and we want to make sure we do everything we can to preserve it for not only for us but for our children and grandchildren. Thank you and thank you to the community for tuning in.

Response from Tennessee State Parks:

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Dunbar Cave State Park Strategic Plan review process. Your comments and concerns were reviewed and considered by the Tennessee State Parks management and leadership team. Tennessee State Parks (TSP) has reviewed comments both supporting and opposing the Dunbar Cave Stream restoration project introduced in the strategic management plan. Studies are underway to evaluate the hydrology and practical engineering solutions. TSP is consulting with subject matter experts to address multiple issues of concern.

TSP has reviewed comments praising the new signage and other facility improvements at the park. Visitors enjoy walking the trails and shared fond memories of the park. Dunbar Cave State Park is committed to providing a safe, welcoming experience with well-maintained facilities.



Attached is a copy of the final plan. Your input is instrumental, and we appreciate your commitment to making the park even better. Thank you for being a vital part of this collaborative effort to enhance Dunbar Cave State Park.