

Time	Your Name (First)	Your Name (Last)	Select the State Park you are providing comments for:	How would you best describe your relationship to the park?	Provide comments related resource stewardship here:	Provide comments related to visitor experience here:	Provide comments related to facilities and amenities here:	Provide comments related to operational excellence here:	Do you have any additional comments to share?
9/18/2023 16:20	Ben	Dunn	Fall Creek Falls State Park	Other: State Employee					
10/18/2023 15:45	Charles	Garvey	Standing Stone State Park	Interested Citizen	I recently have visited Standing Stone for the second time. The first was in one of the upgraded CCC cabins. My wife and I have stayed in some of these at Pickett as well and love them. The second time was with a group of men in their 60s and 70s and we stayed in the Overton Lodge. Overall the Park is well attended to as we have found at all the parks we visit.	I believe that a kayak launch should be built at most Parks that have a navigable waterway, it is a low impact way for us senior citizens to get around and view the area. We also hike a lot.	The Overton Lodge is a great place but needs a little updating, however it was a great relief for us as an older camping group to have air conditioning this August. I would like to see more of these type of Rustic Lodges available for groups to preserve a more "rustic camping experience in a lodge type setting" instead of the upscale lodges like at Fall Creek Falls, etc. Just like the CCC cabins that have been updated. The lake itself needs to be dredged at all the creek mouths due to siltation over the years, especially in front of Overton Lodge. It is mere inches deep for a long way and would be much more convenient for Lodge guests to launch there instead of at the dam.	I have nothing but great things to say about the staff at Standing Stone State Park. Always professional and courteous. I think that all the Parks operate very efficiently considering the funding that they have to work with. We are in our early 70s and have stayed in several State Parks over the last few years. Thank you for doing such a good job and thank you for the opportunity to comment.	As a general note for all the State Parks, we visit with a small towable camper sometimes and stay in the CCC cabins other times. We like to bike and kayak so more biking trails (for beginners and intermediate level) and kayak launches would be great. Hiking seems to be pretty well covered and we use the trails when we go almost all the time. Better signage for trails and junctions might be improved though. We have appreciated the individual campsite photographs very much when planning which site to choose as to where they are located in relation to the bath houses and other campers, etc. Please keep this up.
10/18/2023 18:58	Will	Eguamwense	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen		Please build more protected bike lanes and sidewalks everywhere! Especially on Nolensville pike to Whitfield park and Paragon Mills Park!!			
10/18/2023 19:17	Cindi	Beck	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Other: Teacher and frequent visitor to multiple state parks.	As a teacher and frequent visitor, I would love to see more historical events and presentations. These should be accurate, and involve the area where the park is located. I'd love to see everything from native American stories to present day stories. I graduated in natural resources and have been very disappointed to see the interpretive presentations disappear from our parks in this country. Without our history we have no sense of who we are. These parks represent both natural history, as well as the history of the people who lived in the area. As a teacher I know that the way that most children learn and retain what they learn, is to experience it. Whether this involves reenactments, amphitheater presentations or hikes and storytelling, teaching this history to future generations will instill in them a sense of who they are and where they came from. I strongly feel that in the last decades, this has been sorely neglected. I would love to see Tennessee State Parks take it upon themselves to reinstate even more of these wonderful learning adventures than they presently do. Thank you for listening to my plea.				
10/20/2023 14:42	Robert	Lukes	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen		We are missing a massive opportunity in TN with our parks. We need to open up every trail in every park to mountain biking. If you can get 30+ mountain biking trails at a park it becomes a destination. As an example, Frozen head state park has miles of trails and only 8 miles are opened for mountain biking. A person interested in mountain biking is not going to make the drive to that park for 8 miles. Modern day mountain bikers are wealthy and love the environment. They bring a lot of money to an area and are good stewards of parks. Modern research has proven that mountain biking does not damage the environment or trail system any more than hiking. If Tennessee can greatly expand our trail system, we could become a national destination for mountain biking. This would generate not only more local spending for our businesses but a large growth in tax revenue at no expense to our TN residents.			
10/20/2023 14:43	Robert	Lukes	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen		We are missing a massive opportunity in TN with our parks. We need to open up every trail in every park to mountain biking. If you can get 30+ mountain biking trails at a park it becomes a destination. As an example, Frozen head state park has miles of trails and only 8 miles are opened for mountain biking. A person interested in mountain biking is not going to make the drive to that park for 8 miles. Modern day mountain bikers are wealthy and love the environment. They bring a lot of money to an area and are good stewards of parks. Modern research has proven that mountain biking does not damage the environment or trail system any more than hiking. If Tennessee can greatly expand our trail system, we could become a national destination for mountain biking. This would generate not only more local spending for our businesses but a large growth in tax revenue at no expense to our TN residents.			

10/23/2023 16:44	Kellye	Parr	Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park	Interested Citizen		I have lived in Germantown for over 10 years and have been dismayed at how often the park is closed for events. The NYE event closes the park for months without access to the park or even a lot of the adjacent sidewalks. This is a critical space for urban residents and one of the few that we have. It is also concerning to see the damage to the park after these events. My ask is that we prioritize people who just want to enjoy the			
10/24/2023 13:39	Morton	Massey	Seven Islands State Birding Park	Other: Former Friends Group founding member	Natural resources in our state continue to decline. Population increases are soaring. Seven Islands provides both needed community recreation but also a more critical role of specialized habitat for birds and other wildlife. The park needs to always keep its stewardship of this special habitat in mind as it tries to provide recreational opportunities for a growing number of visitors.	Obviously, a welcome center/headquarters is needed. There are many well known birding parks/refuges etc around the country that make heavy use of seniors as volunteers to provide information about birding at their site. Bosque Del Apache in New Mexico is a prime example. It would seem that adding more volunteerism at the park that is focused on enhancing the unique nature of birdwatching would be a desirable thing.			The importance of restoring native habitat cannot be understated. I would suggest State Parks look at opportunities at other parks where they could take tracts of fescue planted fields and restore them. An example would be up at Panther Creek. The saying applies. If you build it (warm season grasslands) they (the birds) will come. And with more wildlife comes more opportunities for education and enjoyment of wildlife up close and personal.
10/24/2023 16:59	Angela	McEmore	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		Was a guest. Housekeeping needs huge improvement. Stayed a week and towels were provided for 2 days had to ask the remainder days. We had 6 people in a cabin and needed bath towels daily n housekeeping was very rude after giving us towels on day 3 .	Have been visiting for alot of years . When I was younger we had many Activities as a kid but as years went by not enough activities for younger kids . I suggested paint rock with using homemade paint like they do when dyeing, they use to have hikes for all ages, a night of ghost stories around a bonfire, movie nights, scavenger hunts, baseball game for all ages, volleyball, badminton tournaments. But now they have very limited activities, I'm pleased with the fact they have boats, fishing, and park for kids, I'm pleased with the volley ball n badminton and basketball ball courts, they also need to add maybe cornhole	Need a decent laundry mat. And fix up n reopen the pool entrance for better access for handicapp.	I love this place but has gone down hill and I wld love to see this place improve like it was as I was a kid.
10/24/2023 20:56	Susan	Oaks	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I have always felt that the park has been treated well by those that work and visit there with the limited resources they have been given. Trails are in good condition and the rustic nature of the park has been maintained.	Big Ridge park is beloved by many people. They love that it is small enough that you can park and walk to most activities. They love that there are planned activities for kids and other park visitors to participate in. Since the early 2000's, it has been somewhat neglected by budget cuts instead of growing and adding new activities. Norris lake visitors are growing by leaps and bounds and Big Ridge Park could add more visitors with upgrades and additions of facilities I will outline in the next question.	The pool area bath house needs a complete renovation so that the dressing rooms and bathrooms can be utilized. It would be wonderful to be able to bring back hired seasonal lifeguards to the pool area and charge entrance fees. The pool needs the shallow area concrete cleaned. The stone water fountain there should also be redone and made operational. The snack bar that overlooks the pool area needs to be updated and reopened to be a snack bar again. It could also operate seasonally. The softball field needs the grass taken up in the infield and dirt placed in it with bases and a home plate. Additions that I believe should be made also include a small inn. Union County lacks any type of hotel and Big Ridge could benefit from having an inn for guests to stay in for various events that happen around the county as well as to stay to enjoy the lake around them. Other dream ideas would be to be able to have a golf course, a putt putt course or a driving range.	I will again say that Big Ridge employees do a wonderful job with what resources they have in running the day to day operations of the park. The ability to book the various activities and pavilions online is very user friendly and helpful. I have noticed that every ranger lead Ghost house hike and canoe cruise sell out fast even when they add a few more!	I truly believe a good park could be a great park with these upgrades.
10/24/2023 21:41	Laurie	Wilcox-Meyer	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen		An incredible park!!!! The wilderness is beyond compare and any further development would degrade the beauty of this precious land. Too often humans want to add to, and in consequence, they harm the existing diversity which is vital to the health of this gorgeous wilderness. Less is more!	Everything here is perfect and nothing else is needed!!		
10/25/2023 17:43	nina	snoddy	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen		I've been involved before Rocky Fork became Lamar Alexander, actually since the land was placed in conservation Land trust. It has always been impressively beautiful. The creeks and waterfalls are luscious and continue to be filled with salamanders and other natural species as is the entire Rocky Fork area! My first visit I saw a Peregrine Falcon and learned later of their breeding area here. I could go on and on about the beauty and sanctity of this area but it would be redundant because everyone I have brought to this area knows this, feels this and honors this. Rocky Fork is my Go To place for peace, respite and rejuvenation something that is known now as "Forest Bathing" and is a respected and known fact and force for human health. Any friend I have brought to Rocky Fork wants to return and bring others to hike, Bird watch, dogwalk, fish, honor the history of our Cherokee Indians, as well as being able to view the remarkable flora and fauna of the area. Rocky Fork is a rare 2,000+ acres of pristine land that must continue to be preserved: I along with ALL of my friends feel construction (buildings and roads) must not take precedence over land protection. Have a storefront or gift shop in one of the nearby towns. Do not disrupt landscape to make space for RV's etc...Most people I speak to desire natural campgrounds. There are plenty of campgrounds for RV use. Rocky Fork is a Standout State Park - one of a kind. Please keep it this way. The volunteers and Rangers are doing a fantastic job. Keep up the good work protecting this land.			
10/25/2023 18:11	Vicki	Chandler	David Crockett State Park	Other: I would like to see the old tennis courts turned into pickleball courts, at least one side. Or if the pool is filled in, make pickleball courts. I live in this county but I think campers would use these courts. A pickleball net and lines painted is all it would		Campers and locals could utilize it, a lot of seniors are playing this game	New net and lines painted is all it would need		

10/25/2023 19:26	Melissa	Lewis	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		I grew up going to this park in the late 60's I continue to visit the park with family and friends. As a school teacher we brought our student here with our student council kids. So many memories.	The park is not supported like it was in the 60's, 70's or the '80s. I wish it could go back to it's glory days.		
10/26/2023 8:17	Jennifer	Payson-Taylor	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		It would be nice if events were posted online in advance. I've been noticing that events & activities are only posted online sometimes with only a weeks notice.	The pool area hasn't been clean or enjoyable in over a decade.		
10/27/2023 10:11	Aaron	Guillotte	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen					As someone who spends considerable time outside hiking and rock climbing, I believe the current plan, which seems to focus on maintaining as much of the wild nature of the park, as well as providing access and opportunities for all is paramount. I spent some time in the park last weekend, and improvements to parking will be helpful, and likely stop some of the dispersal/overflow parking that occurs on busy days. That with some of the other building improvements mentioned in the plan seem to be sufficient, without necessarily impeding on the wild nature of the
10/27/2023 14:30	Rob	Case	Natchez Trace State Park	Interested Citizen		We have been camping at a large portion of the state parks in TN and this is by far our favorite. The actual park setting is second to none.	The only drawback and why we dont come here more often is the lack of WiFi coupled with the severe lack of cell service in the pin oak camping area. I suspect that this is a drawback to many people who would come to the park more often but cannot do so when other priorities compete that require internet access (work, having football viewing parties at campsites, etc). If there were a decent WiFi option at this park I know my family would visit here much more often. I see this is on the medium term plan but I would suggest it gets bumped up in priority.		
10/27/2023 15:47	Randy	Finnell	Harrison Bay State Park	Park Partner					
10/28/2023 9:40	Kelley	Finnell	Harrison Bay State Park	Other: Friends of Harrison Bay group	If funds came the Harrison Bay park that were allocated to them, this would help to maintain the natural resource. Where are past funds???	The entrance is a shame, broken down fence for years. Nothing inviting about it.	Not enough funds given to adequately maintain it or to add amenities that would draw people in like a better playground, the tennis courts are an eyesore, converting them to pickleball would be a huge draw	I guess they do the best they can with the limited funds and staff they have. I'm sure could be more.	Make the park beautiful again! Just because it's the oldest state park doesn't mean it has to look like it! Clean up the docks!
10/29/2023 17:44	Belinda	Thomas	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen		The green bridge at old stone fort is a huge tourist attraction everyone loves the excitement it brings to our small town. People come from everywhere come to just take pictures there for the historic significance of the bridge designer. There is only 2 and we have 1. Let's keep it the way it is	Old stone fort has so much rich history that is shared thru their shop, museum and rangers. Our bridge is part of that also. It bring tourist in to see and appreciate.	The museum personnel are amazing.	The habitat below the bridge and the land does not need to be disturbed to make a bridge that takes months to years to build. There is already a road for campers and park rangers to take. The state does not need to waste 5 million dollars.
10/30/2023 12:20	Lisa	Dunn	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen	Why is Old Stone Fort State Park not listed? I had to choose something else for my comments to even be submitted. It seems odd to me that Old Stone Fort is not on the list. Could it be because of the controversy over the bridge? My concern is about the bridge that you are wanting to tear down. Have you read your core values statement? Let me remind you: inherent value in Tennessee's natural environment, value in physical reminders of our past. Without history, there is nothing upon which to base our understanding of the present or our dreams of the future. We so value these things that we intend to preserve and protect them, even in the face of whatever may be the fashion of the moment, so that all may enjoy them forever.	If you will just go to the Save the Bridge facebook page and look at all the visitors that love this bridge and have wonderful experiences there: graduation photos, weddings, old memories of younger days, parents and grandparents that have memories there. We DO NOT want to lose this bridge and replace it with concrete. It is historical, one of a kind. It is art.	Old Stone Fort has so much to offer. It is indeed an asset to Manchester. The bridge makes it even more unique.		Please use the money, as I understand, \$5 million, in other ways. The entrance built to allow access to campers and RV's on the other side of the river is sufficient enough to give access to the campground. We want to save the old bridge as a pedestrian bridge for generations to enjoy.
10/30/2023 15:40	Maria	Carruth	Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park	Interested Citizen		Trail access to Gee Creek 191 should be marked clearly on highway and road, people are constantly confused as to how to get to the trail. Also, the entrance washes out bad during rainy season. Hard to drive a regular car to parking. Or make access across the creek. It's a wonderful area and should be included in the park access.	Really need electric and sewer facilities for larger RV's Also need vending or snack shop.		
10/30/2023 21:51	Jackie	Rosolowski	Panther Creek State Park	Interested Citizen		The trails need to be marked better so visitors know where to go when exploring the woods.			
10/31/2023 8:03	Gary	Chesney	Panther Creek State Park	Public Official	Have mostly been in Panther Creek for picnics and corporate "field day, fun day" events. Never went swimming there.	very attractive park. Staff seems to keep Park in good shape.	I was disappointed the plans to build a public golf course were not followed through. I remember when a group of chronic "naysayers" rallied some friends to shout down the golf course. Morristown no longer has an 18 hole public course and the need for one is strong.		
10/31/2023 9:34	Danielle	Matthews	Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park	Interested Citizen	Would like to see more use of local wood when clearing trees, or maybe firewood sale.	Always a wonderful experience with frequent programs and activities.	I like how accessible the entire park is for disabled users.	Staff knowledgeable and personable.	The historical information in the museum is extremely whitewashed. A more objective stance should be taken, recognizing the impact on Native American life and culture. Additionally, exhibits should be changed periodically.
11/1/2023 19:33	Martha	Anderson	Panther Creek State Park	Other: Use this park very frequently	Hiking and keeping the trails up is my priority and would like a citizen group to help. Think the pool should be opened. Many kids have no place to learn to swim.	I love the park and hike their frequently	Wish restrooms open all year	Park well maintained except the one longest trail that is eaten up with kudzu	We should keep pool open. Of course planetarium is a great idea but pool most important. Keep the back woods as natural as possible
11/1/2023 23:59	Melva	Sheppard Moore	Booker T. Washington State Park	Other: Family Park since childhood	I believe that the Park natural and cultural resources are very important and great stewardship regarding these resources should be a requirement.	It sounds like a lot of time and thought has been put into the future goals for the Park and I really appreciate the statement related to the Park staff wanting the experience of All visitors to be welcoming and inviting.	Sounds great!	National; Very High standards to live up to	I truly believe that a skate park or skating area for general roller skaters as well as skate boarders would be an awesome, and fun addition to the Park! Skating would be an activity that is refreshing and fun for kids and adults and something different from the norm.

11/3/2023 15:18	Wayne	Whitehead	Seven Islands State Birding Park	Interested Citizen	Many thanks to Justine Cucchiara and her pleasant, helpful and hard working staff for making this such a great park. Gets better every time I go. Also thanks to the Friends of Seven Island, they are the best group of volunteers ever and their director, Diette Crockett, is wonderful.	I cannot express how excellent it is to experience the French Broad River from the Park and to experience the Park from the French Broad River. However, as a retired attorney, I feel that having a park on this specific river and having invited visitors to the boat launch, the Park should take extreme measures to insure visitors safety.	There is no river bank access points on the Seclusion Bend side of the park for boaters to land a kayak/canoe etc., use restroom, or picnic or exit the river in emergency. (Exiting river on Mutton Hollow side leaves the visitor no access to their vehicle if they launched from Seclusion Bend). The river can raise quickly and imperceptibly. Many visitors are novice boaters and don't realize that they may be unable to paddle back to the launch or exit the river within the park downstream. I suggest a second access point, launch, restroom and picnic table, up river from the first island, maybe in close proximity to the Green House. I also suggest large map and large lettered safety warnings at the boat launch advising of the dangers of swift water, ie, difficulty to paddle against the current, difficulty in getting off the river when the river rises, tree branches that can knock you off or out of your boat, etc., lack of public access points till Mutton Hollow which is only available if you go river-left at first island (approx. 1 river mile/1 hr.) or Cruze Landing (approx. 3 river miles/2 hrs.) Also, alert boaters of dangers of going under branches cutting between islands and going river-right around Steamboat Island (just ask Dawn Coppock who nearly drowned there). I am disabled with Muscular Distrophy and found it impossible to remove myself from my kayak without help when using the adaptive boat launch near the end of Kelly Lane. I believe that this structure is wonderful, but the design is not quite right.	See comments regarding stewardship above	
11/4/2023 11:05	Terrin	Kanoa	Seven Islands State Birding Park	Interested Citizen	The park and trails and nature are wonderful.	The new proposed kayak ramps are difficult for egress. These are supposed to make it easier than the boat ramp, but do not. It is difficult to get out of the kayak and then difficult to pull kayak up over the tip of the ramp. The metal frame and straps may help people with strong arms and weak legs, but otherwise get in the way. The kayak ramp at Ijams Nature center is a better design. At this point I much prefer the ramp, but fear motor boaters will be aggressive once the kayak ramp is installed thinking all kayakers should use it instead.			
11/5/2023 23:56	Hope	Vargas	Cummins Falls State Park				There is a lack of biking trails in Jackson County. I would love to see this expand all over the state over the next few years and would like to recommend them to be included in the upcoming plan for Cummins Falls State Park.		
11/7/2023 11:44	Sofia	Rudakevych	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen	Regarding - The new North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Park/State Natural Area Staff presence and resource maintenance are needed to ensure protection of the environment and ecosystems and visitor safety.	Staff presence and resource maintenance are needed to ensure protection of the environment and visitor safety.	There is also a need to improve the Cumberland Trail's trailhead off Montlake Road: (a) to address resource management and access needs at this very popular site and (b) to install a pedestrian bridge across the creek: (i) to provide an alternative to rock hopping across the creek to reach the trail along the right bank of the creek that leads to the upstream blue holes and (ii) to provide a connection to the eastward extending portion of this trail along the right bank of the creek to Dayton Pike as the trail is part of the long-planned extension of the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway Trail and is also part of the route of the Great Eastern Trail between its Cumberland Trail and Georgia Pinhoti Trail components. (The long-distance Great Eastern Trail which reaches from New York State into Alabama aligns with the Cumberland Trail, pursuant to an MOU between the Great Eastern Trail Association and the State of Tennessee, for most of its journey through Tennessee.)	There is a need in the Chattanooga area for the Cumberland Trail to be completed: (a) between its existing North Chickamauga Creek and Soddy Creek segments (this connection is planned to be through the Montlake area) and (b) between its existing North Chickamauga Creek segment at its Hall Road trailhead on Signal Mountain and Signal Point overlooking the Tennessee River Gorge.	Staff presence and resource maintenance are needed to ensure protection of the environment and visitor safety. Invest in staff and keep the parks safe.
11/7/2023 18:43	Carot	Pratt	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	In the campground there are no sewer sites. Campers haul their 4 sewage waste in pull along tanks to the dump station if they stay any extended time. Other State Parks like Cumberland Mtn. offer 4 sewage at the campsite.	It's a long walk to the closest bathroom. There is one located to where majority of campers are but is closed. Playground is a long walk for children. It is used a lot by locals. Bluegrass Festival needs to be better advertised.	Need more bathrooms and sewer sites. Need more parking at the Tea room. The price for rental is too high. You shouldn't have to pay a fee for using your personal Canoe if you are a camper. Make the tennis court net adjustable for pickle ball players. Bathroom in the swimming area is deplorable.	Camp host was great and friendly.	Bring the lifeguards back. BRSP has a history of being a great place to swim. The beach area used to be covered with sunbathers. Generations of people made memories there. Nowadays the teenagers don't even know the swimming area exists. Bring it back to what it use to be.
11/9/2023 10:50	Garland	Evelyn	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Public Official		Inadequate parking and lack of suitable bathroom facilities can ruin the visitors experience. Also, the lack of a visitors center is inexcusable for the length of time that the park has been in existence.	We have no amenities other than the natural beauty of the park. People still come because of the natural beauty and the uniqueness of the park.		I attended the meeting last night on the park. A new plan has been developed by someone and handed out. No local input was sought and the community was not given the opportunity to attend meetings that discussed the plan to my knowledge. The original plan had plans for camping and access road and other amenities that would draw people to our county. The new plan doesn't mention anything about those things. I assume the old plan was just done away with and a new one developed. I am the County Mayor and I have not had any updates on the park development since March of last year until the new plan was pasted out. Now we have a proposed 10 year plan with no discussion on what needs to be in the park until now. I think the Welcome Center will be a wonderful addition and certainly look forward to it being completed. Thank you for allowing comments I just wished we could have been included more on the developed plan.

11/9/2023 14:34	Carrie	Hovey	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen					Please see attached. Thank you.
11/9/2023 15:30	Tina	Benson	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Park Partner	<p>1. While the Nature Center at Cedars of Lebanon State Park is older and, ideally, could be updated, it is full of exhibits that help visitors understand the park, its history, and its wildlife. Sadly, it is hardly ever open. When visitors ask when it is open, no information is publicly available to answer that question. This is a valuable resource that is languishing. The park manager has said that he does not have the staffing to keep the Nature Center open. Volunteers from the TNNaturalist Program have volunteered at the Nature Center and many others would be willing to volunteer to keep the center open.</p> <p>2. This issue highlights another larger one. While volunteers at the park may be used when they approach the park (REI, for example), there does not seem to be a comprehensive recruitment, training, and retention volunteer program at the park. Use of volunteers by non-profit organizations is well researched. Best Practices have been developed over time. CoFLSP seems either unaware or uninterested in learning from this body of research.</p> <p>3. Further, the Friends of Cedars of Lebanon is languishing in membership recruitment because they are not informed of potential volunteer activities in the park in sufficient time to recruit. I joined Friends of Cedars of Lebanon two or three years ago because I wanted to help the park. I have never once been asked to do anything in that organization for the park. The exception is the Native Plant Sale which for the next hour</p>		Again, the contrast in presentations by park managers of Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Long Hunter State Park were stark. Long Hunter, with about a million visitors annually, consistently gathers data and makes data based decisions. Long Hunter, with limited resources, has a full-time ranger for interpretive services even though there is no maintenance support. The park manager at Cedars was not even sure how many visitors the park has in a year. The entire Cedars presentation seemed to focus on brick and mortar. There seemed to be no comprehensive vision and certainly no plan for implementing that vision.	Cedars of Lebanon State Park is rich in resources like the cedar glades that exist almost nowhere else in the world. The park has the most beautiful, well-tended, Tennessee Butterfly and Native Plant Garden in the entire park system. Its potential seems to have escaped the notice of its management.	
11/10/2023 10:18	Melanie	Massengill	Big Ridge State Park	Other: and affected land owner	Big Ridge State park definitely needs tons of work. Why not fix what we currently have instead of adding 90 more sites and additional things that will not be taken care of. I understand the park does not have enough workers to keep up with the park but creating more work is not going to make that any better. The park is in very poor condition and add more camping site is going to be additional things to take care of. The park has water issues, sewer issues, and many other things that need taken care of before adding more things on. The group camp was renovated about 10 years ago and now is run right back down so why add more that will not be taken care of?			Big Ridge State park definitely needs tons of work. Why not fix what we currently have instead of adding 90 more sites and additional things that will not be taken care of. I understand the park does not have enough workers to keep up with the park but creating more work is not going to make that any better. The park is in very poor condition and add more camping site is going to be additional things to take care of. The park has water issues, sewer issues, and many other things that need taken care of before adding more things on. The group camp was renovated about 10 years ago and now is run right back down so why add more that will not be taken care of?	
11/10/2023 11:24	Steve	Szatkowski	Panther Creek State Park	Other: I am at the park almost every day. Walk all trails , pick up trash.	The park employees are outstanding . They do a great job , keeping up with the grass , bath rooms , and maintenance.	The state needs a volunteer group at each part. The trails need working on . Maintenance has very few hrs to work trails. No volunteers due to some one getting injured. The smokies have volunteers working trails in the back country. Did it for years. The state needs to wake up.	Have never used any facilities at the park , just trails .	Employees do a great job.	No
11/10/2023 14:40	Carol	Pratt	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	In the campground there are no sewer sites. Campers haul their 4 sewage waste in pull along tanks to the dump station if they stay any extended time. Other State Parks like Cumberland Mtn. offer 4 Sewage at the campsite.	It's a long walk to the closest bathroom. There is one located to where majority of campers are but is closed. Playground is a long walk for children. It is used a lot by locals. Bluegrass Festival needs to be better advertised.	Need more bathhouses and sewer sites. Need more parking at the Tea room. The price for rental is too high. You shouldn't have to pay a fee for using your personal Canoe if your a camper. Make the tennis court net adjustable for pickle ball players. Bathroom in the swimming area is deplorable.	Camp host was great and friendly.	Bring the lifeguards back. BRSP has a history of being a great place to swim. The beach area use to be covered with sunbathers. Generations of people made memories there. Nowadays the teenagers don't even know the swimming area exists. Bring it back to what it use to be.
11/11/2023 0:54	Vicky	Rowland	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen			Please add an indoor pool back at the Inn. It is greatly missed and needed.	Offer scavenger hunt activity for kids. This would be an educational and profitable activity for children to learn more about nature. You could charge a fee and they could made an art wood necklace or keychain. Go on a scavenger nature walk. Someone could read them a story at a campfire. Then they could roast hotdogs and have marshmallows.	
11/11/2023 12:34	Donna	Guzman	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen		I was very excited to learn that Montgomery Bell State Park has an Enchroma viewing lense for colorblind individuals. Unfortunately for my husband, the lense is on the catwalk and my husband suffers from a fear of heights. This may seem minor to most, but it was debilitating for him. I would like to see another lense placed in the park at ground level for people like my husband. Of course, the majority wouldn't have an issue with the location of the current Enchroma lense. I was so excited for my husband to finally get to see color only to be disappointed when his fear was too much. I am grateful to the park for those who get to experience it. The public definitely needs to know that it's available. When visiting the location, there was zero signage to let visitors know about it. It was only through the Facebook post that I learned of it. For people who are colorblind, the experience of seeing color for the first time using the lense is profound. Thanks for allowing my input. We love having this beautiful park practically in our back			

11/11/2023 12:37	Dawn	Flatford	Big Ridge State Park	Public Official	The boat ramp needs to be in a different location because there is no fall or winter pool. There is no water in the cove during these months and cannot be used for any fall or winter use. It needs to be a deep water launch so it's functional all year round, not just for 6 months of the year.	The park needs more camping spots. During the spring and summer months it's impossible to reserve a camping spot unless you reserve them months in advance. The tourism in Union County has grown tremendously and the people coming to vacation on Norris Lake has tripled. Norris Lake has been rated #2 in the U.S. I hear complaints from the local people that it's impossible to reserve a spot. We are all aware that since Covid outdoor recreation has become very popular for families. So the park definitely needs additional camping.	The current camping spots are in desperate need of updates. A majority of them are just mud and need gravel and new landscaping timbers. Another huge issue is the boat ramp. This has become a major issue and is a safety hazard for visitors. There is only one ramp and very limited parking. In the spring and summer there isn't enough parking or ramps to provide for the people who want to use it. The parking lot is very small and people are having to park on the side of a very busy road. There is fishing tournaments held several times a week at this location which causes it to be even more hectic than it already is. This is one of only 3 free launches and they are 20-30 miles apart and everyone from all the surrounding counties use this launch. This has been an issue for several years and has only gotten worse. The ramp and parking area has gigantic holes and when pulling off the ramp they can't be missed and will break a wheel. They've thrown some gravel in them but it just comes back out because of all the traffic. The lighting is also an issue. There is no lights in the parking lot and theft is becoming an issue and also we had numerous fights. There is also the need for handicap access. Also the parking lot needs paving. The road has some holes in it that either needs patching or resurfacing. It's a good park, but has gone down hill and we would love to see it continue to grow and much better amenities than it currently has. It also needs a deep water boat launch with at least 100 lighted parking spaces and 3-4 ramps to accommodate the amount of visitors and to accommodate the fishermen.		
11/12/2023 14:53	Andrea	Sanders	South Cumberland State Park	Interested Citizen	We need full funding to help repair and refurbish our trails and plan for future expansions/modifications to the park. We need more rangers to monitor and take care of our widespread park grounds.	We need a full-time interpretive ranger. Our current rangers are already overstretched with all of the duties they have. Our goal is to improve and expand our educational outreach, and a full-time interpretive ranger is essential to that goal.	We need a new visitor's center for SCSPP. Our old center was never designed for this purpose and comes nowhere near to meeting our needs. Our bathrooms need upgrades and, in some cases, entirely new buildings. We need a full-fledged museum and gift shop and a nice building instead of a retrofitted golf shack.	Our rangers and custodians are excellent, but they are stretched too thin. We need more staff for our park. We need a dedicated staff position to be full-time at the visitor's center.	
11/12/2023 17:56	Deborah	Rosenthal	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/13/2023 12:54	Caroline	Smith	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	I am very interested and pleased that our beautiful area be cared for in the best ways possible... preserving the land, rivers, lakes with minimal intrusion. I think the plan does this with perhaps the exception of the RV Park as high priority. I am concerned about the RV park taking away from the beauty of the area if it is done in a mostly "concrete slab" way...out in the middle of a field. I would think creating a campground within trees would be best.	I look forward to a great visitor experience with a new visitor center and lots of ranger -led experiences. I have enjoyed the hikes and natural area talks a great deal. I expect a great quality campground experience with minimal noise and bright lights etc. I think the hikes and programs for the Grundy county students are very important.	I look forward to enjoying the lake and canoeing/kayaking. I think the ADA paved trail around the lake is a great idea. Very good for families with strollers. I think fixing the rangers' residences is a very high priority. They deserve the best living and working conditions!	I look forward to a well run park offering jobs to the local community.	My main concerns are the following: 1. Increased traffic on Hwy 56 with a lot of noise. I am concerned for the safety of the community and the quality of life of those with homes in the area. I have a home very near the proposed entrance to the new park. Very large RV's traversing the highway is not appealing at all! Tent camping and trailer camping seems much more in keeping with our beautiful spot here in Tennessee. 2. Noise concerns. We have a beautiful, serene place here in Beersheba for those seeking escape from the noise and lights of the city. I am concerned about RV Park noise, loud music, and light pollution. Please address these concerns in your planning!
11/13/2023 13:27	Mike	Reardon	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Park Partner	Thank you for listing Carolina Climbers Coalition as a stewardship partner.	The local climbing organization Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) have worked with Rocky Fork State Park since shortly after its inception. Rocky Fork State Park is an important rock climbing resource. The CCC recommends the following changes: Pg. 6: Under 'Key Attractions', add rock climbing as a bullet point Pg. 10: Under 'important services, add 'access to recreational rock climbing at appropriate rock formations within the park'	Thank you for all your work on this!	Thank you for all your work on this!	Thank you for supporting rock climbing access and stewardship in the park!
11/13/2023 14:25	Daniel	Van Brocklin	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Park Partner	The use of external stewards has worked great so far and should continue. Increased hiking/trail access to climbing cliff sides will provide even more natural resources to enjoy.				Recognizing climbing as a key attraction and important resource.
11/13/2023 15:10	Jonathan	Hartsell	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen		As a member of the nonprofit Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC), I would like to see some additions to the draft Strategic Management Plan. The CCC has worked with Rocky Fork State Park since 2018 to open the park to climbing. Since that time, Rocky Fork State Park has become an important rock climbing resource for regional visitors and local climbers. I recommend the following changes to the Master Plan: Pg. 6: Under 'Key Attractions', add rock climbing as a bullet point Pg. 10: Under 'important services, add 'access to recreational rock climbing at appropriate rock formations within the park'			Thank you for providing such an excellent park and wilderness experience. A big thank you to the staff and other partners that make this park so great.
11/13/2023 16:12	Christopher	Battig	Panther Creek State Park	Other: Friends of Panther Creek State Park Board Member		I think we need to make some trails multiuse trails, I believe it would open up more interest in equestrian and mountain biking if more trails were permitted to be multiuse. This can be done multiple ways you can have designated days where trails are used for different activities, see Tsali in NC, or you can rely on signage and folks yielding.	I believe a swimming area at the park would be great. With the elimination of the pool, it would be great to have a designated swimming area for the public.		Panther Creek Park's Management and Rangers are fantastic. I love the park. The facility upgrades to the campground and the restrooms up top are great. I appreciate the opportunity to voice some feedback and be apart of the strategic plan. Morristown is growing and we can expect more and more visitors to our park. We will have to plan for that.

11/13/2023 18:53	Andrew	Bowen	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	Of course there are always many parks and other such public access areas against which to judge. That said, I do think the efforts - within budget restrictions - has been positively significant. I know the work of Aaron Reid and his staff is done with great care and concern for balancing wise maintenance and improvement. I think that maintaining this balance going forward with other park expansion, etc is critical.	I find the visitor experience to be very positive regardless of being a repeat or first-time visitor. Keeping updated resources related to trails and sites is key and, again considering any future expansion, I think there could be more inclusion of local groups to help set expectations and provide marketing.	This is one of the 2 top priority areas in my opinion. Visitor experience is significantly impacted by both welcoming appearance and convenience that needs to be improved in the Savage Gulf facilities - specifically restrooms and ranger stations.	I know budgets are tight - that considered, salaries need to be commensurate with local cost of living. I do agree that expansion of park staff is key, but believe starting with salary adjustments for current staff is first. And, as part of that, inclusion and incorporation of those staff - specifically park managers - is key to increasing tenure and building long-term staff satisfaction and enthusiasm for the work and learning.	Two things. First, local residents in Beersheba Springs are very concerned about the large number of camper sites that have been proposed as part of the expansion plan. It seems the return on that investments is not significant and in addition has potential for negative impact on the local residents if not managed well and kept from visibility along the main road. Also, there seem to be no plans to take full advantage of the lake near the new park entrance which could actually bring more varied interest for visitors and better return. Second, I noted above that working with local interest groups could greatly benefit the park advancement efforts. I am president of the Beersheba Springs Historical Society and we have a great interest in enhancing the town through recognizing and sharing our history in addition to incorporating that experience with the state park experience. We would welcome working together to this end.
11/14/2023 9:35	Pete	Guillard	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Other: Local rock climber		I have been fortunate to enjoy a number of days playing/climbing in the park. I absolutely love the work Rocky Fork State Park and the Carolina Climbers Coalition has done in helping to bring a new recreational resource to the region. Being a Hendersonville local Rocky Fork is just a short drive over the hill and a resource that can't be beat. I would love to see climbing represented as a Key Attraction in the future management plan. Climbing brought me to the park and showed me what an amazing place it is!			I look forward to many more days spent enjoying the park and its incredible rock climbing.
11/14/2023 12:56	Scott	Selliers	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Interested Citizen	I have serious concerns regarding how the park's management is caring for the cultural assets of the park - namely the Sadie Ford Farm and the Butterfly Garden. The recent Strategic Management Plan doesn't even bother to itemize the individual buildings in Sadie Ford Farm - no mention of the broom shop or the Harris Cabin at all. How can the park manage and develop what it doesn't even acknowledge?	The Nature Center is only open by appointment, the restrooms near the trails are closed, the overlook of the Jackson Cave entrance is appallingly unsafe, and the Sadie Ford Farm is falling apart due to negligence and is overrun by vermin. Sound like a good "visitor experience"?	See above.	I encourage anyone reading these comments to visit any other park in the system, then return to Cedars of Lebanon for comparison. There is little that a visitor to Cedars of Lebanon can experience that comes anywhere close to "operational excellence".	Please help! The few volunteers that are left in the Friends group are about ready to throw in the hat and dissolve their charter. The buildings in the Sadie Ford Farm won't survive to see the 6-10 low prioritization maintenance outlined in the Strategic Management Plan.
11/14/2023 13:07	Ed	Martin	Montgomery Bell State Park	Affected Land Owner					I saw no plans or budget for promotion of the facility to increase revenue.
11/14/2023 16:18	Thomas	Sanders	South Cumberland State Park	Interested Citizen				George Shinn presented an idea that the state might create a new Lone Rock Archaeological Park at the Grundy Lakes site. This would be a brilliant move. Recent study there has revealed that this is a truly significant site in American history - a largely untold story that nonetheless has significance to the American story. Shinn's idea addresses needs related to this historic and vulnerable place.	
11/14/2023 21:24	Charles	Alexander	David Crockett Birthplace State Park	Interested Citizen	Regarding the Resource of the Crockett legacy: The existing Visitor Center seems far 'off the beaten path' for campers & historic park visitors alike. Ideally it would be in a more prominent location closer to the park entrance. Currently, many campers are generally unaware of its existence which underutilized it's potential for education & to generate revenue thru souvenir sales. Perhaps include a pamphlet to campers that call attention to it. Maybe include a minor 'camper discount' to entice a visit. Perhaps have the camp hosts mention it as a standard part of their routine. A more abstract thought: currently people drive into the park & can quickly turn around & leave without even reading or seeing any of the Crockett material, as Joe mentioned. As seen in metro parking garages, a parking arm & ticket dispenser could admit each vehicle. The "ticket" could advise visitors of the hours & location of the Visitor Center as well as a particular site to see or upcoming event. This would also provide a vehicle count. The parking arm could also be used for exiting traffic.	Consider more emphasis on the Crockett story in regular (ie: weekly) micro training sessions on Davy Crockett history for the camp hosts. This would better build the hosts knowledge & information base for them to impart to campers.	Consider a concrete walkway from the 'grassy' camping sites 50's thru 60's & pavilion to the nearest bathrooms.	Crockett Birthplace has the most helpful, friendly & engaging campground hosts of any park I have visited (public or private). [particularly Maggie/Jerry Hopson and Cece/Mike, Terrell & Ann Holbrook]. Park Manager Joe Nowotarski does a wonderful job and has much respect from his hosts.	We love this place!!!

11/15/2023 9:14	William	Dellinger	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen					I attended the public hearing at Beersheba Springs Community Center, TN on November 14 about Savage Gulf State Park. I am in favor of an RV campground at Savage Gulf State Park. My only concern is the curve right at the edge of Altamont, TN on SR 56. I have seen tractor trailers driven by professional drivers having a hard time navigating that turn and holding up traffic. I wanted to know if any one has driven a large Class A RV towing a vehicle or truck pulling a large camper on that route? Some RV drivers are inexperienced and might get stuck. Also coming up the mountain or going down the mountain on SR 56 towards McMinnville, TN might be difficult to some RV drivers or be a place where old RVs that are only driven a couple times a year could break down causing a traffic flow problem. I used to work as a park ranger in Alabama and we had a spillway on the park that RV used to get stuck in. We had signage up for RVs not to take that route, but the signage didn't always work. People stuck in traffic would blame the Park and State for the poor design of the	
11/15/2023 9:32	David & Kathy	Hergert	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen	MB does a reasonable effort on this. There are points of interest but not real informative. Need a better educational experience and displays that are maintained, not left to deteriorate. The raptor display is small and disheartening for the birds. Needs to be much larger	Visiting daily and weekly, always feel safe and welcome. Used some of their extra options and find them great. The staff is great and inviting.		This is where a serious plan is needed. The golf course is reasonably maintained but needs to up their level. Obvious the sprinkler system needs work, greens need help. Water and restroom facilities are needed. Deep rough is too deep and too expensive for the average golfer. The road to the church shrine needs paving(been going there 20 yrs to walk, and don't think it's been touched). Road to boat ramp is a safety and vehicle hazard. It needs serious work and paving. Ranger residences are embarrassing to look at. Overall signage needs upgrading. Beach area needs serious overhaul. Restrooms need updating and increased in number. Inn needs a working elevator and a daily restaurant for guests. When trees fall alongside roads they need to be removed, not just left to rot, this is unsightly and shows a lack of respect for the visitor experience.	I would give the operational excellence a grade of "C"	MB is a gem close to Nashville, but is used heavily by locals like us. It needs a lot of work to reach your strategic goals, and especially for the local users and non local visitors. So much potential that is not being realized due to funding or management.
11/15/2023 10:17	Marshall	Ramsey	Panther Creek State Park	Public Official	None	The Chamber of Commerce regularly gets visitors who have visited Panther Creek Park that comment on the lack of camping, cabins and other amenities offered at other state parks. We would suggest to re visit the plans when the park was presented to our community and work to fulfill the plans as presented and not rework until the original design and intent is accomplished.	We hear from visitors that many campsites are fully booked early in the season and never come available. It is hard to increase revenues and cost recovery if the park offers no opportunity to spend. The plans for Panther Creek Park included a larger campground, cabins, golf and other amenities that were promised to the community but never fulfilled. Without these additional amenities, your retail and park cost recover % will never improve. Look to examples at other state parks that are located more than an hour from interstate access yet have received overnight facility investment over \$15,000,000 in the last few years for an example of "if you build it, they will come." Panther Creek hasn't even built it yet and they are still coming, they just have to be provided opportunities to stay and spend.	Staff and operations are amazing and fully involved in the community but we feel as based on what they have to work with, they are limited in their potential success and accomplishments.	Please attempt to work toward the original plan of the design of our park. We were presented and offered an amenity to our community and have been left with just bits and pieces of that plan. To use the word "comprehensive" without revisiting the original plan and design of the park is in no way comprehensive or useful to the future of the park and is merely slapping a band aid on our promised facilities that never came about.	
11/15/2023 10:38	Sam	Baggett	Comprehensive Strategic Plan	Interested Citizen				After attending the meeting re: Savage Gulf State Park on Nov. 14th in Beersheba Springs I would like to voice the opinion that planned development of Phase 1 should be reconsidered. 1. Reduce the number of RV sites from 60 to a lesser number. 2. Develop the lake trail and access to encourage local use and provide motivation for RVs to camp there. 3. Reserve decisions on the total number of RV sites until future demand can be assessed. This approach is a wiser approach to development and use of tax payer's money.		
11/15/2023 13:40	Tiffany	Hartung	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen				Adding mountain bike trails would be an excellent addition and one that would be in line with the goals of keeping the park mostly wilderness. Mountain bikes have a minimal impact. The areas along the rime would be a nice topography for trails that aren't very technical. Mountain bike user groups are also very involved in helping build trails, and skilled at it. As a user group, it's also a group that has a light impact on the land and will spend money locally after		

11/15/2023 14:59	Bryan	Collins	Montgomery Bell State Park	Other: Planning consultant		Page 17, long-term recommendations, #3 indicates better quality access throughout the park such as a walking lane and allowing visitors to access. Consider something more encompassing of Dickson County such as partnering with nearby municipalities and the County government to connect to the state park by other transportation options such as greenways, bike lanes. From a planning perspective, White Bluff has a land use & transportation plan and a community mobility plan which prioritizes connection to the state park from its existing pedestrian facilities. The City of Dickson has a bike and pedestrian master plan which identifies U.S. 70/SR-1 as a shared route (presumably the existing bike route). The current Dickson County land use & transportation plan conceptualizes a countywide greenway system connecting the municipalities to historic sites and local places of interest such as the state park. Lastly, TDOT's Bicycle Route Plan identifies U.S. 70/SR-1 as a proposed Bicycle Route (the Memphis to Nashville route). With a current lack of designated bike lanes in the Middle Tennessee rural communities, this would be a terrific	The draft strategic plan identifies COVID as a contributing factor to decreased park visitation. Providing a means to access the state park by alternative transportation infrastructure could improve visitation by offering healthier, safer options for local and regional visitors.	As RPO Coordinator for the Middle Tennessee region, which includes Dickson County, I would be willing to assist in anyway possible to pursue funding opportunities to implement this connection initiative, a potentially welcoming opportunity to establish a much-needed bicycle lane on an identified state route per the State's Bicycle Route Plan.	
11/15/2023 15:23	Bryan	Collins	Johnsonville State Historic Park	Other: Planning consultant		The New Johnsonville land use and transportation plan conceptualizes connections for pedestrian access opportunities between the municipality and nearby public places of interest (local and state parks and recreational areas.) To capitalize on the need for improving the visitors experience, the SP should collaborate with the municipality and the County and seek ways to offer multiple modes of transportation for locals and regional visitors. U.S. 70/SR-1 has segments in Humphreys County identified as bike routes. TDOT's State Bicycle Route Plan has identified the entirety of this route for a designated bike route (park of the Memphis to Nashville route.) A lack of designated bike lanes in this region, particularly within the Tennessee River Trails Scenic Byway system, could be remedied in part by implementing more multimodal opportunities for places of interest such Johnsonville SP.		As the RPO coordinator for the Middle Tennessee region, I am willing to assist in any way possible any interest in pursuing transportation-related grant opportunities to help fulfill alternative transportation needs to aid with improving the visitor experience, as well as improve overall health, safety, and well-being for Humphreys County residents and regional visitors alike.	
11/15/2023 15:45	Bryan	Collins	Harpeth River State Park	Other: Planning consultant		In an effort to improve the visitor experience for both local and regional levels, access by alternative methods such as greenways, bike routes/lanes should be prioritized. Collaboration with the nearby municipalities in Cheatham County, the County government, and Metro Nashville/Davidson County should be initiated. This serves a greater purpose in introducing visitors to the outdoors as well as improve health and well-being and provides a safer environment for visitors to explore the Cheatham and Davidson County portions of the SP. Davidson County already has a vast greenway which the Metro-level pedestrian accessibility plan is currently being implemented to connect areas of interest. For nearby Pegram, their land use & transportation plan envisions a greenway paralleling the Harpeth River eastward to connect with the Metro pedestrian system. If implemented, this could also connect Pegram and Kingston Springs		As the RPO coordinator for the Middle Tennessee rural communities, I would be delighted to assist in any way I can to aid with implementation of alternative transportation infrastructure needs to connect to the state park.	
11/15/2023 16:14	bill	hennessee	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen		Immediate improvement of hiking trails of Panther Branch, Ross Gap, and both Old Mac. Improve the Tower Road, build the bridge to connect Old Mac parking lot to Ross Gap trail now, not in 5 years. Create parking at Arnes Gap for Tower trail. Find a way to avoid the Pillars of Doom on the Ross Gap/CT trail. NO RV park, there are private RV parks nearby.		I grew up in Wartburg, this is one of my favorite places	
11/15/2023 18:13	Edward	England	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen			I hike the trails often, and many of them are very worn with hazards of exposed rocks, roots, and erosion. I've worked a few Scout projects out there, including Eagle projects and clearing the trails after the '94 ice storm. I would like to see the trails be made safer and more protected from erosion. I have a few suggestions on that, and would be glad to be involved if possible. These projects could involve Scouting, youth groups, and maybe even use of inmates. Acquire sawdust or chips from local sawmills. Use it for covering and/or padding the trails where needed. Use treated wood, engineered materials, or natural materials such as rock to slow down or eliminate erosion. Ask around if any Scout groups need an Eagle project. Feel free to contact me if you wish. 615-495-1916		
11/16/2023 14:18	Gene	Richard	Savage Gulf State Park	Public Official	Trails on this park have had extremely heavy traffic especially for the past few years and very little maintenance has been done. Historically, the park has been understaffed and apparently funding for trail maintenance has not been a high priority. Consequently, there are areas of extremely bad erosion. Obviously trails in mountainous terrain require much more attention than in flatlands.	The Stone Door has been one of my favorite places even before the area was purchased by the state and preserved.	I think the present staff is probably the best in the history of the park and try their best to make this facility the best it can be.	I believe the addition to the park will be very beneficial for the park and the area. However, if adequate funding for personnel and maintenance is not provided, the condition of trails is going to get much worse!	

11/16/2023 14:21	Gene	Richard	South Cumberland State Park	Public Official	Trails on this park have had extremely heavy traffic especially for the past few years and very little maintenance has been done. Historically, the park has been understaffed and apparently funding for trail maintenance has not been a high priority. Consequently, there are areas of extremely bad erosion. Erosion in some places has become so bad that the trail is almost impassable and extremely dangerous in wet weather. Obviously trails in mountainous terrain require much more attention than in flatlands.	I always enjoy being in this park!		I believe you have the best staff in the history of SCSP park at this time!	
11/16/2023 20:26	Crystal	Loden	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen	We need to have Horse Trails in the Montgomery Bell park. Horse riders can help maintain those trails. This would be a wonderful day ride area for a Equestrian in Hwy live within an hour radius.	I have taken my granddaughters to the park playground area and really enjoyed it	The bathroom was very nice and close to the playground.	I don't have any information to answer this question.	Horse Trails would bring more people to this park.
11/17/2023 9:35	Jamar	Woods	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen		The nonprofit Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) have worked with Rocky Fork State Park since 2018 to open the park to climbing. Since that time, Rocky Fork State Park has become an important rock climbing resource for regional visitors and local climbers. I recommend the following changes to the Master Plan: Pg. 6: Under 'Key Attractions', add rock climbing as a bullet point Pg. 10: Under 'important services, add 'access to recreational rock climbing at appropriate rock formations within the park'			
11/17/2023 10:04	Alycia	Andrade	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen		The nonprofit Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) have worked with Rocky Fork State Park since 2018 to open the park to climbing. Since that time, Rocky Fork State Park has become an important rock climbing resource for regional visitors and local climbers. I recommend the following changes to the Master Plan: Pg. 6: Under 'Key Attractions', add rock climbing as a bullet point Pg. 10: Under 'important services, add 'access to recreational rock climbing at appropriate rock formations within the park'			
11/17/2023 11:23	Marie	Sexton	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	Your draft included nothing about the proposed RV park which has me very suspicious. There is absolutely no reason to have RVs in the park. We have enough of those springing up in our county. Between those and the 4 wheelers, it's becoming a plague across East Tennessee. We do not want to be like Windrock in Roane County. Please just leave our parks to the campers and hikers. The parks in my area are extremely important to me and my family. The state can find better ways to increase revenue. We do not want to be another Dollywood.	Thanks!			
11/17/2023 23:26	Pam	Gunter	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	When the Mission Statement is as follows: "MISSION To preserve, protect, and share Tennessee's natural and cultural resources while providing safe, quality outdoor experiences" it seems contradictory to try to add an RV park to Frozen Head. The engaged crowd at the public meeting were astounded by the slide presentation that did not even mention the plans for an RV park. Once brought to light, it was minimized as a problem. It was made known by a vocal group that the state was trying to push through a non sustainable rv park in an area used daily by community members and other special events. Holding the park hostage to not being able to get the funds to upgrade current amenities unless a new campground was built but only for RVs is absolutely not fair. Our amenities need the upgrades as well as the many trails that are traveled daily and to threaten no help with the current needs unless a new rv park is included is totally unfair. No one in this county or interested party regarding the park has seen any studies that favor this park - not financially, not structurally, and totally not within the Mission Statement. It is clear that the studies haven't been done, otherwise it would have been clear that the state plan for the location of the park is not feasible. The area floods, the bedrock is not there, and the soil level is thin. One good rain and the area floods. Not only is the actual structural and location a problem, but did anyone ever take into account the local residents that would be impacted by this park sitting just outside the entrance to the park? The answer is no.	Wonderful place for everyone.	There are adequate facilities but they need to be upgraded. Clearly, the current facilities could degrade quickly. All things listed in the plan are needed and supported BUT NOT THE RV PARK.	Jacob Ingram has done a wonderful job as park manager. His rangers all seem knowledgeable and visitors always like that. He knows what needed to be done and he is working on it every day.	PLEASE, PLEASE REVISIT THIS PLAN THAT INCLUDES AN RV PARK. Lots more to write but ...
11/18/2023 6:49	Hope	Franklin	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	NO!!!! To the RV PARK!!!!				

11/18/2023 19:02	Pam	Gunter	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	When the Mission Statement is as follows: "MISSION To preserve, protect, and share Tennessee's natural and cultural resources while providing safe, quality outdoor experiences" it seems contradictory to try to add an RV park to Frozen Head. The engaged crowd at the public meeting were astounded by the slide presentation that did not even mention the plans for an RV park. Once brought to light, it was minimized as a problem. It was made known by a vocal group that the state was trying to push through a non sustainable rv park in an area used daily by community members and other special events. Holding the park hostage to not being able to get the funds to upgrade current amenities as well as the many trails that are traveled daily and to threaten no help with the current needs unless a new rv park is included is totally unfair. No one in this county or interested party regarding the park has seen any studies that favor this park - not financially, not structurally, and totally not within the Mission Statement. It is clear that the studies haven't been done; otherwise it would have been clear that the state plan for the location of the park is not feasible. The area floods, the bedrock is not there, and the soil level is thin. One good rain and the area floods. Not only is the actual structural and location a problem, but did anyone ever take into account the local residents that would be impacted by this park sitting just outside the entrance to the park? The answer is no.	Wonderful place for everyone.	There are adequate facilities but they need to be upgraded. Clearly, the current facilities could degrade quickly. All things listed in the plan are needed and supported BUT NOT THE RV PARK.	Jacob Ingram has done a wonderful job as park manager. His rangers all seem knowledgeable and visitors always like that. He knows what needed to be done and he is working on it every day.	PLEASE, PLEASE REVISIT THIS PLAN THAT INCLUDES AN RV PARK.
11/19/2023 17:00	Steve	Durbin	Frozen Head State Park	Other: Host of an international event there	I attended the public meeting at FHSP on 11/16 and after hearing the comments by knowledgeable persons, I'm concerned as to whether it is wise to locate an RV Park in the chosen field. Seems there could be real problems with flooding that could consequently have adverse affect on the water supply. This seems contrary to the resource stewardship plan.	As someone who has been visiting, hosting an international event, and hiking at FHSP for over 15 years, I can state that I prefer the park be left more in the "primitive" state rather than adding the infrastructure to accommodate large recreational vehicles. From what I've witnessed, and from comments at the meeting, the park is well utilized, and the demand is great enough as it is. Those I know enjoy the quietness. RV parks I've been around are noisy and tacky looking with lots of lighting and such.	There is a definite need for upgrades to some of the facilities here. In particular the bath house at Big Cove campground. I believe funding should be given based on the costs of improving or replacing the existing structures, and omitting the RV park.	In our dealings with the Manager Jacob Ingram and his staff at FHSP, we have found them to be knowledgeable, and very helpful. They show a great deal of concern for the safety of the guests, and the preservation of the natural resources.	I'm the race director, along with Gary Cantrell, for the annual Barkley Fall Classic 50km race that is held throughout FHSP on the 3rd Saturday of September. 2023 was our 10th year. We bring runners from the 50 states, most of the Canadian provinces, and as many as 30 countries. Our parking and start/finish area is located at Rocky Fork Field. We are concerned that an RV park located there will have an adverse bearing on our ability to provide the normal overall great experience. Runners are traveling around the globe to come to Morgan County, and spending tens of thousands of dollars in the process, to enjoy this remarkable venue, because it is different. My guess is that Nashville would like to see all of the state parks offer the same amenities... including RV slots. In my opinion, FHSP will enjoy increased visitors over time as more RV parks are located in other state parks, making FHSP a desired sanctuary from them. FHSP is a magical place right now. Please don't diminish it with all it would take to install an RV park that is both unnecessary and unwanted. On a secondary note: I find it difficult to believe that those hosting the public meeting were really so woefully unprepared to answer questions about the RV addition. They appeared to have no numbers on cost of installation, environmental
11/19/2023 20:43	gary	cantrell	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen			I do not understand the desire to add a trailer park... Nothing follows that but the demand to pave roads to every part of the park. The beauty of the natural area is that it does not have paved roads and trailer parks. There are plenty of parks to serve that segment of the public. Why not have a place for people who want to go on foot?		
11/20/2023 10:18	Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	Rogers	Frozen Head State Park	Other: Hiking and Conservation Organization					See attached comments document.
11/21/2023 8:27	Rita	Waters	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen			Please don't put an RV campground here. That will not add to the beauty of the park. Leave things as they are and update the roads. Let the beauty of nature shine. Thank you		
11/21/2023 9:36	Hiram	Rogers	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen					See uploaded file
11/21/2023 11:40	Adam	Tripp	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen	Park resources generally are in good shape. More trail maintenance and construction are always a good thing.	The park provides excellent exposure to beautiful and pristine mountain terrain. The climbing access and resource is high quality, and easy to access from the White House Cliffs trail and CCC built climber trail.	I didn't think there were many facilities, which was always ok with me. I would prefer that new facilities be constructed in a minimalist fashion to maintain the natural nature of the environment.	The park staff have been excellent to work with on volunteer trail construction projects.	Just want to let you know that the rock climbing here is excellent. I think it will become more popular as more people discover this park.
11/22/2023 12:02	Ken	Murray	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/22/2023 21:34	Krystal	Andrews	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					I love the idea of adding a new campground and boat dock!!
11/22/2023 22:17	Elizabeth	Morgan	Big Ridge State Park	Other: Lifelong visitor, nearby resident	Keep the cabins in good repair so more people will rent them. Extend the rental season to all year. Keep the swim area clean, draw down the lake every spring and brush off the bottom. Make the bathhouse functional again, or rebuild it. Repair or replace all of the grills and picnic tables. Keep the old stone gatehouse and the original CCC stone walls in good repair. Get the group camp active again. It could be a wonderful resource. Spiff up the amphitheater and rent it out and the Rec Hall for weddings and such.	I like the quietness, that's why I go.	We do NOT need an RV park, big dock, and huge parking lot and a ruined environment. The extra traffic on the long narrow channel would erode the shoreline even worse. Putting that project in will ruin all of the camping places, old and new. I will ruin the view for the existing campground and the RV place will be crammed together and ugly.	Evidently Big Ridge needs more employees since things do not get cared for and maintained as they are. I don't think the state park budgets should be self-sustaining. Everyone enjoys the state parks, therefore the parks should be paid for by the government budget.	The RV park, big parking lots, ramp, etc. are awful ideas. It will ruin the view, it will ruin the Blue Mud channel, it will ruin the whole Big Ridge experience. Take that money and use it to maintain and improve the existing facilities. I don't think there is a reason to put in mountain bike trails - there are plenty of trails for them. Biking on steep trails makes them erode. Why would we want bicycles in the woods?

11/22/2023 23:11	Jason	Armstrong	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner						Please do NOT add RV sites (and other development) at Big Ridge State Park! Norris Lake is a treasure and is already crowded. These new developments would make the lake much more crowded and that is bad for the lake and the boat traffic! Please NO, NO, NO! We are a lakefront home owner on Norris. Thank
11/22/2023 23:12	Timothy	Callahan	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	no more developments for this area	no more developments for this area	no more developments for this area			no more developments for this area
11/22/2023 23:37	Jessica	Selber	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I feel it just needs a facelift for what is currently there. My papaw was the ranger there for years. I would hate to see it being so commercialized.	I have hiked, swam, played baseball, took my kids to the playground and fished there. Growing up the swimming area was great as well as concessions. Bring peaceful and riding bikes was always wonderful. Picnics and volleyball. The gristmill and scenery is great	The amenities such as playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball area, swimming area, could be concessions and tea room area should be like is used to be back in the 1980-1990s Charge a few bucks to employ life guards and workers.	I feel making it have more of a city feel will take away from the peace it has now.		I would like to see it preserved and get more money for it. I do not see making it like bigger docks or RV campgrounds to be what is needed. Just make it like it was in the 1960-1990s and family friendly and affordable. Employ young teens or adults for summers to be like they were. Have events such as 4th of July. Please keep it simple and a family oriented place.
11/23/2023 0:22	Robin	Hill	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	The channel coming out into the lake from the area is already over crowded. Wildlife areas are already being choked out. Just revamp and reclaim the original big ridge park without greatly increasing the ecological damage to the area.	This should be kept and maintained as a peaceful experience. Too much boat traffic in the area will create unsafe waterways there.	Again. Put monies into old facilities and parking areas. You shouldn't have to take out more of the current ecosystem.			
11/23/2023 2:20	Leisa	Fair	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner	Adding the RV park and boat ramp will not be a good steward of the land or resources. Having more boats in the area will be more disturbing to the natural habitat.	In its current condition, Big Ridge is not welcoming to visitors due to the lack of maintaining the park.	Repair the current facilities and amenities (like the dam) rather than expanding and adding RV sites.			This is a quiet area of the lake. Please keep it that way for those of us who are long-time residents that love the park as an escape and enjoy the peaceful side of Norris Lake. Surely you can find better ways to bring in revenue.
11/23/2023 5:18	DONALD	SIMS	Pickett CCC Memorial State Park	Interested Citizen	Set up a dark sky camping area					Set up a dark sky camping area.
11/23/2023 6:14	Sue	Turner	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen			The park is in poor condition. Buildings in bad shape. Swimming area is nasty. Nothing to do there.	Park is not being taken care of.		Do not need additional boat launch or rv park upgrade what you have.
11/23/2023 6:49	Donna	Riddle	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	East Tennessee is becoming a destination for travelers throughout the country (Tennessee Department of Tourism, 2019). Tourism, including agriculture tourism, are significant economic drivers. Constructed almost a century ago, the park provides the geographic with features (i.e., topography, water and historical) that tourism seeks. As the park's resources are developed and advertised, additional tourists are expected to venture to the region. Improvements to Big Ridge State Park (BRSP) can help support increased economic activity in Union County, along with Anderson, Knox and Grainger Counties.	BRSP investments in the park's assets is anticipated to increase visitation, along with expenditures within the region. As previously discussed, the park has 20 cabins, a group campground, a small amphitheater, swimming, individual campsites, hiking trails, an assembly hall with a kitchen, which is ideal for large group meetings/celebrations, a shelter for group picnics, and a large lake ideal for kayaking. The attached analysis evaluates the impact of the one-time expense of remodeling cabins, plus adding mountain bike trails, new restrooms, water trail with launch area, and campsites. However, it doesn't go far enough. We need a regional conference center, restaurant and resort.	The park is 3,687 acres in size and currently has 30 miles of shoreline, 15 miles of hiking trails and 50 campsites to accommodate recreational vehicles, trailers and tent campers. The existing facilities are in very poor condition and the park has been largely ignored.	The park has historically been a retirement home with little effort to improve or maintain facilities.		It is refreshing to see new regional leadership take an interest in what could and should be an economic engine for Union and surrounding counties.
11/23/2023 7:15	Christine	Schly	Big Ridge State Park		This will not serve to make the land more beautiful only ugly, it will not bring visitors to the park but to the boat dock and if it's not managed/staffed properly it will only bring problems, such as people fighting, leaving trash out, loitering, etc	I do not feel that the rv park/parking/boat dock that is proposed for across from the campgrounds at Big Ridge State Park, honors the land or the park. It's sad how much things become industrialized, can the park be left to peace, yes things need to make money, but this will destroy a large portion of the beauty of the park, that is the reason for the park to preserve the peace and beauty. The more this is allowed to happen the less land and beauty there will be, and once it's gone it will never be gotten back.				
11/23/2023 7:17	James	Riddle	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Poor stewardship. East Tennessee is a destination for travelers throughout the country (Tennessee Department of Tourism, 2019). Tourism, including agriculture tourism, are significant economic drivers. Constructed almost a century ago, the park provides the geographic with features (i.e., topography, water and historical) that tourism seeks. As the park's resources are developed and advertised, additional tourists are expected to venture to the region. Improvements to Big Ridge State Park (BRSP) can help support increased economic activity in Union County, along with Anderson, Knox and Grainger Counties.	Poor. Cabin improvement is needed for year-round occupancy. Adding bike trails and a water trail would likely increase attendance by an estimated 15 to 25 percent. More visitors staying overnight as a result of park improvements will increase expenditures in the region. The park is 3,687 acres in size with 30 miles of shoreline: 15 miles of mostly inaccessible hiking trails and only 50 campsites.	Most facilities/amenities are in poor condition. Problems with the facilities have been compounded over time due to consistently-deferred maintenance and repair.	The park is has been on auto pilot for years and has served as a retirement posting for employees.		It is refreshing to see new regional leadership take charge and look at how the park can be improved for all. This park could and should be an economic engine for Union and surrounding counties. It's been depressing to watch things rot away-this new breath of fresh air is most refreshing! I hope TDEC allocates the resources to make these needed improvements. I would add to the planned upgrades a regional conference center, restaurant and lodge/resort.
11/23/2023 8:03	Melissa	McGinnis	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	While public parks are a blessing, we have to protect what it is we want everyone to experience in the first place. Please study the erosion and the strain the additional boat traffic and RV infrastructure will have on the park.	Visitor experience could be enhanced with additional amenities but not if it can't be properly maintained or is detrimental to the surrounding environment.	It's counter productive to provide additional amenities without a plan to maintain them. The park is already understaffed. Adding additional responsibilities would surely spiral the park into an unkempt place no one wants to visit.			
11/23/2023 8:30	Chantay	Collins	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I say no to the plan, take care of what's in the park first and make it the best it can be before you add a burden to the park and the waters and staff surrounding it have a little common sense.	is a peaceful place to come to him, but needs some extra funding to help with the loving care of the park. It doesn't need extra burdens by adding an RV parking lot.				
11/23/2023 9:39	Maseena	Battles	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I wholeheartedly am against building a new RV park, boat ramp and additional parking. The already critical erosion to the shores of Norris Lake would suffer even more! Big Ridge Park does need improvements, but I would like to see the funds being spent on improvements to existing structures/camping areas/trails, etc. Big Ridge cove (aka Blue Mud) can not handle more boats coming and going through the	Big Ridge is my favorite local park largely due to the peace & solitude it affords. I camped there just this past October and had a lovely time. And the staff is amazing!	Improvements to the beach house, Group Camp, Grist Mill, trails, beach area are needed. Bath houses in the camping area are nice (& warm)!	The staff is always very friendly and informed.		
11/23/2023 10:24	Bryant	Roden	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	There is already a lot of boat traffic there, and this will only add more, contributing to erosion, noise, and safety concerns.		There are great amenities in the existing park that aren't being utilized to their full potential. Expanding means these parts of the original park will be neglected.			Part of the charm of Big Ridge is that it's historic, quiet, and peaceful. An addition of this size absolutely ruins that.

11/23/2023 10:54	Michael	Reckowsky	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner	The further commercialization of Big Ridge State Park will cause further erosion and property damage on our waterfront property by increasing boat traffic in the channel across from Big Ridge. Our property has already seen erosion making it difficult to get to the water from the "drop off" that has been created the last several years. Increasing the traffic by 200 boats will significantly speed up this process.	We have stayed at the CCC cabins in Big Ridge. We will never stay there again due to the mice infestation. We couldn't sleep due to the noise they created.	Please see above.	The park should take care of existing facilities, roads, and structures before adding other facilities requiring maintenance.	State-run expansion to an already crowded lake while private citizens fight erosion is irresponsible. If anyone doubts the traffic on the lake, look at the number of deaths and its increase this year. While agree visitors need additional places to stay, etc I don't agree with the plan of increasing boat traffic by the state.
11/23/2023 11:05	Derek	Wilson	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	The park has facilities that are rotting away and being neglected. Why not repair and preserve what you have rather than add more to take care of when evidently the state cannot maintain the current facilities.	The campground has an unobstructed view of nature with the view exception of the boat launch. Adding campsites to the already existing campground makes more sense for so many reasons like security, the view, and already existing infrastructure like roadways for access. Added a bridge that is high enough above the flood level of the lake alone would be a huge waste of money when there is land assessable to add to the camp ground that already exists. The same could be done to add parking for the already existing boat launch. There is already plenty of room to add parking for the boat launch without taking away the vista from the campground.	The facilities are in horrible conditions. Every time I see something new added to a CCC park that desperately needs preservation breaks my heart. The newer facilities and amenities are nowhere close to having the same quality or natural look as the work of the CCC.	Operations are all ran by people that are trying to make a name for themselves instead of doing what is best for the park and the public that use them.	Parks are supposed to be an outlet to experience the natural beauty of our state. Parks were not designed to increase the state's revenue. Quit chasing dollars and start protecting our state's natural and cultural heritage.
11/23/2023 12:17	Greg	Vittetoe	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					In favor of new RV campground & public boat ramp @ Big Ridge State Park
11/23/2023 12:19	Leslie	Wagner	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Keep the park natural. No one stands to gain big dollars by not building boat ramps, ect, but really, are we not tired of money ruling and ruining our natural environments yet? Protecting what we have, the trees, the animals, insects, breezes through the leaves sounds, stars showing through trees and over ridges-- they are worth protecting and letting people experience that. I for one am sick of seeing trees going down and construction rolling in all around this area. People need a break whether they realize it or not.	You cannot pay for quiet places anymore. Quiet. The world gets noisy and noisier. The places where calm and silence exist are RARE and getting more so all the time. It is the same for dark sky places. Protecting this wild place is so important. Places with maximized NATURE are my favorite places. Man has touched everything and there is no escaping our noise and lights and each other except for rare places like Big Ridge National Park and parks like it.	I hate the idea of expanding an already fragile water way to more boats. I do not like the idea of adding more car and RV access when the whole experience at Big Ridge is wonderfully calm. It has been neglected. End the neglect of what is already there.	Your report already shows that there is not enough man power for this kind of endeavor anyway.	Keep the quiet gem. Keep it.
11/23/2023 13:42	Erik	Williams	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner				The proposed new addition to the park area will destroy habitat as well as the existing park grounds.	I have lived in this community for 30 years now. The proposed park expansion will destroy the peaceful atmosphere of the park as it is. It is going to flood our highway, which is the only road into the park. The road is already over crowded with traffic. No one in this community wants this new addition.
11/23/2023 14:16	Jennifer	Williams	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					Please do not do the addition to this park at Blue Mud. This is a gentle haven that is perfect just as it is. The addition of 90 RV sites, 200 car parking lot will ruin this park in every way. I spend a lot of time at this park on the hiking trails and the serenity will be ruined by noise pollution as well as environmental pollution from the vehicles. Please just leave this park alone.
11/23/2023 19:57	Brian	Dyer	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	This would be a great improvement and would also need to do a lot of cleanup to the old half of the park.	I believe the current park needs a lot of work I've watched it for years and it is worse now than I can remember it ever being.	The park is becoming run down quickly from what I've watched in the last few years.	It needs more management that has a vision to get it back to its original glory. The park was so great years ago.	The future plans will be a great update and with more boat ramp area even better for the citizens in the area to use for more recreational activities and fishing.
11/23/2023 22:17	Rhonda	Vineyard	Big Ridge State Park	Other: The present campsite has been neglected for years, I believe the state will not be able to fund the upkeep of additional campsites and amenities.					
11/24/2023 2:15	Martina	eckerly	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		I like the natural aspects and don't wish to see them build more RV across the lake. If they are going to why not add in the front already mowed and deforested parts.			Please don't bulldoze more of the park. If more amenities are needed they have tons of areas already clear cut and easy to add along existing road ways. The park is hardly ever at capacity except during holidays and we need more wild areas. The proposed expansion is way more destructive and something else should be considered. By the front of the park they could add all needed camp spaces or even take out the ballfield that's never used.
11/24/2023 8:12	James	Wedekind	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Developing an RV park and encouraging more boats on an already overcrowded reservoir is NOT stewardship.	More development is contrary to the goal of enjoying a peaceful alternative to our everyday lives.	Instead of "more" do a better job of maintaining and enhancing the existing amenities.	Not applicable	The mission is to preserve and protect our natural resources and not a way to benefit only those with RVs and boats ... i.e. the rich!
11/24/2023 8:19	Courtney	Carlton	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner		The visitor experience would be ruined with the new plans. Too many tourists will take away from one of the last natural areas of Norris lake.	The facilities and amenities are already unkempt due to funds not being put directly into the park itself. The swimming area needs attention as well as the building that could be used as it was in the past.	It's operated well as it is now to keep it the peaceful place it is today with the locals taking pride in it. I would hate to see it get worse with corrosion, trash, and disrespect with no end in sight.	I live right next to the park, and I don't think it can handle any more people than it already does. The cabins stay booked the whole season and the kids working the seasonal jobs would be underpaid with quadruple the business. The spots for activities stay full all summer, and the rangers/groundskeepers are quick to move trees when needed. I would hate to see this side of the lake get clogged up with unrepairable damage when there are so many other options for boats. Our lake is private, and this would cause issues with the kayaks and small boats that are still cheap enough to rent for the locals. The wake and the traffic would not do well on our tiny loop, and the money should be put into restoring BRSP back to the way it was originally intended for educational and historical purposes.

11/24/2023 8:20	Justin	Beeler	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I think that it would benefit the youth and the community to increase stewardship		The boat ramp and parking lot is significantly too small and no lights with the rising number of boaters on the lake. I think it would be extremely beneficial to the community to expand the boat ramp and parking lot as well as lighting in those areas		
11/24/2023 8:41	Joshua	Caldwell	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					<p>The proposed plans made for Big Ridge State Park, while well meaning, aren't the direction the facility should go.</p> <p>During summer months, the cove leading from the ramp at Blue Mud to the main lake channel is a hazardous area. The corridor is narrow and the volume of boats (and their speed) makes it very unsafe. I'm surprised there hasn't been a major accident there yet.</p> <p>Secondly, wakeboats frequently launch from this site. As a fisherman that has lived on the lake my entire life, I've noticed a dramatic change in erosion from the waves these boats create. Boaters are bringing craft unintended for ocean use. If the ramp is made larger the increased amount of boat traffic (especially from wakeboats) will expedite this problem.</p> <p>Lastly, the existing amenities of the park should be invested in- such as the playground and sports complexes instead of an oversized campground. The appeal many citizens have for this park is how peaceful it is.</p> <p>I fully understand the goal is to give the public the opportunity to enjoy this great asset we have in Union County, but I urge you to please consider</p>
11/24/2023 9:00	Joanna	Carpenter	Big Ridge State Park		Other: I've seen where plans are being made to add additional boat slips and rv parking to this area. I wish to state my high dissatisfaction to these plans. This lake is being destroyed with all the boat traffic already on it and has become dangerous. There were 3 deaths on the lake this past summer. The last thing we need is more people on the lake. Please reconsider your plans to help even a little in preserving what is left of this beautiful lake.				
11/24/2023 9:10	Savannah	Jones	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	The banks of Norris Lake surrounding Big Ridge are already eroded terribly and continue to do so every day due to high traffic. Adding in another set of camping spots and another boat ramp would only exacerbate this issue.	Visiting a Tennessee State Park is supposed to be about enjoying Tennessee's natural beauty. There are other less environmentally destructive ways to do so than building boat ramps and camper hookups. I know those things are money makers, but to build more of them hurts the land and water and ignores other existing features of the park.	There are many historical and useful features in Big Ridge State Park. The group camp, cemeteries, grist mill, amphitheater, and more are wonderful ways for visitors to enjoy their outdoor experiences. They are all of course in need of great repairs, as noted in your rating of them in the Strategic Plan. This money could be put to greater use by fixing existing issues with them.	Our rangers are already overwhelmed with how much there is for them to care for. Adding new features to their workload will cause further neglect and decay to historical parts of the park.	State Parks are not commercial businesses. They are not here to serve the interests of tourists as the bend and change over the years. They are here to serve as examples of our history and natural beauty as a state. If people want to go places where touristy interests are catered to, there is always Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.
11/24/2023 9:20	Marianne	Seymour	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		Have always had good experiences there. The park itself needs updates to help bring people there and not a new RV park close by.	There needs to be updates to what is there and the old clubhouse opened back up and the old playground put back. That would be closed to the cabins the tea room needs work. This could be done without taking away any of nature. Also being a citizen from Big Ridge we don't want the trees taken down and nature destroyed!		
11/24/2023 9:24	Lisa	Starbuck	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	This resource needs regular maintenance not more things to take care of	They suggested improvements will bring lots more people to an already crowded part of the lake	I am opposed to new boat dock and other facilities	More maintenance please	I am opposed to expansion of this resource. Instead we need to maintain the facilities that are there.
11/24/2023 9:50	Adrienne	Foust	Big Ridge State Park	Other: Resident	Just fix what's already there. No need for anything else	It's a beautiful place just needs fixed a little. Building a huge Dock and RV park is going to ruin the beauty of it. No one wants to see that.			People don't come there to see big fancy stuff, they come there for peace and quiet and to see the beautiful scenery.
11/24/2023 9:54	Melissa	Graves	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	100% agree with proposed updates and expansions. It is overdue.	Again, showing support for updates and expansion. My family always camps in Norris because Big Ridge is hard to get a spot and offers so little.	Decent but not enough.	No issues	Please, please bring this state park into the current century. We love TN parks but even though Big Ridge is in our community we do not use it because of its limitations and outdated amenities. We love Norris, Fall Creek Falls, and many others. There is no reason that Big Ridge should not be just as awesome!
11/24/2023 10:00	Bailey	Story	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen			The proposal for a new rv campground is a great way to bring more traction to Big Ridge State Park, but I'm against the idea of adding the parking lot for 200 rigs as it could be very harmful to the area. The main channel from Blue Mud to Norris is already narrow as is. Adding 200 more boats in this area is an accident waiting to happen. Maybe use the money to improve preexisting facilities and amenities?		
11/24/2023 10:02	Andrew	Bowman	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		The existing campground needs money spent on it to fix it up.	Needs to be updated and money invested instead of building and adding a new camp ground.	Need more people to help	There is not enough room on the lake for that much extra traffic and tourists.
11/24/2023 10:28	Rachel	Monjo	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner	The park needs the existing facilities repaired and improved. We live just minutes from big ridge. The proposed boat launch and camping will congest our beautiful area.	We spend so much time at big ridge, birthdays every year, picnics, swim days, boating and picnicking. The proposed changes will take away from our small town way of living.	The swimming area, picnic areas and shelters could use some work. Please focus on what we already have and improve upon that.		Keep union county beautiful. The charm our of natural park is its simplicity in nature. The funds are well needed to improve all current aspects of the park.
11/24/2023 10:38	Kristin	Smith	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	No, this is a bad idea. Bad for the community and the wildlife. We want conservation of the area not for you to come in and tear out beautiful ridges up.	The park doesn't get the funding it should now so your answer is to bring in more traffic instead of repairing what's already there. Stupid.			This is just absurd. Stop tearing up our land!

11/24/2023 11:01	Amy	Reno	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		Old buildings, swim area, camp ground all needs updates. Boat launch needs more parking.	Use the money planned for a new campground to update Big Ridge park instead. The swim area, buildings, cabins, and camp ground all need upgrades. Other state parks in TN have lots of money put in to them(ex Fall Creek Falls) but Big Ridge doesn't.		
11/24/2023 11:11	Brandon	Stoudt	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					You state continuously that your goal is "To preserve, protect, and share Tennessee's natural and cultural resources while providing safe, quality outdoor experiences." The plans for the Big Ridge State Park do not follow these values. Norris Lake has become over crowded and dangerous due to TVA's negligence. These plans only further that.
11/24/2023 11:33	Sheridan	Brogdon	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		I've been going to Big Ridge for 40 years. All I've seen is the park decline. The funding is clearly not going back into the park.	In 40 years only thing I've seen done is A/C added to some of the cabins and another bath house added.	Swimming areas have declined bath houses closed down. No more diving boards or life guards. All the pavilions are ran down.	The money isn't going to go back into the park it will just continue to go to other programs for the state so do not ruin what's left of bigridge by turning it into a tourist trap
11/24/2023 12:27	Emily	Patton	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Not enough resources for this big development	Visitor experience will be terrible With the new developments, stop ruining small town vibes	Facilities and amenities need updates but not to this extent	Not enough info	Yes. This is being shared all over Facebook and 99% of people are agreeing this will ruin the lake and the park. Most like that it's quiet and small. Please stop with the developments and just fix what needs fixing. Thank you.
11/24/2023 13:55	Neranza	Blount	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I feel that maintaining the CCC installations and everything that already exists should be top priority, along with educational programs for kids and adults. The little-to never-used group camp is ripe with possibilities.	Increased boat traffic in a channel that's already suffering greatly from erosion, will absolutely ruin the peace at the existing campground.	More RVs are not needed nor wanted by those who enjoy the park as it is.	Educational events on nature preservation can bring in more funds instead of just renting out more camping spaces which would do the opposite.	Maintain and improve what is already there, not by adding more room making the area even more crowded. What's next - an amusement park! I've been going to Big Ridge State park for decades and it is a special place we are lucky to have. Please don't ruin it with your proposed plans only interested in lining your pockets.
11/24/2023 14:07	Nancy	Manning	Frozen Head State Park	Other: Nonprofit: TCWP	See attached letter	See attached letter	See attached letter	See attached letter	
11/24/2023 14:14	Esther	Sewell	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		While big ridge certainly needs some updates and improvements, the plans I saw included two new rv areas. That should be scaled back by at least half. We don't want our outdoor park to be turned into a parking lot. At the same time, please retain the original ccc parts as historical education.			
11/24/2023 14:43	Laura	Atkins	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I am concerned of trash, noise and overuse of this area. There are bald eagles in this area, and they will be leaving due to all the activity.	I kayak this section quite actively, and have recently had a bald eagle follow me and fly directly over my head. They are such a rare and wonderful site. I am concerned about all the overuse and traffic to this quite area that is safe for me to use. With a landing dock, boats will be speeding in the area in great numbers. The trash is already increasing in the water over the past couple years, and the impact of this new plan will be devastating on the water, land and wildlife, and the fish. I see many fishermen on small boats and kayaks in this inlet area too, and it is always a nice place to visit with them, and they will be impacted on this plan. This area is the last place locally that I can solo kayak without danger to my self and can experience nature and quite refuge. I do not want the proposed changed!			I am 100% against this proposal plan due to the impact on the water, the people and the environment!
11/24/2023 15:40	Ryan	McBee	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					Please reconsider the massive expansion to big ridge state park. This will be extremely disruptive to the existing park vibe and further erosion issues in an already congested area of the lake.
11/24/2023 16:00	Nancy	Roberson	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	No RV park or expansion of boat docks across from the Blue Mud Channel				No RV park or expansion of boat docks across from the Blue Mud Channel
11/24/2023 16:15	Ardyce	Lee	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					Personally, I feel that maintaining the CCC installations and everything that already exists should be top priority, along with educational programs for kids and adults. The little-to never-used group camp is ripe with possibilities.
11/24/2023 18:37	Stephen	Todd	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					The park does not need the proposed RV campground development. The shores already suffer from erosion and do not need increased boat traffic. Fund the park to adequately maintain and service the old CCC facilities. Leave development to private lands. No new Docks on public land.
11/25/2023 11:26	Danielle	Ellison	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	This park means soo much to soo many people in our community Please keep our state park	Always A Blessing my family and MANY MANY OTHER FAMILIES HAVE SOO MANY GREAT TIMES FAMILY GATHERINGS AND JUST ENJOY IT FOR THE WEEKEND AND FISHING AND SWIMMING ETC	Love visiting our Big Ridge State Park but the bathrooms need improvement and some of the covers over picnic areas could use some work	I would say fair could use Improvement	Please don't take OUR BIG RIDGE STATE PARK My family and friends have soo many great memories there and God willing the next generations will be able to do the same
11/25/2023 11:32	Danielle	Ellison	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Please don't take our Big Ridge State Park	A Blessing soo many great memories with me and my family and friends	Could use Improvements newer playground equipment, drink water fountain, better bathrooms but please don't take OUR PARK	Fair could use Improvement	PLEASE JUST DO SOME IMPROVEMENTS DONT TAKE OUR BIG RIDGE STATE PARK
11/25/2023 12:51	Dave	Quint	Pickett CCC Memorial State Park	Park Partner					Utilize Delta property acquisition to provide a new Dark Sky campground and observatory! That would be outstanding! I have been to this park more in the last year than I have in the last five years... every time bringing more and more visitors with me. This is just the kind of upgrade that would enable me to bring EVEN MORE visitors. Sure hope this plan is implemented! Ranger Hodges has A+ hospitality and deserves this upgrades to his area - such improvements match his enthusiasm for the park and visitors!

11/25/2023 15:09	Kristy	Keck	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	An additional boat ramp, dock, and campground will only increase automobile traffic and boat traffic in already over congested area. Increased boat traffic will increase lake shore erosion	We love Big Ridge Park. Big Ridge was always our family getaway for a local "stay"cation when I was a child. I have now carried on that tradition with my own family and would hate to see this beautiful area ruined by this plan.	Building an additional campground would ruin the serene and calm surroundings. It's peaceful and relaxing as it is.	Big Ridge State Park rangers do an excellent job at maintaining security and grounds upkeep for the park.	
11/25/2023 21:58	Julie	Koontz	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	People come to Big Ridge for its NATURAL beauty. Destroyed habitat for wildlife and the noise pollution will make a sad day. Not to mention contributing to degradation of the shoreline and water quality from boats. Bigger is not always better for nature.			Not sure how this proposal will be operated in excellence when the existing facilities need attention and visitor experience could be better with interpretive specialist and park rangers. Park rangers need better housing so spend some money on gutting and remodeling their homes.	
11/26/2023 8:24	Peggy	Glenn	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I think you should take care of what is all ready there before any expansion is thought about.	If all the expansions go through, it will be like going to a Walmart parking lot.	Take care first of what is there now.		
11/26/2023 11:04	Amy	Jordan	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		Would love to see trail maintenance increased (more caretaking of trails at the rear of park, and more frequent general maintenance of more used trails. Blowdowns are frequently encountered and last year a cooler/tent sat on the main loop for weeks/months.			I am concerned about proposals to increase boating and rv-ing at big ridge. Big ridge is a beautiful park, but the lake already has serious erosion at the shores.
11/26/2023 11:12	Elizabeth	Wright	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I worry about the existing erosion and the impact further development would have. I believe financial resources should be prioritized to address existing structures and concerns rather than adding an RV park and parking lot.	I frequent Big Ridge and love the trail system, the swimming area, the Grist Mill, and the CCC space. I would love to see funds go to sufficient staffing and support to maintain and improve what we have, not disrupt the space and serenity with new development.	The current camping and CCC space should be maintained and not compromised with an RV park and parking lot.	See above	See above
11/26/2023 11:59	Joe	Hughes	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	I am writing as a local citizen opposed to the plan to build a larger boat launch and RV site. The existing small launch and limited parking lot are a positive feature, not a negative, as they create a limit on the amount of boat traffic in the area. Big Ridge is one of the only large channels that is currently safe for kayaks and canoes during the busy season on the lake. Building a large launch with hundreds of boat rig and RV sites would seriously impair the quiet boating experience at Big Ridge which is unlike other areas on the lake. Reasonably, it would also either require additional staff or displace staff from other park duties during summer months. Critically, this is the period when trail maintenance is most needed. My recent experience at Big Ridge during the summer months is that trails around Indian Rocks and Sharps Station become nearly impenetrable with berry brambles and other undergrowth. The park should focus on maintaining outdoor resources like trails and kayak access for citizens wishing to engage in these activities rather than competing with the large rv/kate
11/26/2023 12:08	Damon	Battles	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen			Please do not add the rv park and boat ramps to blue mud it is already way too congested for swimming and kayaking.		
11/26/2023 12:55	Danny	Allor	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen			The boat launch parking at blue mud could be improved with some signage with boat trailer only parking and a place for cars only with some lines for parking to keep people from parking anywhere.		The proposed new boat ramp, parking and rv camp sites will bring to much boat traffic to this cove on the lake which is very narrow going out to loyston sea the increased boat traffic would be dangerous.
11/26/2023 20:23	Carol	Aldrich	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/26/2023 21:07	cindy	siperly	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	This will contribute to land erosion and garbage (litter) The current campgrounds aren't even taken care of. I was part of the Norris Lake Clean Up and we had to go and clean up garbage at one of the TN State campgrounds on the lake. It was ridiculous. You don't even have enough staff to take care of the facilities you have now. How about putting that money into restoring and keeping our land and lakes clean?	campers leave garbage all over, and DO NOT RESPECT the lake	This will contribute to land erosion and garbage (litter) The current campgrounds aren't even taken care of. I was part of the Norris Lake Clean Up and we had to go and clean up garbage at one of the TN State campgrounds on the lake. It was ridiculous. You don't even have enough staff to take care of the facilities you have now. How about putting that money into restoring and keeping our land and lakes clean?		

11/26/2023 22:02	Renita	Malone	Big Ridge State Park	Other: I am a former TSP Park Interpretive Specialist 2 @ Big Ridge State Park in the late 90's.	<p>I am concerned that most of the original CCC structures have been rated as poor quality. I feel that these areas have been neglected for several years now. None of these structures should be torn down or demolished, but preserved. If the maintenance on these facilities had occurred regularly, they would not be in the shape that they are in. I'm also concerned about the soil erosion on Norris Lake. That has been listed as an important priority, but how on earth is that going to be fixed and prevented when the state is planning a new campground and boat parking/launching area that will put even more boats in the area of the park. What about little Big Ridge Dam? Do we think it can actually take the impact of waves of all of these boats being launched in that area? If this project goes through then at least make it a no wake zone until boats get away from the campground, current boat launch, and the dam.</p>	<p>The park looks run down all the time. I realize that everyone is experiencing staffing shortages, but if you can't maintain the existing park, why add a whole new campground and boat launch to it? Is the state really going to provide enough positions to maintain both areas of the park? I know when I was a Ranger there, I often worked past my normally scheduled hours just to make sure that things on the park were taken care of. That's one of the reasons that I left state parks. I was overworked and exhausted. Grant it, I was the only Ranger on the park for about 6 months at one time due to others being on medical leave.</p>	<p>I am almost embarrassed as to what has become of Big Ridge Park in recent years. It is not being well-maintained at all whether it be trails, the grass being mowed or trimmed, and I can't even describe the condition of the swimming beach area since it was made free use with no lifeguards. It's just plain nasty, and good people don't want to take their kids there because of the drugs, language, and type of people that hang out there now. Clean it up, put lifeguards back in, and get Big Ridge Park bustling like it used to be. Kids in Union County have nowhere safe to swim. There is no public pool in Union County, and the swimming beach area has been allowed to deteriorate to where people don't want to use it.</p> <p>Now let's talk about the new boat ramp and campground. I understand why a new boat ramp is needed. The parking situation at Blue Mud on holiday weekends or summer weekends is horrible. Why not start with a new boat ramp first and see how that goes. My fear is that it will not be patrolled regularly because of lack of staffing which could possibly lead to even more break-ins. Would this new ramp be free for everyone to launch, or will it be restricted to campers only? There are very few free boat launches left on Norris Lake.</p>		<p>When this project was first introduced to the citizens of Union County, we were told that improvements would be made to the Blue Mud boat ramp including a fishing pier, swimming area, and docks. Nothing was ever said about a campground until this plan was made public. I think most citizens were ok with the improvements to Blue Mud, but we do not want our tiny peaceful part of the lake turned into a busy commercialized area much like the Anderson/Campbell side of the lake. I realize that Union County will get taxes that will benefit tourism from this expansion, but that is about where it will stop as far as income for Union County. People staying in the new campground will not drive into Union County for groceries or to eat, they will drive back to the interstate in Anderson County for that. I know this because I worked there, and visitors didn't want to deal with all the unknown curvy roads to get to Maynardville.</p>
11/27/2023 8:02	Molly	Starnes	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					<p>An increase in parking and boating traffic would be a regrettable decision for the park and condition of the banks of the lake and waterways, already suffering from erosion I am not in support of the plan to increase traffic in the waterways!</p>
11/27/2023 10:22	Dana	Loseke	Frozen Head State Park	Other: Park Volunteer	<p>After reviewing the strategic plan for Frozen Head I was impressed with the amount of emphasis that was placed on the preservation and protection of the natural, scenic, and aesthetic resources of the park. Very detailed plans were laid out as to ensuring these goals would be priorities and these goals would be attained. The authors of the plan should be commended for their work in these areas as these definitely address the primary mission of the preservation of the last undisturbed landscape in the Cumberland Mountain Region.</p> <p>There are, however, some oversights in regard to the cultural history of the park that I feel need to be addressed. There is also a plan for a RV lot that drastically contradicts the goals of preservation of the park's natural resources. There was such little detail regarding such a glaring contradiction to the park's overall goals, that it seemed this aspect was meant to go unnoticed by the public users of the park who enjoy it's quiet natural offerings.</p>	<p>Suggested Cultural Improvements that would improve the visitor experience.</p> <p>CCC Camp History</p> <p>The CCC played an important role in helping our country get through the depression. It provided income and work training for millions of unemployed American men. The CCC built bridges, roads, stadiums, parks, and preserved our lands. Since Frozen Head was the site of a CCC camp it would be a great opportunity to recognize this chapter in Tennessee's history, and recognize the CCC legacy with a reconstruction of living quarters and informational signs on the workforce and the accomplishments of this agency and the men who worked in the CCC.</p> <p>Prison Coal Mine</p> <p>The first thing I learned about Frozen Head State Park was from an article on the internet about the use of slave labor by the state of Tennessee to circumvent paying higher wages to coal miners at a former state-run coal mine that was now a part of the park. When I visited the park I expected to find some informational signs recognizing this sad part of our history. At the very least I thought I'd find some information pointing out the number of prisoners that died working in the mine and a cemetery where they may be buried. Unfortunately,</p>	<p>The approach and entrance to Frozen Head is a serene introduction to what a visitor expects from a state park. Flat Fork Road follows the winding topography of the area past woods, grassy fields, small farms, and homes to the green and serene entrance of the park. By the time you reach the park you know you've reached a special place that offers a calming atmosphere you do not find in many other parks. It is a welcoming feeling that is unique to Frozen Head. Locating an RV lot at the entrance to this peaceful oasis would remove the comforting effect one gets as we enter the park. Visitors camp and hike Frozen Head because they want to get away from the sights and sounds of urban areas. I want fewer vehicles and less busy roads. An RV lot will ruin the essence of Frozen Head.</p> <p>In addition to destroying the tranquilizing effect of Frozen Head, there are a lot of reasonable, practical and economic reasons an RV lot does not make sense for Frozen Head which are outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An RV lot does not meet the Strategic Plan's mission of preserving the natural and scenic resources of the park. - An RV lot does not preserve an undisturbed landscape as laid out in the strategic plan! - An RV lot is the opposite of the strategic plan's exemplary natural stewardship. - An RV lot does not offer resource based opportunities such as backpacking, hiking, nor does it offer naturalist learning. 	<p>The park staff has done a remarkable job in preserving Frozen Head as a natural oasis offering beauty and peacefulness. It is quieter and more comforting than other state parks. I want fewer vehicles and less congested than other state parks. Again I want to say that adding an RV park to Frozen Head will destroy Frozen Head's focus on nature and its calming affects on its visitors. Future efforts and investments should center on maintaining the peaceful and natural attributes that Frozen Head currently offers.</p>	<p>Several questions were not answered at our listening sessions and I would like to have answers to these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where is the funding for the proposed improvements sourced? Is it federal money being redirected to the parks? Is it state money from the state tax revenue that the legislature specifically approved for the state parks? Or is it a grant from a private source or a federal grant being used? 2. Why does the SMP have money for improvements to the current bathroom and campgrounds, but only if it is tied to the addition of an RV lot? 3. Why does the SMP not have money for the improvement of current facilities without the addition of an RV lot? 4. It was suggested in the SMP that the park could raise more money through RV camping fees and would be more self sustaining. As a taxpayer and former business executive I want to see the business plan projections that were made by TDEC to support this claim as none were available at our Q & A session. 5. Can you supply us with the P & L statements of the Tennessee State Parks that have RV campgrounds to support the claim that RV parks make a park more sustainable.

11/27/2023 12:18	John	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen				<p>A number of the recent highway signs have directional arrows that are confusing, as the arrows are not aligned with the turn-in.</p> <p>Two clear examples are seen on Hiway 41, coming from Tracy City towards Jasper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The sign for Foster Falls displays a hard-right-arrow, yet the turn-in is still quite some distance ahead (maybe as far as a 1/4 mile?). There is no signage at the actual turn-in for Foster Falls. There should be a sign located as close as possible to the actual turn-in (typically a much smaller sign), showing a hard-right-arrow. Same signage problem exists for Denny Cove. The same problem, to a lesser degree, is seen at the turn-in off Hiway 56 in Beersheba Springs for Stone Door Road. <p>By placing a hard-right-arrow a considerable distance "before" the actual turn-in, a driver is easily confused -- or could mistakenly turn onto what looks like a road but really isn't. Easy to do at night or in bad weather.</p> <p>The standard for such signage is for the sign *nearer* to the turn (usually, a few hundred yards</p>
11/27/2023 12:32	John	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: local business owner		<p>I am writing this comment as an owner of, and on behalf of, the Beersheba Springs Market. The market sells prepared foods (sandwiches, pizza, and more, for both eat-in and carry-out), gas and diesel, groceries and fresh produce, and some hardware and misc supplies.</p> <p>We have been in contact with Aaron Reid regarding the close proximity of the market to the new entrance to Savage Gulf State Park. We appreciate the work that is going into the new park!</p> <p>The Beersheba Springs Market looks forward to serving the workers that will be building out the park, and of course looks forward to serving the future park visitors with their various needs. By the time the park opens, we will add misc camping gear and related items to our existing offerings.</p> <p>While we understand the park's visitor center will have some items for sale to visitors, the Beersheba Springs Market stands ready to serve the park visitors. We look forward to continuing communications with the park management team to ensure that the market can serve the park staff and visitors as effectively as possible.</p> <p>Feel free to let us know how the market can best support the efforts of the park. Audra Miller, the store manager, is reachable as info@BeershebaSpringsMarket.com or 931-692-3314</p>		
11/27/2023 19:04	RJ	Comer	Montgomery Bell State Park	Public Official	<p>I am the Dickson County Planning Commissioner for District 12, which borders Montgomery Bell State Park along HWY 47E. Dickson County recently adopted its 2043 Comprehensive Plan. Or plan includes preservation of Montgomery Bell State Park as one of its goals. To that end the County plan recommends that an "overlay district should be created surrounding the Montgomery Bell State Park Area that allows for specific uses, design guidelines and required open space." As the county moves forward on this overlay district, we hope to work closely with TDEC and the park to harmonize our efforts with the park Management Plan and ensure that the envisioned overlay district effectively protects the park from the adverse effects of un-managed suburban growth pressure on its boundaries, and includes measures desirable to the park.</p>			
11/27/2023 19:44	Lucinda	Burnham	Frozen Head State Park	Park Partner				
11/28/2023 9:25	John	Beaudet	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Park Partner				
11/28/2023 9:34	John	Beaudet	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Park Partner				<p>I mistakenly uploaded the wrong file and am trying to correct my mistake. My comments file is included this time.</p>
11/28/2023 14:56	Christian	Perry	Edgar Evins State Park	Park Partner			<p>After reviewing the park plan, it seems the department of maintenance is left out from the full scope of the 10 year plan. After reviewing other park plans, it would be beneficial for Edgar evins to look into an expansion of positions in maintenance. On top of this, a slight restructuring of the available positions would be extremely beneficial, as this would allow more of a ramp to allow beginning employees to ascend to more highly skilled and higher paid positions.</p>	

11/28/2023 15:13	Matthew	Cross	Edgar Evins State Park	Other: Facilities Supervisor				Maintenance department should reflect the goals of other operational departments at Edgar Evins. A new position would improve the visitors experience and help maintain park facilities at a higher level.	I believe this needs to be added to the plan before commissioner signs off on it.
11/28/2023 21:23	Carl	Campbell	Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park	Park Partner	I shuttled park visitors and their kayaks to their cars last year, it kept the boat ramp from filling up with parked cars.	My shuttle service helped people visit the river by not having to take two cars. Most people returned several times just because they could use my service.	The Patty Bridge river access boat ramp and parking lot could use a face lift. The Hwy. 411 boat ramp parking lot is clean (thanks to the cat lady) and pretty safe to park there.	Rangers I've come in contact with have all been nice.	I'm retired and found doing this little shuttle service was very satisfying. I found the people the best part of the job. I am not going to get rich doing this and I am not threat to the outfitters. It's just me. All that being said, I hope you will let me continue providing this service to your park visitors.
11/28/2023 21:24	carol	nickle	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	In developing the Strategic Management Plan, the Core Values for this State Park must be considered and followed. Users must be able to observe and experience the natural beauty and processes in a setting removed from the hectic world. I oppose the plan for a 20 site full hookup RV campground in the Rocky Fork Field as a needed new asset (pg. 10). An RV campground would merely bring the hectic world to Frozen Head State Park. It will detract from the natural beauty of Frozen Head.	Visitors to Frozen Head should be able to experience the wonderful natural resources, including the base-line stream at Frozen Head. One of the core values points out the intrinsic worth of our natural resources and states that these natural resources are beyond monetary consideration. They must be preserved and protected for future generations. An RV campground is a fashion of the moment and must not be built to the detriment of the natural resources. These resources must be preserved.	The present facilities are adequate and no additional facilities should be allowed to compromise the natural beauty and resources of Frozen Head State Park as is. I oppose installation of a dump station for an RV wastewater. There is no sewer system serving that area; therefore, no additional facilities should be built.	Protection of the natural resources and beauty of Frozen Head State Park will contribute to operational ease and excellence. A 20 site full hookup RV campground will increase maintenance and destroy the natural beauty and resources to the extent that years from now, when some other fad is popular, the natural resources of Frozen Head will have been compromised or destroyed.	I have been visiting Frozen Head State Park for many years. I provided legal assistance in preparation of a Lands Unsuitable Petition to protect the views at Frozen Head from being marred by coal surface mining. I love to hike the trails at Frozen Head and relish the quiet beauty. I strongly oppose including a full hookup RV campground in the strategic management plan. In the short-term, it bring in some money and more people, but in the long-term it will destroy a beauty and experience that Frozen Head offers. An RV campground can be put anywhere on the side of any road. Frozen Head State Park should be preserved.
11/29/2023 4:12	Sheri	Hensley	Big Ridge State Park	Other: Assistant Union County Historian	This new plan will increase power boats (increase accidents and drownings) will further erode the already eroding areas. How can State or TN decrease erosion in less than one year? Put hay on the banks of the lake? Erosion problems must be improved slowly by the planting of native grasses and such. I think the plan will ruin the landowners enjoyment (why they live there in the first place) and mess up poor peoples' land as well. This is a low socioeconomic county and we are tired of being pooped on to make other folks happy!				My family and friends live in Union County and they don't like the Big Ridge Blue Mud proposal, either. I was a DCS investigator in Union and Anderson County as well as a School Counselor in both counties and I am very familiar with this area.
11/29/2023 6:57	Richard	Schmoyer	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	The Big Ridge SMP refers several times to acquisition of land for access to the SW portion of the park, but no elaboration is given about the objective of the access. I suspect that it is to reach as yet to be constructed facilities such as a campground, RV park, boat launch, parking lot or other paradise paving. Given no further explanation about its purpose, I strongly oppose the proposed land acquisition as a waste of money badly needed for maintaining existing park facilities.				
11/29/2023 9:17	Drew	Cook	Reelfoot Lake State Park	Other: Lifelong citizen of Lake County. Currently serving as the General Sessions Judge for Lake County.					I am a lifelong citizen of Lake County and an elected official. I truly believe that our county and our state park would greatly benefit from a lodge/resort. Reelfoot Lake is an incredible place and I believe having a lodge would help increase our tourism and provide great advertising for our county and our lake.
11/29/2023 10:03	Clayton	Hawkins	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen		The visitor experience at the park can be improved. I have two small children, and we would love to have a nicer and safer playground equipment. They would love to come play on the equipment. We do enjoy playing in the creek in the summer. The trails and park are a great place to get outdoors to walk around.		The park needs a disc golf course. Disc Golf isn't a money pit that golf can be. It doesn't cost a bunch of money to maintain a course. Once the course has been put in the ground it needs minimal maintenance compared to golf. The park has a lot of land that could be utilized to build a 9 or 18 hole disc golf course. Disc Golf may not seem popular, but since COVID 19 there has been a massive boom in people that like to play disc golf. The park store could even sale discs to play at their course if they had a course on site. There are several state parks in Tennessee that have a disc golf course. The best example to follow is Henry Horton State Park. They sale discs on site to play at their course, which is also a top notch course to play. That is also a way for the park to make a little revenue off of the course. People want free or cheap things to do because of our recent inflation. Golf is extremely expensive, but disc golf meets the needs of a cheaper and more cost effective alternative.	I think the park is always in great shape and clean when we visit.
11/29/2023 11:36	Annetta	Watson	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	Please see attached comment file.	Please see attached comment file.	Please see attached comment file.	Please see attached comment file.	Please see attached comment file.
11/29/2023 11:43	Donald	Todd Jr	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	One of the most impressive features of Frozen Head is the wild flower displays. Reducing the population (trapping) of feral hogs would be a primary objective to reduce destruction of those resources.		The SK house and related infrastructure should be prioritized. The proposed RV park in the Rocky Fork Field is questionable. It will add light and noise pollution to the area RF field is on the edge of the park adjacent to private rural property and dwellings. It will negatively affect those properties. It will compete with privately owned local RV parks. Facilities which serve a broader spectrum of the population would be a better investment.		
11/29/2023 11:56	Martha	Adler-Jasny	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/29/2023 13:10	Gerald	Thornton	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/29/2023 13:30	John	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		It would be great if the park could offer a "dark sky" experience. While it might take some years to achieve, it's never too late to start. This would require collaboration and education, but would be a great asset.			

11/29/2023 14:10	Robert	Nerger	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen			My name is Robert Nerger. My wife and I live at 725 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg TN. We built our home here 53 years ago and have been blessed to have raised our family here in this beautiful Flat Fork Valley. Our property now adjoins the natural area of Frozen Head State Park at two sides - Flat Fork Creek and the area of the "haul" road that runs up to Armes Gap. While we have always enjoyed Frozen Head State Park, now that my wife and I have reached our "golden years" and are in good health we utilize the park more than ever. We try to walk / take short hikes several times a week - especially in the Spring, Fall, and Winter. We appreciate the work that Manager Jacob Ingram and his park staff do in taking care of this beautiful park. When I learned that the park had plans to build a RV campground in the Rocky Fork Field, I was concerned about what would happen to all the facilities (picnic area, overflow parking, volleyball courts, "learn to ride a bike" roadway, etc.) and activities (the Fall Barkley, community drive thru's, etc.) that the Field currently provides. I can certainly see a need for RV campgrounds in state parks - when the park property can accommodate such a campground without impacting the existing park's activities and functions. I can also see such an RV campground could generate some extra revenue for the state park system. I was pleased to learn that a public meeting had been scheduled (Nov. 16) to present the development plans for Frozen Head State Park. Hopefully some of my concerns for the Rocky Fork Field would be addressed. To my great disappointment, no detailed plans for the RV Campground		
11/29/2023 14:42	Carolyn	Long	Savage Gulf State Park	Affected Land Owner	Savage Gulf State Park should become a designated "dark sky" park. This will insure the continued best environment for birds and wildlife that depend on this important natural area. It will encourage visitors who appreciate a quiet wilderness, and discourage people who want a vigorous night life experience. It will be a unique experience less than two hours away for city-citizens on Nashville and Chattanooga, many of whom might never have seen the milky way overhead. Please consider the many unique advantages of designating this special place in this special way.				Savage Gulf State Park should become a designated "dark sky" park. This will insure the continued best environment for birds and wildlife that depend on this important natural area. It will encourage visitors who appreciate a quiet wilderness, and discourage people who want a vigorous night life experience. It will be a unique experience less than two hours away for city-citizens on Nashville and Chattanooga, many of whom might never have seen the milky way overhead. Please consider the many unique advantages of designating this special place in this special way.
11/29/2023 15:32	Bob	Richards	Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park	Interested Citizen					
11/29/2023 18:45	Bob	Richards	Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park	Interested Citizen	General Comments: The SMP's need to be reformatted using white space to separate Topic areas and Italics for the Goals and Objectives sections. Also, the drop down list above doesn't include Cumberland Trail SP nor Roan Mountain State Park.				
11/29/2023 19:41	Bob	Richards	Cumberland Mountain State Park	Other: Retire TDEC Employee	These comments are for the Cumberland Trail State Park which is not on the drop down list above.				
11/29/2023 20:32	Peg	Williams	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: Own land in area	I'm interested in having a Wilderness Park with Dark Sky designation in the plans for our new area	See above	See above	See above	Happy Holidays!
11/29/2023 20:40	Frances	Figart	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/29/2023 21:34	Jack	Long	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen					As an astronomer, I highly value the dark sky experience. Please keep the light pollution near Savage Gulf to a minimum.
11/29/2023 21:52	Calvin	Wenzel	Frozen Head State Park	Interested Citizen	Please see below.				Please note that these comments were created using the Open Office program. I have exported the document as a .pdf file to hopefully avoid any problems in reading an .odt file. I apologize for any unintended format changes in my comments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the management plan for Frozen Head State Park. Best regards, -Calvin
11/29/2023 21:52	Mary	Wasik	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	Please keep the Savage gulf a dark sky area.	Amenities requiring artificial light can be placed on the periphery of the park so that the visitor can experience the gulf As it is now	I do hope there will be a swimming area, picnic tables bathrooms, but commercial facilities could be located on the highway	I'm very excited about the prospect of a park here to preserve the natural beauty	
11/29/2023 21:54	Elizabeth	Sheats	Savage Gulf State Park	Affected Land Owner	We would be happy to comply with any changes to make this park a "Dark Sky" designated park.	None	None	None	Dark Sky designation for Savage Gulf would be great!
11/29/2023 21:57	Sam	Glasgow	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		My family and I have a home in Beersheba Springs which my grandparents gave to their grandchildren in 1944. We look forward to the new park and we will be active supporters and users of the park. Please make the park a "dark sky park" so RVs cannot use party lights. We want to preserve the natural environment of the state park. Thank You.			
11/29/2023 22:08	Carolyn	Orr	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		My husband and I are property owners near Savage Gulf State Park. We love the park, and in keeping with its wilderness status, would love to see it designated as a "dark sky" park.			

11/29/2023 22:25	Diane	Glasgow	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: Home owner in Beersheba Springs			Dark sky park request		<p>Making Savage Gulf a "dark sky" park would be consistent with its wilderness status and would help to attract the type of visitor that will enjoy and protect the park. Making Savage Gulf a dark sky park would also probably not be a draw to the type of visitors that might be the more rowdy/noisy/party types. We would attract the folks who love the wilderness and somewhat discourage the party campers.</p>
11/30/2023 7:47	Andrea	Sessions	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Basically, I agree with nearly all of the plans to improve, protect, and enhance all of the stewardship and visitor experiences proposed for Big Ridge except for creating a new campground and converting the existing one to tents only. I do not think that the beautiful and fragile coves of Norris Lake can sustain the increase in boat traffic that a big campground or a large and improved boat launch will likely lead to.	My visitor experience is always impacted by facilities that are in disrepair.	I think facilities should be repaired and upgraded before adding additional anything new.		
11/30/2023 8:36	John	Glasgow	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		I think it would make sense to make this park a "Dark Sky" park. I think this is consistent with its wilderness status. Thank you			
11/30/2023 8:51	Gay	Thurston	Big Ridge State Park	Other: I share property lines with Big Ridge State Park. I would love to see improvements to existing structures and park grounds. Not even opposed to adding campsites. But adding a marina is not something that I support. This is a quiet area of the lake and adding all that boat traffic will change it forever. I love our park and am all for improvements, even adding a few boat docks and more parking would be great. But I feel a marina would attract too much boat traffic.					
11/30/2023 10:48	Betsy	Morgan	Montgomery Bell State Park	Affected Land Owner	We own 180 acres across from MBSP on Hwy 47. A few years back, we were struck by approaching development and the thought of a conservation corridor down HWY 70 and HWY 47, bordering the park, struck us hard. We are thrilled to hear of the strategic plan to further protect the area. We have been able to protect our property and hopefully avoid fragmentation of forest, woodland and prairie by placing our property into a conservation easement. We are also working with Southeastern Grasslands Institute to preserve our native prairies, again, all adjacent to the park. What a phenomenal thing it would be for us to all work together to re-establish the land to the forest and fields that were here before us. Wildlife would abound! Flowers, pollinators, birds everywhere. We are dedicated to preserving the beauty of the area, wildlife, and the historical and ecological impact this area has in our county. Further purchase of land to be developed would only enhance the mission of the Park System. I believe that neighboring landowners would be on board with assisting in preserving their properties as a boon for the area and park.	Additional experiences with rangers could coincide with re-establishment of forests and fields. Birds. Pollinators, Flowers. Furthering the preservation of the properties and re-establishment could provide special and seasonal programming, especially since our county has some rare species indigenous to our area.	More things to see and experience (bird watches/ counts in the fields, native plant/flower identification walks, etc) will bring more visitors to utilize the existing facilities.	Let's continue to provide exemplary parks by attracting visitors and workers who are proud to see and be in our parks.	We heartily thank and support the State of TN Parks division and Montgomery Bell State Park for thoughtfully looking to the future. We should build that future based on the solid historical and ecological beginnings of Dickson County.
11/30/2023 10:50	Aaron	Russell	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	I would like to see funding for the cabins, trails, buildings and dam to be maintained. I would like to see the mill restored. And would like sewer added to the existing camping sites. I do not want the new 95 RV campground and 200 parking with boat ramp across the cove from the existing boat ramp. I enjoy camping and hiking at Big Ridge. My wife and I like Big Ridge Park because its quiet and peaceful as well as beautiful.	I would like to see funding for the cabins, trails, buildings and dam to be maintained. I would like to see the mill restored. And would like sewer added to the existing camping sites. I do not want the new 95 RV campground and 200 parking with boat ramp across the cove from the existing boat ramp. I enjoy camping and hiking at Big Ridge. My wife and I like Big Ridge Park because its quiet and peaceful as well as beautiful.	I would like to see funding for the cabins, trails, buildings and dam to be maintained. I would like to see the mill restored. And would like sewer added to the existing camping sites. I do not want the new 95 RV campground and 200 parking with boat ramp across the cove from the existing boat ramp. I enjoy camping and hiking at Big Ridge. My wife and I like Big Ridge Park because its quiet and peaceful as well as beautiful.	I would like to see funding for the cabins, trails, buildings and dam to be maintained. I would like to see the mill restored. And would like sewer added to the existing camping sites. I do not want the new 95 RV campground and 200 parking with boat ramp across the cove from the existing boat ramp. I enjoy camping and hiking at Big Ridge. My wife and I like Big Ridge Park because its quiet and peaceful as well as beautiful.	I would like to see funding for the cabins, trails, buildings and dam to be maintained. I would like to see the mill restored. And would like sewer added to the existing camping sites. I do not want the new 95 RV campground and 200 parking with boat ramp across the cove from the existing boat ramp. I enjoy camping and hiking at Big Ridge. My wife and I like Big Ridge Park because its quiet and peaceful as well as beautiful.

11/30/2023 10:59	Lotta	Murray	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Other: Friend of FRFSP		Thank you for allowing the public to provide input into the Strategic Management Plan of Rocky Fork State Park. I read through the Plan and I have some comments. 1. Nowhere in the plan is the partnership with the Friends of Rocky Fork State Park (FRFSP) mentioned. As a member of the FRFSP, I can't help but feel a little dejected that all the effort we have put into helping, supporting, promoting, supporting financially and giving hard labor to the park was so easily overlooked in the draft plan. No one is more involved or contributes more than the Friends group than any of the potential partners and groups listed. I reviewed some of the other Tennessee State Parks Management Plans and was happy to find that several actually mentioned collaboration with the Friends groups. For ex, "Work with Friends group to encourage user engagement and stewardship" "Grow the Friends group in order to support the Park" "Engage the Friends group for financial support" (Pickwick Landing State Park). "Partner with the Friends group for volunteer support, community outreach, and financial support" (Sycamore Shoals State Park).			
11/30/2023 11:17	Frances	Figart	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen					I sent in my comments via a Word doc from my personal email, ffigart@gmail.com, but I never got an automated confirmation. So I am sending again from my work email.
11/30/2023 12:41	Silvia	Unterkreuter	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		We regularly enjoy visiting the Savage Gulch Park. It's rural setting and breathtaking nature needs to get preserved for generations. I strongly feel that turning it into a "dark sky" park would truly showcase the beauty of the park. Ensuring that lighting is limited, and the park stays as close to nature as possible will be an advantage for generations to come.	Would love to see a bike trail.	The park is managed well. Trails are in great condition, rangers are friendly, views are stunning.	
11/30/2023 12:42	Ellen	Cox	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	I would like to support the designation of the Savage Gulf Park as a "dark sky" park.	Frequent visitor over past 50 years and a land owner in Beersheba Springs.			
11/30/2023 13:48	Don	Barger	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner	See attached.	See attached.	See attached.	See attached.	See attached.
11/30/2023 14:00	Kizzy	Jones	T.O. Fuller State Park	Interested Citizen					With the 1200 acres of land, I would like to see more revenue be brought to this State park. A high school football field/baseball stadium should be built. Part monies from the games can be made. -A community garden -H.S and College/University students can volunteer to work for volunteer hours -Communication and Media relations should be better for this State Park... -
11/30/2023 15:47	Bim	Glasgow	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: Beersheba family owners of Armfield Cottage	I like the dark sky requirements. I always love to see the clear night time sky put there !!	I'm a local / live in Nashville	NC	NC	I'm don't like the RV usage !! If they have to be included, I hope they can be limited in number and tucked away out off sight !!
11/30/2023 16:11	Margaret Ann	Trail	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Other: President Friends of Cedars	Rangers should pay attention to the Dixon Merritt Wildflower and Native Plant Garden, learn enough about how important native plants are to creating a healthy and sustainable ecosystem, recognize the garden as an asset to the Cedars and then share that information with hikers. This garden is funded by and maintained by The Friends of Cedars in partnership with Wilson County Master Gardeners. It is very popular place for visitors.	Add the Dixon Merritt Wildflower and Native Plant Garden as a significant park resource for educating the public. Staff the Nature Center. It is a resource that could be staffed with volunteer help and is an unused resource. It is rarely open. The Tom Jones Broom House at Sadie Ford Farm should be cited as a reason people visit the Park. Visitors buy the brooms they see being produced.	Use grant funds that were obtained for a bird trail to provide signage at the area for a trail at the Sadie Ford Farm. Give priority to preservation of the house and barn at Sadie Ford Farm. It is the last example of a sustainable farm and is rapidly deteriorating without being given priority for shoring up the house foundation. It cannot wait five years. Use funds budgeted by The Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State Park to complete the kiosk at the historic Disc Golf course and provide a map of the course. List all buildings at Sadie Ford Farm (milkling barn, livestock barn, corncrib, Harris Cabin, Tom Jones Broom House as well as the farm house. Describe the condition of each.		Reflect the hours contributed by volunteer labor from the Wilson County Master Gardeners in the maintenance of the wildflower and native plant garden in the total number of volunteer hours. They also propagate plants for the sale that funds the garden maintenance. Add the hours contributed by Tom Jones as he manufactures brooms that are sold and proceeds used for farm maintenance.
11/30/2023 16:43	mike	hill	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen					Concerning the proposed Big Ridge expansion, I feel this would have a negative impact on the overall tranquility of Big Ridge State Park and bring congestion to the Blue Mud Hollow. The park isn't maintained as it should be to add more facilities only exaggerates the burden of maintenance.
11/30/2023 17:43	Edith Adams	Allison	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: lifelong appreciative hiker and visitor	I'm inspired by and appreciative of the leadership stated in the State Parks Model, of being exemplary models for other states. I respect this long-term vision: for the health and sustainability of the land and its wildlife, for economic sense (efficiency of states inspiring each other and sharing ideas/resources), for the health for people mentally and physically.	These statements strike me as important and wise: accessibility for all (people with disabilities deserve access), affordability, safety including signage and education.	These statements strike me as important and wise: accessibility for all (people with disabilities deserve access), affordability, safety including signage and education. Glad to see cleanliness and good maintenance mentioned.	Sensing high standard of developing and maintaining the parks, and this is something that people, wildlife, and the land all deserve.	I am moved and inspired to read comprehensive and caring comments about the state of Tennessee's role with land, wildlife, and people. I am grateful.
11/30/2023 17:45	Caroline	Smith	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	I have already sent in a comment / response. But I would like to add that I am extremely interested in the park being a "Dark Sky Park" The stars are amazing and need to be seen !				

11/30/2023 18:45	Jill	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: I am a 3rd Generation Park visitor	Please advocate for Dark Sky designation for Savage Gulf.				
11/30/2023 20:04	Lisa	Barger	Big Ridge State Park	Affected Land Owner	<p>I live in the community of Norris which shares the same history as Big Ridge State Park. The States Comprehensive Strategic Plan correctly classifies Big Ridge as a State Heritage Park noting that "these parks were originally preserved and protected for the natural and cultural resources they contain but have additionally been managed to preserve the character and historical significance of the original park facilities." The States goal is to be exemplary stewards of our community and its natural and cultural resources. This part of your listed "Cornerstone" and it is first and foremost of greatest importance.</p> <p>In order to be good stewards of natural and cultural resources a proposal that has been brought to my attention for a campground with over 90 RV sites and 200 RV parking spaces does not meet the description of the "States Comprehensive Strategic Plan". So I object to the campground expansion across from the existing campground</p>	<p>I hike frequently in Big Ridge State Park. My experience hiking in the park is always quiet and that is important to me. I enjoy and am happy to for the park to offer any nature-based recreation. My experience hiking in the park with the addition of an expanded boat launch and campground would introduce a noisy unnatural environment.</p> <p>The original campground is nice and quiet and by adding a large number of campers across from the campground would be so intrusive and noisy.</p> <p>Listed below are my recommendations: I do like the idea of updating the boat launch. A separate dock for kayakers to launch from is needed for safety reasons and ease of launching for kayakers separate for the boaters. Adding PWC rentals at a new campground is inconsistent with preserving the character of the park. It is necessary to update the cabins. Adding additional bike trails that are separated from the hiking trails would be great. Ranger led interpretive programs are essential to education for campers and visitors. I think the park does need additional campsites for tent campers that is separate from the RV campers. Perhaps there is additional property in the park such as the group camp that can be changed to accommodate an RV or tent campground addition.</p>	<p>The park office and gift shop does need some updating on the building itself. It would be nice for the original CCC built check in building on the right when you turn into the park to be used as a small museum that tells the history of the park.</p>	<p>Operational excellence starts with providing enough staff to keep the Park operating at its best. Based on the inventory and assessment of the necessary additional staff is critical in order to provide everything from the facilities and amenities and educational experiences and safety for all visitors.</p>	<p>access to the new proposed campground that has been brought to my attention from Union County Office. This management plan does not address the how the existing road Highway 61 and Highway 33 (depending on what direction you are coming from) could handle the additional traffic.</p> <p>Both highways have several winding, sharp hairpin turns. If you are pulling or driving a camper with a potential tow car the length of the Vehicle and tow car can be as much as 60 feet long. Neither of these highways can accommodate that length of a vehicle safely for them or on coming traffic. Not to mention Interstate 75 North and South would probably be the main route to the park and a campground. The Museum of Appalachia is due to open next year and will accommodate over 100 campers. Has Tennessee DOT been informed of the potential 90 plus campground plus 200 plus parking for RVs proposal that Union County Courthouse has on file????</p> <p>TDOT would be able to do the analysis that would show if Interstate 75 on and off ramps will exceed its capacity with the new museum campground and normal traffic flow.</p>
11/30/2023 20:17	Amanda	Shadowens	Savage Gulf State Park	Affected Land Owner	<p>Increase the number of trails to create access to other areas of the park, including more of the historical and natural landmarks that exist in the valley.</p>	<p>Increase the number of staff to align with the size of the park and the maintenance that is needed on a daily basis. Currently more staff are needed to aid in maintaining trails of the type found in Savage Gulf with many rocks, overblown trees, and steep terrain as well as maintenance and repair for historical landmarks such as cabins, the stagecoach road, Savage Cemetery, and other homeplaces within the park.</p>	<p>The new entrance into Savage Gulf State Park is located within a community which has a rich cultural history. It was an area heavily used by the Cherokee for travel, trading, and hunting before settlers arrived. After 1830 it became an area for retreat, rest, and revitalization. There are many historic examples of local vernacular architecture in the area.</p> <p>Rather than recreating what exists at other parks, the design should take the local community, local architecture, and local history into account with new structures, layout of facilities, and integration of the new entrance into the community.</p> <p>Design the RV Park in a way that is keeping with a natural environment by creating landscape buffering between spaces and rows. Employ design elements and landscaping to decrease the impact of all built elements on the natural scenery.</p> <p>Design the RV spots to be multi-use for tent camping as well so that if the RVers do not come, the space will not be wasted.</p>		<p>Because the new portion of the park is close to an existing community, employ Dark Sky methods to ensure that night sky viewing will not be diminished in any way from what it is currently.</p>
11/30/2023 20:24	Marie	Rice	Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park	Interested Citizen	<p>The limited Staff does an excellent job of protecting the resources and are good stewards at Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park.</p>	<p>Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park probably has the least amount of amenities of any State Park. Please expand the attractions and experience so everyone from all walks of life can enjoy Rocky Fork State Park. At this time, it is basically a trailhead with very limited parking. If you are not a hiker there's not much to do at Rocky Fork State Park.</p>	<p>Please build restroom facilities, increase the parking area at the trailhead so others can enjoy the park as well. Please provide enough funding to build a nice sized visitors center to accommodate the visitors at Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park. We should have picnic pavilions and picnic tables for families to enjoy. There is so much that needs to be done to really call this a State Park! Rocky Fork has been neglected and overlooked in Nashville. In the early days of Park Development, the Community was promised so much more and we still don't even have appropriate restroom facilities, adequate parking areas or a Visitors Center.</p>	<p>This park needs a Maintenance person/persons to help manage the overgrowth within the park, keep facilities clean and do whatever is necessary to make Rocky Fork State Park nice and presentable. More staffing. The Park Manager and Rangers do a great job trying to provide programs, hikes, events and dealing with visitors each and every day but they are stretched thin trying to juggle all of this.</p>	<p>I hope the State is able to secure additional funding to build a nice Visitors Center at Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park. Basically, that is all we can hope for at this time in order to have some sort of facilities or amenities at Rocky Fork.</p> <p>The citizens, visitors and the community have been waiting a long time for a Visitors Center so please try to expedite this facility as soon as possible!</p> <p>Thank you all for all you do for the great TN State Parks, let's try to make improvements to Lamar</p>
11/30/2023 20:32	David	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen					
11/30/2023 20:37	David	Adams	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen		<p>Would like a bike trail.</p>	<p>Nice facilities and amenities.</p>	<p>Enjoy the dark sky and would appreciate continuing dark sky.</p>	<p>Enjoy the dark sky and would appreciate continuing dark sky.</p> <p>Hard to find a place to see the stars. Keep this park dark please.</p>

11/30/2023 20:39	Lucy	Banks	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen					I attended the public meeting on Nov 14, and it seems there are 3 points most often voiced by residents near the park and other attendees: 1. Concern for safe ingress and egress at the new park entrance-especially needing a safe turn lane from SR 56. I'm a resident of Beersheba and I can attest that there are traffic accidents and speeders on 56. Safety is paramount. 2. The community would benefit greatly from having the ADA trail constructed and opened first. Currently there are no safe walking areas in the community other than the 1/4 mile trail to Laurel Gulf at Stone Door. Families and elders would benefit greatly from a safe trail. To tie this trail into fitness education would be wonderful. 3. Locals have questions about the RV camping, especially how many sites, whether or not it will impact traffic, and also whether or not it will bring adequate economic benefit to the park were concerns. I'm looking forward to seeing the final plans!	
11/30/2023 20:48	LeTease	King	Savage Gulf State Park	Other: Affected land owners and interested citizens				Very excited about this wonderful extension to our park and our little town. I would like to add that we are very pleased with what has been earmarked for the project. RV, camping, boat ramp. We welcome all.		
11/30/2023 21:02	Sue	Russell	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		We are locals who have been enjoying the park and take for years and have many years of enjoyment but the last few years it has become so crowded with boaters who can't drive it has become dangerous. I feel that by expanding the campground as shown in the plan, it would take away a lot of the peaceful side of kayaking and canoeing that we now enjoyed. This area of Big Ridge lake is the peaceful side.				
11/30/2023 21:05	Cindi	Gray	Montgomery Bell State Park	Interested Citizen		The staff is always friendly when we have questions or stop by the office. Thank you!!		We kayak at the park frequently, but the launch site is not easy for kayaks. It would be great if you had a launch area for one separate from the boat launch site.		
11/30/2023 21:34	Julie	Taylor	Savage Gulf State Park	Affected Land Owner	I am pleased to see that the different areas of the park have been evaluated and there is a plan in place for ongoing maintenance. With more foot traffic, obviously those costs will increase. I would like to see how the plan will address the affects of projected growth.	How do you keep the experience intimate with an increase in foot traffic? Are there ways to create more trails so people are spread out and have more space to experience the quiet of nature.		Stone Door station is perfect. No need for much else. We love the retail opportunities provided but the last thing we need is for it to become overly commercialized.	Trail maintenance should be a priority. Attention to natural habitat preservation is a must.	I like the idea of controlling light and noise pollution.
11/30/2023 22:01	Don	Barger	Frozen Head State Park	Other: Regular user				The proposal to create a new RV campground at this park is inconsistent with the purpose and character of this park. The State's Comprehensive Strategic Plan and the Park Purpose define this as a State Natural Area Park and the designation of Flat Fork as a reference stream should prohibit such development. Alternately, the plan could suggest the improvement of the bridge to the existing campground and the improvement of campsites on the existing footprint to accommodate smaller RV units within the campground.		
11/30/2023 22:05	Mark	Bevelhimer	Big Ridge State Park	Other: Representative of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning						TCWP is an Oak Ridge-based environmental organization and Big Ridge SP is in our backyard. Overall, the strategic plan for BRSP seems to be very thorough and, from what is presented, most of the actions that are described will ensure that BRSP remains a popular park and a valuable asset to the Tennessee State Park System. With regards to the park's finances, TCWP strongly believes that the state legislature needs to be more financially responsive to the needs of all the state parks in terms of facilities, improvements, staffing, and programming. Our biggest concern with the strategic plan is what is not in it. There are hints of improvements (additional boat ramp and camping facilities) that could potentially have major impacts on ecological resources and visitor experiences, but there is not enough information for the public to provide informed comments and opinions. We have heard that there are plans to build a large RV park at BRSP. An RV park with a hundred RVs with their air conditioners running all night would drastically change the current camping experience at BRSP. This is something that TCWP is very concerned about, and we would like more information about this and an
11/30/2023 22:29	Caroline	Snow Coates	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	I would love to see horseback riding trails allowed throughout the park	I would be happy to see some safety railings put up at stone door so it's safer for little kids to visit the overlooks. Also, some sort of rattlesnakes management/rehoming effort would be great to make it more family friendly.		Horseback riding trails would be a fantastic addition & horse trailer parking.	None	

11/30/2023 22:32	Marilyn	Toppins	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen	Big Ridge is a Heritage Park. Focus on preserving the mill, gatehouse, cabins, and other historical structures and maintaining them. This park needs to be first and foremost for the use of Union County and Tennessee citizens. It should not be a method of raising money for the state through building RV apartment complexes or 200 space parking lots, or 40 ft wide boat launches to encourage most high speed motor boats. This park should be for fisherman who launch a small boat to fish in a cove. This park should encourage kayaks and canoes in the Blue Mud area, not noisy trailer parks and fast motor boats with wakes that tip powerless boats. The Blue Mud plan should only have the boat launch going into the lake visible from the main part of the park. A thick perimeter of existing trees should encompass the new design on the point if the whole plan cannot be redone or scrapped altogether.	My adult son wanted to have a picnic at BRSP in September of 2023. He could not find a grill that was clean, had the grill and the grate, or had not been used as a giant ashtray of discarded cigarette butts. Most of the picnic tables were damaged. He ended up grilling on my deck. Fix the facilities now! Use some of the rainy day funds. After all if we cannot put the money into education, then at least invest in our parks so we have a haven to visit away from our low paying jobs.	See above. The mill is a disgrace. The group camp is unusable. Why can't the group camp be repaired? I know church groups who are traveling from Union and Knox County to group camps near Chattanooga. If we can't have a group camp, then turn the camp kitchen/dining into a restaurant and contract a third party to run it. The bath house is awful. Fix it and restore the swimming area to its pristine status as a natural swimming hole. Host regular programs in the community hall and advertise them other than on Facebook. Their needs to be a meeting hall near or at the visitors center to seat about 30 people where programs or educational workshops could occur. Very, very few of the facilities are accessible to elderly or any age with a mobility issue. I cannot think of an accessible trail in the entire park. How do you propose to address this lack of accessibility when partnering with schools for educational and cultural programming? There is a student with a disability in most every classroom and I would not think that the state would want to deny them access to an enriching educational experience of their heritage.	I am not seeing the personnel in the plan to accomplish restoration and maintenance as well as security of the facilities	I do not agree with the ARC Grant for Blue Mud. I do not want to sit at a campsite or walk a trail that gives me a view of an RV Park. Right now Union County is wrestling with how to control long term stays in RV Parks and the state wants to build one. Where is the reasoning in that? Preserve what we have. Upgrade the current campground with a sewer system in part of the area. Improve by repairing what we have and do not charge us outrageous fees to use it. The 4H should not have to pay \$300 to host an area wide informational meeting for two hours with young people who are supervised and well behaved.
11/30/2023 23:21	Karen	Roden	Big Ridge State Park	Other: Frequent visitor	Consideration needs to be given to how the plan related to new amenities will affect natural resource conservation. I.e. Increased boat traffic effects on lake erosion, and increased automobile traffic that accompanies more RV's effects on air quality and noise and light pollution. Also, the increase in human traffic will impact wildlife conservation.	I have been a visitor to the park for 30 years. I have experienced a decline in overall satisfaction due to lack of staff's inability to enforce rules and maintain facilities. However, the natural beauty, tranquility and hiking opportunities make up for those shortcomings which is why I keep coming back to this park. I enjoy interacting with the staff and would welcome more interpretive programs and guided hikes. However, more noise and traffic, and a view of more campers, would negatively impact visitor experience.	Updates and maintenance to current facilities are needed, particularly the cabins which have been deteriorating yearly. However, part of the allure of the cabins is the peacefulness along with the scenery. Increased traffic of 95 RVs, particularly affecting the lakefront cabins will ruin the scenery and relative tranquility and I don't support that part of the facilities plan. At the very least, the scope and scale of the planned expansion needs reconsideration.	The park is obviously short handed and I would agree that they need to hire more staff. The current lack of staffing has contributed to the determination of the park. But, if the park expands camping facilities to the extent of the plan, the additional staff will be overwhelmed again, creating a similar situation.	I don't live in the area, but I have been a visitor to the park, both camping and in the cabins for thirty years. I have witnessed the decline in the park particularly in recent years. Still I enjoy the park because it's a beautiful, peaceful place to unwind. While I welcome updates and improvements, I strongly oppose the proposed campground expansion due to the scale and I oppose the boat ramp and parking lot as it will increase noise and erosion, which is counter productive.
11/30/2023 23:24	Kathy	Robinson	T.O. Fuller State Park	Interested Citizen	Not a believer in what is printed on the paper. The plan says that there will be quarterly "community meetings", special event planning with "community members", etc. It appears to me that management of this park has minimal interest in community input. For instance, the community was made aware of this meeting almost 2 hours before the meeting. Trust the s not built this way. I'm was just at the park in the previous Friday on a guided hike and there was NO mention of this meeting.	N/A	Like these ideas	Why are there not more community members on the Friends for Fuller Group? Is there an effort to have more local input and participation? It appears, no. Signs were all over the community about a useless rap event on October 7th, which was the same date as the Mitchell High School tailgate. There is absolutely no communication with local community members about potential events that may overlap with the park. It gives the impression that a real relationship with the community is not desirable.	No
11/30/2023 23:29	Caroline	Snow Coates	Savage Gulf State Park	Interested Citizen	I would love to see handicapped accessible trails, as well as well thought out horseback riding trails that allow for people to learn about & enjoy the beautiful TN natural resources.	I would appreciate some efforts to rehome the rattlesnakes around stone door to make it more accessible & safe for little kids to visit there. It would also be wonderful to have some access to the lake via canoes, paddle boats or kayaks nearby.	I would appreciate some safer viewing spots with railings at stone door for little kids to be able to visit without worrying about them taking a wrong step and falling off the edge.	Provide clean and safe facilities for families of all ages and physical abilities to be able to enjoy TN parks, especially Savage Gulf area.	Please consider providing equestrian use to this beautiful park as well and designated equestrian horse trailer parking as well.
11/30/2023 23:46	Greg	Woltenbarger	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen			Repairing, preserving, and maybe updating existing structures is a good idea, but I read an article that said 95 RV spots and 200 truck and trailer spots would be added. This is a terrible idea and would ruin the park.		I'm all for consistent/timely and good maintenance. Restore the buildings to their former glory. Make the grist mill work again. I'm not for the extra traffic the 95 RV spots and 200 truck and trailer spots would generate.
11/30/2023 23:54	Amanda	Russell	Big Ridge State Park	Interested Citizen		Love the park as it is. Needs some repairs.	Need sewer in existing camp ground for RVs		I do not want the new boat ramp and camp ground shown in the ARC plan.
12/1/2023 0:48	Evelyn	Hoyt	Savage Gulf State Park	Affected Land Owner				Under the Resource Management Plan Section Objectives B. Address Maintenance and Operational Needs Educate the public about park boundaries, vehicle rules, and what constitutes trespassing with a know-your-rights, know-your-park outreach strategy. Why: not everyone understands what constitutes trespassing or illegal encroachments and the consequences. Like hunting and fishing licenses, students and the public should be educated with programming about park boundaries and safe public access points (beyond tiny legal text on a flyer or notices on a sign.) This is more important as the boundaries change. It is not about walls, fences, or gates or being unwelcoming. It is about safety and protecting Savage Gulf for generations to come. It is about empowering the local community to be a partner to protect the boundaries. And to understand the rules of access.	I look forward to this plan being implemented. An investment long overdue.