

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
OFFICE OF PARK PLANNING**



**T.H. Stone Memorial  
St. Joseph Peninsula  
State Park**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS  
AND COMMENTS**

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** CHRIS BROOKS <brooks.chris@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:36 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** TH Stone

For years we have traveled to St. Joe for its fabulous state park. A true gem. Along with Bahia Honda, one of the state's crown jewels. We hope that access and repairs are given the highest priority. We shop and spend in St. Joe, Apalachicola and elsewhere during our visits. Thanks for all you do to rescue this wonderful park!

Chris Brooks

Noblesville IN

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Fran Donaway <ezrunner@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 13, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** T H Stone State Park

My husband and I discovered this beautiful treasure last March and we enjoyed our stay so much that we booked double time for this March. How devastated we were by the damage to this gem.

Whatever you decide to do, I hope that it involves a re-opening of this wonderful state park and its campground...please.

Fran Donaway  
Supply, NC

*Sent from my LG G6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone*

**From:** [Jacalyn N. Kolk](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Post Hurricane Recovery  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 8:35:48 AM

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Please rebuild the park! We enjoy the camping, kayaking, and pet friendly areas. We are from Panama City Beach and it is nice to be able to make the day trip over to the park.

Thank you,  
Jacalyn N. Kolk

**P.O. Box 37122**  
**Panama City, FL 32412**  
**Phone: (850) 624-9762**

**From:** [soappedaler](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joe State Park Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:30:37 AM

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Dear State Park Planner,

Please keep nature and the ecosystems as the priority in designing a plan for St. Joe State Park. My family makes several visits a year to this area and St. Joe State Park is one of the last places on the Cape that will not be commercialized. We go there to enjoy the natural unspoiled beaches and hiking trails.

One amenity that could be added is when the roads are rebuilt but in a bike lane.

Thanks

Celeste Cobena

412 Hilltop Dr

Santa Rosa Beach,FL 32459

**From:** [Janae Grice](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe Park on Cape San Blas  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:55:36 PM

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Please keep St Joe Park on Cape San Blas OPEN and running. I know the hurricane tried to destroy it but it was always so beautiful and I as well as family and friends have enjoyed it since childhood (about 32 years).

I would LOVE to see the park remain as a public park and trees and shrubbery replanted.

The Panhandle has ENOUGH homes and vacation (2nd rental) homes. We need to keep the parks and trees.

The park attracts tourists from all around and is a good source of income for the county.

Please KEEP IT OPEN!

Have a good day!  
Janae

**From:** [John Leeds](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:59:14 PM

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I was not able to attend the January 15th meeting in person.

I think it would be best to designate the NW portion of the park (that has since been cut off from the mainland) as a semi-wilderness area open to day use and permitted primitive camping. Maybe offer a ferry for a small fee that could shuttle people to the other side for camping and day use.

It is a great park to camp at so it would be nice if an established campground could be constructed on the mainland side as well. Looks like there is room where the existing maintenance buildings (shop rd) are as well as east of Cape San Blas road right past the entrance station.

I have heard that the new inlet is expected to fill in naturally. If that is the case, build the campground in the original location.

Either way, we hope to visit St. Joe and many of the other state parks in the area soon.

Thanks - John  
Tallahassee, FL

January 19 2019

Bryan Stephens  
26 Pinto Lane  
Saint Rose, LA 70087  
bmasteph@cox.net

Florida Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning

RE: Future of Saint Joe Peninsula State Park

Dear Florida State Parks,

First let us say that we are heartbroken at the devastation that your region and parks have suffered. We have followed closely from afar and tried to help as we can. Having endured the trials of Hurricane Katrina, we do appreciate what you are going through. It was not practical for us to attend the public meeting on the future of Saint Joe Peninsula State Park, but please accept the following comments.

Our family has visited Saint Joe Peninsula State Park annually since we discovered it in 2001. Having explored the Florida Coast from points East and West, we came to understand that there is no other place like it. We typically stay for two weeks each summer, tenting in the Shady Pines Campground. Financially, we could rent a beach house or condominium, but there is no other location on the Florida Coast where you can be in walking distance to such a beach, bay, and preserve at any price. We have also made two winter trips, staying in the Cabins. We would do so more often, but as you know, they are difficult to book because they are in such demand.

Every year we use T.H. Stone as a base of operations for paddling forays and outings across the region including the Wakulla, Wacissa, and Saint Marks Rivers, Saint George Island, and Apalachicola. We dine and shop extensively throughout our stay, typically having breakfast and lunch at our campsite or on the water, but dining in town or on the road most evenings. Saint Joseph's Church has become our Parish away from home. We shop extensively in PSJ and Apalachicola for groceries, fuel, ice, and gear as well as out-of-state fishing licenses.

We drive the extra distance from New Orleans, passing Orange Beach, Perdido Key, Pensacola, Fort Walton, Destin, and Panama City to come to Gulf County for what is not there as much as for what is. As kayakers, we find the paddling, snorkeling, scalloping, and natural attractions of your region to be unparalleled on the Gulf Coast.

We do not come to Florida for the fishing (scallop notwithstanding). We live in South Louisiana. Not to brag or diminish Florida's fishing opportunities, but we can find all the freshwater, saltwater, and bluewater fishing anyone could want here at home. What we can't



get here is anything like Saint Joe Peninsula State Park, as it was. We have heard comments to the effect that leaving the new pass open would be advantageous to fishermen, giving them faster access to the Gulf. That may be so, but I think that would serve a narrow interest while killing the proverbial "Goose that laid the golden egg." There are other ports and access points to the Gulf, but there is nothing else like that peninsula, accessible as it is to visitors and the general public.

Our family calendar has orbited around our vacation to Port Saint Joe each summer and our two sons' childhoods are chronicled in our cherished photos from year to year. We made many friends with other families who, like us, returned time and again. We came to know local merchants as well as the Park Staff and Campground Hosts. We even toyed with the idea of making trading cards featuring photos of James and the other rangers!

We realize things do change, particularly when talking about coastal geomorphology, but from our perspective, the best course of action would be to close the cut, which it seems inclined to do on its own. We believe the park in its previous configuration offered a good balance of facilities (not too much), access, and natural protection, and that future efforts should strive to restore it to what it was to the extent feasible. Alternatives such as a bridge or ferry will diminish the physical setting and access so that the park will cease to be the Jewel that it has been.

Thank you for considering our views. We wish the best for your Staff, Park, and Region in the long path to recovery that is before you.

Bryan and Mary Anne Stephens

**From:** [Christine Swol](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T H Stone Park & Campgrounds  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:21:12 PM

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My husband and I have camped at the parks for about 10 years. This is a beautiful place that we had hoped to enjoy for years to come.

Please consider repairing the roads and the campgrounds. This park is too beautiful to limit access to the few that can paddle over or use their boat to gain access. I know this will be a long process but in the long run it will be so worth it.

Thank you for listening.

**From:** [Brett Whitlock](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Rebuild St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 10:09:07 PM

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This park has been my favorite Florida State Park for over 30 years.  
We always tried to get there at least once a year.  
I was heart broken when I saw the photos of the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.  
That being said, the breach at Eagle Harbor is a repeat of historic breaches, as we all know.  
As much as id like to see the park back to its original state, maybe it might be more prudent to let nature stay as is and rebuild the camp ground before the breach. The area North of the breach could offer primitive camping access etc. etc.  
My two cents

Sincerely,  
Brett Whitlock  
7100 Wymart Rd  
Pensacola, Fl 32526

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Gary D. Warner](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St Joseph State Park.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 3:20:09 PM

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This response is concerning comments on the restoration of the park and leaving the cut open for boaters as a shortcut to the Gulf.

From my point of view is I mostly paddle so paddling from the marina out to a primitive campground is possible. I am sure the occupancy rate for campers would be down compared to being able to drive out there.

If the cut is left open, I would **not** like the state park to have to constantly dredge that cut in order to keep that cut open or Jetty the entire cut, which would still need to be dredged. There is so much sand flowing east to west that that cut will fill or get shallow pretty quickly. Nature will fill that cut back up within a year or two as it does in all the cuts along the Gulf Coast, even the entrance to Mobile Bay. Let nature move sand as it will. It will not be a problem for paddlers even when it gets shallow and when it is so shallow for small fishing boats and kayaks, dredge enough sand to completely fill it back in and build a road to reconnect to the first campground and establish water, electricity and sewer at that time.

You could establish a limited primitive campground at the old campgrounds with privy toilets until the road is reestablished. You could establish a new campground on the Bay side before Eagle Harbor or a campground at the old Maintenance Area of the park that is still connected by a road.

Until you have a place for park rangers to live on the grounds, you don't want or need to have a heavy presence of visitors coming into the park because you won't be able to serve their needs.

Gary Warner  
Cell: 251/605-6504  
Landline: 251/473-1819

**From:** [marylyn\\_feaver@comcast.net](mailto:marylyn_feaver@comcast.net)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Cc:** [ed\\_feaver@comcast.net](mailto:ed_feaver@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula Park - feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 3:32:00 PM

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I sent feedback through your site on St. Joe SP restoration, but it was suggested that I send comments directly to you.

We would prefer that the parks system not rebuild the park, but let that hurricane created cut be as it is. Let the access be by boat or canoe/kayak/SUP to that peninsula. There are precedents in the US: boat-in or paddle-in cabins in SE Alaska, similarly at Voyageur's National Park where campsites are only access by boat or paddle. We really enjoyed this option on Voyageur's by kayak and had entertained this possibility when we kayaked SE Alaska last summer.

I suspect the cabins and restrooms have been demolished. Rather than rebuilding, just set up widely spaced primitive campsite on the bay side, to be accessed by boats or paddlers for camping and day use (with permits/reservatins).

The bayside ecology will probably be changed and it may be that the experience of paddling will not be like paddling in an aquarium, but it would turn this peninsula into more like St. Vincent, I would think.

You will probably be inundated with requests for return of the status quo ante, but I just wish to offer a contrary view that sometimes it may be better to acquiesce to the nature.

We who live in North Florida are fully aware of the access to natural resources not available to the rest of Florida. Sometimes we need to think of recreation being second in consideration to conservation and choosing for recreation something more compatible with our fragile coastline.

Also: if you do decide to have only primitive camping there, may I suggest that one requirement be that each camping group at a site have a portable toilet and recyclable and disposable toilet packs which must be packed out as with everything else brought in. The Bureau of Land Management does this on some western sites

and we did not think it unreasonable for us to pack (in our kayaks) a foldable toilet and pack out disposable toilet packs. It would be a good idea where toilet facilities are not available, for Florida to start considering this requirement on primitive sites.

Marylyn Feaver, Quincy

**From:** [ALLISON UNDERWOOD](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 3:54:39 PM

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For 20 plus years my family has stayed in the cabins on Cape San Blas at the state park. I realize heavy damage ensued from hurricane Michael and it will cost plenty to make the area accessible again. This state park is my favorite in FL and is well visited. I vote for restoring access to the campgrounds and cabins so many people can enjoy the beauty of the cape. I hope to be able to stay in the cabins again at some time in the future.

Thank you, Allison Underwood

**From:** [Morton Meyer Butch Horn](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Open St Joseph State PArk  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 3:56:32 PM

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The park is a unique park that must be preserved.

A chance to expose citizens to a land mass like it.

Please reconnect it and the roads to the beach.

*M. Meyer "Butch" Horn*, MBA, SR/WA



**From:** [David Brashears](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe Peninsula Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 4:28:48 PM

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I do not believe that any money should be spent filling in the wash through. Likewise, no dredging should be done to keep it open. I suspect that nature over time will fill it in again and allow possible restoration of road to camping area. In meantime, the island now should be made available for day visits by boat and possibly overnight camping if pack in pack out rules are implemented.

Best regards,  
David Brashears

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Don Hartshorne](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 4:35:14 PM

---

Please restore the park as it was by rebuilding the road to the campground. This is my favorite Florida State Park and it would be a shame if people could no longer access the campground.

Sincerely,

Don Hartshorne

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Don Hartshorne](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 4:35:14 PM

---

Please restore the park as it was by rebuilding the road to the campground. This is my favorite Florida State Park and it would be a shame if people could no longer access the campground.

Sincerely,

Don Hartshorne

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Walker Banning](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joe State Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 5:34:52 PM

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Do not fill in the channel created by the last hurricane. This happened at least once before and the breach was filled in. Now its happened again. Stop fighting Mother Nature. This would not be the first island state park and with rising sea levels, it won't be the last. Thank you.

Walker Banning  
Tallahassee

Sent from my Windows 10 device

**From:** [Lissa Dulany](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe Peninsula park  
**Date:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 8:18:36 PM

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Hi Daniel,  
thanks again for a most informational meeting in Port St Joe a couple weeks ago. I wanted to remind you of the invitation we extended to you to send a representative of FL DEP to make a short presentation at the winter meeting of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County on the morning of Saturday, Feb 9th. This meeting will be attended by about 150 citizens of South Gulf County, and their interest would be to learn any updates regarding how DEP is handling the hurricane recovery and rebuilding efforts here.

The meeting will be held at the St Joe Golf Club on Country Club Road from 10-noon EST.

please confirm who will be able to attend, thanks!

Lissa Dulany  
Director and Secretary, Coastal Community Association  
678.562.8961

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Lissa Dulany, PhD, certified speaker

Founder, & CEO of A Badge for That--we bring more honor & recognition to the world

cell: 678.592.8961

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**From:** [Patricia Barnett](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St.Joe state park Florida  
**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2019 11:29:05 AM

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I am writing about my concerns of what to do with the state park on St.Joe pen. I have camped in the park for over 40 yrs. There is no other campground like St.Joe. I have seen many improvements to the park thru the years of staying in the campgrounds and lucky enough to even stay in the cabins all good. I do not know what way to fix the campgrounds would be the best but I hope somehow it is repaired so that those of us who love the park can continue to camp. I know there are places to rent on the cape but not everyone can go so and even if they can it is not like staying in the park. Coming to the park every year was the high light of my head and I am sick that I can no longer do so. Please save our park!!!!

**From:** [Kathy](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H.Stone State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 5:58:27 PM

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Dear Daniel, My name is Kathy Anderson and I am writing to you to voice my opinion about what I would like to see happen to T.H.Stone memorial Park. I watched the video that was held allowing concerned citizens to voice their wishes. We live in Wisconsin and have visited Florida the last three Winters, escaping our snowy climate. E discovered your gem of a park last April. We found your park after e booked at Indian Pass and were dissapointed with that park. We were lucky enough to get site 18, a walk in site. We took it for the maximum time allowed 14 but could have stayed much longer. Every day we and two other couples from Northern climates would go to the beach. We fished and beachcombed, AND picked up trash. We fell in love! We were so excited in July to book the park again along with Saint Andrews. In November we got the dreaded call from the Florida parks that our reservation at T.H. Stone was cancelled. Last weekend our final reservation was cancelled at Saint Andrew. Our Spring trip is nonexistent now. You see we are not resort park campers, we prefer the wonderful State park experience. We now are scrambling trying in vain to find any park with availability for April for all of us. Impossible. We very much would ask you make that fantastic park a campground again. The whole time we were there we shopped, ate at restaurants, hired a charter boat fishing trip, bought gas, and in general supported your communities. The majority of your speakers never addressed the roll a State Park has to bring visitors to your communities. I felt, especially the fishing guys there concerns were self serving. Please restore this gm and I promise we will return! Thank you for taking the time to read this. God Bless you all as you take on this monumental task. #weloveflorida. Jim nd KathynAnderson

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Elaine & Rich Barrick](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.S. Stone St. Joseph Pen. SP  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 2:24:58 PM

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Daniel,

I listened with interest to your presentation a few weeks back on the possible replacement of the campground/state park on Cape San Blas. I live in Cincinnati, OH, and like many others my family and I have been going to the state park for many years. We have thoroughly enjoyed our trips and look forward every spring to going. Our grandchildren go with us now. And, of course, we never dreamed we wouldn't be able to go again (we had reservations for this April). I really hope the park service/state of Florida will rebuild the park and make it easily accessible to all. I would like to see a bridge built as the means of access. A ferry, boat system would not be good because we have a camper we tow and scheduling and paying for a ferry is not acceptable. I think that means of access is much more limited and ignores a large number of visitors. Even though I don't like it, I understand we probably won't be able to go again for at least a few years, but I sincerely hope that the powers that be will come to an agreeable solution in a timely manner.

Thank you for allowing the public to sent these emails to you directly and allowing our input.  
Elaine Barrick



**From:** [Bennie Williams](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: T.H. STONE PARK  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:12:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2019-01-20 at 2.14.42 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-20 at 2.49.47 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-16 at 10.36.03 AM.png](#)

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\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\*

Daniel,

Another idea to add to your list for review @ THS Park!

Please have your team watch this older video of the benefits of the BLIND PASS BRIDGE @ Sanibel/Captiva.

**IF** a study reveals the new pass as TH Stone park should remain open and **IF** a bridge is built in the pass, it may provide the benefit of providing a 'free natural sand supply', to lower the cost of the Cape beaches ongoing restoration projects!

As it turns out, the pass at Blind Pass accretes sand at a rate and volume, that provides cheap and easy access to sand for the never ending beach erosion there! The natural tide flow brings the sand to you vs having to pay the expensive cost of having it pumped from offshore every 5 to 7 years, as how it is done at the Cape presently! Note: the dredge funding here is paid by the Florida EAP! How great would that be received by Gulf County Officials!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=immcu2X\\_5Wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=immcu2X_5Wg)

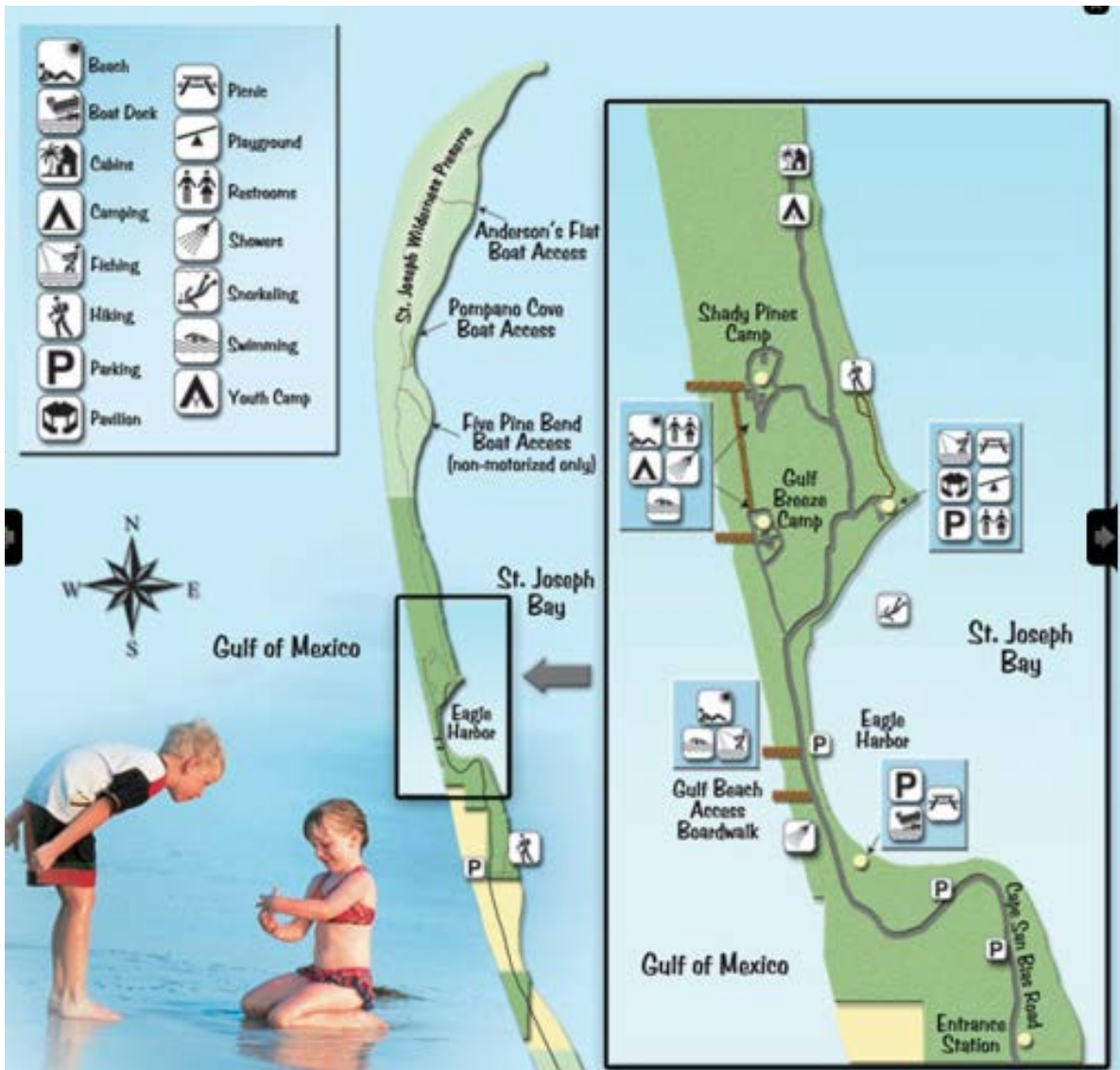
On Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 8:06 AM Bennie Williams <[joel.bennie.williams@gmail.com](mailto:joel.bennie.williams@gmail.com)> wrote:

Daniel,

I emailed you a short response of my initial suggestions, prior to your excellent meeting on the future of the Park! Your meeting was very informative and professional. I expected much more participation, but the reason may be the fact that the majority of the Park users are not locals! After hearing little input supporting bringing the Park back and personally studying all available information a bit more, I have much more input to share!

I am a Georgia resident and 15 year annual repeat visitor to Cape San Blas and the Park. I kayak and wade fish the Bay and utilize the boat launch many times per trip! I have not had the opportunity to stay in the park, due to the inability to secure a cabin reservation, as they sell out as soon as they become open! That alone should serve notice of why T.H. Stone Park should be totally restored back to what is was at a minimum! It was a huge success in its original format! Improvements would be greatly appreciated, but please do not overbuild/over populate the visitor density rate per the available area THS has to offer! Most of all, do not abandon the winning original format! Do not make the mistake Gulf County made on the Cape, and overbuild and create an overcrowded and heavy visitor density to land area Park!

It is my sincere hope and opinion that the park be fully restored to its original format, which to the best of my knowledge previously included: cabins, full service campsites, secluded primitive campsites, hiking trails, restrooms, pavilion, kayak launch, beach area, boat dock/launch, parking, picnic area, showers, Day Use area AND at one time, three boat access points (1 non motorized @ Five Pines and 2 motorized @ Pompano Cove and Anderson's Flat), for "boat in campers" and/or Day Use.



### BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

As with any large scale project, it is best to begin with the END IN MIND! The original THS Park is the perfect template! Yes, as mentioned in the meeting, it could also have some improvements to make it even better! My only caution would be to not over build and create a visitor density to available area density problem.

### IMPROVEMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR DISCUSSION

A few more cabins might be great, but not too many and PLEASE keep them spaced apart from each other (as the originals are). The same would go for the full service and primitive campsites...just not too many and spaced appropriately. A lot can be said for the addition/replacement of hurricane proof 'round' cabins (like the ones at Black's Island) that withstood all Michael could offer and remained one the whole undamaged...all 26! An amazing proof of durability that cannot be denied, not to mention their aesthetics....beautiful! Seriously, your group should take a look via this link:

<https://weather.com/news/news/2018-11-02-florida-blacks-island-bungalows-hurricane-michael> . These are manufactured in North Carolina as pre fab kits. I feel sure their are other competitive mfgs!



The addition of Ocean View location cabins on the Gulf side??? WOW, these would be so popular they would easily rent out as soon as posted for \$500 or more a night! I am torn as to whether or not this is a good idea. They may take away from the theme of the Park, **the pristine ~ness of the beach** and would be a risk to weather events. I leave that up to your team for any consideration. I guarantee it would be a MAJOR attraction! CAUTION: if yes, do not build too many!

The addition of recreational activity facilities...horseshoe pits, shuffle board, basket ball, pickle ball, tennis/etc..all additional items for consideration, but again with the caution...don't over build and create a visitor density over capacity!

#### THE BIG ISSUE, PASS OR NO PASS

An accurate and unbiased marine biological, estuary study of the St Joe Bay simply MUST be accomplished to determine which is best for the health of the Bay! That report and not money or politics and special interest groups, should dictate the final decision. Whether or not the pass is left open or closed, vehicles access via a road or bridge must be restored! No ferry please, except possibly temporarily until a final vehicle access is constructed. Please read and share this article to better understand why the pass may offer improvement to Bay water quality. <https://www.starfl.com/news/20160512/its-time-to-lock-up-gulf-county-canal> It may be the pass would not be needed IF the canal were lock controlled OR it may be true that the St Joe Bay could quickly return to the Caribbean quality estuary it was, if both the pass and a canal lock were present!

In my previous email I made the suggestion for consideration to a low bridge/fishing pier combination, in the case that the study determines the Pass should remain open. The one at Blind Pass Park @ Sanibel / Captive Islands is a excellent example and would be a fantastic improvement to THS Park! Note the combo fishing pier feather on each side...fantastic idea!



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"Blue Skies and High Tides !"

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**From:** [Vince Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 1:07:37 PM

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Please do not develop campgrounds near any current residential areas on the peninsula.

Either fill the cut in, or get a ferry.

Vince Bishop  
7081 Windward St  
Cape San Blas, FL 32456

**From:** [Julia Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 1:05:24 PM

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Good afternoon,

Please do not consider moving the campgrounds South of the breach near Secluded Dunes, Bent Tree, Park Point, etc. As a Realtor, I can say that it will lower the property values of the neighborhoods to be abutting campers and RV's. I am also concerned that the wildlife will have no where to go.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a nice day!

julia

--

**julia cunningham**, Realtor®  
**Coastal Realty Group**  
**1252 Cape San Blas Road**  
**Cape San Blas, FL 32456**  
**850-227-7891 Office**  
**850-624-6147 Cell**  
[www.juliacunningham.com](http://www.juliacunningham.com)





**From:** [Bill Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#); [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:54:45 AM

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Dear Daniel:

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the update and presentation on the park last week. My wife and I are annual pass subscribers and have been nearly daily visitors (on our bikes) for the past year and a half. We live full time in Secluded Dunes which abuts the park and the park is one of the main reasons we chose to live where we do.

I would also like to thank everyone involved for the Herculean efforts made to reopen as quickly as you did. We were pleasantly surprised at the announcement of the reopening and have been on our bikes several times to the "new" park. THANK YOU!!

You had asked that we make public comments by February 1 and my comments are as follows:

1. As far as Eagle cut is concerned, if it stays open we are OK with that. Those making comments at the meeting about the water quality improvement because of the water flow change were quite compelling in their arguments for keeping it open.
2. Should the State leave the cut open, then perhaps a boat accessible opportunity is created, perhaps for a wildlife/nature preserve. Walking/biking trails with tours (educational, school, etc.). Something that generates fees from visitors while preserving the habitat.
3. PLEASE refrain from development of any of the vacant land (Management Zones SJ-04-A, B, C, and D-Page 13 of the 2014 Management Plan) abutting Secluded Dunes, Park Pint, Bent Tree, etc. neighborhoods. The mix of camping/RV and permanent homes is not a good one. I am also afraid that the wildlife habitat which was greatly altered by the hurricane would become further marginalized by additional development.
4. Charge higher entrance fees for visitors, boaters. It is a fabulous area to boat and recreate and people will pay higher fees.

Thank you for your time and all of your efforts to save our parks.

Bill Reynolds  
665 Secluded Dunes Drive



**From:** [Bennie Williams](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. STONE PARK  
**Date:** Monday, January 21, 2019 8:07:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2019-01-20 at 2.14.42 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-20 at 2.49.47 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-16 at 10.36.03 AM.png](#)

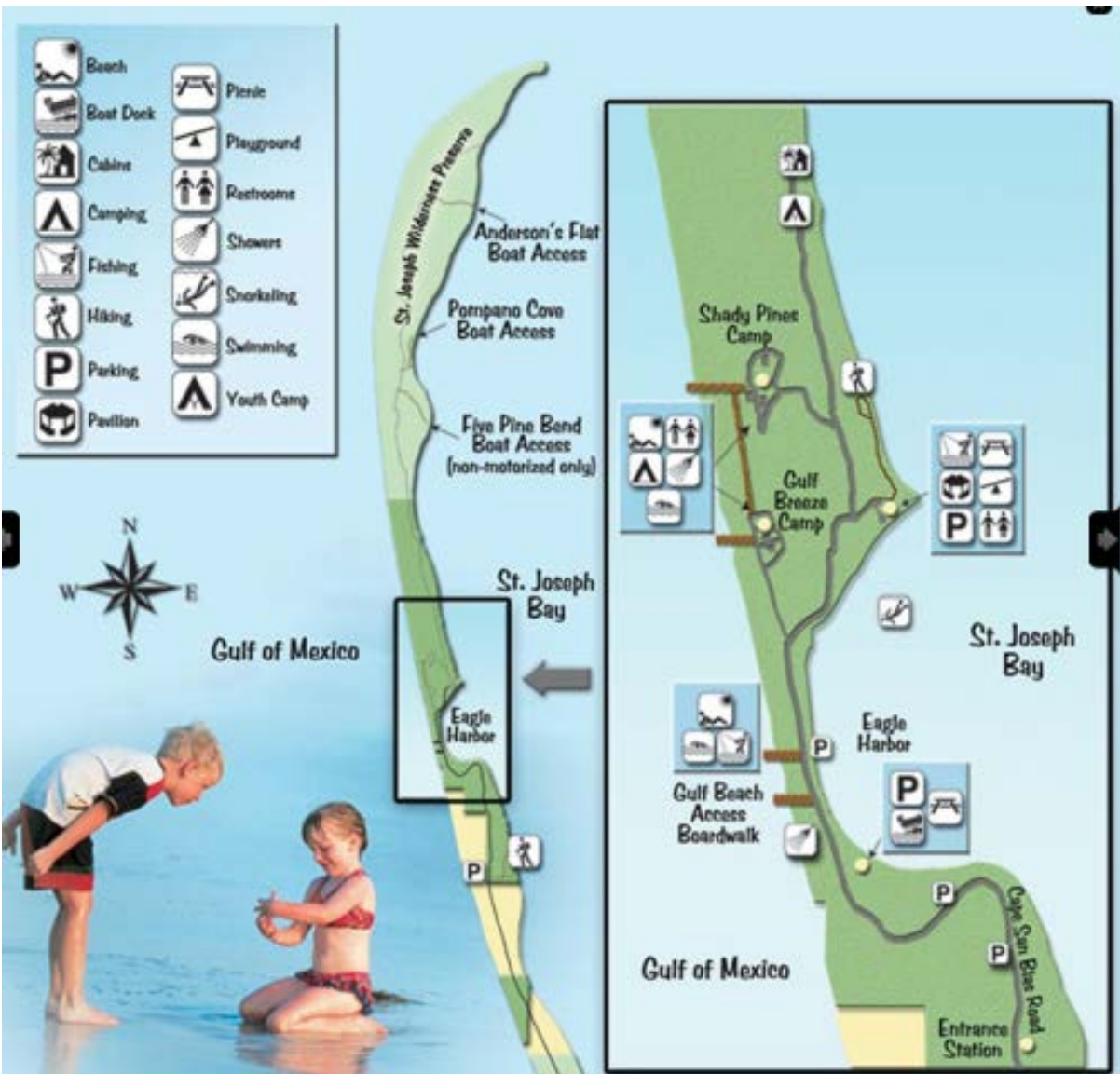
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Daniel,

I emailed you a short response of my initial suggestions, prior to your excellent meeting on the future of the Park! Your meeting was very informative and professional. I expected much more participation, but the reason may be the fact that the majority of the Park users are not locals! After hearing little input supporting bringing the Park back and personally studying all available information a bit more, I have much more input to share!

I am a Georgia resident and 15 year annual repeat visitor to Cape San Blas and the Park. I kayak and wade fish the Bay and utilize the boat launch many times per trip! I have not had the opportunity to stay in the park, due to the inability to secure a cabin reservation, as they sell out as soon as they become open! That alone should serve notice of why T.H. Stone Park should be totally restored back to what it was at a minimum! It was a huge success in its original format! Improvements would be greatly appreciated, but please do not overbuild/over populate the visitor density rate per the available area THS has to offer! Most of all, do not abandon the winning original format! Do not make the mistake Gulf County made on the Cape, and overbuild and create an overcrowded and heavy visitor density to land area Park!

It is my sincere hope and opinion that the park be fully restored to its original format, which to the best of my knowledge previously included: cabins, full service campsites, secluded primitive campsites, hiking trails, restrooms, pavilion, kayak launch, beach area, boat dock/launch, parking, picnic area, showers, Day Use area AND at one time, three boat access points (1 non motorized @ Five Pines and 2 motorized @ Pompano Cove and Anderson's Flat), for "boat in campers" and/or Day Use.



BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

As with any large scale project, it is best to begin with the END IN MIND! The original THS Park is the perfect template! Yes, as mentioned in the meeting, it could also have some improvements to make it even better! My only caution would be to not over build and create a visitor density to available area density problem.

IMPROVEMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR DISCUSSION

A few more cabins might be great, but not too many and PLEASE keep them spaced apart from each other (as the originals are). The same would go for the full service and primitive campsites...just not too many and spaced appropriately. A lot can be said for the addition/replacement of hurricane proof 'round' cabins (like the ones at Black's Island) that withstood all Michael could offer and remained one the whole undamaged....all 26! An amazing proof of durability that cannot be denied, not to mention their aesthetics....beautiful! Seriously, your group should take a look via this link:

<https://weather.com/news/news/2018-11-02-florida-blacks-island-bungalows-hurricane-michael> . These are manufactured in North Carolina as pre fab kits. I

feel sure there are other competitive mfgs!



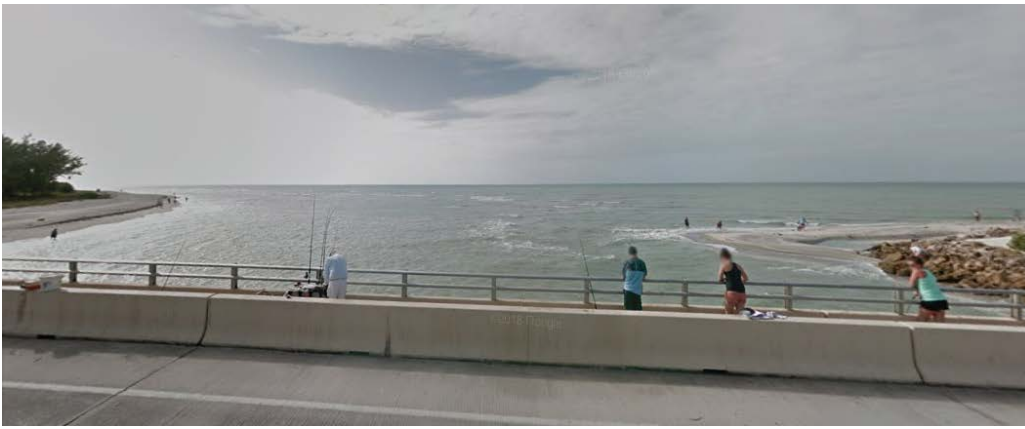
The addition of Ocean View location cabins on the Gulf side??? WOW, these would be so popular they would easily rent out as soon as posted for \$500 or more a night! I am torn as to whether or not this is a good idea. They may take away from the theme of the Park, **the pristine ~ness of the beach** and would be a risk to weather events. I leave that up to your team for any consideration. I guarantee it would be a MAJOR attraction! CAUTION: if yes, do not build too many!

The addition of recreational activity facilities...horseshoe pits, shuffle board, basket ball, pickle ball, tennis/etc...all additional items for consideration, but again with the caution...don't over build and create a visitor density over capacity!

#### THE BIG ISSUE, PASS OR NO PASS

An accurate and unbiased marine biological, estuary study of the St Joe Bay simply MUST be accomplished to determine which is best for the health of the Bay! That report and not money or politics and special interest groups, should dictate the final decision. Whether or not the pass is left open or closed, vehicles access via a road or bridge must be restored! No ferry please, except possibly temporarily until a final vehicle access is constructed. Please read and share this article to better understand why the pass may offer improvement to Bay water quality. <https://www.starfl.com/news/20160512/its-time-to-lock-up-gulf-county-canal> It may be the pass would not be needed IF the canal were lock controlled OR it may be true that the St Joe Bay could quickly return to the Caribbean quality estuary it was, if both the pass and a canal lock were present!

In my previous email I made the suggestion for consideration to a low bridge/fishing pier combination, in the case that the study determines the Pass should remain open. The one at Blind Pass Park @ Sanibel / Captive Islands is an excellent example and would be a fantastic improvement to THS Park! Note the combo fishing pier feather on each side...fantastic idea!



As you may recall, several speakers brought up the fact that the Pass now provides an 18 mile short cut for vessels leaving Port St Joe headed to the West, Gulf side of the Cape. Should the pass be left open and a bridge is constructed, marine vessel traffic and size allowed to use the Pass may need control. I know there are large shrimp boats that make daily runs from PSJ to the west side of the Cape. With kayaks and small fishing boats routinely being present in Eagle Harbor, is it a good or bad idea to allow larger vessels into this mix, especially in large traffic numbers? The bridge clearance height for vessel passage design could provide control over this issue (ie limit the size of vessel that can pass under the bridge to small vessels).

#### TIMING

The task at hand is enormous and will take a lot of time! Of course we all want it fixed ASAP! PHASE one has to be a complete clean up of all the destruction of materials scattered everywhere...buildings, trees, shrubs, sand, road bed and on and on. And all with no path for vehicle access. All heavy equipment would have to be barge floated in to a newly constructed landing of some sort! I don't know if even the SEA BEES could pull this off in less than year! Yes, a temporary ferry may be needed. Once a clean up is completed, the complete infrastructure must be rebuilt and then Park restoration/construction can begin. A long road, but one that must be traveled!

In closing, please bring the THS Park as it was! No boutiques, no quaint Shops, no restaurants, no closed to the public bird sanctuaries!

I sincerely appreciate the chance to offer some suggestions and I do feel your group will listen and respond accordingly!

One last item. Please keep us all informed as to the progress via posting on the THS Park website, in a real time and updated fashion!

THANKS!

*"Blue Skies and High Tides !"*

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**From:** [jo](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Post- hurricane recovery efforts at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 11:34:38 PM

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Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am writing in regards to the DEP's future plans for T. H. Stone Memorial (St. Joseph Peninsula State Park).

As someone who has camped in St. Joseph for nigh on 40 years, this park is very near and dear to my heart. I have camped in St. Joe in everything ranging from a tent on up to the cabins, in fact, until the hurricane happened, I was scheduled to camp in the campground this past December and to stay in one of the cabins this June. Of course, mother nature had other plans.

The destruction to the park and the disruption to the lives of the rangers, and the devastation to the surrounding communities is heartbreaking.

I regret that I could not attend the recent meeting in St. Joe, as I live about five hours away in Citrus County, FL. I did however watch on-line a recording of the meeting later that day I was interested to hear the various speakers viewpoints. The one voice however that I feel was under-represented, was that of the many campers who travel from near and far to enjoy this treasure of a state park. I feel that the under-representation was due mainly to the fact that many people travel great distances to visit the park, as the park is more of a destination park, rather than a stop on the way somewhere, park. It is somewhat remote. You have to want to go there. That is not discounting the locals who do visit.

I understand that camping is not the most immediate concern of the DEP, however, I do hope it is taken into consideration when making future plans for the park. Also, I'm sure that you are aware that campers bring in additional revenue to the park and to the surrounding communities.

As far as the breach is concerned, I would really like to see the rest of the park eventually become accessible once again to those without a boat. Whether that is accomplished by building a bridge, a causeway, filling the breach or by some other method, is of course to be determined after much study. The effect on the environment is of utmost importance, as well, and something that really should precede everything else.

I realize that whatever is done is going to take time and lots of money, something I am sure the State Park system if not awash in.

One thing that I would really like to stress is that I implore the powers that be not to let this treasure of a park to fall prey to developers, as it is so much more than a piece of land to be exploited. Under the current climate, this wish may be so much shouting into the wind. I hope not, as St. Joe is a jewel in the state park system and my personal favorite. It will just take some time to heal and be made whole. One other note: I for one do not want another Rosemary beach, as one gentleman proposed.

In closing, as one who truly loves this park, I hope that it will not be left to wither and that the

campground will play a prominent role in future plans.  
Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,  
Jo McQuillen  
Beverly Hills, FL

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10  
State

**From:** [Shelly Ramsey](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: St Joseph State Park  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 6:16:34 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Shelly Ramsey <[shelly6370@gmail.com](mailto:shelly6370@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** January 20, 2019 at 3:32:25 PM EST  
**To:** [DanielAlsentzer@dp.state.fl.us](mailto:DanielAlsentzer@dp.state.fl.us)  
**Subject:** St Joseph State Park

Please assist in filling in the breach to create access to the Campground. We drive from Indiana to camp at St Joseph Peninsula twice yearly. We were scheduled to camp the day after hurricane Michael. We feel as if we have lost a family member.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Mark Ramsey](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re park suggestions for the future  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 6:16:30 PM

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>>>> Good afternoon

>>>> We are from Indiana and have been coming to your park for the past seven years and normally bring 3 to 4 families to camp at the park. After listening to the people at the meeting it seems to me that having the pass remain open would help the bay immensely. It appears to me that the bay becomes very stagnant with huge amounts of settlement and the salinity of the water being very low due to influx of freshwater and not enough low to move this water out of the bay. We so love the campground and would like it to be repaired so that so many of us northerners can enjoy your park without having to deal with the crowds and party environment in the Panama City area. We have small children and it is so nice not to have to watch them every second that they are outside. We spend a lot of money in town on bait, food, ice cream and gifts, therefore making passage to and from the campground via a bridge ( or something of the nature) would best suit the camping area. Something similar to Sebastian Inlet only on a much smaller scale. We love this area very much and it may be selfish for us to want it to be reopened but that is our opinion. Whatever happens we will be back to the area regardless. We will be watching and following all of the local websites to stay abreast of what is happening. Once again thank you for all that you do for that park it is by far the best state park in Florida

>>>>

>>>> Thanks

>>>> The Ramsey Family

>>>> Mark Shelly Piper Obie

>>>> Ridgeville IN

>>>>

>>>> Have a blessed day

>

**From:** [Caleb Church /Allensonbooks](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joe State Park  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 4:54:45 PM

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Thank you for your presentation in St. Joe last Tuesday.  
Also, on behalf of myself and other semi-reclusive, coastal state park enthusiasts, please don't mistake our reluctance to speak in a public forum for disinterest.

A great argument was made for keeping the new pass open. My only reservation would be the new boat traffic coming through the park. The Marine Patrol would have their hands full managing that and the inevitable straying into the grass flats that have already been in a steady decline for the nearly 25 years we have been going there. I will say that of the comments made at the meeting, the only one I was not receptive to was the suggestion to make the south end of the park into a "boutique development" something like Rosemary Beach. There is already too much of that in my opinion.

What does seem realistic is to make the north end accessible by ferry or private craft for wilderness camping. With bathroom facilities in the campground(s) and possible primitive cabins, much in the style of Cayo Costa State Park south of Boca Grande. They have been managing well with ferry service and primitive cabins for years. An in-park electric shuttle on the north end would facilitate transport of gear from the ferry landing (presumably at the old kayak launch/gator pond) to the campground. As to the cabins that are already there, I think they should be maintained as they were, with utilities provided through generators or conduits from the south. The island shuttle would be instrumental here as well.

For right now, some wilderness camping should be available to those of us who have boats. It would seem a ferry service could also be established fairly quickly.

As to RV camping, there is room on the south end for an RV park, especially considering the north end will be relatively undeveloped. A worthwhile concession.

Spring is not far off and there is no where I would rather be than the state park at Cape San Blas. It is where I go to recover my wits, recharge, and see that the world may not be altogether lost to us.

Thank you for the work you. If you need anything from me, just ask.

Caleb Church  
Westville FL 324564  
850 768-9677  
[bwecycles@gmail.com](mailto:bwecycles@gmail.com) of this email.address

**From:** [Robert Steiger](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Management Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 4:26:12 PM

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Mr. Alsentzer,

As a recently retired Florida State Park Manager with 35 years experience, I am interested in what the State is doing to reopen our parks impacted by Hurricane Michael, especially as it pertains to St. Joe and St. George Island State Parks. I have visited and camped at them both since the early 1980's. Furthermore, I have worked at and managed several barrier island parks and am very familiar with how the natural processes work.

I watched the recorded presentation you did for the public meeting on St. Joe S.P. and would like to offer the following thoughts on the subject.

I heard that the inlet is already starting to fill in and I am not surprised. A causeway that would allow boat traffic and increase the flow of salt water into St. Joe does make a lot of sense. I would not like to see a ferry service be the only way to access the park, as many people may not come back with that as the only mean of access.

It took a catastrophic storm to open up that inlet. Another one might do the same thing. According to some statistics I have read, those types of storms only happen approximately every 30 years or longer in the same location. Sea level rise, in conjunction with additional major storms, could increase that happening. A causeway would still give access even if it filled in and another breach occurred. I am not in favor of jetties or hard structures due to the erosion that results.

As far as the rest of the island is concerned, I believe the staff's input on how to improve the footprint of the facilities is critical. Florida's population is ever increasing and the next building boom will probably take place in that area of the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input. Good luck on rebuilding the park.

Best regards,

Robert M. Steiger

**From:** [Cassie Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Cape San Blas  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 5:23:34 PM

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I have camped at Cape San Blas for 3 decades and also enjoy kayaking there.  
I heard public comments were being accepted about the repair of the road.

While I love camping and visiting the beaches there; whatever is best for the quality of the natural environment as recommended by biologist is what I support.  
The quality of water to sustain the wild life I hope will be considered paramount to our human economic benefits.

So if it counts, I vote for the least invasive and even for actions that help bring back the pristine quality of the environment.

Thanks,  
Cassie

**From:** [christy wood](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joseph Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 5:03:43 PM

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After watching the video of the meeting I feel those who enjoy the park the most, visitors, were not represented.

I strongly urge you to restore it with at least have campsites if not cabins. Whether it's a bridge, ferry, or filled back in, I think it would be a waste not to do something. The state park is such a precious gem

Christy wood

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Jan 15 public mtg re: THSMSJP State Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:44:07 AM

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Mark Knapke, Park Manager III  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
8899 Cape San Blas Road  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Office (850) 227-1327  
Cell (850) 541 2795

**From:** J.S. Staiger [mailto:jsstaig@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:12 AM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Jan 15 public mtg re: THSMSJP State Park

Dear Mr. Knapke,

I was unable to attend the Jan. 15 public meeting regarding recovery efforts for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Is a transcript, video, or other record of the meeting available? I would like to submit a written comment, but wish to know what issues and ideas were discussed at the meeting so I may base my comments on full information.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer S. Staiger

Gainesville, Florida

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Jennifer S. Staiger

**From:** [Delia Hickman-Crager](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** SJPSP  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:18:58 PM

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Good evening Daniel,

I am watching the public meeting on video from last night regarding SJPSP and you mentioned that you could provide the notes and slides utilized in the meeting on the Office of Park Planning Website.

I looked but failed to find those documents. It's possible that I am not looking in the proper place.

Do you mind either sending those documents to me or sharing the exact location within the website?

Thank you in advance.

Delia Hickman-Crager  
936.414.0625

**From:** [Myron Spainhour](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:03:39 PM

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Dear Sir,

My family has camped at St Joseph State Park for over 15 years, sometimes multiple times per year. To us, there is no better place on Earth to go for a vacation. We can be there, with everyone doing what they wish, without a great deal of worry. It is truly our home away from home. There are few places anywhere that offer the natural amenities of St Joseph State Park. While we vacation there, we contribute to the economies of Cape San Blas, Port St Joe, Mexico Beach, Apalachicola, etc.

The St Joseph State Park Campground is a place where adventures begin, relationships are developed, friendships are forged. It would be a shame, and truly irresponsible, to not pass this on to our future generations. In a time where wholesome activities are diminishing, this refuge for animals is also a refuge for folks yearning for some simplicity and a personal connection with nature. Camping at St Joseph State Park provides this.

I have heard a lot of residents in the area say that "it should be left as it is, because God did this." However, I can't imagine any homeowner, whose house and property was damaged, or destroyed, by Michael, declaring that "since it was an act of God, I am going to leave it as is." This is our home away from home, so we would strongly support campground restoration, including improvements on the original campground setup.

I understand that the breach may be helping the bay's eco-quality. If that is indeed the case, then by all means leave the breach open permanently, but build a bridge to cross it, as a ferry system would not be feasible nor practical.

I know that I am but one voice, however, I would wager that most of the camping community would agree with my sentiments.

Sincerely,

Myron C Spainhour



**From:** [Roger Bradley](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 3:52:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Daniel,

I attended the forum on the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park and would like to add my personal input to your review of possible repairs and upgrades. I have spoken with a number of locals and visitors alike, and the overwhelming majority seem to be in favor of an open pass, a jetty system and a ferry for island access. The clarity, salinity and flushing of the bay seems to be a big issue with many. Others think gulf access and the new ecosystem the jetties would provide is a positive issue. The potential increased day traffic for fishermen and sightseers has been mentioned as well. I certainly do not pretend to know the environmental issues involved, but it appears that the local population has a definite opinion if that truly carries any weight in going forward with the future of the park.

Many thanks for all that you guys do to keep our parks in such great shape and open to public enjoyment!!



**Roger Bradley, Broker/Owner**  
**Beach Realty of Cape San Blas**  
**850.227.4383 (Mobile)**  
**850.227.9000 (Cape San Blas office)**  
**850.229.9000 (Port St Joe office)**  
**850.229.7000 (Barrier Dunes office)**



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**From:** [Westbrooks, Brenda \(GE Appliances, Haier\)](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:04:04 AM

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Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am a Georgia resident who over the last 3 years has fallen in love with Cape San Blas. I am a avid camper and kayaker and was delighted to find the Cape and St. Joseph Park. Over the last 3 years, I have met some of the most wonderful people while staying at the campground. My family and I enjoy all the beauty that the park has to offer, and have several friends that have started joining us and camping there too. I would love to encourage you and the other elected officials to find a way to re-open the campground. We have been heartbroken knowing that we will have to find another place that allows us to camp on the beach, have our 2 dogs with us, and even have public beaches that are dog friendly. I know that I am not the only camper or person that has been to this little piece of heaven and would love to see it restored. Maybe some kind of foundation can be established to help with the funding.

Thank you for your time

Thank You,

*Brenda Westbrooks*  
*115 Middle Valley Rd*  
*Trion GA 30728*  
*1-706-978-9162*  
[\*bwestbrooks2006@yahoo.com\*](mailto:bwestbrooks2006@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Pamela White](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph State Park public comments  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 7:49:30 AM

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Please accept this as my public comments following up from the hearing Tuesday evening in Port St. Joe. I was unable to attend but my sisters were there and provided me with some of the information provided.

I strongly support the campgrounds in the park being reopened for use. We have camped at this park every year for the past 40 years. We had reservations for camping in June 2019, which have already been cancelled. Our experience has been that people travel from all over the southeast and midwest to camp at this park. We spoke with our fellow campers and they described how it was worth the long trip to be able to spend time at such a beautiful, peaceful place. We have camped all over the southeast and can easily say that St. Joseph State Park was our favorite. The beauty, the wildlife, the peace, and unique ability to access the bay and the gulf all at one location was hard to beat. The Shady Pines campground offered good size campsites with most having some level of privacy with the trees and undergrowth between the sites. Access to the beach was just a short walk away and I couldn't tell you how many miles we pedaled our bikes in the park. Our two children, who are now 22 and 25 years old, grew up camping at this park and it is still one of their most favorite places to visit.

I understand the health of St. Joseph Bay was being compromised because of fresh water flow from a canal and that the breach from Hurricane Michael has actually helped the bay. I realize the health of bay is extremely important for the community and as a tourism draw but I would hate to see access to the campgrounds cut off in exchange for the continued salt water flow. I hope the state is considering some form over access to the newly created island so we can have a campground as well as the continued improvement in the health of the bay. I am sure having the campground provided the local economy sizeable economic impact with the number of visitors and the length of time many chose to stay. It would be well worth the state's investment to repair the Hurricane Michael damage to the park so the community can get back to its pre-Michael vitality and tourism draw.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration when moving forward with these important decisions.

**Pamela White**  
2906 Joyce Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 933-6329

**From:** [Shana Woods](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Campground  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:45:29 PM

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Dear Daniel,

I am writing regarding the campground at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. From my perspective, it was very apparent that the ones that utilize and love the campground were not represented at the recent meeting.

My family and I found this piece of paradise in 2012 and have stayed at the campground at least 35 times. We live north of Dothan, AL and look forward to visiting every year. Like most campers, we typically have to book our camp sites 11 months in advance to

get a spot. We have been numerous times when the "campground is full" sign has been posted. Obviously, this is a sign of constant tax dollars being generated by this campground. This is not seasonal. We not only visit during the summer but during the winter also. This campground stays full.

We love the Cape, the park and the workers. We love Miss Woods (no relation) who always greeted us when we checked in at the gate. We were heartbroken to learn that the campground had been lost and our vacation spot was no more.

I don't want to waste your time with a long letter about how much my family and I love the campground. But, we just wanted to let you know that just because the ones for the rebuilding of the campground were not represented at the public meeting doesn't mean we don't exist. Most of us live too far to attend but definitely would like to voice our support to rebuild the campground.

Thank you!

Shana Woods  
Abbeville, AL  
334-740-0491

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kim Sawley](#)  
**To:** [Dillard, Jonathan M](#); [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank You From St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:24:11 PM

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Good Evening Gentlemen,

I am writing again in regards to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. I just finished watching the public meeting held in Port St. Joe last night and came away a little discouraged. There seemed to be many locals voicing their opinions on what they wanted to be done, however, their opinions did not seem to support repairing the campgrounds and cabin area. It sounded like they all wanted the park to stay split. I listened to the stats and figures on the tourism that is brought to this beautiful park and it was astronomical! It would seem that the area would need the revenue that is brought in from all the many thousands of people who visit this park. As an RV camper that has been going to this beautiful park for 16 years, I am pleading with you guys to please repair the "pass" and rebuild the campgrounds and repair the cabins. This place is so dear to my family and our friends and so many good memories have been created here.

I know options are being weighed and the opinion of the public is being considered, but the tourists were not represented very well at the meeting. I know this will probably take years to rebuild anywhere close to what it was before, but we are willing to wait! I feel like this place is our home away from home.

Thanks for listening,

Kim Sawley

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 1:49:06 PM EST, Dillard, Jonathan M <[Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to thank you personally for your kind message of support, and your story of what this park means to you and your family. We are honored to hold this reputation with you, and to be considered such a beloved park for so many people. This is what the core of our mission is all about. The hurricane has hit the park hard, but we are already hard at work with the initial stages of the rebuilding process, and multiple options are being explored for the future of the park as a whole. It will take some time, but we will eventually rebuild and re-open for everyone to enjoy this special place.

Thank you again for your input, years of support to the park, and kind words.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Dillard  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
Assistant Park Manager  
[Jonathan.M.Dillard@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: 850-227-1327  
Cell: 850-541-2796



**From:** [deedee 08](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 6:57:19 PM

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Please do everything to reopen this amazing park. We have enjoyed many wonderful years (20+) there and accumulated lots of wonderful friends over the years. May God Bless all of you. It has got to have devastating for all of you.

The Endsley's from Tennessee  
dendsley1954@gmail.com

Sent from myMail for iOS

**From:** [Delia Hickman-Crager](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** SJPSP  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 5:32:35 PM

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Good evening Daniel,

I am watching the public meeting on video from last night regarding SJPSP and you mentioned that you could provide the notes and slides utilized in the meeting on the Office of Park Planning Website.

I looked but failed to find those documents. It's possible that I am not looking in the proper place.

Do you mind either sending those documents to me or sharing the exact location within the website?

Thank you in advance.

Delia Hickman-Crager  
936.414.0625

**From:** [David Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Port St. Joe comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 4:48:58 PM

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Hi Daniel - I was not able to attend the town meeting. I heard it was mostly focused on Port St. Joe Peninsula State Park. I wanted to put in a pitch to take a look at Indian pass lagoon. As you know, Money Bayou (now being diverted and developed after the county opted to take \$450K from a developer rather than \$750K in grant dollars to leave it wild) and Indian Pass Lagoon are the only two outlets for all the water in Port St. Joe Buffer preserve, which covers all the way from Indian Pass to town. Development going on in town affects the amount of silt that flows out into the Lagoon, which is home to oysters, flounder, trout, redfish, crab, and many species of birds including the giant white pelicans and it is an important recreational and charter fishing area. My specific concern is that people are developing like crazy on the lagoon, including a very recent campground right across the street from the Raw Bar on both sides of Indian Pass road - the Rish Brothers own pretty much everything in Port St. Joe and signed their own environmental approvals for septic and landfill on what is clearly marshland. Hurricane Michael shows what happens when that sensitive area floods - all of the septic tanks etc. Anyhow, it would be greatly appreciated if DEP could take a peek at what is going on there and maybe reassure us that these activities are not choking out the lagoon. Turning off of 30A onto Indian Pass road, you will immediately see the amazing ecological treasure that is there.

thanks.

Sincerely,

Dave

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. David M. Gilbert

J. Herbert Taylor Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology

Department of Biological Science

319 Stadium Drive

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4295

Phone: 850-645-7583

Fax: 850-645-8447

Email: [gilbert@bio.fsu.edu](mailto:gilbert@bio.fsu.edu)

Lab page: [https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/gX6\\_J8ja8-naNI-2NPi1\\_Us0td5OremZ2yuklGgLc=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D\\_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1\\_1J5fj\\_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J\\_\\_QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V\\_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s\\_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9\\_fw\\_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1\\_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB\\_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgilbertlab.bio.fsu.edu%2FReplicationDomain+Database%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fclicktime.symantec.com%2Fa%2F1%2FaldTSbLKrjFaM-ipNfLDU2nhkCvOho7J8GwSJOL\\_E1Q=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D\\_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1\\_1J5fj\\_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J\\_\\_QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V\\_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s\\_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9\\_fw\\_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1\\_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB\\_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.replicationdomain.org](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/gX6_J8ja8-naNI-2NPi1_Us0td5OremZ2yuklGgLc=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1_1J5fj_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J__QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9_fw_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgilbertlab.bio.fsu.edu%2FReplicationDomain+Database%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fclicktime.symantec.com%2Fa%2F1%2FaldTSbLKrjFaM-ipNfLDU2nhkCvOho7J8GwSJOL_E1Q=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1_1J5fj_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J__QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9_fw_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.replicationdomain.org)

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**From:** [Kim Lane](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph State Park - public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:59:40 PM

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Daniel,

Thank you so much for providing online options for visitors to the park. We have stayed in the cabins at St. Joseph two times and had upcoming reservations when the storm hit.

We live in Georgia so we can't support with our tax dollars but would love to see a bridge to the cabins created and the cabins restored.

When we visit the area, we spend quite a bit of money at IGA and with the local bait and tackle shops, and kayak rental shop. Thank you, Kim

**From:** [David & Donna Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Myron Spainhour](#); [Donna Nichols](#)  
**Subject:** Eagle Pass  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:49:58 PM

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Good afternoon Mr. Alsentzer,

I would like to express my thoughts to you concerning Eagle Pass. My original thought concerning what should be done with Eagle Pass was to fill it in. However, after watching the recording of last night's meeting it seems as though the Pass is actually a good thing for the bay. My family and I along with a group of friends have been camping at St. Joseph Peninsula State park at least twice per year for the last 15 years and would love to continue to do so. That being said my opinion now would be to do whatever is best for the health of the bay while restoring or creating new camping areas. What the camping areas offer are an affordable vacation area. Even if I could afford to camp anywhere in the world I wouldn't want to. Myself and family have loved every spring break and summer spent there together and couldn't imagine spending our vacation time anywhere else.

Kind Regards,  
David Nichols  
850-694-6341

**From:** [Henry Nutt](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:38:45 AM

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Thanks Daniel. I have viewed the video of the meeting last night and it was apparent there was one element largely missing- input from campers. I realize that is inherently the case with a local meeting. Would there be some way to send out a questionnaire to campers over the last year? As for me, I would like to see some sort of vehicular access to the park & the park restored. Thanks for all your efforts.  
Henry Nutt

On Mon, Jan 14, 2019, 3:19 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

Thank you for your continued interest in the recovery efforts for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The Florida Park Service is looking forward to hosting this community forum to gather public input on the future of the park. This email is simply a reminder that the meeting is taking place tomorrow, beginning at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time).

Many members of the public have asked whether the meeting will be recorded and made available online. Several news media reporters will be attending the meeting and some may record a video of the event. A live broadcast, however, could not be arranged. For those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, recordings will most likely be made available online within 24 hours of the meeting.

The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College and receiving your comments and recommendations on next steps.

Regards,

Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)

Office: (850) 245-3073

Cell: (850) 339-5414



**From:** [BETSY DOWNS](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:49:48 AM

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Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am a Georgia resident who over the last 4 years has fallen in love with Cape San Blas. My husband and I are avid campers and kayakers and were delighted to find the Cape and St. Joseph Park. Over the last 4 years while always staying the same week in September we have met some of the most wonderful people while staying at the campground. We enjoy all the beauty that the park has to offer, and have several friends that have started joining us and camping there too. I would love to encourage you and the other elected officials to find a way to re-open the campground. We have been heartbroken knowing that we will have to find another place that allows us to camp on the beach, have our 2 dogs with us, and even public beaches that are dog friendly. I know that I am not the only camper or person that has been to this little piece of heaven and would love to see it restored.

Thank you for your tims

Betsy Downs  
1106 Abrams Road  
Silver Creek, GA 30173  
706-767-3695

[betsy.downs@ymail.com](mailto:betsy.downs@ymail.com)

**From:** [Bennie Williams](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. STONE PARK SUGGESTIONS  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:45:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2018-12-31 at 8.48.21 AM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-16 at 10.36.03 AM.png](#)

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Daniel,

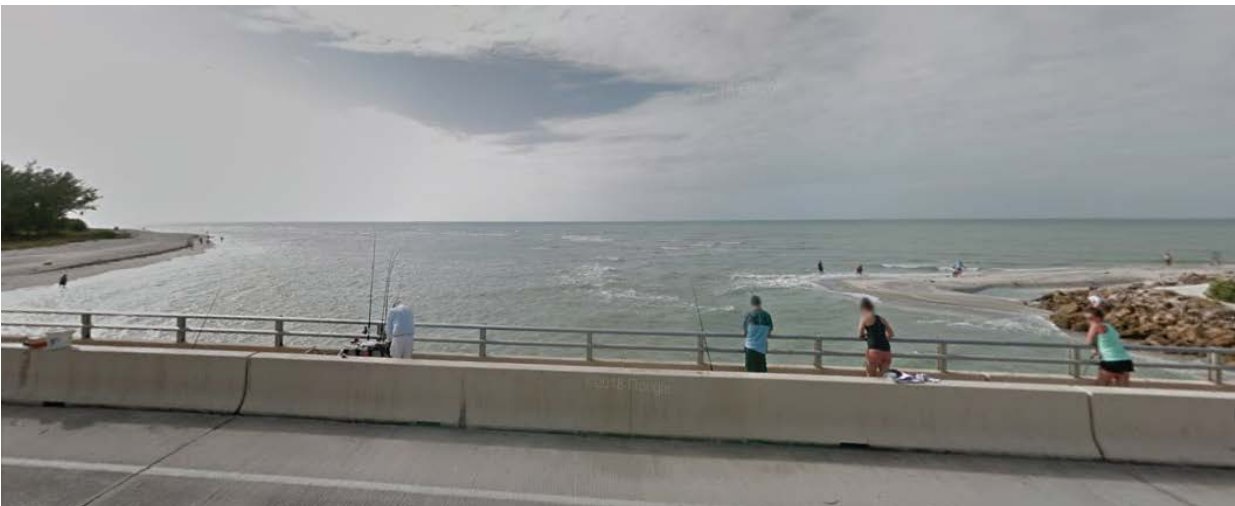
The single most important decision should be to keep the entire property as a functional State Park! I hope that has already been made!

That established, I can only assume the State of Florida wants to restore it back to what it was ...an Improved T.H.Stone State Park with the boating facility, cabin rental and campsites.

The decision as to leaving the pass open VS filling it in should be dictated by the effect of each on the biological eco structure of the pristine St Joe Bay and NOT MONEY! In other words, IF leaving it open will negatively affect the eco structure of the bay and its fishery, then it should be re closed. On the other hand, if leaving it open to Mother Nature has no negative effect or possibly a positive effect, then by all means, leave it OPEN!

Leaving the pass OPEN would require a means of vehicle transportation to the newly created SAN BLAS ISLAND and the remainder of the Park! Solutions would include 1) a ferry and/or 2) a bridge. (A ferry until a bridge is built???)

Please take a close look at the short bridge at Blind Pass, Sanibel/Captiva Islands,  
BLIND PASS BRIDGE



This bridge was built due the exact same reason one is needed here...a

hurricane! Sanibel Island was cut in half and Captiva Island was formed. The bridge at Blind Pass was erected to solve the issue of vehicle access northward. A bridge would be costly, but I suggest it would require less full time maintenance than a road with rock/steel ocean buffer, like the one at the Stump Hole, which is under constant repair...\$\$\$\$....!

**The PLUS of the Blind Pass Bridge is the pedestrian walkway on each side that doubles as a fishing pier! It has become a major tourist and fishing attraction!**

**If there are no biological/eco structure issues, I would hope Eagle Pass could remain open and a bridge like the one at Blind Pass be erected to allow the T.H. Stone Park to re open and provide access to the newly created SAN BLAS ISLAND!**

I thank you for this opportunity to express a possible solution for the T.H. Stone Park!  
I will be there in May, as I have for the past 15 years, to fish in the pristine St Joe Bay!

"Blue Skies and High Tides !"

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**From:** [Degenerate Press](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Park - camping  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:12:23 AM

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I have been organizing a group camp at TH Stone for upwards of 30 people for 8 years now. We were some of the last people in the campground last year before the park was evacuated ahead of Michael. Most of us visit the park multiple times per year and camp for as long as a week. We really want the campgrounds reestablished and a lot of us will volunteer in any way we can to help that happen. Some of us have signed up via the park system's volunteer site but I haven't heard a thing. The only news I'm seeing is on facebook via local businesses. I'd like to attend these meetings but getting to PSJ on a Tuesday isn't easy for me. If it were possible to broadcast these meetings online that would be great! (I don't know if that's your project or not.)

Good luck with the efforts!

Frederick Noble  
404-354-2746



**From:** [Pablo Sotomayor](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park recovery efforts meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 11:43:58 PM

---

Dear Daniel,

I am not a US resident, but I have visited and stayed at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park several times and I can assure you it is my favorite place in the world. I had a reservation to spend 4 days there in early January, and I was going to fly from Peru almost exclusively to do that.

I was devastated to know about what hurricane Michael did to the park. Judging by what I saw in the pictures, I thought it would be impossible to have the park restored as it was before - mainly because the park had been turned into an island.

I follow the Facebook group "Friends of St Joseph State Parks" and I understand there has been a meeting today about the recovery efforts. I read that it has been informed that "the breach just north of Eagle Harbor is filling in naturally". Could you please confirm that? Does that mean that it will be possible to eventually restore the road that connected the park with the mainland?

If possible, could I have a copy of the meeting minutes?

Thank you so much,

Pablo Sotomayor, D.M.A.

**From:** [Ryan Wilkins](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial State Park Recovery Efforts  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:52:44 PM

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Hi Daniel,

My family and I have spent our spring vacation every year at TH Stone Memorial Park since I was 12 years old, I proposed to my wife their and will be back at Cape San Blas this spring with my 1 year old for his very first trip!

I am very interested in the recovery efforts happening at the park. I know you are likely very busy but if you could provide me with just a copy/paste update that would be great.

Also, I am interested in volunteering some of my time to help the park in this recovery if possible. I am not sure if there is a place to sign up for something like that, but if there is please let me know.

Thank you in advance,

Ryan Wilkins

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph - Restore park & campground  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 10:05:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Restore TH Stone Park #00090531 SF Reference ref 00DG0i115. 5004A1YSYQpref.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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FYI comment about the breach.

Mark Knapke, Park Manager III  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
8899 Cape San Blas Road  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Office (850) 227-1327  
Cell (850) 541 2795

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**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Dillard, Jonathan M <Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us>; Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; Faure, Benjamin <Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joseph - Restore park & campground

Please see the attached visitor customer survey suggestion and handle as appropriate. The visitor did not request a reply response.



**Julie R. Kurisko**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Interpretive Services : Communications  
Information Line Manager  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000  
[Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov](mailto:Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov)  
Office: 850.245.3080

**From:** [Stan Flahaut](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 4:33:27 PM

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Mr. Alsentzer,

If contact information can be provided during the recorded session regarding public questions and comments for follow-up, then that would be a suitable solution.

Up front, I would like to say that there are rumors that a developer is interested in a resort development in the area.

I'm fully behind FDEP's conservation efforts, and **I am against any land use or further development inconsistent with the park's prior use** as a State Park and camping area.

What draws faithful tourism to the area is its marked difference from the western panhandle of Florida. Please keep it that way.

I am not a camper. I and my extended family annually rent a home on the peninsula each year, but I support the wishes of people that want the ability to camp restored in the state park.

Respectfully,

Stan Flahaut  
Fort Worth, TX

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**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel [mailto:[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 2:20 PM  
**Subject:** Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15

Hi,

Thank you for your continued interest in the recovery efforts for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The Florida Park Service is looking forward to hosting this community forum to gather public input on the future of the park. This email is simply a reminder that the meeting is taking place tomorrow, beginning at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time).

Many members of the public have asked whether the meeting will be recorded and made available online. Several news media reporters will be attending the meeting and some may record a video of the event. A live broadcast, however, could not be arranged. For those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, recordings will most likely be made available online within 24 hours of the

meeting.

The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College and receiving your comments and recommendations on next steps.

Regards,  
Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
Cell: (850) 339-5414



**From:** [Barbara Clark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Tristan Harrenstein](#); [Della Ireton](#); [Nicole Grinnan](#); [William Lees](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 1:32:46 PM

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Mr. Alsentzer,

I wanted to send you a quick note to let you know that representatives from the Florida Public Archaeology Network, including myself, will be at the meeting tomorrow regarding St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. We are very interested and eager to assist with hurricane recovery however we can. We have the Heritage Monitoring Scouts program that could be of assistance. When park management deems it appropriate and safe to do so, we are happy to set up some training and group monitoring events for volunteers. We know there are a lot of resources to deal with, so we have been holding back until park staff and management gives us the "go ahead". We can discuss your needs further at tomorrow's meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

--

Barbara A. Clark, M.A., RPA  
Director ~ North Central & Northwest Regions  
Florida Public Archaeology Network  
[www.flpublicarchaeology.org](http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org)  
[BarbaraACClark@uwf.edu](mailto:BarbaraACClark@uwf.edu)  
850.877.2206

On Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:02 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

I want to be sure that our partners in cultural resource management are informed about the DRP's upcoming public forum on St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. As you may be well aware, the impacts of Hurricane Michael to the park were severe, including all infrastructure and resources. Surveys of the known cultural sites are largely pending and the DRP will be sure to engage DHR and FPAN accordingly. There will also be considerable infrastructural demolition and construction as we develop our recovery plans, some of which may involve ground disturbance, new permitting, and historic structures.

We encourage anyone interested in the cultural resources aspect of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park to attend next Tuesday's event. If relevant to your subject areas, we can also continue emailing updates as plans are drafted.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov

Office: (850) 245-3073

Cell: (850) 339-5414

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**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:52 PM

**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15

**Importance:** High

Hi,

The Florida Park Service will be holding a public meeting on **Tuesday, January 15** to hear comments and recommendations regarding post-hurricane recovery efforts for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The format of the meeting will allow participants to speak for three minutes. Topics at hand include both short and long-term plans regarding access, facilities, natural/cultural resources, practical solutions, and creative opportunities. Please see the attached agenda for meeting details.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the Florida Park Service has been actively recovering several state parks across the Florida Panhandle, on the coast and inland. Efforts have been primarily focused on addressing the most immediate needs of staff and the resources these parks protect and share with the public.

Similar to other heavily affected parks, St. Joseph Peninsula State Park remains closed to public access until further infrastructural repairs to ensure safety and quality of the visitor experience. At this time, no long-term recovery plans for St. Joseph Peninsula have been developed. Recognizing the great environmental and economic significance of this park, both regionally and statewide, we are seeking public input before planning long-term solutions. We are conducting this public forum to be sure that the voices of the park's thousands of neighbors and visitors are heard.

Written comments and recommendations from the public will also continue to be encouraged after the meeting through February 1. After all public comments have been considered, the Florida Park Service will proceed with drafting land use and resource management plans for the park. Over the course of the subsequent planning process, we will be returning to the public to receive additional input on specific proposals for protecting the park's resources and reopening public access.

The Florida Park Service extends its sympathies for all those who were affected by Hurricane Michael and continue their own recovery efforts. By planning St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, we hope to restore an ecological, recreational, and educational asset to the Gulf Coast. We thank you in advance for your interest in the future of the park.

Please feel free to call or email with any questions or comments in advance of the January 15 meeting.



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)

Office: (850) 245-3073

Cell: (850) 339-5414





**From:** [Clayton Warren](#)  
**To:** [FSP.Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Re: St Joseph peninsula state park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:58:02 PM

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I saw a newspaper article about a meeting concerning the plan for the park. I won't be able to attend, but wanted to at least voice my opinion. I love that park. I have taken my children there every year, sometimes several day trips, and at least a week camping, every summer since they were 2 years old. They are 14 now. T.H. Stone has been a constant part of our lives and a lot of family memories made. I hope the decision is made to repair and open it back up for camping. I would be happy to volunteer time to help make that happen. I have a wide variety of skills to lend. I think about the damage done and it brings tears to my eyes, and a heavy heart. To think about the possibility of never being able to camp there again is certainly disheartening. I appreciate someone taking the time to read this and hope that even though I'm only one person, maybe my opinion will count and somehow make some difference.

Respectfully,

Clayton Warren  
Jasper, Florida

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**From:** [Myron Spainhour](#)  
**To:** [David & Donna Nichols](#)  
**Cc:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#); [Donna Nichols](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Eagle Pass  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:51:22 PM

---

Sounds good to me.

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 12:49 PM David & Donna Nichols <[dddd.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:dddd.nichols@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Alsentzer,

I would like to express my thoughts to you concerning Eagle Pass. My original thought concerning what should be done with Eagle Pass was to fill it in. However, after watching the recording of last night's meeting it seems as though the Pass is actually a good thing for the bay. My family and I along with a group of friends have been camping at St. Joseph Peninsula State park at least twice per year for the last 15 years and would love to continue to do so. That being said my opinion now would be to do whatever is best for the health of the bay while restoring or creating new camping areas. What the camping areas offer are an affordable vacation area. Even if I could afford to camp anywhere in the world I wouldn't want to. Myself and family have loved every spring break and summer spent there together and couldn't imagine spending our vacation time anywhere else.

Kind Regards,  
David Nichols  
850-694-6341

**From:** [Mandy North](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** ["Bennie Mitchell"; Cathy Mitchell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: public broadcast  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:07:10 PM

---

Hey Daniel –

I attended the informational meeting last night at the college. We came all the way from Metro Atlanta to attend, and probably would have received the ‘travelled the furthest’ award. I was glad to hear that there are plans to rebuild the park. I have been enjoying the park for the past 3-4 years with my sister-in-law to camp near my father who has been camping there for at least 6 years +. My father found this jewel of a park, and always talked about the beautiful beaches and sand dunes. No one can imagine how pretty the sun sets over the water and behind the sea oats without a firsthand experience. We just love this place!!!

We camp every year at the end of October and beginning of November, and have enjoyed spending quality time with our family. Many years we’ve attended the Seafood festival in Apalachicola and would always make our annual visit to Toucan’s in Mexico beach. Our families definitely put money back into the economy for the local restaurants and shops and looked forward every year to camping together. We would even book reservations 11 months in advance to ensure we had spots during our desired time.

We loved the nature trails, the WIFI area to put in a kayak and use our phones, the ocean for surf fishing and swimming, the marina for boats, and the great camp sites, ....it’s all right there and so much fun. The boardwalks between the campsites provided great early morning walks to watch the sun rise and we could never miss a sunset on the beach.

After hearing concerns last night regarding keeping the break open, I tend to agree that it’s the best thing to do. The flushing of the bay seems to be a must in order to get the bay working for environmental purposes as it once did. I know it’s important for the Pt. St. Joe and surrounding area economy to be able to have scallops that can live. I was sad to hear the lady’s story last night of not enough salinization to keep the scallops alive. Looks like God knew exactly what the bay needs that perhaps never would have happened without the hurricane.

I would like to see a causeway across the break(s) leaving the breaks open. It seems important for the fishermen too, to be able to go thru the break. I’m not sure how much extra that would require to allow boats access....perhaps a draw bridge? I support this too.

What I do NOT support is anything that would commercialize this island/park. No hotels/lodging other than cabins, but it definitely needs plenty of shaded camping sites. Please make/rebuild the park as closely back like it was as possible. We love the natural habits provided to the animals and ability to see what God truly made....NOT what man has made. The boardwalks were fabulous to view it all without disturbing the habits, as well as the nature trails.

Thanks for having the meeting and getting public input. I look forward to seeing what you guys do.

We're hoping it's sooner than later...as we can't wait to come back.

Sincerely,  
Mandy North  
Camper from GA (10 days minimum each year)

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** Mandy North <mandynorth@bellsouth.net>  
**Cc:** 'Bennie Mitchell' <benniemitche13@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: public broadcast  
**Importance:** High

Hi, Mandy –

Thanks for your years of visitation and ongoing interest in the future of the park after Hurricane Michael. We are still coordinating with the Florida Channel about logistics for filming and live broadcasting the 1/15 meeting. We are optimistic that this will work, but not yet certain.

I will keep your email addresses in my list for any updates.

For your reference, attached is broad explanation of the meeting intent and agenda. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Regards,  
Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
Cell: (850) 339-5414

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**From:** Mandy North [<mailto:mandynorth@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:54 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** 'Bennie Mitchell' <[benniemitche13@gmail.com](mailto:benniemitche13@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** public broadcast

Will the upcoming meeting on Tuesday 1/15 be broadcast for public viewing? For T.H. Stone Memorial state park?

We camp at the park every year and are very interested, but we're in metro ATL.

Thanks,  
Mandy North



**From:** [Westbrooks, Brenda \(GE Appliances, Haier\)](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:04:04 AM

---

Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am a Georgia resident who over the last 3 years has fallen in love with Cape San Blas. I am a avid camper and kayaker and was delighted to find the Cape and St. Joseph Park. Over the last 3 years, I have met some of the most wonderful people while staying at the campground. My family and I enjoy all the beauty that the park has to offer, and have several friends that have started joining us and camping there too. I would love to encourage you and the other elected officials to find a way to re-open the campground. We have been heartbroken knowing that we will have to find another place that allows us to camp on the beach, have our 2 dogs with us, and even have public beaches that are dog friendly. I know that I am not the only camper or person that has been to this little piece of heaven and would love to see it restored. Maybe some kind of foundation can be established to help with the funding.

Thank you for your time

Thank You,

*Brenda Westbrooks*  
*115 Middle Valley Rd*  
*Trion GA 30728*  
*1-706-978-9162*  
[\*bwestbrooks2006@yahoo.com\*](mailto:bwestbrooks2006@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Myron Spainhour](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:03:39 PM

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Dear Sir,

My family has camped at St Joseph State Park for over 15 years, sometimes multiple times per year. To us, there is no better place on Earth to go for a vacation. We can be there, with everyone doing what they wish, without a great deal of worry. It is truly our home away from home. There are few places anywhere that offer the natural amenities of St Joseph State Park. While we vacation there, we contribute to the economies of Cape San Blas, Port St Joe, Mexico Beach, Apalachicola, etc.

The St Joseph State Park Campground is a place where adventures begin, relationships are developed, friendships are forged. It would be a shame, and truly irresponsible, to not pass this on to our future generations. In a time where wholesome activities are diminishing, this refuge for animals is also a refuge for folks yearning for some simplicity and a personal connection with nature. Camping at St Joseph State Park provides this.

I have heard a lot of residents in the area say that "it should be left as it is, because God did this." However, I can't imagine any homeowner, whose house and property was damaged, or destroyed, by Michael, declaring that "since it was an act of God, I am going to leave it as is." This is our home away from home, so we would strongly support campground restoration, including improvements on the original campground setup.

I understand that the breach may be helping the bay's eco-quality. If that is indeed the case, then by all means leave the breach open permanently, but build a bridge to cross it, as a ferry system would not be feasible nor practical.

I know that I am but one voice, however, I would wager that most of the camping community would agree with my sentiments.

Sincerely,

Myron C Spainhour

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Jan 15 public mtg re: THSMSJP State Park  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:44:07 AM

---

Mark Knapke, Park Manager III  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
8899 Cape San Blas Road  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Office (850) 227-1327  
Cell (850) 541 2795

**From:** J.S. Staiger [mailto:jsstaig@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:12 AM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Jan 15 public mtg re: THSMSJP State Park

Dear Mr. Knapke,

I was unable to attend the Jan. 15 public meeting regarding recovery efforts for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Is a transcript, video, or other record of the meeting available? I would like to submit a written comment, but wish to know what issues and ideas were discussed at the meeting so I may base my comments on full information.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer S. Staiger

Gainesville, Florida

>< <> >< <>

Jennifer S. Staiger



**From:** [Delia Hickman-Crager](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** SJPSP  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:18:58 PM

---

Good evening Daniel,

I am watching the public meeting on video from last night regarding SJPSP and you mentioned that you could provide the notes and slides utilized in the meeting on the Office of Park Planning Website.

I looked but failed to find those documents. It's possible that I am not looking in the proper place.

Do you mind either sending those documents to me or sharing the exact location within the website?

Thank you in advance.

Delia Hickman-Crager  
936.414.0625

**From:** [Kim Lane](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph State Park - public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:59:40 PM

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Daniel,

Thank you so much for providing online options for visitors to the park. We have stayed in the cabins at St. Joseph two times and had upcoming reservations when the storm hit.

We live in Georgia so we can't support with our tax dollars but would love to see a bridge to the cabins created and the cabins restored.

When we visit the area, we spend quite a bit of money at IGA and with the local bait and tackle shops, and kayak rental shop. Thank you, Kim

**From:** [David Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Port St. Joe comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 4:48:58 PM

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Hi Daniel - I was not able to attend the town meeting. I heard it was mostly focused on Port St. Joe Peninsula State Park. I wanted to put in a pitch to take a look at Indian pass lagoon. As you know, Money Bayou (now being diverted and developed after the county opted to take \$450K from a developer rather than \$750K in grant dollars to leave it wild) and Indian Pass Lagoon are the only two outlets for all the water in Port St. Joe Buffer preserve, which covers all the way from Indian Pass to town. Development going on in town affects the amount of silt that flows out into the Lagoon, which is home to oysters, flounder, trout, redfish, crab, and many species of birds including the giant white pelicans and it is an important recreational and charter fishing area. My specific concern is that people are developing like crazy on the lagoon, including a very recent campground right across the street from the Raw Bar on both sides of Indian Pass road - the Rish Brothers own pretty much everything in Port St. Joe and signed their own environmental approvals for septic and landfill on what is clearly marshland. Hurricane Michael shows what happens when that sensitive area floods - all of the septic tanks etc. Anyhow, it would be greatly appreciated if DEP could take a peek at what is going on there and maybe reassure us that these activities are not choking out the lagoon. Turning off of 30A onto Indian Pass road, you will immediately see the amazing ecological treasure that is there.

thanks.

Sincerely,

Dave

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. David M. Gilbert

J. Herbert Taylor Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology

Department of Biological Science

319 Stadium Drive

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4295

Phone: 850-645-7583

Fax: 850-645-8447

Email: [gilbert@bio.fsu.edu](mailto:gilbert@bio.fsu.edu)

Lab page: [https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/gX6\\_J8ja8-naNI-2NPi1\\_Us0td5OremZ2yuklGgLc=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D\\_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjLR9F1\\_1J5fj\\_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J\\_\\_QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V\\_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s\\_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9\\_fw\\_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1\\_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB\\_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgilbertlab.bio.fsu.edu%2FReplicationDomain+Database%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fclicktime.symantec.com%2Fa%2F1%2FaldTSbLKrjFaM-ipNfLDU2nhkCvOho7J8GwSJOL\\_E1Q=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D\\_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjLR9F1\\_1J5fj\\_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J\\_\\_QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V\\_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s\\_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9\\_fw\\_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1\\_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB\\_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.replicationdomain.org](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/gX6_J8ja8-naNI-2NPi1_Us0td5OremZ2yuklGgLc=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjLR9F1_1J5fj_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J__QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9_fw_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgilbertlab.bio.fsu.edu%2FReplicationDomain+Database%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fclicktime.symantec.com%2Fa%2F1%2FaldTSbLKrjFaM-ipNfLDU2nhkCvOho7J8GwSJOL_E1Q=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjLR9F1_1J5fj_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J__QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9_fw_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.replicationdomain.org)

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**From:** [Delia Hickman-Crager](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** SJPSP  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 5:32:35 PM

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Good evening Daniel,

I am watching the public meeting on video from last night regarding SJPSP and you mentioned that you could provide the notes and slides utilized in the meeting on the Office of Park Planning Website.

I looked but failed to find those documents. It's possible that I am not looking in the proper place.

Do you mind either sending those documents to me or sharing the exact location within the website?

Thank you in advance.

Delia Hickman-Crager  
936.414.0625

**From:** [deedee 08](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 6:57:19 PM

---

Please do everything to reopen this amazing park. We have enjoyed many wonderful years (20+) there and accumulated lots of wonderful friends over the years. May God Bless all of you. It has got to have devastating for all of you.

The Endsley's from Tennessee  
dendsley1954@gmail.com

Sent from myMail for iOS

**From:** [Kim Sawley](#)  
**To:** [Dillard, Jonathan M](#); [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank You From St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:24:11 PM

---

Good Evening Gentlemen,

I am writing again in regards to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. I just finished watching the public meeting held in Port St. Joe last night and came away a little discouraged. There seemed to be many locals voicing their opinions on what they wanted to be done, however, their opinions did not seem to support repairing the campgrounds and cabin area. It sounded like they all wanted the park to stay split. I listened to the stats and figures on the tourism that is brought to this beautiful park and it was astronomical! It would seem that the area would need the revenue that is brought in from all the many thousands of people who visit this park. As an RV camper that has been going to this beautiful park for 16 years, I am pleading with you guys to please repair the "pass" and rebuild the campgrounds and repair the cabins. This place is so dear to my family and our friends and so many good memories have been created here.

I know options are being weighed and the opinion of the public is being considered, but the tourists were not represented very well at the meeting. I know this will probably take years to rebuild anywhere close to what it was before, but we are willing to wait! I feel like this place is our home away from home.

Thanks for listening,

Kim Sawley

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 1:49:06 PM EST, Dillard, Jonathan M <[Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to thank you personally for your kind message of support, and your story of what this park means to you and your family. We are honored to hold this reputation with you, and to be considered such a beloved park for so many people. This is what the core of our mission is all about. The hurricane has hit the park hard, but we are already hard at work with the initial stages of the rebuilding process, and multiple options are being explored for the future of the park as a whole. It will take some time, but we will eventually rebuild and re-open for everyone to enjoy this special place.

Thank you again for your input, years of support to the park, and kind words.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Dillard  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
Assistant Park Manager  
[Jonathan.M.Dillard@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: 850-227-1327  
Cell: 850-541-2796



**From:** [Shana Woods](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Campground  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:45:29 PM

---

Dear Daniel,

I am writing regarding the campground at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. From my perspective, it was very apparent that the ones that utilize and love the campground were not represented at the recent meeting.

My family and I found this piece of paradise in 2012 and have stayed at the campground at least 35 times. We live north of Dothan, AL and look forward to visiting every year. Like most campers, we typically have to book our camp sites 11 months in advance to

get a spot. We have been numerous times when the "campground is full" sign has been posted. Obviously, this is a sign of constant tax dollars being generated by this campground. This is not seasonal. We not only visit during the summer but during the winter also. This campground stays full.

We love the Cape, the park and the workers. We love Miss Woods (no relation) who always greeted us when we checked in at the gate. We were heartbroken to learn that the campground had been lost and our vacation spot was no more.

I don't want to waste your time with a long letter about how much my family and I love the campground. But, we just wanted to let you know that just because the ones for the rebuilding of the campground were not represented at the public meeting doesn't mean we don't exist. Most of us live too far to attend but definitely would like to voice our support to rebuild the campground.

Thank you!

Shana Woods  
Abbeville, AL  
334-740-0491

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Pamela White](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph State Park public comments  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 7:49:30 AM

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Please accept this as my public comments following up from the hearing Tuesday evening in Port St. Joe. I was unable to attend but my sisters were there and provided me with some of the information provided.

I strongly support the campgrounds in the park being reopened for use. We have camped at this park every year for the past 40 years. We had reservations for camping in June 2019, which have already been cancelled. Our experience has been that people travel from all over the southeast and midwest to camp at this park. We spoke with our fellow campers and they described how it was worth the long trip to be able to spend time at such a beautiful, peaceful place. We have camped all over the southeast and can easily say that St. Joseph State Park was our favorite. The beauty, the wildlife, the peace, and unique ability to access the bay and the gulf all at one location was hard to beat. The Shady Pines campground offered good size campsites with most having some level of privacy with the trees and undergrowth between the sites. Access to the beach was just a short walk away and I couldn't tell you how many miles we pedaled our bikes in the park. Our two children, who are now 22 and 25 years old, grew up camping at this park and it is still one of their most favorite places to visit.

I understand the health of St. Joseph Bay was being compromised because of fresh water flow from a canal and that the breach from Hurricane Michael has actually helped the bay. I realize the health of bay is extremely important for the community and as a tourism draw but I would hate to see access to the campgrounds cut off in exchange for the continued salt water flow. I hope the state is considering some form over access to the newly created island so we can have a campground as well as the continued improvement in the health of the bay. I am sure having the campground provided the local economy sizeable economic impact with the number of visitors and the length of time many chose to stay. It would be well worth the state's investment to repair the Hurricane Michael damage to the park so the community can get back to its pre-Michael vitality and tourism draw.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration when moving forward with these important decisions.

Pamela White  
2906 Joyce Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 933-6329



**From:** [Myron Spainhour](#)  
**To:** [David & Donna Nichols](#)  
**Cc:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#); [Donna Nichols](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Eagle Pass  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:51:22 PM

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Sounds good to me.

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 12:49 PM David & Donna Nichols <[dddd.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:dddd.nichols@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Alsentzer,

I would like to express my thoughts to you concerning Eagle Pass. My original thought concerning what should be done with Eagle Pass was to fill it in. However, after watching the recording of last night's meeting it seems as though the Pass is actually a good thing for the bay. My family and I along with a group of friends have been camping at St. Joseph Peninsula State park at least twice per year for the last 15 years and would love to continue to do so. That being said my opinion now would be to do whatever is best for the health of the bay while restoring or creating new camping areas. What the camping areas offer are an affordable vacation area. Even if I could afford to camp anywhere in the world I wouldn't want to. Myself and family have loved every spring break and summer spent there together and couldn't imagine spending our vacation time anywhere else.

Kind Regards,  
David Nichols  
850-694-6341

**From:** [Poplin, Warren](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph Peninsula - User Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:54:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Re St Joseph peninsula state park.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

FYI

*Warren Poplin*



**Warren Poplin**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division/Recreation & Parks  
Bureau Chief, District 1 Administration  
[Warren.Poplin@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Warren.Poplin@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 708-6070  
Cell: (850) 258-2013

---

**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:40 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>; Dillard, Jonathan M <Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us>; Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; Faure, Benjamin <Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula - User Feedback

Please see the visitor comments and handle as appropriate. The visitor's feedback email is attached. Due to the way the webmail works, you must open the attached email message then hit reply and Outlook will automatically populate the visitor's return e-mail address even though it is not shown in the message.



**Julie R. Kurisko**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Interpretive Services : Communications  
Information Line Manager  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000  
[Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov](mailto:Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov)  
Office: 850.245.3080

**From:** [Mandy North](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** ["Bennie Mitchell"; Cathy Mitchell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: public broadcast  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:07:10 PM

---

Hey Daniel –

I attended the informational meeting last night at the college. We came all the way from Metro Atlanta to attend, and probably would have received the ‘travelled the furthest’ award. I was glad to hear that there are plans to rebuild the park. I have been enjoying the park for the past 3-4 years with my sister-in-law to camp near my father who has been camping there for at least 6 years +. My father found this jewel of a park, and always talked about the beautiful beaches and sand dunes. No one can imagine how pretty the sun sets over the water and behind the sea oats without a firsthand experience. We just love this place!!!

We camp every year at the end of October and beginning of November, and have enjoyed spending quality time with our family. Many years we’ve attended the Seafood festival in Apalachicola and would always make our annual visit to Toucan’s in Mexico beach. Our families definitely put money back into the economy for the local restaurants and shops and looked forward every year to camping together. We would even book reservations 11 months in advance to ensure we had spots during our desired time.

We loved the nature trails, the WIFI area to put in a kayak and use our phones, the ocean for surf fishing and swimming, the marina for boats, and the great camp sites, ....it’s all right there and so much fun. The boardwalks between the campsites provided great early morning walks to watch the sun rise and we could never miss a sunset on the beach.

After hearing concerns last night regarding keeping the break open, I tend to agree that it’s the best thing to do. The flushing of the bay seems to be a must in order to get the bay working for environmental purposes as it once did. I know it’s important for the Pt. St. Joe and surrounding area economy to be able to have scallops that can live. I was sad to hear the lady’s story last night of not enough salinization to keep the scallops alive. Looks like God knew exactly what the bay needs that perhaps never would have happened without the hurricane.

I would like to see a causeway across the break(s) leaving the breaks open. It seems important for the fishermen too, to be able to go thru the break. I’m not sure how much extra that would require to allow boats access....perhaps a draw bridge? I support this too.

What I do NOT support is anything that would commercialize this island/park. No hotels/lodging other than cabins, but it definitely needs plenty of shaded camping sites. Please make/rebuild the park as closely back like it was as possible. We love the natural habits provided to the animals and ability to see what God truly made....NOT what man has made. The boardwalks were fabulous to view it all without disturbing the habits, as well as the nature trails.

Thanks for having the meeting and getting public input. I look forward to seeing what you guys do.

We're hoping it's sooner than later...as we can't wait to come back.

Sincerely,  
Mandy North  
Camper from GA (10 days minimum each year)

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** Mandy North <mandynorth@bellsouth.net>  
**Cc:** 'Bennie Mitchell' <benniemitchell3@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: public broadcast  
**Importance:** High

Hi, Mandy –

Thanks for your years of visitation and ongoing interest in the future of the park after Hurricane Michael. We are still coordinating with the Florida Channel about logistics for filming and live broadcasting the 1/15 meeting. We are optimistic that this will work, but not yet certain.

I will keep your email addresses in my list for any updates.

For your reference, attached is broad explanation of the meeting intent and agenda. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Regards,  
Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
Cell: (850) 339-5414

---

**From:** Mandy North [<mailto:mandynorth@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:54 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** 'Bennie Mitchell' <[benniemitchell3@gmail.com](mailto:benniemitchell3@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** public broadcast

Will the upcoming meeting on Tuesday 1/15 be broadcast for public viewing? For T.H. Stone Memorial state park?

We camp at the park every year and are very interested, but we're in metro ATL.

Thanks,  
Mandy North



**From:** [Hatcher, Chuck](#)  
**To:** [Cutshaw, Steven](#); [Aisentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joe meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 1:41:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Can you respond or you can give me what you would respond to any inquires.

Chuck



**Chuck Hatcher, Assistant Director  
of Field Operations**  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
[Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov)  
Office: 850-245-3015  
Cell: 850-294-9204

**From:** [edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com) [mailto:[edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Hatcher, Chuck <[Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: St. Joe meeting

Chuck- Could you send me a summary of the meeting last night? I was stuck in Alabama and couldn't get over there. I'm doing an article for Florida Sportsman magazine on the recovery of the Port St Joe/Mexico Beach areas, and we want to look at the State Park there as well. I appreciate your help- Ed Mashburn  
251-978-0108  
[edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com)

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

From: Hatcher, Chuck <[Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us)>  
To: [edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com) <[edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com)>  
CC: Mann, Elaine <[Elaine.Mann@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Elaine.Mann@dep.state.fl.us)>  
Sent: Mon, 7 Jan 2019 11:14  
Subject: St. Joe meeting

Ed,

I have been out for the holidays but wanted to let you know that the meeting on St. Joseph Peninsula Beach State Park will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gulf Coast State College campus in St. Joe at 5:00 pm

Chuck



**Chuck Hatcher, Assistant Director  
of Field Operations**

Division of Recreation and Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 500

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

[Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov)

Office: 850-245-3015

Cell: 850-294-9204



**From:** [Cutshaw, Steven](#)  
**To:** [Hatcher, Chuck](#); [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: St. Joe meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:14:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

We'll take care of it.



**Steven A. Cutshaw**  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks/ Office of Park Planning  
Bureau Chief  
[steven.cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:steven.cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us)  
Office: 850.245.3084  
Cell: 850.528.9135

---

**From:** Hatcher, Chuck  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 1:42 PM  
**To:** Cutshaw, Steven <[Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us)>; Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joe meeting

Can you respond or you can give me what you would respond to any inquiries.

Chuck



**Chuck Hatcher, Assistant Director  
of Field Operations**  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
[Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov)  
Office: 850-245-3015  
Cell: 850-294-9204

**From:** [edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com) [<mailto:edmashburn@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Hatcher, Chuck <[Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: St. Joe meeting

Chuck- Could you send me a summary of the meeting last night? I was stuck in Alabama and couldn't get over there. I'm doing an article for Florida Sportsman magazine on the recovery of the Port St Joe/Mexico Beach areas, and we want to look at the State Park there as well.

I appreciate your help- Ed Mashburn  
251-978-0108  
[edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com)



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

From: Hatcher, Chuck <[Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us)>

To: [edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com) <[edmashburn@aol.com](mailto:edmashburn@aol.com)>

CC: Mann, Elaine <[Elaine.Mann@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Elaine.Mann@dep.state.fl.us)>

Sent: Mon, 7 Jan 2019 11:14

Subject: St. Joe meeting

Ed,

I have been out for the holidays but wanted to let you know that the meeting on St. Joseph Peninsula Beach State Park will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gulf Coast State College campus in St. Joe at 5:00 pm

Chuck



**Chuck Hatcher, Assistant Director  
of Field Operations**

Division of Recreation and Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 500

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

[Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov](mailto:Chuck.Hatcher@floridaDEP.gov)

Office: 850-245-3015

Cell: 850-294-9204

\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [Barbara Clark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Tristan Harrenstein](#); [Della Ireton](#); [Nicole Grinnan](#); [William Lees](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 1:32:46 PM

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Mr. Alsentzer,

I wanted to send you a quick note to let you know that representatives from the Florida Public Archaeology Network, including myself, will be at the meeting tomorrow regarding St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. We are very interested and eager to assist with hurricane recovery however we can. We have the Heritage Monitoring Scouts program that could be of assistance. When park management deems it appropriate and safe to do so, we are happy to set up some training and group monitoring events for volunteers. We know there are a lot of resources to deal with, so we have been holding back until park staff and management gives us the "go ahead". We can discuss your needs further at tomorrow's meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

--

Barbara A. Clark, M.A., RPA  
Director ~ North Central & Northwest Regions  
Florida Public Archaeology Network  
[www.flpublicarchaeology.org](http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org)  
[BarbaraACClark@uwf.edu](mailto:BarbaraACClark@uwf.edu)  
850.877.2206

On Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:02 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

I want to be sure that our partners in cultural resource management are informed about the DRP's upcoming public forum on St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. As you may be well aware, the impacts of Hurricane Michael to the park were severe, including all infrastructure and resources. Surveys of the known cultural sites are largely pending and the DRP will be sure to engage DHR and FPAN accordingly. There will also be considerable infrastructural demolition and construction as we develop our recovery plans, some of which may involve ground disturbance, new permitting, and historic structures.

We encourage anyone interested in the cultural resources aspect of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park to attend next Tuesday's event. If relevant to your subject areas, we can also continue emailing updates as plans are drafted.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov

Office: (850) 245-3073

Cell: (850) 339-5414

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:52 PM

**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15

**Importance:** High

Hi,

The Florida Park Service will be holding a public meeting on **Tuesday, January 15** to hear comments and recommendations regarding post-hurricane recovery efforts for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The format of the meeting will allow participants to speak for three minutes. Topics at hand include both short and long-term plans regarding access, facilities, natural/cultural resources, practical solutions, and creative opportunities. Please see the attached agenda for meeting details.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the Florida Park Service has been actively recovering several state parks across the Florida Panhandle, on the coast and inland. Efforts have been primarily focused on addressing the most immediate needs of staff and the resources these parks protect and share with the public.

Similar to other heavily affected parks, St. Joseph Peninsula State Park remains closed to public access until further infrastructural repairs to ensure safety and quality of the visitor experience. At this time, no long-term recovery plans for St. Joseph Peninsula have been developed. Recognizing the great environmental and economic significance of this park, both regionally and statewide, we are seeking public input before planning long-term solutions. We are conducting this public forum to be sure that the voices of the park's thousands of neighbors and visitors are heard.

Written comments and recommendations from the public will also continue to be encouraged after the meeting through February 1. After all public comments have been considered, the Florida Park Service will proceed with drafting land use and resource management plans for the park. Over the course of the subsequent planning process, we will be returning to the public to receive additional input on specific proposals for protecting the park's resources and reopening public access.

The Florida Park Service extends its sympathies for all those who were affected by Hurricane Michael and continue their own recovery efforts. By planning St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, we hope to restore an ecological, recreational, and educational asset to the Gulf Coast. We thank you in advance for your interest in the future of the park.

Please feel free to call or email with any questions or comments in advance of the January 15 meeting.



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)

Office: (850) 245-3073

Cell: (850) 339-5414



**From:** [Stan Flahaut](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 4:33:27 PM

---

Mr. Alsentzer,

If contact information can be provided during the recorded session regarding public questions and comments for follow-up, then that would be a suitable solution.

Up front, I would like to say that there are rumors that a developer is interested in a resort development in the area.

I'm fully behind FDEP's conservation efforts, and **I am against any land use or further development inconsistent with the park's prior use** as a State Park and camping area.

What draws faithful tourism to the area is its marked difference from the western panhandle of Florida. Please keep it that way.

I am not a camper. I and my extended family annually rent a home on the peninsula each year, but I support the wishes of people that want the ability to camp restored in the state park.

Respectfully,

Stan Flahaut  
Fort Worth, TX

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel [mailto:[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 2:20 PM  
**Subject:** Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15

Hi,

Thank you for your continued interest in the recovery efforts for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The Florida Park Service is looking forward to hosting this community forum to gather public input on the future of the park. This email is simply a reminder that the meeting is taking place tomorrow, beginning at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time).

Many members of the public have asked whether the meeting will be recorded and made available online. Several news media reporters will be attending the meeting and some may record a video of the event. A live broadcast, however, could not be arranged. For those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, recordings will most likely be made available online within 24 hours of the

meeting.

The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College and receiving your comments and recommendations on next steps.

Regards,  
Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
Cell: (850) 339-5414



**From:** [Marilyn Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:22:37 AM

---

Please keep me informed of the meeting today . I work with the court system and could not attend the meeting . So sorry.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2019, at 2:19 PM, Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

Thank you for your continued interest in the recovery efforts for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The Florida Park Service is looking forward to hosting this community forum to gather public input on the future of the park. This email is simply a reminder that the meeting is taking place tomorrow, beginning at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time).

Many members of the public have asked whether the meeting will be recorded and made available online. Several news media reporters will be attending the meeting and some may record a video of the event. A live broadcast, however, could not be arranged. For those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, recordings will most likely be made available online within 24 hours of the meeting.

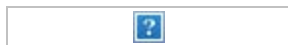
The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College and receiving your comments and recommendations on next steps.

Regards,  
Daniel

<[image002.jpg](#)>

**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
Cell: (850) 339-5414



<[SJPS\\_Public Meeting Agenda\\_January 15.pdf](#)>

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph - Restore park & campground  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 10:05:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Restore TH Stone Park #00090531 SF Reference ref 00DG0i115. 5004A1YSYQpref.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

FYI comment about the breach.

Mark Knapke, Park Manager III  
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
8899 Cape San Blas Road  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Office (850) 227-1327  
Cell (850) 541 2795

---

**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Dillard, Jonathan M <Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us>; Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; Faure, Benjamin <Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joseph - Restore park & campground

Please see the attached visitor customer survey suggestion and handle as appropriate. The visitor did not request a reply response.



**Julie R. Kurisko**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Interpretive Services : Communications  
Information Line Manager  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000  
[Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov](mailto:Julie.Kurisko@floridadep.gov)  
Office: 850.245.3080



**From:** [Ryan Wilkins](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial State Park Recovery Efforts  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:52:44 PM

---

Hi Daniel,

My family and I have spent our spring vacation every year at TH Stone Memorial Park since I was 12 years old, I proposed to my wife their and will be back at Cape San Blas this spring with my 1 year old for his very first trip!

I am very interested in the recovery efforts happening at the park. I know you are likely very busy but if you could provide me with just a copy/paste update that would be great.

Also, I am interested in volunteering some of my time to help the park in this recovery if possible. I am not sure if there is a place to sign up for something like that, but if there is please let me know.

Thank you in advance,

Ryan Wilkins

**From:** [Pablo Sotomayor](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park recovery efforts meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 11:43:58 PM

---

Dear Daniel,

I am not a US resident, but I have visited and stayed at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park several times and I can assure you it is my favorite place in the world. I had a reservation to spend 4 days there in early January, and I was going to fly from Peru almost exclusively to do that.

I was devastated to know about what hurricane Michael did to the park. Judging by what I saw in the pictures, I thought it would be impossible to have the park restored as it was before - mainly because the park had been turned into an island.

I follow the Facebook group "Friends of St Joseph State Parks" and I understand there has been a meeting today about the recovery efforts. I read that it has been informed that "the breach just north of Eagle Harbor is filling in naturally". Could you please confirm that? Does that mean that it will be possible to eventually restore the road that connected the park with the mainland?

If possible, could I have a copy of the meeting minutes?

Thank you so much,

Pablo Sotomayor, D.M.A.

**From:** [Degenerate Press](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Park - camping  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:12:23 AM

---

I have been organizing a group camp at TH Stone for upwards of 30 people for 8 years now. We were some of the last people in the campground last year before the park was evacuated ahead of Michael. Most of us visit the park multiple times per year and camp for as long as a week. We really want the campgrounds reestablished and a lot of us will volunteer in any way we can to help that happen. Some of us have signed up via the park system's volunteer site but I haven't heard a thing. The only news I'm seeing is on facebook via local businesses. I'd like to attend these meetings but getting to PSJ on a Tuesday isn't easy for me. If it were possible to broadcast these meetings online that would be great! (I don't know if that's your project or not.)

Good luck with the efforts!

Frederick Noble  
404-354-2746

**From:** [Bennie Williams](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. STONE PARK SUGGESTIONS  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:45:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2018-12-31 at 8.48.21 AM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2019-01-16 at 10.36.03 AM.png](#)

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Daniel,

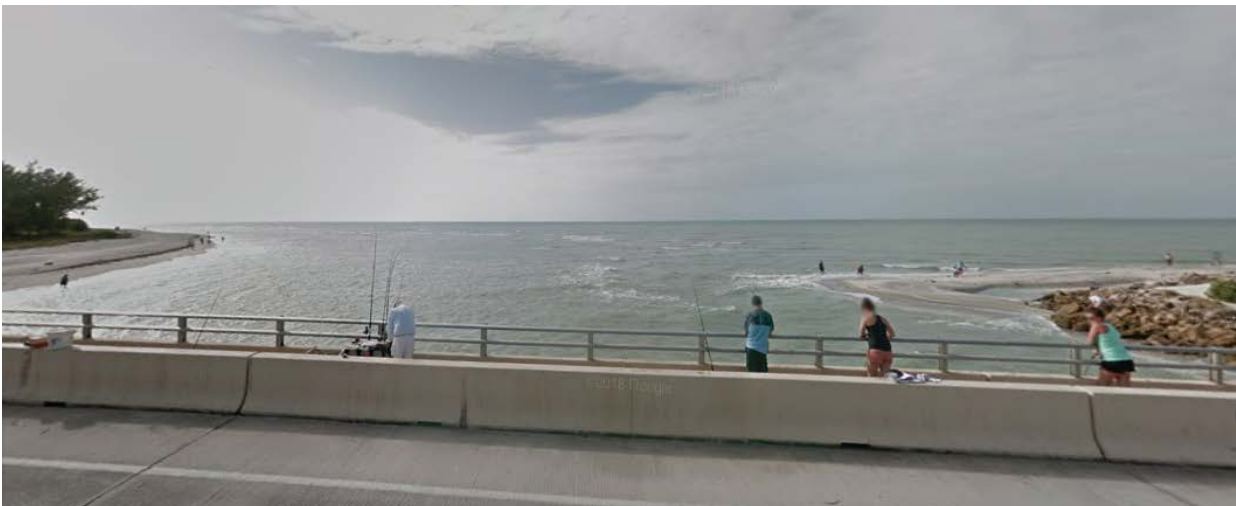
The single most important decision should be to keep the entire property as a functional State Park! I hope that has already been made!

That established, I can only assume the State of Florida wants to restore it back to what it was ...an Improved T.H.Stone State Park with the boating facility, cabin rental and campsites.

The decision as to leaving the pass open VS filling it in should be dictated by the effect of each on the biological eco structure of the pristine St Joe Bay and NOT MONEY! In other words, IF leaving it open will negatively affect the eco structure of the bay and its fishery, then it should be re closed. On the other hand, if leaving it open to Mother Nature has no negative effect or possibly a positive effect, then by all means, leave it OPEN!

Leaving the pass OPEN would require a means of vehicle transportation to the newly created SAN BLAS ISLAND and the remainder of the Park! Solutions would include 1) a ferry and/or 2) a bridge. (A ferry until a bridge is built???)

Please take a close look at the short bridge at Blind Pass, Sanibel/Captiva Islands,  
BLIND PASS BRIDGE



This bridge was built due the exact same reason one is needed here...a

hurricane! Sanibel Island was cut in half and Captiva Island was formed. The bridge at Blind Pass was erected to solve the issue of vehicle access northward. A bridge would be costly, but I suggest it would require less full time maintenance than a road with rock/steel ocean buffer, like the one at the Stump Hole, which is under constant repair...\$\$\$\$....!

**The PLUS of the Blind Pass Bridge is the pedestrian walkway on each side that doubles as a fishing pier! It has become a major tourist and fishing attraction!**

**If there are no biological/eco structure issues, I would hope Eagle Pass could remain open and a bridge like the one at Blind Pass be erected to allow the T.H. Stone Park to re open and provide access to the newly created SAN BLAS ISLAND!**

I thank you for this opportunity to express a possible solution for the T.H. Stone Park!  
I will be there in May, as I have for the past 15 years, to fish in the pristine St Joe Bay!

"Blue Skies and High Tides !"

~^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^~

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**From:** [BETSY DOWNS](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:49:48 AM

---

Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am a Georgia resident who over the last 4 years has fallen in love with Cape San Blas. My husband and I are avid campers and kayakers and were delighted to find the Cape and St. Joseph Park. Over the last 4 years while always staying the same week in September we have met some of the most wonderful people while staying at the campground. We enjoy all the beauty that the park has to offer, and have several friends that have started joining us and camping there too. I would love to encourage you and the other elected officials to find a way to re-open the campground. We have been heartbroken knowing that we will have to find another place that allows us to camp on the beach, have our 2 dogs with us, and even public beaches that are dog friendly. I know that I am not the only camper or person that has been to this little piece of heaven and would love to see it restored.

Thank you for your tims

Betsy Downs  
1106 Abrams Road  
Silver Creek, GA 30173  
706-767-3695

[betsy.downs@ymail.com](mailto:betsy.downs@ymail.com)

**From:** [Henry Nutt](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for post-hurricane recovery, Tues. Jan. 15  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:38:45 AM

---

Thanks Daniel. I have viewed the video of the meeting last night and it was apparent there was one element largely missing- input from campers. I realize that is inherently the case with a local meeting. Would there be some way to send out a questionnaire to campers over the last year? As for me, I would like to see some sort of vehicular access to the park & the park restored. Thanks for all your efforts.  
Henry Nutt

On Mon, Jan 14, 2019, 3:19 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

Thank you for your continued interest in the recovery efforts for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The Florida Park Service is looking forward to hosting this community forum to gather public input on the future of the park. This email is simply a reminder that the meeting is taking place tomorrow, beginning at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time).

Many members of the public have asked whether the meeting will be recorded and made available online. Several news media reporters will be attending the meeting and some may record a video of the event. A live broadcast, however, could not be arranged. For those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, recordings will most likely be made available online within 24 hours of the meeting.

The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College and receiving your comments and recommendations on next steps.

Regards,

Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

Office of Park Planning

Planning Manager

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**From:** [Jill](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joseph Peninsula state park slides from 1-15-19  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:56:51 AM

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I was curious about the slide presentation from the meeting about the park last evening. You mentioned they (slides) could be viewed on your website.  
What is the website, please?

Thank you,  
Jill Schlemmer

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [David & Donna Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Myron Spainhour](#); [Donna Nichols](#)  
**Subject:** Eagle Pass  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:49:58 PM

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Good afternoon Mr. Alsentzer,

I would like to express my thoughts to you concerning Eagle Pass. My original thought concerning what should be done with Eagle Pass was to fill it in. However, after watching the recording of last night's meeting it seems as though the Pass is actually a good thing for the bay. My family and I along with a group of friends have been camping at St. Joseph Peninsula State park at least twice per year for the last 15 years and would love to continue to do so. That being said my opinion now would be to do whatever is best for the health of the bay while restoring or creating new camping areas. What the camping areas offer are an affordable vacation area. Even if I could afford to camp anywhere in the world I wouldn't want to. Myself and family have loved every spring break and summer spent there together and couldn't imagine spending our vacation time anywhere else.

Kind Regards,  
David Nichols  
850-694-6341

**From:** [Charlotte Walker](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Reconstruction at St. Joe's state park  
**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2019 9:10:26 AM

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I definitely would like the channel filled in and road reconstructed. The options for most visitors would be expanded. I am also concerned about noise from motor boats traveling through the opened channel as well as high speeds of some who ignore rules.