



Tennessee State Parks

Park Strategic Management Planning Response to Comments

David Crockett 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 David Crockett State Park Restaurant on December 9th, 2025, at 5:30pm.

Summary of Public Comments and Department Responses

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation received **6 public comments** specific to the draft Strategic Management Plan for David Crockett State Park. Feedback reflected strong community support for the park and included comments on proposed facility improvements, trail development, management transparency, resource stewardship, and recreation needs.

Key themes included:

- **Support for New Visitor Center & Park Office** – Multiple respondents strongly supported the proposed construction of a new visitor center and park office, noting improved visitor services, better interpretation of the park's history, and long-term operational benefits.



- **Disc Golf & Golf Partnerships** – Respondents encouraged pursuing acquisition or partnership opportunities for the nearby disc golf course and Lawrenceburg Golf & Country Club to enhance regional recreation offerings and tourism appeal.
- **Equestrian Access** – One respondent emphasized the need for more horseback riding trails systemwide, including at David Crockett State Park, citing limited equestrian access across Tennessee compared to surrounding states.
- **Financial Transparency & Funding Concerns** – Comments from multiple individuals requested clearer communication on funding sources for deferred maintenance, capital improvements, and future land acquisitions. Respondents noted uncertainty about how operational expenses and large-scale improvements would be funded beyond park revenues.
- **Habitat & Mowing Practices** – One respondent expressed concerns about excessive mowing limiting natural habitat restoration opportunities and encouraged increased naturalization and native grassland management.
- **Crowder Farm Utilization** – A request was made for public access or programming at the Crowder Farm property, with interest in seeing it restored to native prairie with walking trails.
- **Bike & Walkability Improvements** – A respondent requested a paved bike/walking path along the main park road to increase safety for families and reduce interactions between vehicles and pedestrians.

Department Response

The Department appreciates the public's thoughtful engagement and strong support for David Crockett State Park. All comments were reviewed by Tennessee State Parks leadership in relation to the park's mission, natural and cultural resource stewardship responsibilities, operational capacity, and the goals outlined in the draft Strategic Management Plan.

Support for the new Visitor Center and Park Office is noted and reinforces the importance of investing in facilities that enhance visitor services, educational programming, and operational efficiency. Feedback regarding disc golf and golf course partnerships will be



considered as the Department evaluates recreational opportunities that complement the park's mission and support local tourism.

Comments related to equestrian access reflect ongoing statewide interest, and these suggestions will be reviewed as part of broader recreational use planning, considering environmental impacts, trail sustainability, and potential user conflicts.

Requests for greater financial transparency are appreciated. The Department is committed to clearly communicating the sources of funding for operations, capital improvements, deferred maintenance, and land acquisitions in alignment with statewide budgeting processes.

Feedback on habitat preservation and mowing practices will be evaluated as part of the park's natural resource management strategy, with emphasis on ecological health, pollinator habitats, and appropriate visitor safety considerations.

Suggestions regarding Crowder Farm and bike/pedestrian safety improvements will be reviewed within the context of long-term planning, feasibility, and resource protection.

The Department sincerely values the community's involvement and will continue to incorporate public input as it refines and implements the Strategic Management Plan for David Crockett State Park over the next decade.