



Tennessee State Parks

Park Strategic Management Planning Public Meeting

Response To Comments

Paris Landing 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: Paris Landing Lodge

Date: 11/21/24 at 5:30pm

Public Comments:

"Have visited and stayed at (pet friendly cabins) of five of your state parks from last year thru this year. Have found all of them to be exemplary. Visited and stayed at the pet friendly cabin at Paris Landing twice. Registration process as well as the onsite check in was smooth and efficient. The staff very polite and professional. The cabin itself was a great value, spacious and well maintained. . We sincerely appreciate it being pet friendly (for a reasonable extra fee). We availed ourselves of hiking/walking trails which were clearly marked. We visit the Fort Donnelson Nation Battlefield when we are in town and enjoy the surrounding area. We have been singing the praises of Tennessee and specifically all of our state parks and lodging options. Keep up the great work. "

Have been to Paris Landing probably 12 nights over the past few years in the main lodge. I wish there were more trails here which I didn't see mentioned in the plan but do love coming there. I love the bird rehab educational programs and the staff have always been extremely kind and friendly in whatever role they play. Educators were great at educating. Would love to experience more of this. I don't know if there was historical info



about the park somewhere but I didn't see it. If there is interesting history like Native American inhabitants, etc, would be great to learn.
I used to go to Paris Landing park often for vacation. I enjoyed hiking, golfing and kayaking when I visited. I was planning on retiring in Paris but crime rate is too high in TN. I will still vacation there and go to the fish fry though. The lodge wasn't completed when I last visited but I would like to stay there in the future.
I am involved in Music City Airstream Club. I feel that beautiful Paris landing SP is underutilized. Two times we have had rallies at Piney Campground when I preferred Paris Landing.SP. The reason why we don't camp at Paris Landing is the fact that there is no pavilion near the campsites. There is a pavilion at Piney. Pavilions are necessary for social activities such as pot lucks, crafts, games, meetings, and group events. It's very inconvenient to load materials in cars and go across the street. People don't come. It would wonderful to have a pavilion that people could see from their campsites! I feel that many more people would camp at Paris Landing if a pavilion was built in the campground. Also, of course campers like water and electricity at each site and available Wi-Fi.
"I feel that the strategic plan is detailed and well thought out. The recommended changes and timelines for those changes to me are reasonable. It is great that you take the time to have a true assessment of the grounds and facilities, deeming certain areas in ""poor"" condition, but also detailing a plan for those areas. Paris Landing State Park is a great place to visit. I have recommended Paris Landing Lodge to many of my friends and colleagues. I was excited to see that the cabins are scheduled for renovations. The only addition that I would like to see would be an opportunity to rent pontoons or ski boats while staying there. Everyone does not have access to these, and this may help generate more revenue for the park. Thanks,"
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"I would like to see the Marina restaurant come back. It was great to arrive by boat and have a meal. I find it hard to believe it wasn't a money maker. The lodge needs to review their pricing on booking large rooms for family reunions. I know a large family that has family reunions each year in different states. Paris landing State Park Lodge had the highest prices of any place they looked into. "
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<p>I recently stayed at Paris Landing Lodge for the 3rd time since new lodge was built. Each time, everything about our visit was perfect. Excellent front desk staff on check-in, quiet and clean rooms and beautiful views. Had dinner in the bar and food was delicious with a fast, friendly bar staff. Also enjoyed the free breakfast. I have no suggestions for change. Just hope everything will be maintained. We have visited some Tennessee state parks that have greatly declined since childhood visits.</p>
<p>Last weekend with a beautiful weather forecast. My wife and I decided to tour Shilo battlefield again. Thought we book a room at Pickwick and spend the weekend. We are in Memphis. Imagine our shock when we found the INN was \$180 a night. Needless to say we canceled our trip. How can a State supported facility justify charging that much money a night</p>
<p>My wife and I have have stayed at the Lodge at Paris Landing for a few nights. We were extremely pleased with the service and the facilities- This Fall marks the 3rd year for our mini-vacation at PLSP. Thank you folks for the "royal treatment "we received.</p>
<p>"Why does this new lodge not have a convention center that is capable of hosting a convention of >200 people? Prior to the demolition of the old hotel, there was a capable convention center on-site that my BDE (194th EN BDE of the Tennessee Army National Guard) utilized along with the golf course for our annual Engineer Ball. After completion of the new lodge, the old convention center was converted into storage and a maintenance facility but not a viable option to be utilized for any type of large gathering. Prior to demolition of the old hotel, there were several fishing tournaments and other events held on KY Lake but during the rebuilding & following not so much as there is not a place to hold these events. The last few years our BDE has been forced to travel to Pickwick, Montgomery Bell, or a local hotel in Jackson for accommodations. As a local resident of Paris/Henry Co., I would like to have the opportunity for once again to be able to host the Engineer Ball @ Paris Landing and show everyone what a beautiful Lodge we have if only we had the facilities to do so. Johney Barnhill 731.707.1245 "</p>
<p>I would like to see Marina improvements and improved maintenance resources. Activation of the Camp Hazelwood for outdoor activities like hiking and backcountry camping. Thanks to all the Rangers and staff for providing a safe fun experience.</p>
<p>Since we are on Kentucky Lake, I would like to see the park offer pontoon rides. I live nearby but travel to Reelfoot, Pickwick, and Natchez Trace to take pontoon rides. I think they would be very popular and bring in guests and revenue. Thank you</p>
<p>I attended the 11/21/24 meeting and was very disappointed. It was very generic and not very informative. The rangers were unable to answer most questions. Frustrating. I would really like to see the convention Center turned into a sports complex. Instead, it sits unused. Government and taxpayer waste. Paying to heat and cool it while it is left to rot away. Somebody needs to make a decision and either tear it down, or fix the existing building.</p>
<p>Our comments were about the Lodge dining hours. We ah cause we are local, I have worked on this park. I grew up here and we used to come eat breakfast here as a kid and it was full, and lunch was always full on Sundays. It was full every weekend. 150 people.</p>



Anyway, so we would like to see extended hours in the dining because especially the summer the sun goes down at nine o'clock you can't be through on the lake and through with dining by eight. Our next comment was to incorporate the breakfast here. We would like to see breakfast returned. And the other is unless someone shows we the people we do not want that building over there torn down. Yeah, the convention center is a real big concern of ours. You need to show us something we haven't seen, because last time we were there we ate food, we used the restrooms and wasn't a thing wrong with any of it. The only thing right now is its overgrown shrubs, it needs to be painted. Your house may need to be painted and your house might need to be painted. It's been neglected. But does it need to be torn down? As a taxpayer, I'm very concerned that it has been neglected and allowed to get to this point that it would even be considered to be torn down. And the other comment we had was about returning food and beverage to the marina because most people are not going to come over here and walk 63 steps and come over here at lunch to eat. It increases fuel sales. It increases the food and beverage sales over there and probably helps. And on that convention center note I think it would be a good multi-purpose facility for sports and other things. We've been to many wedding receptions there that were lovely, conventions. So, it was a good facility.

I'm serious about the posting of the no wake signs. That's an aggravation. Those boats cost an awful lot of money, for people that don't know that. They really do and when it gets slammed against the dock it kinda grates on your nerves a little bit. And the other idea is I would like someone to address at least with portable moveable signs, a little bit of yellow construction tape this area reserved for slip holders. You know parking ones. But it doesn't even need to be thought about until we get into the major weekends or when the TV cameras showed up and you know ABC Wide World of Sports and they are photographing the Bass Masters tournament and all that. And you know, I'm sorry I don't think I'm the only guy who pulls up there and goes excuse me, about \$280 to \$300 a month and I can't even park. Hello. I'm done. Can I throw something in here? And I agree with this man. I know where he's going. As far as letting someone get their talons sunk into the state park and they'll be like we own part of that park. Now you've got some corporation telling you what to do. I don't like that either. But I do like the idea what the gentleman suggested about, this gentleman right here Mr. Fisher, like you know if there's ways we could incorporate. You don't have to get; you don't have to fall in love with them, but you could do things and I'm just a small-time guy, I'm a retired guy, but you know there's ways to turn a buck. You approach the Bass Masters Association, and you say you know if you guys can help us get a grant we would like to redo this building. Just a grant, just a gift from Bass Pro, REI people like that you know I believe we could see fit to give you probably five or ten percent discount on next years stay when you come here for the tournament at the hotel. Just saying.

First off, I want to comment about the convention center. I understand if the cost to redo and repair is greater than tearing it down and building it back up but, there's a desperate need for that building in this community. I'm speaking, I'm retired now, but I'm speaking from the view point the last eleven years I worked I organized big meetings, conferences,



briefings what ever you want to call them, but sometimes over five hundred people and there's no where in Weakley County, Stewart County, Carroll County, Benton County any where in that area that will house the number of people that some of my briefings held. This building out here would be able to do that. I understand having it up to code. I understand the cost of repairs being more than the cost to tear down and build back but there's a desperate need for that in this area. I think you could, especially if advertised right and utilized for multipurpose things, I think it would be a very income gaining purpose or building. I think it would garner a lot of income. The Marker 66, speaking towards that. That a whole different type of restaurant or what we want. It's a whole different type. We want not only bar food, but we need healthy food there as well. But it's a different environment. We want a very casual, relaxed, bathing suit type environment. The dining facility here would not be competition for it because it's a more your dressed type of environment and not swimsuits type of environment. So, extending the hours is crucial for this area. There are a lot of people in this area, there are a lot of people who live down here in this area. We have very few places to eat in this area and there's some of us that work late and its hard to get here and dine by 8:00. So that's a desperate need as well. And I think that covers everything. I know I'm forgetting something, but I can't bring it up right now. I remembered the most important thing. What ever the decision is made about this building down here please publish it, publicize it because when the decision was made before about this building it was made in a public meeting like this that none of the public attended. They didn't know what was going to be decided. No one read the notice. They didn't know what it was about. So, before the decision is made, if your gonna have another meeting on what to do please publicize that everywhere so people can attend and afterwards please list those things. Tell the public what is wrong, how much it cost to redo it, and then what it would cost to replace or whatever. That's why everyone was so upset before over the whole lodge business is because nobody knew. (some one sitting nearby said I don't think this meeting was publicized very well) Yeah, this one someone called and told me about it. I never saw it anywhere.

I've got a boat on A Dock at the marina over there. Been there for years and I feel like some of the other people with the marina that we don't get a fair share of support from the state park. That you know when we have maintenance issues it takes a week or two to somebody over there to, you know do something and just like the signage was spoken you know there should be more enforcement and things around the marina, and you know it just feels like a stepchild sort of to the state park. Like you would rather not have us.

I would like to suggest that the facility, park, look for a multi-use facility for many different aspects rather it sports. Also, weather related this area also for the boaters a tornado shelter you can there's so many different areas you can use that facility and building for. We can pull out of different pockets to get money so for the state to build that type of facility if they go to that type thing. I don't know about that other building. Restaurants: I used to drive over here from Clarksville when I lived there and working out of there just for the Friday night food. Saturday, I didn't get off till six, so I always got here



<p>later. I would echo their comments on the food part and the marina. Please put food back down there for the pontoon boaters that want to bring their grandkids down here and take them to get a sandwich. Its what you would expect whenever I come in. I come all the way from Leatherwood Bay to get fuel down here because we used to come, we used to come here to eat and get fuel. Your service people here, whoever's doing the marina, those people are fantastic. I'm not going to whine about them because they are great to me and everyone I see so kudos to those people who are doing that part of it. Please put food back. That multi-use facility I think is the biggest thing that is in need for the counties and to draw people to the park to help with their finances.</p>
<p>Does the lodge cater to locals and what their needs are for restaurant and lounge or is it just catered for lodge customers? Meaning overnight guest and events.</p>
<p>Can I make one more comment on the media part. I don't know, you said the guy from Paris was here. When I talked to the person from over in Stewart County, they still mentioned the lodge being torn down and that type stuff. I don't know why he's not here because I know he knows about the meeting. So, but there's still hard feeling over stuff that wasn't made right here by these people.</p>
<p>I do have one comment. A little bit different than what Paul was talking I really wish the state rather than saying we are just going to tear the convention center down, to try to be a little more innovative and say what about corporate-private partnership with the state. There's a lot of corporate dollars out there especially with pickle ball and corn hole tournaments, archery. I went to an archery tournament. I was not aware that, my kids are grown so I didn't have any high school kids in our house, but I was not aware that archery is such a big sport, and I went to a high school archery tournament. There were like two hundred kids and around the wall of the gymnasium was REI, Bass Pro, all the corporate folks were there and I think it would be a way to help the state with additional funding if they would reach out and look at corporate sponsorships in conjunction with the state on that rather than just tearing the building down. Its my understanding too, we keep saying if they are gonna tear it down, I don't think if they tear it down, they are not going to build a new convention center. So that's my question.</p>
<p>I would just like to make the comment that I think the Tn State Parks should ya know remain for everybody and forever and they should remain public, and we should ya know not think about privatizing or getting corporate money for a public park.</p>
<p>The marina needs to be full as each slip turns a profit with little needed other than the boat owner taking care of their own vessel. Current slip holders as far as moving to a bigger slip/smaller. There have been empty slips for 3+ years (even though there is interest in renting such slips size of the vessel should be proportionate to slip rented. ie: a 20 ft pontoon does not need to occupy a 60ft slip.</p>
<p>Do not take day use and build campground</p>
<p>No wake signs, parking</p>
<p>Given private marinas turn a profit, why are we not investing more into the marina. Better amenities, food, beverages.</p>



Response from Tennessee State Parks:

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Paris Landing 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 our trails, day use areas, boat rental options, marina restaurant, conference center, and Camp Hazelwood.

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 Paris Landing State Park.