



Tennessee State Parks

Park Strategic Management Planning Public Meeting

Response To Comments

Fall Creek Falls 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: Fall Creek Falls Recreation Hall

Date: 11/19/24 at 5:30pm

Public Comments:

Would like to see camping reservations released in blocks multiple times throughout the year. As it current stands people have to compete a year in advance for many of the most desirable campsites and dates. Not all people are able to plan that far in advance. For example, release 25 percent of sites one year in advance, 25 percent 6 months in advance and the remaining 50 percent 3 months in advance.

Absolutely love Fall Creek Falls State Park and have camped there in the group camp or individual campsites several times over the last 4 years. Also hiked many trails and visited the visitor center. Years ago also stayed in the lodges several times. Love the educational opportunities (both installed and on site teaching). Do think the main trail down to Fall Creek Falls starting from the overlook, down those initial steps especially could use some maintenance. Every time I see someone twist an ankle and fall in areas that could be filled in better where the check dams are. Thankful to have access to such a great park!

Fall Creek Falls State Park is my favorite state park I have been to. We just stayed there and really enjoyed our Fisherman's cabin. However, I was disappointed to learn



Tennessee State Parks now doesn't allow for the selection of a specific cabin when making a reservation. Further, my cabin is known to me until checkin. I hope this isn't set in concrete. In my opinion, this is a regressive move in customer service to heighten your financial gain. I now question whether I will rent a cabin in the future. Which is a shame that I am out in the position.

I have been coming to FCF for over 50 years. PLEASE Repave the trail going around the lake. It is a danger to bike riders and not comfortable. It was my favorite bike trail in the park until the roots took over. Please make that trail my favorite again. Thank you.

"I have always loved Fall Creek Falls park. I loved the old hotel that was there. It was inexpensive and organized toward visiting families. I loved the huge restaurant where you could either take the buffet or order off the menu. Also very family friendly. Whether we were there just for the day or camping or staying in a cabin we always went there for lunch or dinner. I knew the old hotel had become old and needed renovation. I was excited when the new hotel was announced. I made a reservation as soon as it was opened. It was a disappointment in so many ways- 1- Expensive -\$200 per night? 2- Design - The old hotel sort of blended in with nature and the park. The new hotel looks like any other hotel in downtown Nashville 3- Restaurant - The only word for it is it SUCKS. Small, expensive and poor service. No buffet for people in a hurry. Again, like something out of Nashville. I have to shake my head. What were they thinking. The stay at the new hotel was 2 years ago. I have not been back to Fall Creek Falls since. I am not sure what you were shooting for with this new hotel, but you missed the mark when it comes to this long time park visitor."

FCF is our favorite place to camp in TN! This park has always been very well maintained. However, one exception is the paved trail around the lake. It is a beautiful walking/biking trail but has become dangerous due to the asphalt buckled up I'm guessing from the tree roots and/or age of the surface. If the asphalt could be removed and replaced with gravel, it might last longer and be safer to walk and bike.

"We love FCF and camp in a travel trailer every October. The Wi Fi and cell service this year was greatly improved from last year. It is so nice to be able to relax in the evening and watch our favorite shows/ football/ World Series. One off the things I noticed is the increasing popularity of bicycle riding including myself and my wife. It would be fantastic to be able to ride from the campground to the visitor center, falls loop, and restaurant on a separate trail other than the road. A simple side walk similar to the one around the lake would be adequate just to separate bike traffic from car traffic. Thanks Phil"

"Fall Creek Falls State Park is the most popular State Park for several reasons. Its location is relatively close to multiple metropolitan centers. The Park is maintained meticulously. It has a great golf course. The lodge and restaurant has recently been completely rebuilt and is magnificent - overpriced, but magnificent. The campgrounds are pretty. nice. However, it is almost impossible to find a level site for an RV to park on. It would have required so little more effort to have made them so. The campgrounds have more ""full hookups"" than any other State Park. The park could use improved WFI . Continued addition of ""full hookup"" campground sites. Lo's wer prices for rooms at the



Lodge. Discounts for Seniors, Veterans, First Responders, and Active Duty Military regardless of the type of accommodations . This park is my family's favorite park and we will continue to visit and stay there."
I'm extremely pleased to visit and camp in fall Creek Falls State Park in Tennessee. I would much like going again and visiting that park as well as all of your other parks. The park camping spot primitive had all the essentials, including a hot shower and bathroom just a few steps away Quiet private and clean. I would give it five stars out of five!
First of all we love the Fall Creek Falls park, and have been camping there for years. We have seen a lot of changes, some good, and some not so good. We are not crazy about the new restaurant, but that is not a deal breaker for us. Even though it's one of our favorite places to go. Our biggest complaint, are the camp site's. There is a large percent of sites that are very difficult to level your RV. I know there are many different types of RV's, and one site can not accommodate them all. We have a two axle 30 ft bumper pull, which is middle of the road in RV's, and there are many sites that we can not use without major leveling, and in some cases unsafe. That is our biggest complaint about the park. On a positive note, the new dump stations will be awesome! Thanks to everyone who makes visiting the park, such a great experience!
Absolutely love Fall Creek Falls State Park and have camped there in the group camp or individual campsites several times over the last 4 years. Also hiked many trails and visited the visitor center. Years ago also stayed in the lodges several times. Love the educational opportunities (both installed and on site teaching). Do think the main trail down to Fall Creek Falls starting from the overlook, down those initial steps especially could use some maintenance. Every time I see someone twist an ankle and fall in areas that could be filled in better where the check dams are. Thankful to have access to such a great park!
My opinion of a business is not based on mistakes made. It's how that situation was handled. We had a situation arise during our stay at the Lodge. The person that I assume is in charge of maintenance arrived the next morning to address the problem. He was extremely attentive to my concerns, and truly wanted to make sure that my concerns were addressed. I have never had a situation handled as professionally as Keith did. I just wanted to let someone know how valuable of an employee is solving problems at this location. I will not hesitate in the future to stay here again.

Response from Tennessee State Parks:

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Fall Creek Falls State Park Strategic Plan review process. Your comments and concerns were reviewed and considered by the Tennessee State Parks management and leadership team. We appreciate your support of the park and hear your feedback on camping and cabin reservations, the Lodge and Restaurant, and trails.



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 Fall Creek Falls State Park.