

David Crockett State Park Strategic Management Plan

2023 – 2033

Updated in 2025



Table of Contents

Park Purpose, History and Description	3
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans	3
THE RESOURCES: Exemplary Natural and Cultural Stewardship	3
THE VISITOR: Welcoming and Inviting to All	3
THE AMENITIES: Well-Maintained Facilities and Amenities.....	4
THE OPERATIONS: Operational Excellence.....	4
Park Overview	6
Site Fact Sheet	6
Key Attractions.....	6
Site and Operations Assessment.....	7
Site and Facility Assessment	7
Operational Assessment	10
Summary of Key Recommendations	15
Short Term Recommendations (Less than 1 year)	15
Mid Term Recommendations (2-5 years)	15
Long Term Recommendations (5+ years)	15
Resource Management Plan.....	16
Interpretive Programming and Education Five-Year Action Plan	22
Financial Performance Goals	26

Park Purpose, History and Description

David Crockett State Park was established in 1957 to preserve the location of the industrial site David Crockett established on Shoal Creek. The park was also to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to visitors and the local community and meet the requirements of Tennessee State Parks enabling legislation. The park today is 1400 acres of varied landscape, with open grassland, hardwood and mixed stand forests, and creek bottom and hollows. The park contains 10 miles of trails including a retracement of the Trail of Tears, 2 campgrounds with 106 sites total, 7 LEED certified cabins, a restaurant, day use shelters, and an abundance of natural and cultural resources. The primary culture resource is the historic site of Crockett's gristmill, powder mill, and distillery shared with the prominence of Lawrenceburg as Crockett's political start.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans

THE RESOURCES: Exemplary Natural and Cultural Stewardship

Goal: Tennessee State Parks will be nationally recognized for exemplary stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Objective - *More and better stewards:* Increase internal and external stewards who share Tennessee State Parks core values and can contribute to the State Parks mission to preserve, protect, and share Tennessee's natural and cultural resources.

Action Plan: Connect visitors and most importantly all staff to the resources. Staff are the most important visitors we have, they want to tell the stories of our special places and share those connections with our external stewards. Immerse staff in the park by onboarding, staff meetings with a program or activity (hikes, tours, work meetings-held outside their normal workspace).

Objective - *Better resource management practices:* Identify, manage, and restore unique natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

Action Plan: Conduct a current inventory of natural and cultural resources important to and on the site. Create short term and long-term manageable projects to accomplish the objective and gain external support to maintain the viability of the projects, along with staff education and training about the management projects.

Objective: *Better data and technology:* Leverage data and technology to help inform and guide decisions on natural and cultural resources stewardship.

Action Plan: Include data with the plans and plan with the data. Utilize current available resources like ArcGIS to store and categorize the resource inventory. Keep information current with updates.

THE VISITOR: Welcoming and Inviting to All

Goal: Tennessee State Parks will be the most accessible, welcoming, and inviting system of parks that enriches Tennesseans and visitors through excellent interpretation, education, and resource-based recreation.

Objective: *accessible, welcoming, and inviting to all:* create quality and varied programs of interpretation, recreation, and outreach so that all audiences feel welcome and invited.

Action Plan: Identify our visitors' needs and plan to reach them on the best platform for them. Categorize offered programs with easy to identify keys for visitors to follow.

Objective: *high quality programming:* develop and support mission-based and resource-relevant programs to engage visitors, empower staff, and develop community wellbeing.

Action Plan: Programs MUST be mission based. Create the standard and stick to it. Develop a list of programs that should be repeated on a regular basis to create the programming backbone. Supplement that list with special and unique programs that still support the mission and more highly develop the interpretive themes.

Objective: *resource-based outdoor recreation:* provide resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities that ensure representation of Tennessee's natural, scenic, and cultural resources.

Action Plan: Plan for recreation that compliments the resource and does not take away from it. Develop a standard for guided hikes, creek discoveries, boating adventures to structure the resource based recreational offerings.

THE AMENITIES: Well-Maintained Facilities and Amenities

Goal: Tennessee State Parks will be well maintained with facilities and amenities that delight visitors and make Tennesseans proud.

Objective: *Improve maintenance:* Improve overall maintenance and upkeep of all park facilities and amenities that contribute to meaningful visitor experiences.

Action Plan: Create streamlined scheduling and logging methods that are beneficial to field staff. Cross train employees on different needs to ensure adequate response to issues.

Objective: *Better park accessibility:* ensure all visitors have opportunities for meaningful experiences in every Tennessee State Park.

Action Plan: Evaluate all facilities and opportunities to provide more accessibility. Create action plans to improve accessibility, and timelines to complete.

Objective: *Quality and welcoming facilities and amenities:* provide high-quality and well-planned facilities and amenities that enrich the visitor experience.

Action Plan: Plan facilities that speak to the mission and primary themes of the park yet are still practical for park use. Establish new facilities in locations that create that welcoming and user-friendly atmosphere.

THE OPERATIONS: Operational Excellence

Goal: Tennessee State Parks will be a national model for operational excellence in a state park system.

Objective: *Support and empower our people:* support and empower our workforce by creating a caring environment that encourages professional growth and great customer service.

Action Plan: Communicate more efficiently, from the top, down. Empower our people by letting them be part of the conversation and planning process.

Objective: *Efficient and effective operations:* provide efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible service to Tennesseans and our visitors.

Action Plan: Create more timely and efficient methods for managing and updating operations. Plan for the future by utilizing more online options, reducing cash operations, streamlining reporting process.

Park Overview

Site Fact Sheet

Park Name	David Crockett State Park
Site Manager	Ann Paley
Area Manager	Jacob Young
Park acreage	1,400
Total number of visitors (FY 2025)	452,424
Total expenses before CO (FY 2025)	724,601
Total revenues (FY 2025)	834,677
Retail cost recovery % ¹	233%
Park cost recovery %	115%
Restaurant Total Expenses before CO (FY 2025)	163,757
Restaurant Total Revenues (FY 2025)	199,275
Restaurant Retail cost recovery %	411%
Average expense per visitor (FY 2022)	1.60
Average revenue per visitor (FY 2022)	1.84
Gross profit or loss	110,076
Total full-time available positions / filled	14/14
Total part-time available positions / filled	11/11
Primary feeder markets	Huntsville, Florence, Nashville
Primary reasons people visit	Camping, Cabins, Hiking, Creek, Lake, History
Opportunities for improvement	New Museum and continue to increase staff training, accessibility, new office/visitor center

Key Attractions

The amenities or features listed below are those that seem to be most popular for visitors.

- Crockett Falls
- Crockett Museum
- Cabins
- Campgrounds
- Trails
- Lake
- Restaurant
- Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area

¹ Based on T.C.A. 11-3-305, Cost recovery of revenue-generating facilities

Site and Operations Assessment

This site and operations assessment is a culmination of analyses and findings from a review of the condition of facilities, infrastructure, and operations at David Crockett State Park. The findings and observations are not intended to be an exhaustive review of all issues present but provide a basic understanding of the predominant issues that contribute to the site's current operating conditions. The assessment includes the following:

1. Site and Facilities Assessment
2. Operational Assessment
3. Financial Assessment

Site and Facility Assessment

Methodology

Facility and asset conditions are rated using a differential scale of excellent, good, fair, or poor. Descriptions of conditions that are attributed to each of these findings are also provided.

Scale of Conditions	
Rating	General Description
Excellent	Facilities/amenities are in 'excellent' condition when they show little or no maintenance or repair problems. Facilities do not feature any major design or operational issues or flaws that contribute to diminished use or increased maintenance or upkeep. Facilities are easy to clean and maintain in order to place them back into public use and the users perceive them to be in excellent shape.
Good	Facilities/amenities are in 'good' condition when they show only minor maintenance or repair problems. Most maintenance issues with these facilities typically appear to be the result of age and/or heavy use. Facilities may only feature minor design or operational issues that contribute to diminished use or increased maintenance or upkeep. Facilities are moderately easy to clean and maintain in order to place them back into service and the users perceive them to be adequate for their use, but probably not in excellent shape.
Fair	Facilities/amenities are in 'fair' condition when they show significant maintenance or repair problems. Facilities generally exhibit ongoing maintenance issues that appear to be the result of age, heavy use, or design or operational flaws. Some maintenance and repair needs may compound their fair condition by being deferred because of budget and/or resource limitations. Facilities require more effort to clean and maintain before placing them back into service and the users may perceive them as being less than adequate for their use and in a state of deterioration. The facility or structure may need of major repair or replacement.
Poor	Facilities/amenities are in 'poor' condition when they show significant, on-going maintenance or repair problems that ultimately may result in suspended use for repair/replacement. Maintenance and repair issues are possibly the result of poor maintenance and clearly the result of age, heavy use, or design or operational flaws. Problems with the facilities are often compounded over time due to consistently-deferred maintenance and repair because of budget and/or resource limitations. Facilities may feature major design or operational issues that contribute to diminished use or increased maintenance or upkeep. Facilities require excessive effort to clean and maintain before placing them back into service and the users often perceive them as being inadequate for their use and in a state of serious deterioration. The facility or structure may need of major repair or replacement.

Facility Inventory and Assessment

The table below is an inventory of facilities and amenities at David Crockett State Park, and provides the assessed condition of each as reviewed in September 2025.

Site Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition
Ranger Residences	3	Fair
Cabins	7	Good
Boat Dock Rental	1	Good
Museum	1	Fair
Restaurant	1	Good
Amphitheater	1	Fair
Pool Buildings	3	Good
Bathhouses	3	Good
Shelters	12	Good
Restrooms	3	Fair
Office	2	Good
Maintenance	7	Good
Linen Storage	1	Good
Fuel Barn/Storage	1	Good
Covered Bridge	1	Poor
Campgrounds	2	Fair
Scout Camp	1	Poor
Aviary	1	Good

Trail Inventory and Assessment

Trail Name	Mileage	Condition
Bike Trail	1.78	Fair
Connector-1	0.17	Good
Connector-2	0.28	Fair
Connector-3	0.33	Fair
Connector-4	0.21	Good
Connector-5	0.27	Good
Connector-6	0.25	Good
Crawfish Valley Trail	2.70	Good
Lake Road Trail	0.81	Fair
Shoal Creek Trail	1.45	Fair
Trail of Tears	2.25	Good
Turkey Ridge Trail	1.50	Good
Grand Total	12.0	

The park has approximately 10 miles of trails. Most trail are in fair to good condition. The Shoal Creek and some connector trails need some routes reworked or rerouted to provide a safer more sustained trail. The Crawfish Trail is in great condition but need a bridge crossing at the spillway, this would be a capital project most likely. Paved bike trail is getting replaced with crushed stone with a small reroute. Would like to develop a trail system to highlight the cultural resources on the “Reedtown” portion of the park, but would need bridge access across Shoal Creek that could withstand flooding. Need, and public have requested, to provide an unpaved biking trail, and evaluation is taking place to develop a trail on the Crowder Farm section.

New Assets Needed

List new assets and amenities that would fall under capital expenditures that are needed to improve visitor experience and operational efficiency.

New Asset & Amenities	Description
Office/Visitor Center	New Park Visitor Center with offices.
Restrooms facilities	Restrooms at Lake, Shelters 4, 5, and 6
Shelter/Pavilion	Overlook at Lake Lindsey
Scout Camp Renovation	Upgrade restrooms, add showers, add electricity
Reedtown	Bridge to access, area improvements and amenities
Cabin area fishing pier	Add new fishing pier to cabin area

Prioritized Facility Needs

Based on the facility inventory and assessment, these prioritized needs have been identified.

Facility Need	Priority Assignment
Update Murray Circle Restrooms	High
Cabin roofing, and flooring – in process	High
Replace covered bridge roof	High
Museum improvements: Mold encapsulation in crawlspace, remodel to support sagging floors.	High
Upgrade Scout Camp	High
Upgrade campground plumbing	Moderate
Winterize aviary with electric heaters	High

Operational Assessment

The Operational Assessment includes:

1. An inventory and classification of programs and services being provided at the site,
2. A review of staffing at the site,
3. A review of concessionaires and partners operating at the site,
4. Visitation and customer satisfaction, and
5. Professional development and training.

Inventory and Classification of Programs and Services

Programs and services are classified into one of three major categories:

- 1) Core or Essential Services;**
- 2) Important Services; and**
- 3) Value added or Visitor Supported Services.**

Functions of the site are classified into these categories based in part on the mission and public mandates for both the site and the agency. For the programs and services in each of these categories, there are financial performance expectations that will define how services are funded and evaluated.

CATEGORY 1 – CORE SERVICES *[Largely supported by public subsidies]*

Core programs, services and facilities are those the agency must provide and/or are essential in order to capably govern and meet statutory requirements. The failure of the agency to provide Category 1 services at adequate levels could result in significant negative consequences for the public and the resources under protection. The criteria for programs or services to be classified as core or essential are:

- The services are mandated by the agency's law or charter or are contractually obligated by agreement to provide the services.
- The services are essential to protecting and supporting the public's health and safety.
- The services protect and maintain valuable assets and infrastructure.
- The services would generally and reasonably be expected and supported by residents, businesses, customers and partners.
- The services are those that cannot or should not be provided by the private sector.
- The services provide a sound investment of public funds.

The following programs and services offered at David Crockett State Park have been identified as **core services**:

- Safety and Security – Law Enforcement
- Resource Protection and enforcement
- Day Use Activities and Recreation
- Visitor Support-Restrooms, etc

CATEGORY 2 – IMPORTANT SERVICES *[Supported by a balance of revenues and public subsidy]*

Important programs, services and facilities are those the agency should provide, and are important to governing and effectively serving residents, businesses, customers and partners. Providing Category 2 services expands or enhances the agency's ability to provide and sustain its core services. The criteria for programs or services to be classified as important are:

- The services expand, enhance or support identified core services.
- The services are broadly supported and utilized by the community, and are considered an appropriate, important, and valuable public good. Public support may be conditional upon the manner by which the services are paid for or funded.
- The services generate income or revenue that offsets some or all of the operating cost and/or are deemed to provide economic, social or environmental outcomes or results.

The following programs and services offered at David Crockett State Park have been identified as **important services**:

- Interpretation
- Play areas
- Trails with added features-equipment, waysides, etc

CATEGORY 3 – VISITOR SUPPORTED SERVICES *[Almost exclusively supported by earned revenue]*

Visitor supported programs, services and facilities are those discretionary services that the agency may provide when additional funding or revenue exists to offset the cost of providing those services. Category 3 services provide added value above and beyond what is required or expected. The criteria for programs or services to be classified as visitor supported are:

- The services expand, enhance or support Core Services, Important Services and the quality of life of the visitors, community or stakeholders.
- The services are supported, valued and well utilized and provide an appropriate and valuable public benefit.
- The services generate income or funding from sponsorships, grants, user fees or other sources that offset some or all of their cost and/or provides a meaningful return on investment.
- The Services can possibly be provided through outsourcing or use of concessionaires, providing opportunities for community enterprise or services that may not otherwise be provided by the agency.

The following programs and services offered at David Crockett State Park have been identified as **visitor supported services**:

- Museum
- Restaurant
- Boat rental
- Gift Shops
- Overnight facilities

Personnel / Staffing Review

Personnel and staffing at David Crockett State Park represent the largest area of budgetary expense at an average of 59% of the total operating budget each year for the last three complete years, which is less than the target of labor costs not exceeding 65% of total operating expenditures. The tables below and on the following page provide a basic review of the current staffing at the site.

Full Time Park Employees

Position / Title	Quantity (FTE)	Compensation Total
Park Manager 2	1	*
Park Ranger 3	1	*
Park Ranger 2	3	*
Administrative Assistant 1	1	50,736
Clerk 3	1	36,528
Account Clerk	1	40,332
Chief of Maintenance	1	63,420
Maintenance Supervisor	1	43,140
Maintenance Lead	3	118,356
Park Interpretive Specialist	1	52,104
TOTAL	14	737,004

**Law enforcement compensation confidential by TN law.*

Full Time Restaurant Employees

Position / Title	Quantity (FTE)	Compensation Total
Hospitality Manager 1	1	56,976
Hospitality Assistant	1	53,220
Cook 1	2	70,752
Server	1	20,475
TOTAL	5	166,047

Part Time Park Employees

Position / Title	Quantity	Compensation Total
Operations Worker	6	169,708
Maintenance Worker	5	141,802
TOTAL	11	311,510

Part Time Restaurant Employees

Position / Title	Quantity	Compensation Total
XXX	X	X
XXX	X	X
TOTAL	11	311,510

Labor Support

Labor Support	Annual Hours
Volunteers (Camp Hosts)	3544
Community Service Workers	50
Engineering and Construction Crews	
Resource Management Crews	
Other: _____	
TOTAL	3594

Total Labor Compensation Expense

Labor Type	Labor Expense
Full Time Equivalent Employees	737,004
Part Time Employees	311,510
TOTAL Annual Labor Expense	1,048,514

Additional Future Positions Needed

Position / Title	Quantity	FTE or PT	Year Needed	Justification
Park Ranger	1	FTE		Increase in usage patterns and planned resource management projects; increase resource management, presence and interpretation at
Maintenance Lead	1	FTE	2026	Increase in usage patterns and planned resource management projects
Clerk	1	FTE	2026	Front desk/visitor services staff to take phone calls, make reservations, handle visitor inquiries, sell gift shop
Housekeeping Staff	3	PT	2028	Housekeeping staff to clean cabins, bath houses, and restroom facilities on the park. We currently contract out our cleaning services.
TOTAL	6			

Financial Performance

Revenue per available unit (**Rev Per Unit**) for the last four years in park facilities is detailed in the table below.

Current Rev Per Unit

Fiscal Year	Cabin Rev Per Unit	Campsite Rev Per Unit	Day Use Rev Per Unit	Restaurant Rev Per Unit
2022	120.37	15.09	5.24	13.70
2023	120.14	13.16	5.21	14.25
2024	131.02	14.61	5.20	14.84
2025	122.01	13.82	4.70	15.12

Projected Rev Per Unit - Based on current Rev Per Unit trends at the park and any known developments over the next four years.

Fiscal Year	Cabins Rev Per Unit	Campsite Rev Per Unit	Day Use Rev Per Unit	Restaurant Meals
2026	123.84	14.02	4.77	15.43
2027	125.69	14.23	4.84	15.89
2028	127.58	14.45	4.91	16.37
2029	129.49	14.66	4.98	16.86

Customer Service

Platform / Site	Year	Customer Satisfaction Level
Net Promoter Score	2025	75
Google	2025	4.7/5
Facebook	2025	4.1/5

Professional Development and Training

The following professional development and training opportunities are being explored and planned for the staff and volunteers at this park:

- FTO program for rangers
- Onboarding and Park Immersion for Employees
- Master Trail building Class

- CIH Training or a similar program
- Management training
- Law enforcement training

Summary of Key Recommendations

Please provide short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations for addressing operational issues at the park and improving overall park performance.

Short Term Recommendations (Less than 1 year)

- 1. Site and Facilities**
 - a. Trail maintenance and establishment
 - b. Cabin flooring and roofing
- 2. Operations and Staffing**
 - a. Job Share staffing for extended operational schedules, evaluating how we use hours and why.
- 3. Customer Service / Visitor Experience**
 - a. Restroom renovations
 - b. More accessible technology for staff

Mid Term Recommendations (2–5 years)

- 1. Site and Facilities**
 - a. New restroom facilities
- 2. Operations and Staffing**
 - a. New ranger position
 - b. Maintenance position to help focus on resource management
- 3. Customer Service / Visitor Experience**

Long Term Recommendations (5+ years)

- 1. Site and Facilities**
 - a. New Office/Museum built and opened
 - b. Shelter at lake
- 2. Operations and Staffing**
 - a. Reevaluate Interpretive center staffing with opening of new museum
- 3. Customer Service / Visitor Experience**
 - a. Training for office staff with museum experience
 - b. Upgraded gift shop space with new office/museum

Resource Management Plan

A resource management plan is a specific statement of the objectives you have for your land and natural resources, as well as any significant cultural and historic resources stewarded by the state park. This includes a defined series of priorities and activities that will take place to meet those objectives. This can include future potential land acquisitions or divestitures that are necessary to meet the park's resource management goals.

David Crockett State Park will manage the cultural and natural resources inside the boundaries of the park to preserve those resources for years to come. Management goals will identify, inventory, and set specific objectives to each resource included. The management techniques and plans will incorporate public use and recreation in conjunction with preserving the resources.

Educational and interpretive outreach will raise awareness for the “why” of the park's specific resource management goals. Creating external stewards to aid in the park's mission of resource management. Reevaluation of the land and resources will be conducted on a regular basis to monitor changes and new needs.

The contents of this resource management plan are as follows:

1. Resource Management Objectives
2. Resource Inventory and Assessment
3. Management Strategies
4. Priority Actions
5. Supplemental Information

Resource Management Objectives

Goal: Tennessee State Parks will be nationally recognized for exemplary stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Objective - *More and better stewards:* Increase internal and external stewards who share Tennessee State Parks core values and can contribute to the State Parks mission to steward Tennessee's natural and cultural resources.

Objective - *Better resource management practices:* Identify, manage, and restore unique natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

Objective: *Better data and technology:* Leverage data and technology to help inform and guide decisions on natural and cultural resources stewardship.

Aligned with these objectives are specific strategies to achieve the desired outcomes for the natural, cultural, and historic resources of this park.

Strategies

- A. Plan and design waysides at the falls to interpret the industrial site of Crockett. Develop a management plan to remedy erosion on the banks while providing access to visitors to immerse themselves in the resource.
- B. Develop strategies and timelines to eradicate exotic plants by identifying zones within the park and ranking them in severity. Outsource assistance with these projects with ag classes at local high school and other volunteer groups.

- C. Work with TWRA, Quail Unlimited and a college contact to restore native prairie to the Crowder Farm. Restoration work would happen alongside a population study for turkey and quail to monitor impact of the transitions and management.
- D. Create a replica 1820s homestead that would be similar to those found at that time in this area. Move the donated log cabin from city property to the park. Plan for other out buildings to be constructed by volunteers and staff or look for these buildings to be purchased. Develop a plan to provide interpreters at the site on a seasonal basis or for events. Provide non-obtrusive waysides and static interpretive panels to provide content when staffing or volunteers are not available.
- E. Plan and develop a trail system that includes the “Reedtown” section of the park and the Crescent Factory location. Plan the trail to protect the resources, and the waysides to paint a picture of what once was. A crossing of Shoal Creek would be needed that can withstand flooding. Complete Oral History Interviews from the local community that remembers utilizing the Reedtown location as children or before it was closed.
- F. Assist State Natural Areas in managing and protecting Stillhouse Hollow Fall State Natural Area. Rangers and other staff will spend scheduled workdays patrolling, maintaining, and managing this site.

Resource Inventory and Assessment

The significant natural, cultural and historic resources of the park requiring management are detailed below including a condition assessment rating for each. Condition assessments are selected from the following options based on what most describes the current condition of the resource:

- 1. **Excellent** – resource is in excellent condition; all potential threats to the integrity of the resource are currently managed and effectively mitigated.
- 2. **Good** – resource is generally in good condition and stable; threats to the integrity of the resource require regular management in order to mitigate.
- 3. **Fair** – resource is in stable condition but difficult to mitigate ongoing threats; additional management support is required.
- 4. **Poor** – resource is generally in poor condition with management support required to both improve existing conditions and address threats.
- 5. **Critical** – resource is highly threatened or deteriorated and requires immediate management prioritization.

David Crockett State Park Strategic Management Plan

Significant Park Resources	Quantity	Current Conditions	Notes
Gristmill Site/Crockett Falls	1	Fair	Erosion to creek bank during flooding events. Timbers from original cribbing occasionally show from bank. Heavily visitor use, prime location for creek play. Needs waysides to interpret site. Erosion control needed leading into site as well from run off.
Lake	35 acres	Good	Some aquatic plant growth that needs eradicating. Periodic species inventories to evaluate health of the fish population. Erosion control needed at boat dock area.
Creeks	Middle Fork Shoal	Good	Healthy stream some flooding issues. Erosion at falls and some in campground 1.
	Crowson Creek	Good	Erosion through pasture area. Conversion for livestock to native prairie and establishing strong riparian borders should improve quality.
Forests-mixed stands	800 acres	Good	Some invasive plant issues and diseased trees. Current management tactics involves hazardous trees.
Historic Crescent Factory Site	1	Fair	Not really managed or accessed by the public. If made accessible needs waysides and preventative impact measures in place.
Reed Town	15 acres	Poor	Not really managed except controlled access. Issues with litter and trespassing. Stories and footprint need to be preserved to tell the stories.
Crowder Farm	297 acres	Fair	Farm is in good condition fescue field. Needs converted to warm season prairie. With exotic removal, especially tree of heaven.

Management Strategies

The management strategies outlined below are directly correlated to the resources identified previously in the *Resource Inventory and Assessment* section immediately above. These are general and overall management recommendations for each resource from which priority actions will be determined. Each

resource has both a “Public Use” management strategy (which could include limited or no public access, or managed access with infrastructure and regulation) and a “General Management” strategy.

The priority assignments reflect the highest resource management priorities of the park over the next 1-5 years (High Priority) and 6-10 years (Moderate Priority)

Resource	Management Recommendations	Priority
Gristmill Site/Crockett Falls	Public Use: Heavy use and traffic, main creek access area in the park for water recreation. Access is only limited by parking capacity and park hours. General Management: Maintain use area by mowing and trimming. Monitor artifacts surfacing from bank. Developing a plan to manage erosion.	High
Lake	Public Use: Heavy use and traffic. Access by shore, dock and boating. No swimming is allowed. Managed by creel limits and regulations. No gasoline motors and no ramp. No access after hours General Management: Fisheries management survey and stocking periodically. Shoreline maintenance with mowing, spillway maintenance with rock and vegetation control. Aquatic safe herbicide when needed. Continue working with TWRA fisheries program to monitor and manage lake health. Plan for bank stabilization and public access at dock.	High
Creeks	Public Use: Shore access at Campground 1, falls and spillway. Splashing and wading access. Some fishing. General Management: Erosion control at falls is needed. Removal of exotics along banks as needed. Monitor runoff and shore impact where needed.	High
Forests	Public Use: Managed access through marked trails and use areas. General Management: Manage hazardous trees in impact areas. Some areas exotics like kudzu are causing some issues.	Moderate
Crescent Factory Site	Public Use: No public access at this time except with ranger guided program. General Management: Boundary checks and site integrity checks annually.	Moderate
Reed Town	Public Use: No authorized public access, except with park ranger. Security fence on road frontage of property. Illegal access and dumping is an issue.	Moderate

David Crockett State Park Strategic Management Plan

	General Management: Boundary checks, litter pick up, security checks, and weekly drive-bys.	
Crowder Farm	Public Use: DC Days to access the range. Special events or programs. Otherwise, no current access. General Management: Ag lease with cattle and bush hog agreement. Range maintenance for training range. Barn maintenance when needed. Plan for transition to native prairie.	High

Land Management Strategies

In some cases, strategic land acquisitions or divestitures are necessary to meet the overall resource management goals and objectives of the park. This can include opportunities to address buffers, watersheds, viewsheds, inholdings, and adjacent properties. The table below details **general strategies** for land management. Timelines refer to Short Term (1-3 years), Mid Term (4-6 years), and Long Term (7-10 years).

Land Management Strategy	Timeline
Conservation Easement or acquisition to preserve viewshed and conserve park boundary	Long
Possible acquisition of the remainder of the Crescent Factory Site.	Short
Possible acquisition of city disc golf park on other side of Shoal Creek	Mid
Acquire land for additional road frontage and ranger residences	Short

Interpretive Programming and Education Five-Year Action Plan

Tennessee State Parks' Interpretation, Programming, and Education team is helping park staff set and achieve programming goals by developing Interpretive Action Plans. This process begins with conversations with Area Interpretive Rangers that prepare field staff for the Scoping Meeting. This meeting brings park staff and stakeholders together to identify audience(s), themes, resources, and set goals and objectives. This information then turns into the five-year Interpretive Action Plan.

Park Primary Interpretive Theme

Retracing the footsteps of history and exploring the creeks and falls of David Crockett State Park introduced visitors to Lawrence County's beauty, strength, and community.

Park Secondary Interpretive Themes

S.1. David Crockett State Park features a section of the park that once served as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and later as a prisoner-of-war camp.

S.2. The story of the segregated section of the park is essential to understanding the park's story.

S.3. The ecology of Shoal Creek is a vital component of the park.

S.4. Women ran many of Crockett's businesses and operated other nearby mills whose foundations remain in the park.

S.5. David Crockett State Park's story is a significant chapter in the history of Lawrenceburg and the surrounding communities.

S.6. David Crockett State Park is home to a diverse array of unusual plants.

Existing Audience

- Local Families consisting of parents (or grandparents) with children who are typically elementary or middle school-aged. This audience is interested in day-use recreational opportunities such as short hikes and short interpretive experiences. This group has a high frequency of repeat visits and tends to be seasonal.
- Homeschooling Groups that consist of families with children of all ages. This audience is like organized school groups in their motivations for visiting and participating in educational experiences. Sometimes this audience is interested in learning about recreational skills.
- Adults in their 40s through 70s. Some are retired, some are still working. This audience is increasingly made up of new arrivals to the community. This audience is interested in seeing natural resources or learning about the community.

Emerging Audience

College students aged in their late teens and early 20s. Interested in night hikes, floats, and other not typically scheduled recreational opportunities. Usually, this audience does not have children. Close by opportunities with UT Southern and Columbia State.

Families with young non-school aged children. These families use the park but do not attend interpretive programs. Use the park for casual visits, looking for accessible experiences for small children.

An education audience interested in science standards. This audience is interested in experiences that meet science education standards. Elementary through middle school groups.

Park Programming Inventory Data

Number of Programs	Number of Attendees	Number of Programmers	Total Cost Offset	
176	47,926	7	\$2138	
Scheduled Programs	Scheduled Program Attendees	Supporting Programmers	Programs with a Fee	Fees Collected
132	47,442	5	56	\$1968
Roving Programs	Roving Program Attendees		Programs with Donations	Donations Collected
44	484		0	\$170
Offsite Programs	Offsite Attendees		Programs with Grants	Grant Funds
21	46,320		0	\$0

Key Park Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources

Resource	Resource Type
Trail of Tears	Cultural
Crockett Mill Site	Cultural
Shoal Creek	Natural
Trails	Recreational
Lake	Recreational

Key Park Interpretive Infrastructure

- Museum
- Aviaries
- Interpretive Panels

Park Personnel Primarily Dedicated to Interpretation

Position Titles	Percentage of Time Dedicated to Interpretation
Park Interpretive Specialist	30%
Park Manager	15%
Park Ranger 3	15%
Park Ranger 2	20%
Park Ranger 1	20%
Park Ranger 1	20%
Seasonal Interpreter	70%

Volunteer Hours and Numbers for Most Recent Fiscal Year

- Volunteer Hours: 400
- Volunteer Opportunities: Camp hosts, Friends Group
- Number of Volunteers: 25

Park Interpretive Goals

Goal 1 – Cultural Resource Interpretation: Park visitors will seek out experiences in the park and the surrounding community.

Theme(s) Supported: S1-S5.

2-Year Objective: Establish a method to measure and establish a baseline for people visiting other locations in the community and see a 7% increase over the baseline.

5-Year Objective: The number of visitors seeking out experiences in the surrounding community will increase by 15% over the baseline.

Resources Assigned to Goal: Park Rangers and Interpretive Staff

Strategy for Implementation: Park staff will collaborate with community partners to develop interpretive experiences that complement the offerings of both the park and these partners. Park staff will work to determine how many park visitors and attendees at programs with partner organizations result in visitation or attendance in each group.

Goal 2 – Natural Resource Interpretation: Visitors will seek to share stories about the park.

Theme(s) Supported: S1-S5

2-Year Objective: Create a process for visitors to engage in a dialogue about park stories and programming, establish a baseline of engagement, and see a 5% increase in engagement over the baseline.

5-Year Objective: The park will see a 10% increase in engagement episodes and responses over the baseline.

Resources Assigned to Goal: Park Rangers and Interpretive Staff

Strategy for Implementation: Park staff will develop opportunities for program attendees to share their experiences at the park via digital and other non-personal platforms. The park staff will use these moments to track engagement with key park takeaway messages.

Goal 3 – Recreation Skills Development: Visitors will be prepared as recreators.

Theme(s) Supported: *P, S3, S6*

2-Year Objective: Park staff will assess how visitors obtain information, establish a baseline, and see a 7% reduction in the number of responses to aid unprepared recreators.

5-Year Objective: Park staff will monitor return visits and track program participants, targeting a 15% increase in return visitation from the baseline.

Resources Assigned to Goal: Park Rangers and Interpretive Staff

Strategy for Implementation: Park staff will develop visitors' recreational skills by creating new moments in interpretive experiences and exploring new avenues of non-personal communication to inform visitors about trail conditions and provide them with information on estimated times to complete trails safely during the operational hours. Park staff will track the number of responses to determine the effectiveness of these efforts.

Goal 4 – Education Goal: Students and educators will be intentional about their visits.

Theme(s) Supported: *S1-S5*

2-Year Objective: The park staff will add resources to the educators' page, establish partnerships, and track the percentage of field trips that are successfully scheduled. The park will see a 5% increase in successfully planned and scheduled field trips.

5-Year Objective: The park will see a 10% increase in successfully planned and scheduled field trips.

Resources Assigned to Goal: Park Rangers and Interpretive Staff

Strategy for Implementation: Park staff will work to add more resources to the state parks educators page and establish more partnerships with local schools to improve communication about the parks' educational opportunities.

Goal 5 – Volunteer Goal: Visitors will become park stewards.

Theme(s) Supported: *S1-S5*

2-Year Objective: The park will expand volunteer opportunities by 25% and see a 12% increase in volunteer hours.

5-Year Objective: The park will see a 25% increase in volunteer hours.

Resources Assigned to Goal: Park Rangers and Interpretive Staff

Strategy for Implementation: Park staff will work to expand the number of opportunities available for volunteering at the park and encourage program participants to consider becoming a park volunteer.

Financial Performance Goals

Financial performance goals are a critical performance management tool of the Tennessee State Park System. While the financial performance of parks are managed more intently at the system level, individual parks are expected to recover a portion of their operating costs through the generation of earned revenues where appropriate and to contribute to the system goals. The majority of earned revenues at state parks are generated through facility usage (campsites, cabins, lodge rooms, rentable pavilions, etc.), the delivery of fee-based programs and services, equipment rental and usage, and retail sales. Other forms of revenue generation come from golf courses and restaurants where those amenities are present. That said, not all parks have the same ability to generate earned revenues because the availability of facilities or programs vary widely from one park to the next. The “recovery” of operational costs by earned revenues is referred to as “cost recovery”. Operating costs beyond those supported by earned revenues represents the extent to which state funding support operations at each park.

The table below represents the overall park cost recovery for this specific park for the most recent fiscal year and forecast estimates for the upcoming five years. These estimates are based on projection estimates for known and foreseeable costs and recovery figures.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE GOALS						
	Current Cost Recovery (2025)	Target Cost Recovery: FY 2026	Target Cost Recovery: FY 2027	Target Cost Recovery: FY 2028	Target Cost Recovery: FY 2029	Target Cost Recovery: FY 2030
Park Overall	115%	59.75%	60.5%	61.25%	62%	62.75%

