



## **Tennessee State Parks**

### **Park Strategic Management Planning Public Meeting**

#### **Response To Comments**

#### **Long Hunter 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: Long Hunter Visitor Center

Date: 12/10/24 at 5:30pm

#### **Public Comments:**

When visiting Long Hunter for a hike, we were trying to use a picnic table that was apparently in the group campsite (which we weren't supposed to go in but didn't know). the signage was not well placed and a park ranger was extremely rude in making us leave. We were a family with toddlers so clearly not trying to break rules or cause trouble. We were just eating snacks. He made us stand up, walk to the sign and read it. Anyways, per your plan, I think picnic areas and accessibility especially in areas not by the water would be great. Better signage (more visible and more clearly stated). would be beneficial if you really don't want people to use a picnic table not in use in a field not being used. Staff training surrounding hospitality- one of your core values- would also be great. I realize he is an officer meant to enforce rules but it didn't really create a space where we wanted to go back and we are avid hikers and campers. We've never experienced this at the other parks we regularly visit across multiple states.

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<p>"After attending a Public Meeting and reviewing the Long Hunter State Park Strategic Management Plan, I have the following comments: 1. The management plan not objective about the current condition of LHSP, after years of neglect, 2. The action plans are aspirational, without regard to the actual poor current condition of LHSP, 3. With the current political will to open new parks, while starving parks like LHSP, progress toward the specified goals will likely be small, 4. There is no priority of action in the Plan, only a vast collection of good ideas, 5. Mandating a yearly public meeting to review progress based on the plan would clearly indicate the status of the plan and its goals. "</p>
<p>"In the Facility Inventory and Assessment section, the condition of the Bryant Grove swimming beach is listed as ""fair"", where it should be listed as ""poor"". The original beach identification equipment (warning buoys, signs, etc) which are required by regulations have deteriorated over many years and have now disappeared. Closure of the swimming beach until replacements are installed should be considered. The beach is badly eroded, due to water overrunning from the area behind the beach. A water diversion system installed around the perimeter of the beach is no longer functional, since the diversion pipes have become fully clogged. The base of the side concrete walls has been undercut by lake water in places, and as a result the concrete walls have started to collapse."</p>
<p>I love seeing the projection for the future. This park has been neglected for years. I got drafted to help this park. I want the community to know about this park. I am happy to see it ....I am concerned about the funding and new recruits. My concerns are that we need new recruits and new people to help with the park. Not enough people coming to the park. streamlining projects when people change up the communication is not lost. All-inclusive meets for the schools for learning trips.</p>
<p>The signage is falling apart</p>
<p>There is not enough advertisement about this park, no one knows that it is here.</p>
<p>There is not enough parking for the volunteer park. Parking spills into the neighborhood. Are you going to plan for the traffic? Interruption to wildlife and the neighborhood. How do we know when certain things have been completed? We need a "completed" section to show accountability.</p>
<p>Please will the state and army core make better relationships, so things do not get dropped. Why does it take so long to get a sinkhole filled? Then when you call you get "Well we have to get this other agency involved", you talk to that agency then they say</p>



“We have to get a 3rd agency involved”. Then people leave and no one knows what is going on. Then you come back and the hole is bigger, so big that a human can fall in it.

**Response from Tennessee State Parks:**

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Long Hunter 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 wayfinding signage, the swimming beach, parking, and our staff.

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 Long Hunter State Park.