



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

## **OFFICE OF PARK PLANNING**



# **LAKE TALQUIN STATE PARK**

**11.12.2019 Public Meeting  
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks**

**Lake Talquin State Park  
Public Meeting  
November 12, 2019**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on proposed improvements and facilities at Lake Talquin State Park.

**Background**

Lake Talquin State Park is a 546-acre property located in Leon County in Tallahassee. The park is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

**Improvements**

The following developments/improvements are proposed for the updated Lake Talquin State Park management plan:

- Construct Observation Deck
- Enhance Boater Access
- Repair Fishing Boardwalk
- Improve Boat Ramp and Construct Fishing Platform
- Add Shop and Residence to Support Area

**Public Input**

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with us. Please provide any comments you have on the back of this page no later than **November 27, 2019**. You may also provide your comments by calling (850) 245-3051, sending an email with the park name in the subject line to [FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov), or by regular mail at the address below.

Office of Park Planning  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 525  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

**PLEASE COMPLETE COMMENT FORM ON REVERSE**

**From:** [Allbritton, Joel](#)  
**To:** [Degagne, Demi](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Talquin State Park Ten Year Management Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 8:26:03 AM

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Lake Talquin comments

Joel Allbritton  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks-Office of Park Planning  
Park Planner  
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Office: 850-245-3063

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Feaver <ed\_feaver@comcast.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:46 PM  
To: Allbritton, Joel <Joel.Allbritton@dep.state.fl.us>  
Cc: carpentersh@leoncountyfl.gov; marylyn Feaver <marylyn\_feaver@comcast.net>  
Subject: Lake Talquin State Park Ten Year Management Plan

Hi Joel: Thank you for the process you conducted for community input and Advisory Council consideration regarding enhancements proposed in the Lake Talquin State Park Ten Year Management Plan for increasing public use of the park. I am writing to reiterate two recommendations that I made during the community meeting:

1. As part of the improvements to the landing dock at the end of Jack Vause Road, please include a kayak/canoe put in slide beside the dock that has a soft service (eg: grass, sand, very fine gravel, carpet). This would enable launching and take out activity that would not damage either kayaks or canoes; would keep kayaks and canoes out of the way for fishing boat launching; and would prevent random ways to launch kayaks/canoes by paddlers who are trying to avoid damage to their boats by launching anywhere they can but which can contribute to destruction of bank vegetation and future erosion.
2. Consider making a few primitive tent camping sites close to the Jack Vause landing similar to the sites at the High Bluff landing on the north side of the lake. This would facilitate paddling long sections of the lake for those who like to do overnight trips. This would require minimal clearing and preferably locating and maintaining of one porta-pody.

The cost for implementing these two recommendations would be minimal.

Thank you for considering these two recommendations as amendments to the Management Plan..

Ed Feaver

## Lake Talquin State Park

### Comments on proposed 10 year management plan

Public Input Meeting, November 12, 2019

To: Joel Allbritton, Park Planner

From: Marylyn M. Feaver, [marylyn\\_feaver@comcast.net](mailto:marylyn_feaver@comcast.net), Quincy, FL

#### Process:

Highly compliment planner and staff of Lake Talquin State Park for running an open meeting which genuinely sought feedback from the public. There was no defensiveness of any part of the plan and willingness to consider whatever the public suggested. There was good rapport with the public. I believe members of the public who were there felt that they were being listened to.

#### Background and commitment to lake and public lands around lake:

From September through May, we paddle Lake Talquin at least once a week. Often being the only paddlers on that lake, in 2013 we decided to chart the shoreline of that lake to determine suitable paddling areas for paddlers of various skill levels and to identify put-ins, take-outs and other amenities. We submitted our report and our recommendations for additional rest-areas, put-ins, primitive camp sites and need for portable restrooms to FWC and Lake Talquin State Forestry. The following year, we led a group of experienced paddlers and circumnavigated the 78 miles of shoreline camping at Luther Hall Campground, High Bluff Campground, Goat Island. We returned to Goat Island, 8 paddlers in all, to clear that island of the Coral Ardisia which we saw had taken over the island with permission of Lake Talquin State Forestry. We worked for 8 hours, burned the roots and fruiting tops of the plants, but we were unable to eradicate that plant from that island.

#### Mission of park:

While our contact with the park is mainly through the lake at Jack Vause Landing and the boardwalk, we have been in the park several times. The parks gives one a completely different forest experience than one usually finds in our area because of the number of deciduous trees.

There is growing interest in forest bathing and other therapeutic forms of being in wild areas, so having a forest which is different than the long-leaf/slash pine uplands offers those who are sensitive to the ambiance of different forests a totally and invigorating new experience.

My husband Ed and I were very much impressed that there seems to be widespread consensus of staff and others involved in the planning that conservation of this unique ecosystem is a paramount mission. We absolutely concur: the land itself is unique and offers its users (whether mindful or not) a unique park experience.

#### Recreational use

With conservation as priority, we believe that any user facilities should be designed for sustainability of the ecosystems. What the plan proposes leaves a minimum footprint, but it also balances conservation, public exposure and appreciation of this kind of forest and more conventional public use. We are aware of the national discussions on whether popularity of certain areas is destroying the natural features of many of our national parks, forinstance, and that parks may have to consider limiting public access in order to conserve the natural resource. This could have been prevented had the parks policy makers not attempt to satisfy all the possible users of these sensitive areas, regardless or whether they were environmentally sound.

One recommendation we heard last night – RV parks – would destroy the natural areas of this relatively small state park. We would oppose such plans and also any saturated overnight use.

However, we would like the consideration a small area of perhaps 3-4 sites for primitive camping (with possible picnic table & fire ring) if there is to be an expansion of the Jack Vause Road landing. Such expansion should include a permanent vault toilet like what Lake Talquin Forestry has at the High Bluff Primitive Campground in Midway, Gadsden County. Having the vault toilet there would allow this as a rest-stop for paddlers and also allow for overnight tent camping for those who may wish to do a multi-day paddle (over boating) of the lake. Unless the fish cleaning area would include potable water, it would not be necessary to include water at the primitive sites since primitive campers know to provide their own water for cooking, drinking and cleaning.

Also, if there is to be an expansion, we would suggest that an alternative put-in/take-out for canoes and kayaks be created along the sandy area (a simple sand/grass landing) since concrete landings over time damage keels of kayaks. DEP's office of paddling trails should be able to recommend ecologically sound ways to create these simple landings.

**Endangered species:**

I had heard from a state biologist that the trout lilies at the park had been destroyed through erosion and I was elated to learn that you still have a stand of trout lilies. We are hoping to find a permanent volunteer to be stewards of this patch and to help keep the invasive coral ardisia from overcoming these lilies. Today I sent out feelers to couple who may be good stewards (to be trained by your biologist) of that trout lily patch. If not them, I have two other sources of volunteers: this is the kind of specific stewardship that really fits in with productive voluntarism (some people prefer specific responsibility because it gives them a sense of accomplishment, which, of course, it does.) I was heartened to hear that you are concerned about this patch.

You might wish to check into the endemic mussels which have been discovered below the dam and at the mouth of the upper Ochlockonee before it empties into Lake Talquin – to see whether FWC biologists have seen them in the waters adjacent to the park lands.

**Lake Talquin:**

While the plan encompasses the landed borders of the park, I do think that the lake itself should also be mentioned. The health of that lake is as important to all the lands which impact its viability as a sound ecosystem. I'm not sure how one would address that in a management plan, but somehow the health of the lake is critical and should not be taken for granted.

**Advisory committee:**

Thank you for allowing me to sit at the table with your advisory committee. It seems to me that you got very good input from the committee. However, I still think that there must be a better way of getting responsible and committed users to be at the table also.

One of the best examples of citizen input is when FWC tried to get community input when bear hunting was being considered by FWC. At the initial regional meetings (where there were those who favored hunting and those who opposed it) those who signed up at the entrance were also asked to check a box if they wished to serve on a committee to follow up on concerns and issues raised at the meeting.

Having checked the box, we were called to attend the first regional meeting in our area: there were about 35 of us. FWC staff skillfully used an excellent method of group decision making to get everyone's input without any one taking over. Over time, as quarterly meetings over a fairly wide region was scheduled, the group of committed, regular members pared down to a working few who did get some major work done. This issue was an incendiary one and the success of the staff to channel that into positive action is a good case of using citizen inputs to productive use.

The best stewards of public lands are those who use it, who feel ownership (real, not just through our taxes) and one of the best ways to develop that feeling of ownership is through involving these users.

We were heartened to see public input last night and also good input at the advisory meeting today. Thanks for allowing us to participate in today's meeting.