

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Cc: ed_feaver@comcast.net
Subject: St. Joseph Peninsula Park - feedback
Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 3:32:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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](#)

*** 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

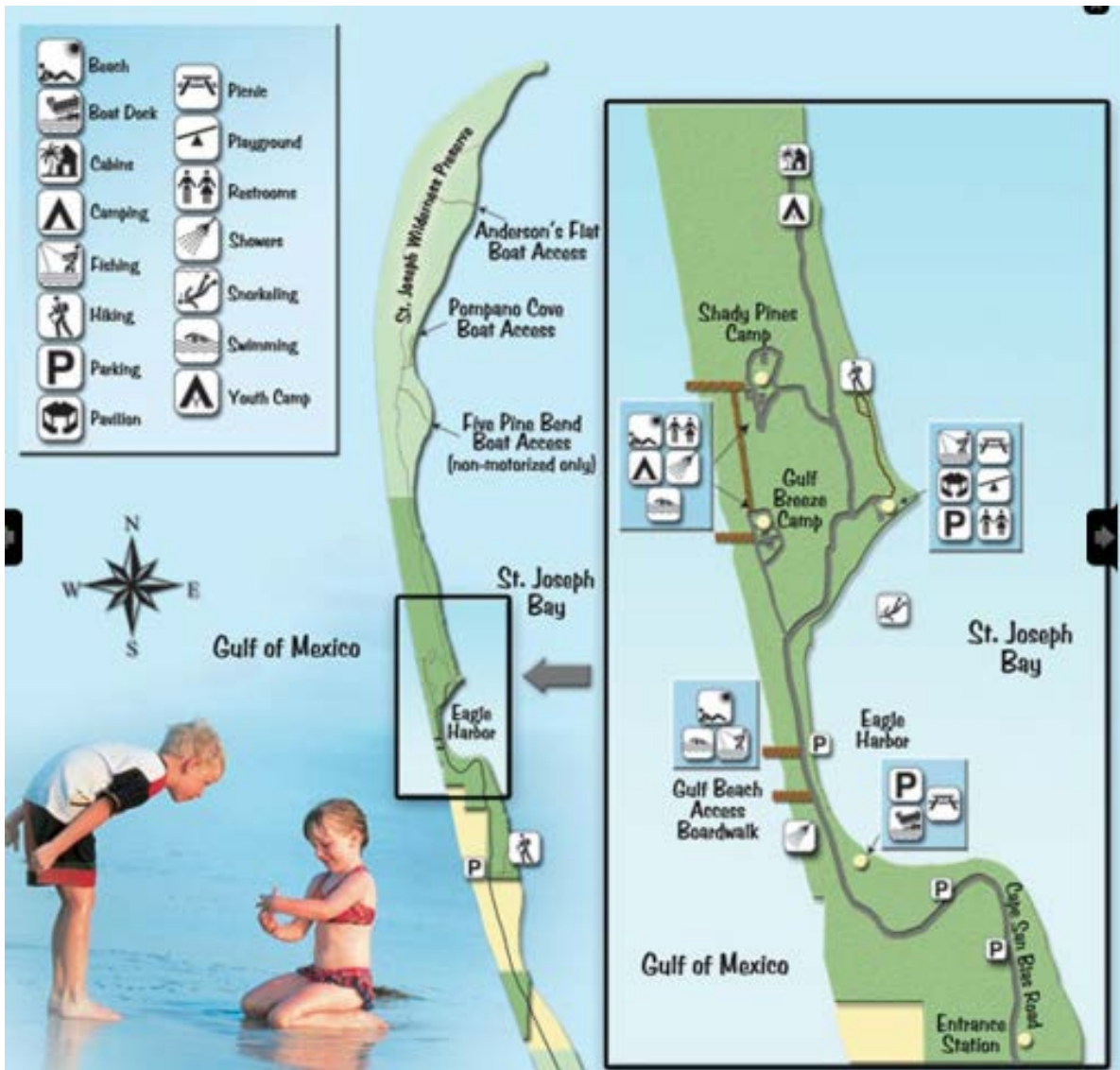
On Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 8:06 AM Bennie Williams <joel.bennie.williams@gmail.com> wrote:

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

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

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



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

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

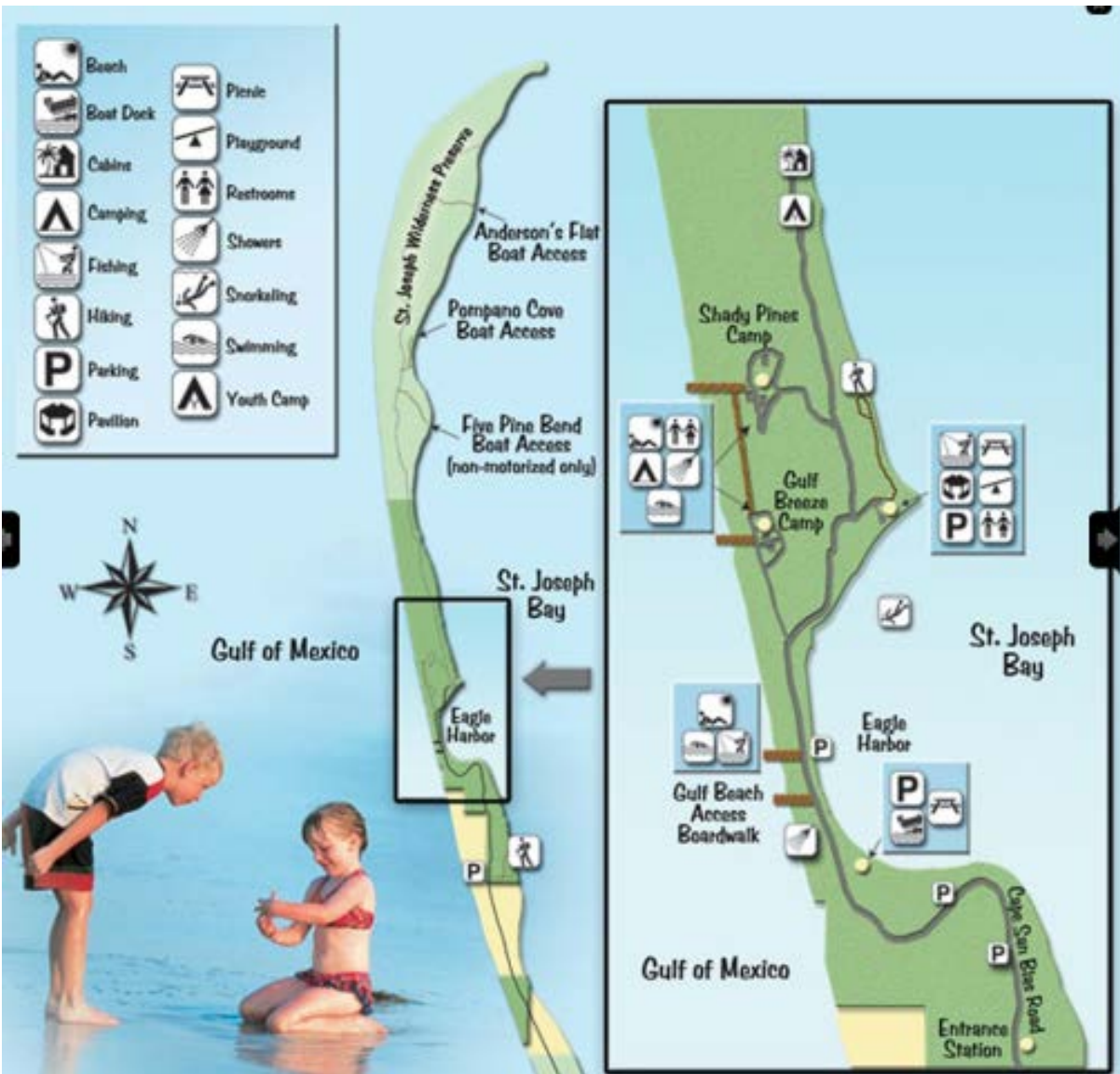
From: [Bennie Williams](#)
To: [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)
Subject: T.H. STONE PARK
Date: Monday, January 21, 2019 8:07:13 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2019-01-20 at 2.14.42 PM.png](#)
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[Screen Shot 2019-01-16 at 10.36.03 AM.png](#)

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!



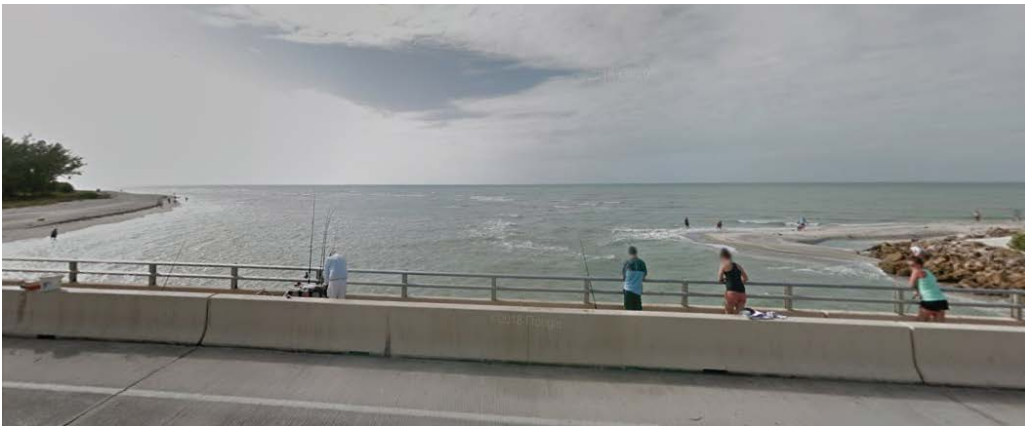
The addition of Ocean View location cabins on the Gulf side??? WOW, these would be so popular they would easily rent out as soon as posted for \$500 or more a night! I am torn as to whether or not this is a good idea. They may take away from the theme of the Park, **the pristine ~ness of the beach** 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

---

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

---

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

---

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/aIdTSbLKrjFaM-ipNfLDU2nhkCvOho7J8GwSJOL\\_E1Q=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D\\_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1\\_1J5fj\\_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J\\_\\_QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V\\_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s\\_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcrRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9\\_fw\\_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1\\_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB\\_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.replicationdomain.org](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/gX6_J8ja8-naNI-2NPi1_Us0tt5OremZ2yuklGgLc=?d=vikdLkX9sfCq70s6EII6k-D_B8y4U113-XBRcNrKlXyhvYEKYqChKVVAGFHVfznHITSOjjLR9F1_1J5fj_ri-fUm2uZDHv6CVRYV0j6H3IXqOT4q0t6ZH06Y4J__QAYjvCA7q22PpRoInLbVvDyML-5lhLOW87V_Rvy6gv6rEOq6s_SVDWnEtg0a2UYhQiZ0QAsR1MvqY16PkH9xD3XQ5CTnTV1TBr28E8u6NAB66oVAGwOcrRHuTfitiAvMRQdsVeLSrD26GpWSt0SKzj-jtbpDQqQgiHOjFJPi93oj6X9_fw_9zMZlvAAV4sbObLlv1_AVsnh81yVBhDL7pBuOIn-Pm6UWB_Xpzen6ES44%3D&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgilbertlab.bio.fsu.edu%2FReplicationDomain+Database:)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**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

---

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

---

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,

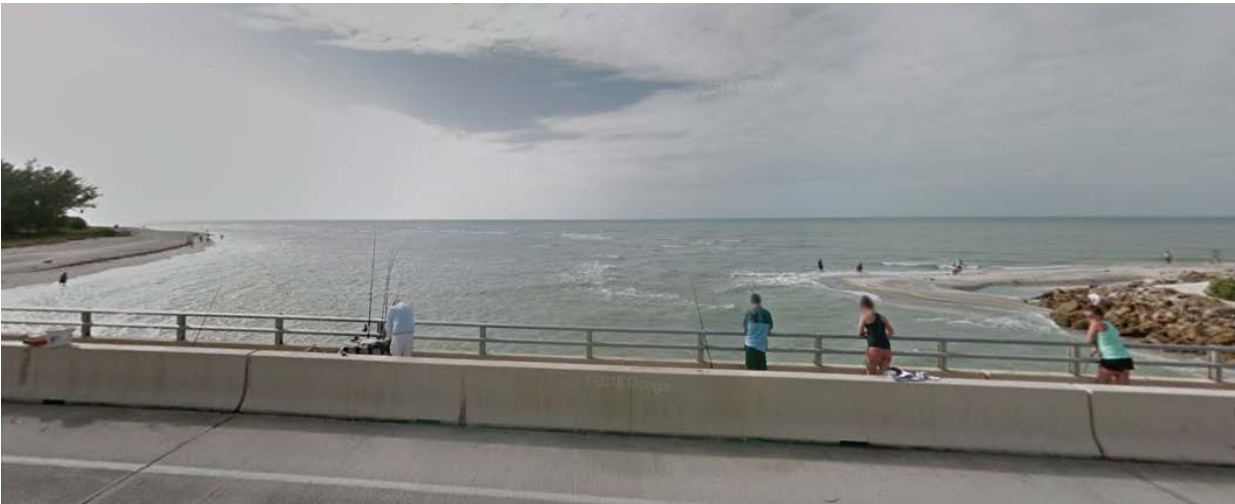
The single most important decision should be to keep the entire property as a functional State Park! I hope that has already been made!

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

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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:** [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' <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:** [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

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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

>< <> >< <>

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:** [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-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:** [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

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

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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

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

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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

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**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**  
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Office of Park Planning  
Planning Manager  
[daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850) 245-3073  
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**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,

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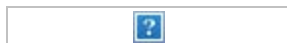
The Florida Park Service will do its best to share any information about where to find official recordings.

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:** [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,

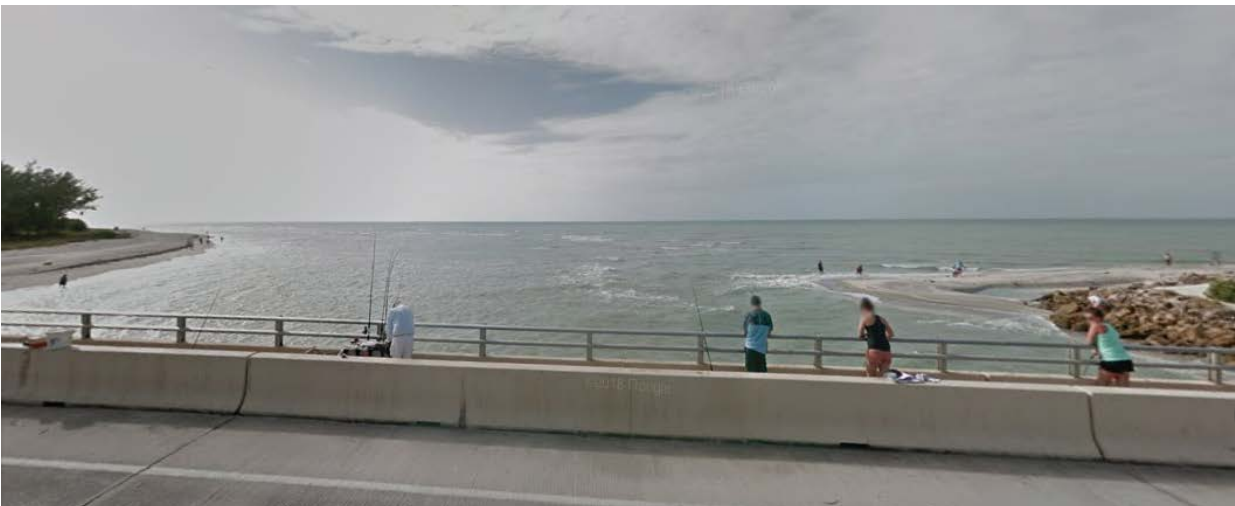
The single most important decision should be to keep the entire property as a functional State Park! I hope that has already been made!

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.

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

---

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

---

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.

**From:** [MICHAEL MC CORMACK](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 10:59:58 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been visiting Cape San Blas and Port St. Joe for over 20 years. We own property there, and have seen the changes in the bay over the years. The recent events of low scallop population, red tides, and other issues would lead one to believe that nature has taken the course, and the breach can help flush the bay waters.

The breach should be left alone, and other means to get visitors onto the recreational park area should be undertaken as a long term solution.

Sincerely,

Mike and Jana McCormack

**From:** [marylyn\\_feaver@comcast.net](mailto:marylyn_feaver@comcast.net)  
**To:** [FSP.Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph State Park  
**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 8:06:00 AM

---

St. Joe open! Hurrah!

We are kayakers and tent campers who live in Quincy. We enjoy our camping and paddling trips to St. Joe SP.

Had we known, we would have attended the suggestions meeting on rebuilding of the park.

We have paddled and tent camped 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces. When building an itinerary, I usually look for national and state/provincial camping areas with water access or near bodies of water we would like to paddle. These give us best value for our money, but more are much more natural places to camp. One of our most memorable camping/paddling trips was in Voyageur's National Park where we had to paddle in to camp. We paddled on our own the upper Missouri from Coal Banks to Judith Landing one summer, camping along the way, having to carry all of our drinking water. One we had hoped to make but chose to do it by day trips from a campsite instead of betting on a chance to get a multi-day permit for individual paddlers was in the Boundary Waters of US & Canada). Those permits are hard to get because the number of paddlers are, commendably, limited to protect the natural resources. This summer we hope to paddle Maligne Lake in Jasper National Park, Canada, another camping/paddling route which permits are limited. SE Alaska has any number of paddle in or boat in camping and cabin sites in the Tongass National Forest.

If you leave open the pass created by the hurricane create, have you thought about converting the camp area into paddle-in or boat-in primitive camp sites? Perhaps, letting that part of the island return to its more natural barrier island vegetation, but allowing a few by permit scattered campsites for either small group camping or individual camping by permit? It would be no different than paddling to the primitive camp sites previously, but would have the advantage of returning that area into more natural vegetation and should require less for improvement.

We, 84 and 78 year old paddlers, started our 50 states/10 provinces goal in 2013 when we were 79 and 72 years, a bit older than most paddlers we have seen on these longer excursions. Since then we have seen many more paddlers on waters we are paddling and many more out of state/out of province cars with kayaks or canoes on the tops on roads we are taking. The permits for these paddle-in sites are usually reserved out early in the season, so clearly other paddlers are seeking this type of outdoor recreational site.

And if you are restoring, one of our main beefs with our state park campgrounds is that it seems there is more accommodation made to RV campers than tent campers. When we do multi-day camping it's less costly for us to have an electrical site because having to replenish our small cooler with ice takes time to find a source of ice and the cost of that trip and the ice. We have an electrical cooler (25 degrees below ambient temperature) which we use on the road and in electrical camp sites. Having tent sites with electricity would be an alternative we have not seen in Florida, unlike other states or federally managed sites. The compaction of the beds on RV campsites have resulted in more broken and bent-beyond-use tent stakes. And...more stringent regulation of dog poop.

Glad to see that St. Joe is open, and hope that Florida Caverns and other state parks will soon follow.

**From:** [Dorothy Sutter](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:30:06 AM

---

Hello Daniel,

I write to encourage that the cut through in the park created by hurricane Michael be reconnected. My preference would be a bridge as I think that the Bay is benefitting from the breach. I also believe that a bridge allowing boat access to and from the Gulf/bay would increase the traffic at Eagle Harbor and the facilities there encouraging more visitors.

I would be strongly **against** relocating the campgrounds to the property south of the breach as the wildlife would be negatively affected.

Thank you,  
Dotty Sutter  
709 Secluded Dunes Dr  
615-969-5631

**From:** [Snyder, Michael A.](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Stone state park on cape san blas florida  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:13:08 PM

---

My husband and family have camped in TH Stone state park over the last few years and have grown to love the area very much. We look forward to camping there every year. Even though you have to make your reservations very far in advance to be able to stay there and enjoy the park.

I hope that you will rebuild the park and roads so that every one will be able to enjoy the park again.

Thank you for your time.



Phone  
850  
245  
3051

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

Environmental Impact Study

As a member of the  
Scallop Diggers this past  
year I saw very low  
Salinity in the Bay  
water, It made it  
extremely difficult  
to keep them alive.  
My family would  
personally prefer to let  
nature take its course.

The Bay seems to be  
thriving now. If nothing  
else we would like to see  
an Environmental Impact  
Study done.

Thank you!

danielabsentzer  
@dep.state.fl.  
us

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

\* LEAVE PASS OPEN

\* BRIDGE w/ fishing from  
both sides

\* Wooden Bridge which  
makes the sound of  
passing tires.

\* Dredge when needed  
d Use sand to  
re-nourish Cape San Blas  
Beaches.

THANKS  
~

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

AN EXCELLENT CASE WAS MADE FOR  
KEEPING THE NEW PASS OPEN.

IN MY OPINION, A FERRY SERVICE TO ST.  
JOE ISLAND WOULD BE NEEDED.

PRIMITIVE CABINS COULD EASILY BE BUILT  
IN THE TWO CAMPGROUNDS. UTILITIES

COULD BE DONE TO THE EXISTING CABINS  
WITH A GENERATOR, SOLAR, OR ACQUADUCT  
FROM THE SOUTH.

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

It would be great to  
get the campgrounds opened  
up. It is important to keep  
the park as pristine as possible  
so a small bridge of some  
sort would be great + leave  
the breach there.

Is It possible to make camp  
grounds on the south end  
of the park closer to  
the entrance?

We've been coming from  
Minnesota for 20 years. would  
like to continue with our  
grand kids ☺

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

IF CONCERN OVER WATER QUALITY  
OF THE BAY IS SUCH A ISSUE - LET  
STUMP HOLE, THAT HAS BLOWN  
OUT 4 TIMES IN 25 YEARS OPEN  
UP. THAT WILL FLUSH THE  
ENTIRE BAY.



Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

Keep the park open, it  
is a gem!!!  
START WITH FERRY SERVICE.  
IF you build a causeway,  
build it at the stump hole  
too.

Lawrence Edger

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

Are there plans for another  
boat launch, since Meyer's Beach  
is closed?

If the northern portion remains  
open: would there be a  
Ferry for people that want  
to use RV's? And would  
new RV spaces be built?

Donna Murray @ Fair Point, NE

Thank you.



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

**COMMENT FORM**

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

We would "Love" to see the  
sand put back just the way  
it was before the storm!!

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

→ We live in Panama City but visit the park many times throughout the year. We try to camp at Gulf Breeze at least twice a year. Family and friends who visit us throughout the year join us. Some have even started coming just to camp! The nearly 2 hour drive is well worth it for us. This park is preferred by everyone in our family, the beach and bay access being the biggest draw.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

→ Restore Campgrounds  
> leave more space between  
camp sites at Gulf Breeze  
> As more and more camp-  
grounds have upgraded,  
they have become full  
hook-up sites, i.e. including  
sewer hook-ups. Please add  
this!

→ Beach Renourishment! The  
reason we started going to  
this park well the beautiful,  
pristine, low traffic beaches.

→ Restore Bay Area - love to  
launch our kayaks from  
there. It was easy access.



Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Thoughts on redevelopment

① don't build back,  
build better. - increase  
elevation structures  
to be more resilient

② don't waste time,  
money & energy  
filling the breach -  
adapt to its dynamic  
character. It will  
only add to the  
character of the park

③ restore the dunes,  
enhance eroded  
shorelines with vegetation.  
This will provide  
protection to remaining

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

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

infrastructure + new  
improvements.

- ④ Restore the ability  
to camp + access  
the park but be  
flexible to interim  
access plans - boat?  
low tide only @ a  
low water crossing?  
plan for 2019 may  
look different from  
the ideal, long-term  
solution.

Danielle Irwin 904/537-5013  
dirwin@coastalsystemsint.  
com

**From:** [Clay, Danny](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Cc:** [Fugate, Brian](#); [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** RE: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Public Meeting comments.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:12:49 PM

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I attended the January 15th meeting and gave comments that night. I have never spoke in front of a large group of people before, so to say the least, I was very nervous. Especially when I had to get up there after all those professional speakers. I was so nervous that I didn't even come close to saying everything I wanted to. I did notice that I may have been the only person there from out of state. My family uses the Florida State Parks a lot more than we do the parks in our own state. Our favorite is T.H. Stone!!! We camp there around 8 or 9 times a year. We would very much like to see the park put back just like it was before the storm.

On my long ride back home from the meeting that night, I couldn't help think about the incredible number of people that were always in the two campgrounds at the park (almost always full, any time of year) that didn't get their voices heard that night. I would guess there are more than 10,000 people that camp there every year. I can only hope that some of those people get to voice their opinion well. I looked online when I got home to see if there was any information about the meeting and had a lot of trouble finding anything on the Florida State Parks web site, so I don't think many people outside of the Port St. Joe area knew about the meeting.

At the meeting it sounded as if most of the locals want the new pass to stay open. I really don't believe the health of the bay is the State Park system's responsibility, and definitely don't need to spend the money to put a jetty system in to make sure it stays open. If another pass is needed to help flush the bay, I think the State of Florida should step in and put a bridge over the area known as the stump hole where every time a big storm comes through it tries to open a pass there anyway. I think that is a much better option so the state park can get back to normal.

Danny Clay  
770 598 7596

**From:** [Fran Donaway](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: T H Stone State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:50:38 PM

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

----- Original message-----

**From:** Fran Donaway  
**Date:** Sun, Jan 13, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov);  
**Cc:**  
**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:** [Dorothy Sutter](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:30:06 AM

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Hello Daniel,

I write to encourage that the cut through in the park created by hurricane Michael be reconnected. My preference would be a bridge as I think that the Bay is benefitting from the breach. I also believe that a bridge allowing boat access to and from the Gulf/bay would increase the traffic at Eagle Harbor and the facilities there encouraging more visitors.

I would be strongly **against** relocating the campgrounds to the property south of the breach as the wildlife would be negatively affected.

Thank you,  
Dotty Sutter  
709 Secluded Dunes Dr  
615-969-5631



**From:** [Mary Jo Heaton](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park patron opinion  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:40:40 AM

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Hello Daniel,

Thank you for allowing the patrons to contact you with ideas for the future of the state park. I began camping there when I was in high school in 1997. Since then I have had the wonderful pleasure of raising a family and enjoying the state park with my husband and our two children ages 6 and 12. We frequent the camp grounds every season of every year. It has become such a dear place to not only my immediate family but also many of my best friends and their children as well. I have also spent more times than I can count camping there alone on sabbaticals. I am very pleased to hear that the opening of the new channel has helped to clear the water in the bay to flush out the tainted water that pours from the canal. I am asking to please find a way to keep the new channels open while also maintaining access to the campgrounds. If there is a way to create a jetty to keep it open so that it does not naturally close while offering a ferry, a bridge or causeway to the other side of the island would be ideal. The community benefits from the money campers bring. I would just be heartbroken for the campgrounds and cabins to be a thing of the past. Thank you for all the work you are putting into hearing the immediate community as well as those who frequent the campgrounds. It is my favorite place in the whole wide world.

Thank you,

Mary Jo Heaton

850-363-0167

[maryjoheaton79@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoheaton79@gmail.com)

**From:** [Andy Patterson](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Melissa Patterson](#)  
**Subject:** SJPSP Recovery  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 2:25:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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We are from the Atlanta, GA area and have been coming to SJPSP and Gulf County with our children since 2011. We have always loved the beach and have been to many different places around the south but SJPSP is very special to us. It is a place where we find real relaxation and a time away from our everyday lives.

We spend two full weeks at the park every summer and were absolutely devastated when we saw what the hurricane did to the area.

Our hope for the park is that access **by vehicle** to the cabins, trails, and wilderness area is restored whether by bridge or by filling in the breach.

We look forward to returning to the park one day and contributing to the local Gulf County economy. There are plenty of places around the gulf that offer the over-commercialized beach experience and while turning the CSB area into that would line pockets, it would destroy a truly unique community.

Please restore the area to what it was.

Thanks,  
Andy and Melissa Patterson



**Andy Patterson** | *Senior Technology Consultant*

W 404-952-2615

C 404-683-7712

**From:** [freckelsj@aol.com](mailto:freckelsj@aol.com)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** opinion on public forum1/15/19  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:12:10 PM

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Regarding the public forum held on January 15, 2019:

I would like to express my hope that the breach created after hurricane Michael in the T.H. Stone St Joseph State Park **be filled or allowed to fill in naturally.** I would also be **against** the relocation of campgrounds or development on vacant land in the park. My concern is that the natural beauty, habitat and wildlife be preserved and given time to re nourish and grow.

Thank you,  
Laura Jones  
709 Secluded Dunes Drive  
706-820-2911

**From:** [Ben Allison](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Dotty & Trey Sutter](#); [Lolly & Tom Jones](#); [Newell S. & Ellen Allison, Jr.](#)  
**Subject:** 709 Secluded Dunes  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:32:16 PM

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Hi Daniel

I'm a co-property owner in Secluded Dunes. I am not for relocating the campground to the South of the breach. We are a small community and I think the development would have negative impacts abutting us. The previous campground was just perfect and allowed users the isolation and pristine experience that made it so unique.

I would be for keeping the breach as long as wildlife and the ecosystem of the bay would be positively affected. I assume that would mean a bridge or ferry to the North end. But I would also be concerned with beach erosion if the sand is accelerating through the breach. It would be nice to know what each option would entail.

Thank you

Ben Allison  
709 Secluded Dunes.

**From:** [Denise Balthrop Cassidy](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Barney Cassidy](#)  
**Subject:** Protect vacant land near Secluded Dunes  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:57:56 PM

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Mr Alsentzer,

Please protect the wildlife which inhabit vacant land near the Secluded Dunes and other nearby neighborhoods. They need a place of refuge, especially after Hurricane Michael. In addition, we need to retain vacant land in these days of climate change, not develop it. Development of these Management Zones (SJ-04-A, B, C, and D-Page 13 of the 2014 Management Plan) is not good for wildlife or humans. Let's work together to find a more creative solution to the lost revenue issue. I will help if I am able.

Sincerely,

Denise Cassidy

899 Secluded Dunes Drive

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"Do small things with great love." Teresa of Calcutta

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Faure, Benjamin](#); [Poplin, Warren](#); [Hollinger, Deanna](#)  
**Subject:** FW: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Public Meeting comments.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:15:34 AM

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**From:** Clay, Danny [mailto: Danny.Clay@delta.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:13 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Fugate, Brian <Brian.Fugate@dep.state.fl.us>; Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** RE: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Public Meeting comments.

I attended the January 15th meeting and gave comments that night. I have never spoke in front of a large group of people before, so to say the least, I was very nervous. Especially when I had to get up there after all those professional speakers. I was so nervous that I didn't even come close to saying everything I wanted to. I did notice that I may have been the only person there from out of state. My family uses the Florida State Parks a lot more than we do the parks in our own state. Our favorite is T.H. Stone!!! We camp there around 8 or 9 times a year. We would very much like to see the park put back just like it was before the storm.

On my long ride back home from the meeting that night, I couldn't help think about the incredible number of people that were always in the two campgrounds at the park (almost always full, any time of year) that didn't get their voices heard that night. I would guess there are more than 10,000 people that camp there every year. I can only hope that some of those people get to voice their opinion well. I looked online when I got home to see if there was any information about the meeting and had a lot of trouble finding anything on the Florida State Parks web site, so I don't think many people outside of the Port St. Joe area knew about the meeting.

At the meeting it sounded as if most of the locals want the new pass to stay open. I really don't believe the health of the bay is the State Park system's responsibility, and definitely don't need to spend the money to put a jetty system in to make sure it stays open. If another pass is needed to help flush the bay, I think the State of Florida should step in and put a bridge over the area known as the stump hole where every time a big storm comes through it tries to open a pass there anyway. I think that is a much better option so the state park can get back to normal.

Danny Clay  
770 598 7596

**From:** [sivadmfje](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 9:57:55 AM

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Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.

Good morning,

Three years ago my family discovered St. Joseph Peninsula State Park and the beauty and tranquility of camping there. We stopped at many places that year, but “St. Joe” easily became our favorite. We loved it so much that we came back the next year with my parents. Many parks we stay at have attributes of “St. Joe”, but none have them all. We decided last summer to try something new and visited the east coast’s Huntington Beach State Park in South Carolina. We loved it, but we missed “St. Joe”. We feel rich and fortunate staying at St. Joe, being able to walk to the beach from our campsite, enjoying a stroll through the park and beach at night enjoying more stars than I’ve ever seen away from city lights.

We quickly booked for the Summer of 2019 and our family friends were fortunate to reserve one of your cabins. Since October I have not stopped watching the disaster that Michael left behind and the slow progress to return the community to normalcy. It saddens me to see what never will be the same when we drive through Mexico Beach. I told my wife three years ago when we drove through there if we didn’t camp, Mexico Beach is where we would stay.

Our family of four is returning to Florida this year. We are visiting several areas and several state parks. Our destinations include Marathon in the Keys, Blue Springs State Park, Itchetucknee Springs State Park, and Fort Pickens. We are excited about these new destination, but are sad that “St. Joe” will not be one of our stops. Planning this trip I found it even more difficult to book campsites in Florida. Especially since Bahia Honda and Long Key State Park are closed due to Irma. With RV sales up 15% last year, the numerous park closures in Florida, and the shorter notice booking our new trip due to Michael closing “St. Joe” we were required to stay at RV parks/resorts and pay higher fees. Fees triple what we pay to stay in State Parks. This cuts into a family of four’s budget tremendously. In return we will have to cut out some activities and extravagant family dinners. (Extravagant for us is picking up couple of pounds of shrimp at a local market and Ribeye’s at the Piggly Wiggly and cooking them with wood chips over an open fire pit.)

I have fears that many do. Our Nations coast will be barricade with high rise condos and high priced homes leaving the rest of us to cram on to day use beaches by walking across hot asphalt parking lots. Please help nature by filling in the “pass” and restoring the beautiful sand dunes.

I appreciate what people are saying about the benefits of the “pass” to the health of the bay and the animals at the end of the peninsula. Would the health of the bay be more benefited by

a causeway or bridge at the Stump Hole where nature itself continuously tries to tell us that a road does not belong? Would the “flushing” at the “pass” that local fishermen and scalpers appreciate be better at/near the Stump Hole? Hydrology tells me a toilet flushes from the top and bottom not the side. Obviously your engineers are probably exploring these options.

Thank you for providing the most beautiful state parks that families can afford.

Sincerely  
Jeff Davis  
322 Micahs Way  
Columbia, IL 62236



From: [Russell White](#)  
To: [Russell White](#)  
Subject: F 15 State State Park  
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 10:51:07 AM

My name is Russell White I am emailing you to show my support for the rebuilding of park. The park is a very special place my family and I have been camping there for 15 years every year we would make our reservations a year in advance so we could camp with our friends at this wonderful place. Please consider the campers when making these important decisions about park, not just the commercial fishermen. I'm sure all the campers that visit park would pay more to offset some of rebuilding cost. Please put our park back whether you bridge the cut or let it fill back in and put big rocks like on the other end just find a way it will pay for itself over time. Thank you for time attached is just one of the many memories I have of park.



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Delia Hickman-Crager](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joe Peninsula State Park/T.H. Stone Memorial State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 12:47:30 PM

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Delia Hickman-Crager  
Native Texan/Current Alabamian  
Visitor of T.H. Stone Memorial State  
Park/St. Joe Peninsula State Park since 1993

Facebook Group: Save T.H. Stone Memorial State Park

Daniel Alsentzer  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning

Dear Daniel Alsentzer:

I am a long-time (since 1993) visitor of T.H. Stone Memorial State Park/St. Joe Peninsula State Park, both as a cabin guest and as a day visitor while renting homes in Cape San Blas. I am writing to express my concern about recent discussion and the pending decision regarding the full re-opening of the park.

As I am sure you would agree, there are few public places as special as SJPSP. I spent many hours exploring the park on visits with my parents and have continued this tradition with my family. Thankfully my son was able to experience the unspoiled trails and beaches of SJPSP before vehicle access was destroyed by Hurricane Michael.

Many visitors and locals have boats and kayaks with which to access the bay and the beaches surrounding the peninsula but it is so important to consider those who can only enjoy the wildness of the far reaches of the peninsula (now island) by foot or vehicle. We must be vigilant in exploring all avenues in our effort to maintain public access to this special place. SJPSP is a treasure that must be protected and nurtured.

In watching the recent video of the public meeting on January 15, 2019, several thoughts come to mind. The inherent nature of a state park means that many of the stakeholders are not local to the immediate area of the park. As such, it would be an immense benefit if any future meetings could be enriched with the addition of virtual meeting capabilities for park advocates who are not local.

There are many of us that are closely following the developments and anxiously await further progress toward full park access.

In the public meeting, other advocates and I noted your encouragement in submitting written input and we are grateful to find that many of them are provided via a public link on your website.

I look forward to hearing more from you in regard to methods in which we, as a community, can further expedite and promote the objective of restoration of access and rebuilding of facilities at SJPSP.

Sincerely,

Delia Hickman-Crager

**From:** [Cheryl Bender](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [benderj@autonation.com](mailto:benderj@autonation.com)  
**Subject:** Replacement camping areas  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 11:13:02 AM

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This email is to ask you to 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 Point, Bent Tree, etc. neighborhoods. The mix of camping/RV and permanent homes is not a good one. This would be a real hardship for homeowners and home values would certainly depreciate. I also fear for the wildlife habitat and still having a little nature of undisturbed land. I hope these points will be taken into strong consideration.

Thank you,  
James and Cheryl Bender  
895 Secluded Dunes Dr.  
Cape San Blas, Fl. 32456

**From:** [Paigie Barnett](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Port St Joe State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 1:53:22 PM

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Please make the decision to re-open the state park to campers. I am a long time camper at this park, there is no other place that compares to this park. Give everyone an opportunity to enjoy the park, not just someone with a boat!

As you know the St Joe economy is in need of help, this is one way to add to that economy. Campers tend to spend more money compared to day use individuals.

I'm asking you to highly consider the re-opening of the park, let us continue to make memories.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paigie Barnett

**From:** [Rebecca Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 1:57:55 PM

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Daniel, thanks to your group for hosting the meeting in Port St. Joe earlier this month. My husband, Don, and I attended and left the meeting with much better understanding of challenges and opportunities that face you and other decision-makers for the future of this beautiful park that exemplifies the Forgotten Coast.

We visited Port St. Joe and fished the bay by boat and wading for fifteen years before we bought a town home at Barrier Dunes in 2017. We fell in love with the area and its fine people. The park was and shall continue to be our favorite boat launch and wading out point (Hammock Trail). We look forward to purchasing kayaks to further enhance our fishing experiences in St. Joe Bay.

We were impressed most during the meeting by the remarks of captains and locals who have observed the bay's decline. We also noticed that each year, the appearance of birds, turtles, bait fish and grass beds diminished. Fishing became much more challenging, and often disappointing. We attributed much of it to pressure from overfishing and over - generous regulation of slot restrictions. Remarks made in the meeting revealed that additional factors were in play.

Apparently, the storm instigated a reversal of decline in the bay by refreshing tired waters, as millions of gallons pour in through the breach each day. Without the wildlife and supporting ecology, there would be little reason for campers, day visitors, water sports enthusiasts to visit the park. Taking advantage of the breach and also overcoming its challenge to campground access is the perplexing problem that faces you.

We visited the park this week for the first time since it re-opened. It was an eerie experience to observe the wild beauty that has overcome the harbor beach. There is actually abundant space for beachside and bayside enjoyment. A sand bar has formed on the gulf side, and the depth of the breach appears to be filling in. Who knows today if this will continue, or if changing seasons and future storms will open the breach again.

In the face of urgent calls to restoration action, we urge patience. Please conduct and follow all appropriate ecological and environmental impact studies. Perhaps a plan to restore camping areas while contemplating access options can move forward. Parking areas for RV's and passenger vehicles could be created on the accessible south side that could bring in revenue for the intervening years. A ferry from Mexico Beach to the northern tip of the Cape might be of benefit to many in need of business opportunities there.

We look forward to future meetings and to your proposals for the future of the park. We rely on the skill, experience, imagination, and integrity of your group to meet and perhaps exceed its potential as a natural playground and sanctuary.

Sincerely, Rebecca Burgess

**From:** [N Allison](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Dotty & Trey Sutter](#); [Lolly & Tom Jones](#); [skiyaker@aol.com](mailto:skiyaker@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Re: 709 Secluded Dunes, Cape San Blas, FL  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 2:10:09 PM

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Dear Daniel,

I agree with my brother. I also am ***not*** for moving the campground to the south of the new storm cut that would negatively change the camping experience as well as the privacy and safety of nearby homeowners. We have owned a home in Secluded Dunes for over 30 years and have witnessed the powerful movement of the sand along the coastline. Now I have a strong worry of the new storm cut to the bay becoming not only a busy commercial pathway for all kinds of boat traffic day and night, but also the sand movement constantly widening the cut opening the ocean into the bay and eroding both sides of the cut further.

The hurricane was a natural phenomenon and I do not believe the Park Service should allow redevelopment of the park to the south of the cut as it will interfere with the peaceful enjoyment, safety, and property values of the adjoining tax paying private property owners.

Sincerely,

Newell Allison

709 Secluded Dunes Drive

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2019, at 3:32 PM, Ben Allison <[skiyaker@aol.com](mailto:skiyaker@aol.com)> wrote:

Hi Daniel

I'm a co-property owner in Secluded Dunes. I am not for relocating the campground to the South of the breach. We are a small community and I think the development would have negative impacts abutting us. The previous campground was just perfect and allowed users the isolation and pristine experience that made it so unique.

I would be for keeping the breach as long as wildlife and the ecosystem of the bay would be positively affected. I assume that would mean a bridge or ferry to the North end. But I would also be concerned with beach erosion if the sand is accelerating through the breach. It would be nice to know what each option would entail.

Thank you

Ben Allison

709 Secluded Dunes.

**From:** [Fite Fite](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsular Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 6:06:04 PM

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Please consider leaving the northern tip of the peninsular a wilderness area closed to vehicles as it historically has been.

Please consider leaving the breach open if after using scientific studies would improve the water quality of St. Joe Bay.

Please consider retaining a stand alone cabin area for non-campers and campgrounds for campers. Thank you.

Mike Fite

P.O. Box 419

Lutz, FL 33548



**From:** [Kuhse Law](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Post-Hurricane Michael Actions  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 4:53:05 PM

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First, many thanks for your efforts to quickly assess the damages, clean up the storm debris, and move forward to keep the public informed and involved in the restoration efforts. Having attended the January 15 meeting and reviewed the 132 pages of submitted comments, I appreciate the scope and complexity of the issues you will be considering. As much as many of the comments appear to urge quick decision making and restoration actions, there is a dearth of scientific evidence to support the various options noted in the submitted comments. It is just too soon to develop a definitive restoration plan pending further research and studies regarding the new ecologies of the park and the bay.

In creating the north/south park split, the hurricane has created an opportunity to see how the wildlife, vegetation, and geographic features will develop if left undisturbed in the northern section. There is no urgent requirement to fill in the breach or build bridges and roads for vehicular access for camping in the northern section. Nor is there an urgent requirement to exert efforts to keep the breach open through a dredging and/or jetty system. Other than continuing any necessary clean up actions, the breach and the park's northern section should be essentially left alone for a reasonable period of time to facilitate research efforts. Perhaps the park and bay will improve with the breach in place, perhaps not. Similarly, perhaps the breach will accrete sufficient sand to fill in naturally and rejoin the park's sections, returning the park's and bay's ecologies to their pre-Michael status. It is more likely that natural forces will achieve some middle result over time, one that may be cyclical depending upon future tropical storm actions. However, more time and research is required before any long term action is undertaken for the breach and northern park section.

In the interim, the southern section should be restored to provide for limited camping plus the various recreational activities that were available there prior to the hurricane. That would at least partially accommodate the requests from many park users for traditional recreational access, while having the least adverse impacts on existing wildlife and habitat.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to seeing your thoughts and recommendations.

Bruce Kuhse  
[KuhseLaw@gmail.com](mailto:KuhseLaw@gmail.com)

**From:** [Chris Woods](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 4:46:53 PM

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My family and I have enjoyed camping at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park for several years now. It was our favorite park. We booked it early and often as possible. This park is the reason we purchased a camper. Please consider rebuilding the campground in its current location. I would be pleased with filing the void or some type of bridge. Thank you for your time.

Thanks,

Chris Woods  
Abbeville, Al

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Patricia Vickers](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Cape San Blas State Park  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 12:29:23 AM

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Dear Mr Alsentzer,

I watch your presentation over the internet regarding the future of the State Park, and I have to agree with your comments regarding how much income the State Park brings into the town. Financially, I think it is in our best interest to rebuild the State Park to its original glory where RV's can continue to utilize the camp sites also. If there is anyway to keep the new opening open with a bridge that would be great for tourism and keep bringing the campers in to boost the economy. It would also help the bay water quality.

A ferry would prevent RV's from going over and that is where the income comes from  
I have been coming to the Cape since 1977, and after Hurricane Micheal I think it would be a bad financial decision since the area is already effected financially. We do not want to commercialize the State Park because ir would take away the image of the Old Florida.

Please keep us all updated as the decisions are made. Thanks for all your time and efforts in this matter.

Best Regards,

Patricia Vickers  
3021 Brooks Trail  
Monroe, GA 30656  
404-357-8292



**Northwest Florida Office**

1294 Avondale Way | Tallahassee, Florida 32317-8451 | tel 850.528.5261

[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

February 1, 2019

Mr. Steven A. Cutshaw  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Via: [FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@floridadep.gov); [steven.cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:steven.cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us)

Re: Defenders of Wildlife's Comments on the Unit Management Plan Update for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Dear Mr. Cutshaw:

Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments concerning the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Unit Management Plan Update for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Founded in 1947, Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit conservation organization focused solely on wildlife and habitat conservation and the safeguarding of biodiversity. Defenders has more than 80,000 members and supporters in Florida.

Defenders encourages DEP to take no action to close or artificially maintain the cut through T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park created by Hurricane Michael. Enhancing the overall health of the St. Joe Bay ecosystem which includes the state park should be DEP's highest priority. This includes maintaining and restoring the bay's seagrass beds which are heavily used by juvenile sea turtles (green, leatherback, hawksbill and Kemp's ridley are listed as federally endangered and the loggerhead is listed as federally threatened) and are used by manatees. Prior to any action, DEP must also consider impacts to the resident population of the endangered St. Andrew beach mice and to state-listed nesting bird species including the snowy plover, piping plover and red knot which are federally or state-listed as threatened).

DEP must rely on science to guide its decision making in revising the unit management for the state park. Complementing the unit management plan, DEP is encouraged to create a sea-level rise adaption plan, so the wildlife in the park and bay may continue to recover and be resilient in face of sea-level rise and future catastrophic hurricanes like Michael.

St. Joseph's Bay faces many challenges that must be studied and addressed including unnatural freshwater inputs which damage its seagrasses - the foundation of its ecosystem. We recommend that DEP also conduct studies to determine the effect of tidal flushing on the bay's seagrass through the existing cut and determine if changes in the water temperature of the bay leads to further cold-stunting of sea turtles in the winter. DEP should study and evaluate the courses of action that will best restore the health of the bay and monitor the natural movement of sand before taking any restorative action regarding the cut. We look forward to learning the results of these studies and the opportunity to comment before any direct actions regarding the cut are pursued.

Sincerely,

Kent L. Wimmer, AICP  
Senior Representative

**From:** [Christian Wagley](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** comments on recovery planning for TH Stone St. Joe Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 8:44:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [comments on SJSP hurricane recovery Feb. 2019 FINAL 1.pdf](#)

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Please accept the attached comments on recovery planning for TH Stone St. Joe Peninsula State Park. Thank you!

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**CHRISTIAN WAGLEY** Coastal

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Pensacola, FL 32591

**[My Blog Articles](#)**

**UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF**

**From:** [Leigh Palmer](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Breach at St Joseph's State Park  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 5:09:37 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I rent a beach house at Indian Point every year for the month of January. My wife and I live in Maine and enjoy visiting St Josephs for birdwatching and picnicking and were sorry to see the damage by hurricane Michael. We also visit many of the other parks but particularly enjoy this one. The ranger at the gate informed us that you would like our opinion as to what to do about repairing the breach even though we are not residents or taxpayers. In our opinion maybe Mother Nature will in time close the gap and a new causeway can be restored. This would certainly please a lot of campers and renters and increase attendance and park revenue. If nothing is done you would cut off a large piece of the park forever. I know fishermen (and I can see their reasons) would like the cut to remain open and that would require dredging and I'm not sure that is feasible in the long run since tides, currents and storms are at work filling it in. I don't know what makes sense economically since you are constrained by cost. Good luck. Look forward to seeing the Snowy Plovers next year.

LJ Palmer  
Jefferson Maine

**From:** [Shane Mutter](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park on Cape San Blas  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 4:51:58 PM

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Dear Florida State Planning Commission,

My family and I own three parcels of land as well as a home on Cape San Blas Florida. I am writing you to voice my concerns about the State Park following the devastation of the hurricane last year. I feel it is necessary to replace the sand so that the park is back to its original state. Any erosion that took place from this hurricane will only get worse over time. As it is, our peninsula is very vulnerable and so if we can preserve the Cape as best we can we can at least feel secure that any future hurricanes will not make this matter even worse.

Please consider finding the funding to replace the sand to this area and rebuild the road to its original state.

Regards,

Shane C. Mutter

**From:** [Deborah Burch](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Park Plans  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 3:58:21 PM

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We would hope you would consider adding many more cabins. The campsites could be expanded to accommodate longer rigs. Bathhouses need rebuilding with air conditioning added. Add ramps on walkways to beach for campers with disabilities.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Ruth Narcisse](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Re: T.H. Stone St Joseph Peninsula State Park -Suggestion for the park's future....  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 3:23:27 PM

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As a long time patron (15+ years) of T.H. Stone St Joe Peninsula State Park and campgrounds, I'd like to offer my suggestions on how to move forward and best utilize the beautiful land that mother nature has changed for us. As much as I enjoyed the campgrounds on the north side of Eagle Harbor, I feel it's would be extremely expensive to put a bridge or causeway over the breach. To later run the risk of having to continue to pour money into it for any repairs or maintenance, should another storm dismantle what man puts in place.

Therefore, I believe it would be less expensive if the campgrounds are moved (constructed) on the south end - Between Eagle Harbor and the park's entrance. However, I suggest this, without knowing if the land /acreage can support such construction as new campground sites. I would also like to see the north end left alone -as a nature preserve. Although running a small boat shuttle for day use -or- limited use of primitive campsites, is appealing to me as well.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide suggestions/comment and for giving our input some consideration!

Ruth Narcisse  
678.438.3282

**From:** [Doug](#)  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial State Park.  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 3:12:13 PM

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For what it's worth, my wife and I would love to see the park restored to pre hurricane condition. We have been going there and camping for years, and had hoped to spend even more time there at retirement. It is our favorite place in the state. My wife is a Florida native, and I have been here for close to sixty years. Scalloping expeditions while staying in the campgrounds have been something we have looked forward to every year. While we live about a hundred miles away, we are considering moving closer at full retirement because we like St. Joe bay and the park so much.

Thank you,  
Doug & Jeanine Moody  
Freeport, Fl

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lisa Spainhour](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park public comments  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:23:45 PM

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Mr. Alsentzer,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the restoration of TH Stone Memorial St. Joseph State Park. I would like to speak in favor of restoring the campground facilities, ideally in the same locations, but at minimum, elsewhere in the park. My family has camped at the park at least twice a year every year for around a decade, and had two reservations in the system when the park shut down following hurricane Michael, one at Gulf Breeze, and one in Shady Pines. We made those reservations 11 months in advance, like we always do: the park is so desirable to campers that many sites, including the ADA-accessible spots we require to camp with my elderly mother, are gone minutes after they open up. We've never been to the campground, spring, summer, or fall, when it wasn't at least 80-90% occupied; the "campground full" sign is often out at the ranger station.

One of the joys of St. Joe is that it is off the beaten path. This also means that the campground is one of the few affordable vacation destinations in the region. There are no hotels on the peninsula. A quick google search will tell you that beach houses cost up to several thousand dollars a week to rent, and they are rarely handicapped accessible. Camping also provides an opportunity to meet like-minded folk from near and far. In the spring, it's the "snow-birds" from Canada and Michigan. In the summer, it's multi-generational families from neighboring states. When I ask you to retain the camping facilities at St. Joe's, I'm also asking on behalf of Willie and Monique from Georgia, Milo and Linda from Jacksonville, and Hannah and Jacob from Wakulla county. These are friends we have met while camping at St. Joe's, and we see them every year when we return, because we all reserve the same weeks.

St. Joe's campgrounds were unique along the panhandle, with easy access to the beach and the bay. They both were so different, but both had so much to offer those who wanted to spend a few days immersed in "the real Florida." Please restore the campgrounds when you rebuild the park.

Our thoughts are with all of our neighbors to the west, and we you all the best as you move from cleanup to rebuilding.

Lisa Spainhour

Tallahassee, FL