



## Tennessee State Parks

### Park Strategic Management Planning Response to Comments

#### Chickasaw 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 an online survey. The public information meeting was held at Chickasaw State Park's Sagamore Lodge on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30pm.

#### Summary of Public Comments and Department Responses

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation received **5 public comments** specific to the draft Strategic Management Plan for Chickasaw State Park. Respondents expressed strong appreciation for the park's staff, recreational opportunities, and role as a valued community and regional destination. Comments also included suggestions related to trail expansion, recreation amenities, campground safety, and infrastructure coordination.

Key themes included:

- **Mountain Biking & Trail Expansion** – Respondents expressed enthusiasm for the park's existing mountain biking opportunities and requested additional dirt mountain biking trails to support family recreation and regional tourism. One commenter noted traveling from Nashville specifically to utilize the park's trails.
- **Disc Golf Opportunities** – One respondent recommended the addition of a disc golf course, citing the success of similar facilities at Meeman-Shelby Forest State



Park. The commenter noted that disc golf is a low-impact recreational amenity and offered volunteer assistance with course design.

- **Equestrian Campground Safety** – A respondent requested that the Wrangler Camp area be limited to horse campers only, expressing concerns that non-horse campers may unintentionally create safety risks due to unfamiliarity with equestrian activities and campground operations.
- **Staff Appreciation & Community Value** – Public officials and community members expressed strong appreciation for the park staff and rangers, noting the park’s positive reputation within the community and among visitors throughout the region.
- **Water System Improvements & Local Coordination** – One public official offered assistance and coordination from the City of Henderson regarding future water system improvements and infrastructure planning.

## Department Response

The Department appreciates the thoughtful feedback submitted regarding Chickasaw State Park and values the strong community support reflected in the comments received. All comments were reviewed and considered by Tennessee State Parks leadership in relation to the park’s mission, operational priorities, resource protection responsibilities, and the goals outlined in the draft Strategic Management Plan.

Suggestions related to expanding mountain biking opportunities and the addition of recreational amenities such as disc golf will be considered as part of future recreation planning and facility evaluations. The Department recognizes the importance of providing diverse outdoor recreation opportunities while balancing environmental stewardship, operational capacity, and long-term sustainability.

Comments regarding the Wrangler Camp and equestrian safety considerations will be reviewed as part of campground operations and visitor management discussions. The Department remains committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all park users.

The Department greatly appreciates the positive recognition of park staff and the continued support expressed by local officials and visitors. Offers of collaboration related to infrastructure and water system improvements are valued and may help inform future coordination efforts with local partners and stakeholders.



The Department is grateful for the continued public engagement in the planning process and will continue to consider public input as the Strategic Management Plan is refined and implemented over the coming decade.