



Tennessee State Parks

Park Strategic Management Planning Response to Comments

Cumberland Mountain 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 Cumberland Mountain State Park's Recreation Hall on December 9th, 2025, at 5:30pm.

Summary of Public Comments

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation received **4 public comments** specific to the draft Strategic Management Plan for Cumberland Mountain State Park. Themes centered on recreational access, trail maintenance, and user experience.

Key themes included:

- **Drone (UAV) Use and Regulation** – One respondent advocated for the responsible allowance of drone flight within Tennessee State Parks, noting that drones could be safely incorporated with clear regulations rather than total prohibition.
- **Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance** – Respondents expressed concern about closed or obstructed mountain bike trails, noting persistent downed trees, a lack of recent improvements, and a desire for trails to be restored and reopened.



- **Expanded Recreational Offerings** – One respondent expressed a desire for more activities and year-round programming, observing that other parks appear to offer a wider variety of recreational opportunities.

Department Response

The Department appreciates the community's thoughtful input and continued support for Cumberland Mountain State Park. All comments were reviewed by Tennessee State Parks leadership in relation to the park's mission, resource protection needs, operational capacity, and the strategies outlined in the draft Strategic Management Plan.

Comments regarding unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will be considered within the broader framework of statewide recreation policies, which must balance visitor experience, safety, wildlife protection, and potential noise impacts. While UAV use is currently restricted, the Department acknowledges the public's interest and will continue evaluating where responsible drone use may be appropriate.

Feedback related to mountain bike trail maintenance and trail blockages is noted and will be incorporated into ongoing assessments of trail conditions. Staff will continue to prioritize safety concerns, storm-related damage, and the feasibility of reopening or rerouting trails to meet sustainability standards.

Requests for enhanced programming and additional activities will be explored as part of future recreation planning, with consideration for staffing levels, resource stewardship, and alignment with park goals.

The Department values the public's continued involvement and will use these comments to inform and strengthen implementation of the Cumberland Mountain State Park Strategic Management Plan over the coming decade.