

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



**T.H. STONE  
MEMORIAL ST.  
JOSEPH PENINSULA  
STATE PARK**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

April-June 2019

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
Public Meeting  
April 30, 2019



**Purpose**

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public on the decision to close the breach, reconstruct the main park road, and restore adjacent dune habitat at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Documents from the meeting are available at: [www.floridadep.gov/park/public-participation](http://www.floridadep.gov/park/public-participation)

**Public Input**

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with us. Please provide any comments you may have by **May 14, 2019**. You can provide your comments by calling (850) 245-3073, sending an email with the park name in the subject line to [Daniel.Alsentzer@floridadep.gov](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@floridadep.gov), or by regular mail at the address below:

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

**Comment Form - T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park**

IT WAS WITH GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO HEAR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION ON THE "LEAGUE PASS". THE PASS WOULD HAVE BEEN A DRAW TO BOATERS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PARK WOULD HAVE BEEN ENHANCED WITH A SMALL CAUSEWAY AND A DIAMOND ~~MAP~~ SETTY SUPPORT WHILE DESTROYING SMALL BUSINESS "OLD FLORIDA" TYPE SHOPS & ARCHITECTURE. IT WOULD HAVE PUT THE ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA STATE PARK ON THE NATIONAL MAP.

Thank you for listening.

BEST REGARDS, DON WAITS  
602-721-9129  
PORT ST. JUCE





Conservation Office  
308 North Monroe  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

850.222.2473  
[fl.audubon.org](http://fl.audubon.org)

Audubon Florida  
308 N. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 222-2437

May 13, 2019

Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning  
3800 Commonwealth Blvd., MS#525  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Mr. Draper:

On April 30, 2019, DEP's Office of Park Planning provided an update on current park conditions and post-hurricane recovery efforts underway at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Audubon recognizes the importance of this park to the economy of Gulf County and the Park Service's commitment to providing public access. We also recognize that conservation lands are one of the few places where coastal processes can be allowed to follow their natural progression—a progression that is necessary for imperiled species dependent upon early successional habitats like dune wash-overs and island breaches.

With this in mind, we were dismayed to hear DEP staff during the presentation assert that filling in the breach with sand utilizing an existing beach nourishment permit is the most effective and environmentally sound course of action. In our opinion, this decision to fill in the breach was presented without demonstrating that the following were considered:

- The likelihood of future recurrence due to rising sea levels and storm events.
- A transparent evaluation of alternatives to an expedient "fill-in."
- An impact analysis of constructing and paving a new road through valuable habitat currently occurring in the breach.
- A resilience evaluation and strategy for the park and its infrastructure.

#### **Sand Accretion**

During the presentation, it was stated multiple times that the breach is "naturally" accreting and is currently approximately 2 feet deep. This is likely a result of the beach nourishment taking place updrift of the breach outside the park boundaries. The sand accumulating within the breach is not originating from a natural source, and had there not been beach nourishment projects in the area, we likely would not be seeing the breach fill-in at its current rate. This is an important consideration in evaluating what kind of long-term support any solution to the breach might require.

**Alternatives to Filling-In the Breach**

Alternatives like a ferry or an elevated, sacrificial footpath would ensure that after future tropical weather events, damage would be mitigated and park operations could resume sooner. No other alternatives were presented by DEP and no data was presented to support the negative response to the feasibility of using a ferry to access the park.

**Conclusion**

While we understand there is urgency in restoring public access to the site, we also recognize that the Park Service will face many more decisions related to climate resiliency and adaptation in the future. It requires considering the park of the future rather than simply trying to recreate the park of the past. The public also deserves a transparent process that demonstrates the decision-making process has taken these risks into consideration.

Solving a problem of this magnitude will inherently be an expensive endeavor. There is no "cheap" way to recover from such a devastating storm. The State of Florida has an opportunity to set the example for local businesses, homeowners and landowners by future-proofing one of our most valuable environmental and economic resources. St Joseph Peninsula Park is both a unique conservation treasure and a vital economic resource to this community. By factoring adaptation and resiliency into our rebuilding decisions, we ensure that we protect all of our interests for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Julie Wraithmell



**From:** [Christian Wagley](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:15:40 PM

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May 14, 2019

Florida Park Service  
Via email: [Daniel.Alsentzer@floridadep.gov](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@floridadep.gov)

Dear Mr. Alsentzer:

Healthy Gulf is a diverse coalition of individual citizens and local, regional, and national organizations committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico. One of our priority focus areas is on maintaining and improving the natural resiliency of coastal systems such as coastal barriers and wetlands.

On behalf of our members and supporters in Florida, we wish to comment on recovery plans for the T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park following the impacts of Hurricane Michael. The Park is of great interest to our members due to its ecological significance and its location adjacent to St. Joseph Bay—a unique body of water along the northern Gulf coast. We believe that the recovery planning process presents an opportunity to set a course for park management that protects the natural integrity of the park and its wildlife; allows for balanced public access and use; and adapts to the changing conditions caused by climate change that include stronger hurricanes and accelerated sea level rise.

We recommend that the following principles and specific measures guide recovery planning for the Park:

***Let nature rule***

We believe that the Park's Approved Unit Management Plan provides ample support for this approach:

*"DRP's philosophy of resource management is natural systems management. Primary emphasis is placed on restoring and maintaining, to the degree possible, the natural processes that shaped the structure, function, and species composition of Florida's diverse natural communities as they occurred in the original domain."*

This approach is manifest through a "hands off" policy that allows natural processes to occur uninterrupted to the greatest extent possible. Examples include allowing sand dunes to build naturally rather than through artificial plantings or the construction of

artificial dunes. Doing so allows for the maintenance of newly created overwash fans, which will serve as exceptional shorebird nesting habitat in the years ahead.

Furthermore, we support allowing the newly-created pass at Eagle Harbor to function naturally, without stabilization or being artificially closed. The longshore drift that moves sand from south to north along the St. Joseph Peninsula means that the pass will likely close naturally in the months ahead, with only ephemeral exchanges of waters between Gulf and Bay remaining. Attempts to stabilize the pass will interrupt the longshore drift and likely increase erosion north of Eagle Harbor.

### ***Create more flexible infrastructure***

The overwhelming body of scientific evidence predicts a dramatic acceleration of sea level rise in the decades ahead, with 2' – 6' of additional rise to 2100. This will put much of the Park's shoreline in more rapid retreat, making it more difficult to maintain infrastructure and facilities.

As opposed to making facilities harder, there are many opportunities to make them softer and more in-line with the natural dynamics of the Peninsula. For example, garbage, restroom, visitor center, and other facilities can be made smaller, lighter, more flexible, and easier to move out-of-the way of storm events. This softening and lightening of infrastructure is already well-underway in national seashore units administered by the National Park Service, such as Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia. We have yet to see any examples of adaptation to stronger storms and sea level rise in the management of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, and strongly recommend that such steps be taken as part of the recovery process.

### **Relocate vulnerable infrastructure**

The Park Service should assess every park building and piece of infrastructure to determine whether it should be relocated to make it less vulnerable to future storms and sea level rise. For example, campground restrooms/bathhouses heavily damaged in the storm should be moved inland to higher ground.

While the area south of Eagle Harbor does contain wetlands, there are also upland areas that could support relocated buildings and infrastructure. This area is less likely to be impacted by future storms as the land is of relatively high elevation and it is south of Eagle Harbor, where a pass will likely be created again in the future after the existing pass fills naturally due to longshore sand transport. It is also easier to access this area with road service from the south.

Additionally, the park's maintenance buildings are located Gulffront in a coastal high hazard area that makes them very vulnerable to future storms and rising seas. Since



these structures will have to be repaired or rebuilt anyway this is an opportune time to make them less vulnerable to future storms. The former maintenance area could be rebuilt as a beach access since the area is already disturbed. This would create a new access south of Eagle Harbor and thus away from the park's most vulnerable area that is likely to be breached again in the future.

### ***Establish alternative ways to reach the park, such as boat/ferry service***

With facilities north of Eagle Harbor isolated by the new pass, alternative methods of reaching the Park should be implemented. This could take the form of boat/ferry service, with two potential routes for access:

1) Direct boat access across Saint Joseph Bay from Port Saint Joe would offer a more direct connection to the Park than exists through automobile access. Boat access to Eagle Harbor from Port Saint Joe is a distance of 7 miles, which at a reasonable rate of 12 mph would take about 34 minutes. An automobile trip to reach Eagle Harbor from Port Saint Joe is a distance of 20.5 miles and takes about 35 minutes. Boat access would also provide a far more interesting experience in getting to and from the park, with opportunities for interpretive activities along the way. Boating access could be provided by private entities, with the Park providing guaranteed dockage.

2) Additional boat access could be provided to move visitors from the south end of Eagle Harbor to the camping and cabin facilities on the north side of the Harbor. The existing dredged boat basin on the south provides easy access, while on the north side a dock would have to be constructed to serve as a landing point. There is a very large sand deposit adjacent to management unit SJ-06A tidal creek where a dock could be placed without interrupting seagrass beds. For such a short trip it would be easy to utilize boats that operate on electric or hybrid electric motors.

Automobile access from the south could still be allowed for now, as that portion of the Park land mass is stable. However, the question of any automobile access to the Park should be considered in the context of the continued vulnerability of State Road 30E at the Stumphole, where Cape San Blas meets the Peninsula. This is the most rapidly eroding area on the entire Florida coast.

### ***Protect Water quality***

Considering the ecological significance of the adjacent St. Joseph Bay, we recommend that protecting water quality be given the highest priority. Sewage in areas not accessible for central treatment could be handled by composting toilets that can be removed or otherwise secured in the event of a storm.



Arguments over whether the new pass is beneficial or detrimental to water quality are not relevant, as the creation of the pass is a natural disturbance that should be left to the forces of nature. Any changes in water quality or chemistry from the pass are within the realm of variability experienced by dynamic coastal ecosystems and are unlikely to cause major impacts—especially considering what is likely to be the fairly short-term nature of the fully flowing pass opened with Hurricane Michael.

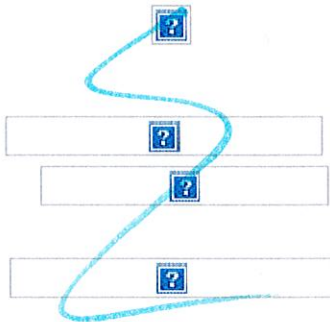
Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Christian Wagley  
Coastal organizer, Florida – Alabama  
[christian@healthygulf.org](mailto:christian@healthygulf.org)

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**Christian Wagley**

Coastal Organizer,  
Florida-Alabama

850 687 9968  
P.O. Box 13412  
Pensacola, FL 32591

[healthygulf.org](http://healthygulf.org)

**From:** [Robert L "Linc" Clay](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Frequent User Comments on St. Joe Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 5:09:43 PM

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Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am writing as a frequent park wilderness area user, frequent cabin user, and occasional campground user. (I have also provided a suggestion in a separate email in my role as an FPTA trail keeper.)

I have the following thoughts regarding restoration of the park.

1 - I would like to see overnight camping in the wilderness area portion of the park resumed as quickly as possible. Due to the difficulty in access to the wilderness area, an upward adjustment of the overnight wilderness camping fee would not seem out of order. The wilderness area is one of the largest stretches of largely undisturbed coastline left in the state. I would hate to loss access to this wonderful piece of coastline.

2 - The park system already supports a disconnected park (Cayo Costa), so we have a "design pattern" on how to manage remote parks. The popularity of the cabins cannot be argued, as it was almost impossible to get reservations. They appeared to be booked almost 100% of the time. If utilities could be restored, the cabins could be operated for boat access.

3 - The campgrounds were great and were also very popular. However, building a bridge to the disconnected part of the park will be very expensive, take several years to complete, and will immediately be an investment at risk due to future storms and rising sea levels. I would urge that we look for a lower-impact temporary or removable approach. Is a pontoon bridge possible? Is a Marston Matting type solution available? Is a just-above-sea-level concrete sill possible?

Thank you for taking these comments.

Sincerely,  
Robert L Clay  
Tallahassee, FL

**From:** [Small Parks](#)  
**To:** [Howell, Wes](#); [Foster, Michael](#); [Aisentz, Daniel](#); [Cutsbaw, Steven](#); [Faltner, Chuck](#); [Bradner, Bryan](#); [Draper, Eric](#); [Reed, Alex](#); [Madden, Philip J.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: The Breach at St. Joseph State Park taken yesterday Debbie Hooper JoeBay.com  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:56:37 PM

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**From:** Debbie Hooper <[debbie@joebay.com](mailto:debbie@joebay.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** Small, Parks <[Parks.Small@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Parks.Small@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** The Breach at St. Joseph State Park taken yesterday Debbie Hooper JoeBay.com

Hi Parks, I met you and Daniel at the Centennial Park mtg last week about our state park. Please view these images taken yesterday. It looks like the breach is closing in with Mother Natures help. These are low resolution images taken from our plane. We do aerial photography and could do monthly shots and provide high resolution images for you as obliques like these and/or vertical shots to map the images. We can give you a quote if you are interested.

It was a gorgeous day yesterday 5-6-19.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you.

Debbie Hooper 850-227-4460







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**From:** [Robert L "Linc" Clay](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FPTA Comments on St. Joe Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:27:11 AM

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Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am emailing on behalf of the Florida Paddling Trails Association, a Citizens Support Organization supporting the Florida Saltwater Paddling Trail. The FPTA recommends continued access to the wilderness area campsites in the park. These campsites anchor the east end of a very long segment of the trail on which camping is prohibited (Tyndall Air Force Base). The loss of use of these campsites will make the coastal route of the trail extremely difficult to use.

Thank you for taking this comment and thank you for your work in restoring the park.

Sincerely,  
Robert L Clay  
FPTA Trail Keeper, Region B

**From:** [big sid](#)  
**To:** [FSP Feedback](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:01:07 PM

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T.H. Stone Memorial State Park on Cape San Blas was far and away our favorite State Park. We are deeply saddened that it was destroyed and wish there was some way we could help in it's recovery. We live in Ohio, but try and visit as many State parks as possible in the winter months. Keep up the good work. You should be very, very proud !

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**From:** [Cutshaw, Steven](#)  
**To:** [glatanzio1@gmail.com](mailto:glatanzio1@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#); [Small, Parks](#); [Draper, Eric](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Email Received FW: T.H. Stone Park  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 9:35:44 AM

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Good morning Mr. Latanzio,

Thank you very much for your attendance at the recent St. Joe public meeting. I also thank you for your dedication to the Florida Park Service! Your input is not only appreciated, it is wanted and used to make decisions moving forward. Our Office works hard to be transparent and to work with all stakeholders throughout our planning process. Together we can make the parks the best for the resources and for everyone who visits.

Please feel free to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,  
Steven



**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:** Degagne, Demi  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2019 8:04 AM  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us) <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** [Cutshaw, Steven](mailto:Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us) <[Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Public Email Received FW: T.H. Stone Park

**From:** George Latanzio <[glatanzio1@gmail.com](mailto:glatanzio1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 5:48 PM  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us) <[FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Park

I attended the April 30 hearing and would like to commend the DEP team for the professional presentation.

I'm strongly in favor of restoring the park to its pre-hurricane condition. Against dredging to keep the breach open, against a ferry, against a bridge and against putting any facilities below Eagle Harbor.

I believe the health of the bay will be improved if locks are installed on the intracoastal waterway to keep fresh water and chemicals from entering.

Thanks for your efforts.

George Latanzio  
202 Painted Pony Road  
Port St. Joe

**From:** [Degagne, Demi](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Cutshaw, Steven](#)  
**Subject:** Public Email Received FW: T.H. Stone Park  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 8:04:23 AM

---

**From:** George Latanzio <glatanzio1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 5:48 PM  
**To:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#) <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Park

I attended the April 30 hearing and would like to commend the DEP team for the professional presentation.

I'm strongly in favor of restoring the park to its pre-hurricane condition. Against dredging to keep the breach open, against a ferry, against a bridge and against putting any facilities below Eagle Harbor.

I believe the health of the bay will be improved if locks are installed on the intracoastal waterway to keep fresh water and chemicals from entering.

Thanks for your efforts.

George Latanzio  
202 Painted Pony Road  
Port St. Joe



**From:** [Elaine & Rich Barrick](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder - St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for updates on post-hurricane recovery, Tues., April 30  
**Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2019 4:19:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Is there any way to get the outcome of this meeting, minutes, etc? I am in Ohio and have been camping at the park for years and are very interested in what might be planned or proposed.

Thank you,  
Elaine Barrick

On Thu, Apr 25, 2019, 3:59 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi,

This is a reminder that the Florida Park Service will be holding the next public meeting for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park on **Tuesday, April 30**, starting 5:30 PM (Eastern) at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe. The purpose of this meeting is to provide updates on post-hurricane recovery planning. Public comments are welcome.

Please feel free share this meeting notice with other members of your community. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

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:** [Santiago Casanova](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: St. Joseph Peninsula post-hurricane recovery / Thank You  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01:07 PM

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Thank you so much for reaching out to me. It was my pleasure to come see the park and the presentation. My wife was not wanting me to go because she was worried about me driving on the pitch black back roads for so long. She is very piratical and her concerns are valid. I showed her your email and she was touched that you reached out to me. It helped her understand why I would drive 9 hours to speak for two minutes.

I really do feel the park is in good hands and the recovery will be beautiful. The DEP and park system has really kept the perfect balance of recreation and conservation. Over all the years I have come to the park the only thing that changes is the water quality of the bay. It used to be crystal clear in the early 90's. It really is amazing how the park seemed to be frozen in time. Even after big storms it still looked the same year after year. When I went in the summer of 2017 I saw the same dunes that were in the same place from over 25 years ago.

I got the sense that you and the rest of the presenters really care about the park and are considering every option and its impacts. I really liked Michael Foster's presentation. After talking with him after the meeting I got a good sense of his vision and implementation. We had talked about a septic to sewer conversion for the campsites and cabins. I am really happy to hear that is being considered. I also really liked Johnathan's presentation on the health of the bay and the sea grass. It was a huge relief to know that the ferry option is off the table. It would have too big an impact on the peninsula and the bay.

I know that you and Steven Cutshaw do not have an easy job. As a state employee that deals with red tape and bureaucracy every day, I have an idea of what you are up against. I respect your positions and how you deal with the public. I know you can't make everybody happy but the plan of balancing recreation and conservation is the only way to go. It has worked for so long in so many of the state parks. I think if the public could have an honest meeting with each other and put their agendas to the side; you would find that most people want the mostly the same things. Only slight differences for some, but you will always have a few outliers. Like those that want to keep the island closed off for the birds. Some of my best bird watching happened in the park. The visitors never bothered them. They already had a 1950 acre preserve at the end of the peninsula.

What the majority wants is a park that is open for the public with camp sites, cabins, beach access and a boat ramp. Everything else we want is provided by nature. If the baysavers wanted to make a difference they should let the DEP do its job with the park and keep pushing for a lock on the canal. If the Audubon society wanted to make a difference they could advocate for keeping the preserve as is and not encroaching on it. This nonsense of wanting to keep the breach open and maintain the island is ludicrous. It only benefits a few people with boats and it will negatively affect the salinity of the bay. Nature is doing what it wants and what it wants is to fill in the breach. Overall, I really like the plan as it was presented at the meeting. I think it goes right along with what nature will do on its own.

I want to finish off by saying that I am willing to contribute any of my skills to bring this project to completion. Even if it is just me going to the public forums. I am a licensed building inspector and plans examiner (BN6985 and PX3860). I am also a licensed journeyman



electrician. I am saying this because if you have any questions about power (my background is primarily electrical) I would be happy to give a professional opinion or just an educated john q public opinion. I am thinking that this might be the time for some solar power in the park. Maybe some panels on a pavilion to provide some power for lighting or receptacles. I would also be happy to conduct a post storm inspection of the electrical infrastructure in the park. I am sure you probably already have it covered but I want to offer any help I can.

I have also worked for over a decade as a tree surgeon. I can climb trees with rope access and no spikes to keep from injuring a tree further. I would be happy to do some post storm cleanup pruning or just clearing what is on the ground. I really do take tree health care seriously and I would be willing to volunteer my skills and equipment to help the cause. Even if it means I will be swimming across the channel with a pelican case of tree gear. This park is my favorite place on earth. I want to do everything I can to help.

Thank you for all the hard work you have put in for this recovery.

On Wed, May 1, 2019 at 5:15 PM Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Santiago –

The Office of Park Planning greatly appreciates your attendance and willingness to speak at yesterday's informational forum for post-hurricane recovery of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

Driving from Alachua County was no small gesture of your appreciation for the park and concern for the future of its resources and accessibility. Your words of support for our proposed plans and recommendations are a valuable contribution and will be added to the record for consideration as we move forward.

I understand that you are a long-time visitor of the park and I hope that your visit yesterday was fulfilling despite the hurricane impacts. Public participation, such as yours, in our planning process enables us to make informed decisions that are truly in the public interest. We hope that your next visit to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park finds the park well on its way to natural resource and infrastructural recovery.

Regards,

Daniel

**Daniel Alsentzer**

**From:** [Harold Fahs](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial Port St. Joe State Park  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 11:49:35 AM

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My wife and I have invested over 400 hours as volunteers at this park. To not restore it would be a real tragedy. We love to work at this park because of the beauty and excellent beach area. Since the park itself is over 50 yrs old it would greatly benefit in a total rebuild, which also would generate more revenue for the state. I do believe that St Joe is one of the top state parks in the system

The rangers we work with there are truly great representatives of the FL State Park System.

Respectfully,  
Harold & Valerie Fahs

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**From:** [Nancy Jones](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Public input/ St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:27:44 PM

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Hi Daniel,

It was so nice to meet you at the public meeting in Port St. Joe yesterday. I enjoyed having a chance to chat with you in person. I really appreciate the Parks Division hosting two meetings for the Gulf County Community. I am new to Florida and love the natural beauty of this state and the State Parks must be the crown jewels, just fantastic!

I know it is hard to balance the needs of humans and our natural resources. But, after hearing Audubon, Patti with FWC and Defenders for Wildlife make suggestions, I wondered if it is not too late to try to make a few more allowances for the natural resources side of the equation. Also, at the meeting was Dr. Dusty May, our local dentist and he spoke from the platform of Baysavers, an organization he founded. He is passionate about the health of the Bay and he disputed the salinity results that Jonathan presented. He is also a big supporter for putting a lock on the fresh water canal. He is well regarded in the community and if his concerns could be given a second look it might be beneficial. I know I would like a definitive answer about the lock connection, the hurricane breach and Bay salinity so we could all be on the same page as to what is best for the Bay. Could we give the park a bit longer to recover on it own before we make a final plan? Continue to test the salinity, and post further results? And, as we are doing so perhaps invite the organizations and folks with definite suggestions back to the table one more time to submit suggestions to the Parks Division for a review? I heard some very interesting ideas mentioned and we want to have a successful project and if someone from our community can help, wouldn't that be wonderful?

All my best,

Nancy Jones  
Gulf County Resident

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph Peninsula - Feedback re: Park Recovery  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:33:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [T. H. Stone Memorial #00095260 SF Reference ref 00DG0i115. 5004A1f84C9ref.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:01 AM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Dillard, Jonathan M <Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us>; Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; Faure, Benjamin <Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula - Feedback re: Park Recovery

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



**Julie R. Kurisko**

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



**From:** [noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com) on behalf of [Public Services](#)  
**To:** [FSP.Feedback](#)  
**Cc:** [emailtosalesforce@2bzkzccik43cdbvc1faeca7e7xvq0w23zaz8r1113iwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com](mailto:emailtosalesforce@2bzkzccik43cdbvc1faeca7e7xvq0w23zaz8r1113iwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com)  
**Subject:** T. H. Stone Memorial #00095260 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG01115\_5004A1f84C9:ref  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 5:43:24 AM



\*\*\* NEW CASE ASSIGNMENT \*\*\*

Standard Case:  
**00095260**

Case Status:  
**Closed**

Please review for next appropriate action. If case status (above) is "closed" no further response is expected.

**IMPORTANT:** To close this case notify Public Services. If responding to the customer by email leave the entire reference number in the subject line (do not delete anything in the subject line) and copy [publicservices@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:publicservices@dep.state.fl.us) .

Assigned To:  
**DEP Recreation & Parks (surveys)**

Case Type:  
**Praise**

Instructions:  
**FYI**  
**NRN**

Due Date:  
**5/6/2019 5:00 PM**

Contact Name:  
**A Anonymous**  
Contact email:  
City:

Contact Phone:  
Organization:  
**DEP Customer Survey**  
Case Subject:

**T. H. Stone Memorial**  
Case Description:  
**T. H. Stone Memorial**

Our family has been utilizing the park since the seventies. It is our favorite state park and we have visited several of them. Several scalloping, fishing and camping trips per year have been a tradition. Now that my wife and I have reached retirement, we had planned to spend even more time there. Maybe even volunteering as camp hosts from time to time. We have even considered moving to the Gulf County area so as to be able to visit the park more often. Living in the Destin/Panama City area for most of our lives, the "Forgotten Coast" is now more to our liking. We would love to see the park brought back to it's pre-hurricane condition. Even though the restroom/shower facilities in the campgrounds were in need of updating prior to the storm, they would be fine "as they were" if only access could be restored. One of the greatest things about this park has been the lack of crowding in the campgrounds. While density has increased over the years, we would hate to see the number of spaces increased to the level of some of the other parks. Hopefully the park will be restored and it's unique "wildness" can be maintained.

Survey Link:

[https://clicktime.symantec.com/3DeAw8Wre8AgfQaUSGx5wXU7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs%3F%2F%3Fsn%3D1556583721\\_5cc7952927cad5.84880614%26sg\\_navigate%3Dstart](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3DeAw8Wre8AgfQaUSGx5wXU7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs%3F%2F%3Fsn%3D1556583721_5cc7952927cad5.84880614%26sg_navigate%3Dstart)

Attachments:

- **If responding on behalf of the Secretary** please have appropriate leadership review per your local procedures. The signature is at the discretion of your Division/District/Office Director.
  - **If responding on behalf of the Governor** the signature must be by the Division/District/Office Director/Bureau Chief or above.
  - If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Teri Plichta to request an extension.
  - If you are not able to meet the deadline, please contact the correspondent and let them know that their issue is under review and a response is being prepared.
  - Update SalesForce by email or advise Teri Plichta of all actions taken.
- If you have questions about this case or how to respond please contact the person who assigned it to you (below):

**Assigned by:**  
**Teri Plichta**

**Internal Case Source:**

*Note that all cases may not require a direct response to the customer but all correspondence should be reviewed by the relevant subject matter experts.*

[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)



**From:** [Penny Jensen](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:08:51 AM

---

Good morning,  
Is there a video link to the meeting that was held last night?

Curious to know what has transpired in regards to the park.

Thank you for your time.

Penny Jensen

**From:** [CarolA](#)  
**To:** [Knapke, Mark](#); [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Park Citizen Input  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 4:45:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Final Letter.odt](#)

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Attached you will find a letter with some recommendations regarding the future of the park. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend tonight's meeting. Wishing you and the park a successful outcome.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Hello, my name is Carol Aylward and as much as I would like to be present at the planning meeting for the future of T. H. Stone State Park, due to health issues my husband and I are not able to attend. My letter is speaking not only for my husband and I, but for my 4 year old granddaughter Audriana and her peers.

It is so very important that all options should be very carefully considered so that future generations can enjoy the natural coastal environment of T.H. Stone State Park. I do not have any information about budgets, damage assessments, park allocations, etc. so my recommendations that follow might not be viable suggestions.

Beginning in 1953, I grew up in South Florida first in Miami, then migrating north to Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Boca Raton and now residing in Leesburg, Florida. My husband who is a sixth generation Floridian teases me to this day that I'm not a true Floridian because I wasn't born here. To me, being a true Floridian is preserving the culture, history, and environment of this glorious state. That is why my husband and I wish we could be at the meeting tonight. We want to make certain that the Forgotten Coast and T. H. Stone State Park don't get gobbled up by over development and greedy investors who are not true caretakers of the land and only chase the almighty dollar bill.

As a child one of my first memories is going to BirchTaylor State Park in Fort Lauderdale. It was a wonderful place, except for the no seeums and mosquitoes in the summer. Every chance my parents got we would take day trips to the Keys, Sanibel Island, or the Everglades. My childhood was steeped in the natural, undisturbed ecosystems of Florida in the 1950's. How lucky was I!

The 1960's changed that pristine natural environment forever.

In the 1970's, as a young parent of two children, we didn't have a whole lot of money for outings-vacations. My husband and I wanted our children to enjoy the same experiences I had enjoyed as a child but it had to be affordable. We found the Florida State Parks a great way to have a wonderful family vacation at a reasonable cost. We started camping in the Keys in 1978. We wanted to go to Bahia Honda where I had visited with my family in the 1950's, but camping sites were booked solid. Remember these were the days before online reservations and the Internet and you just showed up and hopped for the best. Our children were so very disappointed and sad but the ranger saw that so he suggested that we go back up the road to a less popular state park named Long Key. We found paradise, except for the mosquitoes, but it didn't really matter we soon learned how to love the smell of OFF and made wonderful family memories for the next 10 plus years.

If the 1970's residents of Boca Raton, Florida, including my husband and I, had not voted to tax ourselves for the acquisitions of beach front property and land for public

parks that opportunity would have been lost forever. We and our friends knew that if we wanted to preserve a good quality of life for our children, we had to step up to the plate and put our money where our mouth was.

After our children moved away, my husband and I began to explore other state parks that looked interesting. Because we were getting older, we felt that camping was not a good option so we choose to stay overnight in parks that had cabins.

Next, I'm going to list the Florida State Parks, in no particular order, where we have stayed that had cabin/hotel facilities.

- Bahia Honda
- Myaka River
- Johnathan Dickenson
- Mike Roess Gold Head Branch
- Fanning Springs
- Lafatette Blue Springs
- Edward Ball Wakulla Springs Hotel
- Three Rivers
- Grayton Beach
- Topsail Hill Preserve

The ones we haven't visited are the ones close to our home that we are saving for when we can't get around as well as we do now. (Silver Springs, Hontoon Island, Lake Louisa, Blue Springs)

**Out of all of these lovely parks T. H. Stone ranks #1 for natural beauty and tranquility.**

We are also regular visitors to the National Parks System and have enjoyed wonderful experiences throughout the nation in many diverse parks. Each park, whether it is national or state, has its own unique theme or personality. T. H. Stone exemplifies the way Florida was before the explosive development of the last 50 years. It is a hidden jewel that should be treasured by the State of Florida and all future visitors who will come to enjoy the unique ambiance of simplicity in a natural setting.

The stewardship of past park supervisors, managers, and dedicated staff members has ensured the continued success of each individual park. Let us hope that the legislators in Tallahassee have as much long-sighted leadership in preserving the land as the previous powerful movers and shakers in Florida;

- Marjorie Stoneman Douglas
- Nat Reed



- Guy Harvey

and a host of many more individuals and organizations have dedicated their life to preserving the natural habitat of the oceans, everglades, pine forests, swamps, as well as other habitats.

These people are my heroes and hopefully there will be a new hero who will champion the cause for the responsible redevelopment of T. H. Stone State Park. The first video we were able to view after the hurricane showed two park employees walking down what was left of the road at the turn onto Cape San Blas. Not only were they walking, but they were carrying a chain saw. Those two people were heroes to me.

Your decisions will decide if my granddaughter will be able to hear the sounds of the migratory and local birds, smell the salt of the bay and sea, listen to the crashing of the waves from the Gulf, feel the bite of the annoying bugs, gaze at the stars and moon in the sky, look at the changing colors of the sunset and sunrise, look for the tracks of the sea creatures and land mammals, but mostly sink into her senses and memories the environment and culture of T. H. Stone State Park.

The following are my recommendations, without any knowledge about the costs of these potential suggestions or building regulations.

#### Phase I

Two to five years in development

- Build a new park manager residence close to the park entrance.
  - Renovate the previous residences to provide affordable living facilities for other park employees.
- Determine an environmentally safe location on the north bay side of the park, for the installation of utilities, water, and a dump station for people who have motor homes or campers. Based on historical data for this category of camper, plan a campground that is primarily for vehicle camping and allocate a small part of that facility for tent campers. This would be a kind of mixed use area similar to what existed before and based on the numbers, it might generate a steady income.
- Include a designated park host site.
- Provide any of these options for continuing to use the west portion of the park that was divided from the east portion of the park.
  - Build a single lane bridge to link the east and west portions of the park for use of the cabins and increase the cost of staying there per night.

OR

- Establish a boat shuttle service from the marina to the west side of the park and provide golf carts for residents of the cabins to use.

#### Phase II

Three to seven years in development.

- Rebuild one or both of the previous campsites and continue to maintain the campsite on the bay side of the park.

Phase III

- At any time, enlist and align environmental groups to help preserve and maintain the undeveloped western portion of the park.

My husband and I hope you have a productive meeting and depending on the outcome of his surgery, plan to attend future meeting(s).

Bill and Carol Aylward  
200 Round Man Street  
Leesburg, FL  
34748  
(352) 323-0618



**From:** [Dan Davidson](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:19:05 PM

---

My family has enjoyed visiting this wonderful park for the last 20 years or so. We have been there several times every year. We have stayed in the campgrounds many nights and launched our boat at Eagle Harbor many times as well. I was not able to attend the public meeting today but wanted to comment. The most important thing for us is the campground. I hope none of the options discussed is for permanently changing the park to a day use only park. I don't have a strong opinion either way concerning leaving the breach, filling it, or building a bridge. However, I am not sure if sufficient real estate exists south of the breach for building a new campground with at least as many sites as the park previously had. Thank you for all your efforts to restore this great park.

Dan Davidson and family  
Dothan, AL

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:30:31 AM

---

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

From: Roy Wentzel <wentzel1@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:38 PM  
To: Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
Subject: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Meeting

Hi Mark,

My wife and I have been supporters of the Cape and the park for many years and we are devastated at the widespread damage done by Michael. We may be able to attend tomorrow's meeting but just in case we can't make it I would love to have any information you can share and ways that we can help!

All the best,

Roy Wentzel  
The Friends of The Historic Sheep Farm

"Live your life so that the fear of death can never enter your heart...Love your life, perfect your life, and beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and in the service of your people."

Tecumseh

**From:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula Island State Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 8:12:03 AM

---

Public Email Received

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**From:** elizabethqueen@att.net <elizabethqueen@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 5:35 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>; FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Queen <elizabethqueen@att.net>  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula Island State Park

I am writing in response to a Public Meeting that I'm unable to attend on April 30, 2019. Please take my comments into consideration.

TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park has become my all time favorite of the numerous State Parks in Florida, many others of which I've visited and loved. I love that it's untouched and not developed. I love the dunes. I love the dolphins, sunrises and sunsets there. The surf fishing is phenomenal. I love the broken cockle shells. I love the people that enjoy the park. And I love the many treasured memories, including staying in the cabins and campground.

I'm so hoping you can figure out continued access to that beautiful piece of land. I was hoping for car access, but if that's not feasible, possibly a ferry?

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Queen  
[elizabethqueen@att.net](mailto:elizabethqueen@att.net)  
989-544-2907



**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula Island State Park  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 9:03:12 PM

---

**From:** elizabethqueen@att.net <elizabethqueen@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 5:35:24 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark; FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Queen  
**Subject:** TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula Island State Park

I am writing in response to a Public Meeting that I'm unable to attend on April 30, 2019. Please take my comments into consideration.

TH Stone Memorial St Joseph Peninsula State Park has become my all time favorite of the numerous State Parks in Florida, many others of which I've visited and loved. I love that it's untouched and not developed. I love the dunes. I love the dolphins, sunrises and sunsets there. The surf fishing is phenomenal. I love the broken cockle shells. I love the people that enjoy the park. And I love the many treasured memories, including staying in the cabins and campground.

I'm so hoping you can figure out continued access to that beautiful piece of land. I was hoping for car access, but if that's not feasible, possibly a ferry?

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Queen  
elizabethqueen@att.net  
989-544-2907

**From:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Cutshaw, Steven](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Meeting 4/30 PSJPSP  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:18:31 AM

---

Public Email Received FYI

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**From:** Stan Flahaut <sflahaut@expl.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:00 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Meeting 4/30 PSJPSP

Good afternoon,

I am from out of state but make annual visits to Cape San Blas and to the state park there. I would like to submit a comment regarding future use of the SJPSP.

We rent homes on the Cape and visit the State park at least once each year when we vacation. I'm not a camper, so I understand my position may be unpopular among campers.

First of all, I'm reading frequent posts about unauthorized visits to the newly formed island by visitors blatantly disregarding the signs. I'm presuming since there is no enforcement the signs are there simply to minimize liability.

Secondly, The Cape and park previous to the hurricane, along with the newly created island are both works of nature which might not otherwise happen were there human intervention. I am a conservationist at heart, so my instinct would be to give the island back to its rightful owner. That being said, I would recommend granting a limited number of day passes at a reasonable price to visitors of the island. Of course this would require a full time presence of enforcement to maintain the island's natural habitat and prevent over-use.

An alternative would be to keep it perfectly natural, and step up enforcement of trespass violators.

I'm not in favor of undoing the breach from the hurricane. Let the biological diversity continue. Though it is unfortunate for the campers to leave the island to nature, at least no one will get frustrated because people won't adhere to "leave no trace" and "lights off at night" directives on the deserted island.

It goes without saying I am opposed to any further commercialization or exploitation of the island.

Respectfully,

**From:** [Marilyn Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder - St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for updates on post-hurricane recovery, Tues., April 30  
**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:26:16 PM

---

I will

Again not be able to attend due to it being held during the week . I live a good ways away and can not make a meeting during the week. I am very interested in what has been done towards the recovery of the state park . This will be a hard year for us as we have no where to camp because we ONLY camp at this area. We were booked up the whole summer but have now been reimbursed. Please keep us informed.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

> Hi,

>

> This is a reminder that the Florida Park Service will be holding the next p= public meeting for St. Joseph Peninsula State Park on Tuesday, April 30, sta= rting 5:30 PM (Eastern) at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe. The pur= pose of this meeting is to provide updates on post-hurricane recovery plann= ing. Public comments are welcome.

>

> Please feel free share this meeting notice with other members of your commu= nity. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

>

> Regards,

> Daniel

>

> [FL-DEP-LOGO]<<https://floridadep.gov/>>

>

> 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: Degagne, Demi On Behalf Of Alsentzer, Daniel

> Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 2:09 PM

> Cc: Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>

> Subject: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for updates on po=



> st-hurricane recovery, Tues., April 30

> Importance: High

>

> Hi,

>

> The Florida Park Service will be holding a public informational meeting on =

> Tuesday, April 30 to provide updates on post-hurricane recovery planning fo=

> r T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This meeting will ta=

> ke place at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe.

>

> Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The format of the meeting wi=

> ll entail a presentation by Florida Park Service staff after which the floo=

> r will be opened to public comments and questions.

>

> Presentation topics will be largely focused on potential solutions to futur=

> e park access and management of the upland and aquatic resources at the bre=

> ach site. We also welcome any recommendations from the public for areas of =

> the park north of the current breach.

>

> Written comments and recommendations from the public will c

**From:** [Degenerate Press](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** PSJ state park  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:49:03 AM

---

I organized a group camping outing to the park every October with upward of 30 people. We all love the park and very much want to camp there again. The group got bigger each year as others told their friends about how gorgeous the place is.

Many of us have signed up to volunteer for any efforts to restore the park.

I'm looking forward to hearing what others say, though I can't get to the meeting in person!

Frederick Noble

**From:** [Poplin, Warren](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula - Hope for Rebuilding  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 10:19:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [Hurricane Michael Park Impacts #00094871\\_SF Reference ref\\_00DG0i115\\_5004A1f77FVref.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

FYI

*Warren Poplin*



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

---

**From:** Knapke, Mark  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:04 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** Kurisko, Julie <[Julie.Kurisko@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Julie.Kurisko@FloridaDEP.gov)>; Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>; Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>; Dillard, Jonathan M <[Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula - Hope for Rebuilding

Another interested party.

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

---

**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 3:51 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <[Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** Dillard, Jonathan M <[Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us)>; Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>; Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula - Hope for Rebuilding

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



**From:** [noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com) on behalf of **Public Services**  
**To:** [FSP Feedback](#)  
**Cc:** [emailtosalesforce@2bzkcck43cdhyclfaeca7e7xy0w23zaz8r1113lwexhri50.0r-8bb8ual.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com](mailto:emailtosalesforce@2bzkcck43cdhyclfaeca7e7xy0w23zaz8r1113lwexhri50.0r-8bb8ual.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com)  
**Subject:** Hurricane Michael Park Impacts #00094871 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG01115\_5004A177FV:ref  
**Date:** Friday, April 19, 2019 3:48:04 PM



\*\*\* NEW CASE ASSIGNMENT \*\*\*

Standard Case:  
**00094871**

Case Status:  
**Closed**

Please review for next appropriate action. If case status (above) is "closed" no further response is expected.

**IMPORTANT:** To close this case notify Public Services. If responding to the customer by email leave the entire reference number in the subject line (do not delete anything in the subject line) and copy [publicservices@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:publicservices@dep.state.fl.us) .

Assigned To:  
**DEP Recreation & Parks (surveys)**

Case Type:  
**Information**

Instructions:  
**FYI only. NRN**

Due Date:  
**4/26/2019 5:00 PM**

Contact Name:  
**A Anonymous**  
Contact email:  
City:

Contact Phone:  
Organization:  
**DEP Customer Survey**  
Case Subject:  
**Hurricane Michael Park Impacts**  
Case Description:

**Very interested in the decisions regarding St Joseph Peninsula State Park. We are very interested in rebuilding of the park, hoping that is what the state decides to do. We have been coming to that park for over 20 years.**

Survey Link:  
[https://clicktime.symantec.com/32dwbvfUHrjHxAQpGvErtr57Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fnc%3D1555702969\\_5cba24b96cf809.25767713%26sg\\_navigate%3Dstart](https://clicktime.symantec.com/32dwbvfUHrjHxAQpGvErtr57Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fnc%3D1555702969_5cba24b96cf809.25767713%26sg_navigate%3Dstart)  
Attachments:

- **If responding on behalf of the Secretary** please have appropriate leadership review per your local procedures. The signature is at the discretion of your Division/District/Office Director.
  - **If responding on behalf of the Governor** the signature must be by the Division/District/Office Director/Bureau Chief or above.
  - If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Teri Plichta to request an extension.
  - If you are not able to meet the deadline, please contact the correspondent and let them know that their issue is under review and a response is being prepared.
  - Update Salesforce by email or advise Teri Plichta of all actions taken.
- If you have questions about this case or how to respond please contact the person who assigned it to you (below):

**Assigned by:**  
**Teri Plichta**

**Internal Case Source:**

*Note that all cases may not require a direct response to the customer but all correspondence should be reviewed by the relevant subject matter experts.*

ref: \_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f77FV:ref

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[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

**From:** [Poplin, Warren](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joseph Peninsula - Restore the Park (#00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 10:02:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [St. Joe Peninsula #00094877 SF Reference ref\\_00DG0i115\\_5004A1f78ssref.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Please see below

*Warren Poplin*



**Warren Poplin**

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

**From:** Kurisko, Julie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:42 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Dillard, Jonathan M <Jonathan.M.Dillard@dep.state.fl.us>; Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; Faure, Benjamin <Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us>; Lincoln, Carrie <Carrie.Lincoln@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula - Restore the Park (#00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref)

Please see the attached visitor customer survey suggestion/praise and handle as appropriate. Have someone respond by close of business on 4/26/19 and copy me as well as [publicservices@floridadep.gov](mailto:publicservices@floridadep.gov). If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Public Services to request an extension.

Please retain the Case #/Reference code (given in the Subject heading) on all email responses to the guest and Public Services.



**Julie R. Kurisko**

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



**From:** [noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com) on behalf of **Lincoln, Carrie**  
**To:** [FSP.Feedback](mailto:FSP.Feedback)  
**Cc:** [emailtosalesforce@2bz7kzccik43cdbvclfaeca7e7xvq0w237az8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com](mailto:emailtosalesforce@2bz7kzccik43cdbvclfaeca7e7xvq0w237az8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com)  
**Subject:** St. Joe Peninsula #00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0115\_5004A178ss:ref  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 11:06:36 AM



\*\*\* NEW CASE ASSIGNMENT \*\*\*

Standard Case:  
**00094877**

Case Status:  
**Open**

Please review for next appropriate action. If case status (above) is "closed" no further response is expected.

**IMPORTANT:** To close this case notify Public Services. If responding to the customer by email leave the entire reference number in the subject line (do not delete anything in the subject line) and copy [publicservices@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:publicservices@dep.state.fl.us) .

Assigned To:  
**DEP Recreation & Parks (surveys)**

Case Type:  
**Suggestion**

Instructions:  
**Customer has requested a response  
Please respond  
Please close once a resolution has been made  
If you cannot close please CC resolution to  
Carrie.Lincoln@floridadep.gov and I will close**

Due Date:  
**4/26/2019 5:00 PM**

Contact Name:  
**Chris Brooks**  
Contact email:  
**brooks.chris@comcast.net**  
City:  
**Noblesville**

Contact Phone:  
**317 250 4753**  
Organization:  
**DEP Customer Survey**

Case Subject:  
**St. Joe Peninsula**

Case Description:  
**St. Joseph Peninsula should be restored to its former condition after the hurricane. A JEWEL of a park that we travel almost 900 miles to visit for a week every year.**

Survey Link:  
**[https://clicktime.symantec.com/3NjxpWqG3bdn8dMnwEmgiqL7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgzmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fsnc%3D1555761813\\_5cbb0a9556e419.96366064%26sg\\_navigate%3Dstart](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3NjxpWqG3bdn8dMnwEmgiqL7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgzmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fsnc%3D1555761813_5cbb0a9556e419.96366064%26sg_navigate%3Dstart)**  
Attachments:

- **If responding on behalf of the Secretary** please have appropriate leadership review per your local procedures. The signature is at the discretion of your Division/District/Office Director.
- **If responding on behalf of the Governor** the signature must be by the Division/District/Office Director/Bureau Chief or

above.

- If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Carrie Lincoln to request an extension.
- If you are not able to meet the deadline, please contact the correspondent and let them know that their issue is under review and a response is being prepared.
- Update SalesForce by email or advise Carrie Lincoln of all actions taken.

If you have questions about this case or how to respond please contact the person who assigned it to you (below):

**Assigned by:**  
**Carrie Lincoln**

**Internal Case Source:**

*Note that all cases may not require a direct response to the customer but all correspondence should be reviewed by the relevant subject matter experts.*

ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref

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[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula Park Public Hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 8:39:39 AM

---

**From:** Thomas Schmelzle <tmschmelzle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 7:56 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula Park Public Hearing

Hi Mark,

Will there be a livestream of this event or a copy of it posted afterward??

Thanks in advance for your help.

Tom.

--

Tom Schmelzle  
N 4895 430th Street  
Menomonie, WI 54751

(c) 715-301-0511  
(h) 715-235-9802  
(fax) 715-235-9802 (call ahead)



**From:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joe Peninsula #00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 3:14:38 PM

---

**From:** Knapke, Mark  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 3:13 PM  
**To:** brooks.chris@comcast.net  
**Subject:** RE: St. Joe Peninsula #00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref

Thank you for your interest in St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. We appreciate your comments about the future plans of the park. I am forwarding your comments to the people who will be working on the plans for the future of the park.

The Florida Park Service will be holding a public informational meeting on **Tuesday, April 30** 5:30 – 8:30pm ET to provide updates on post-hurricane recovery planning for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This meeting will take place at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The format of the meeting will entail a presentation by Florida Park Service staff after which the floor will be opened to public comments and questions.

Presentation topics will be largely focused on potential solutions to future park access and management of the upland and aquatic resources at the breach site. We also welcome any recommendations from the public for areas of the park north of the current breach.

Written comments and recommendations from the public will continue to be encouraged after the meeting through May 14. After this meeting and review of all public comments, we will proceed with next steps regarding the breach and continue the recovery efforts for the remainder of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

Since the previous public meeting in January, the park has reopened day use of the Gulf Beach-Eagle Harbor area south of the breach. With continued land use planning and natural resource restoration efforts, the Florida Park Service is striving to return St. Joseph Peninsula State Park as an asset in conservation and public resource-based recreation.

Feel free to contact me for any other questions you may have.

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:** [noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com) <[noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com)> **On Behalf Of** Lincoln, Carrie  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 11:07 AM  
**To:** FSP.Feedback <[FSP.Feedback@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FSP.Feedback@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** [emailtosalesforce@2bz7kcck43cdbvc1faeca7e7xyq0w23zaz8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uaj.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com](mailto:emailtosalesforce@2bz7kcck43cdbvc1faeca7e7xyq0w23zaz8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uaj.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com)  
**Subject:** St. Joe Peninsula #00094877 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1f78ss:ref

\*\*\* NEW CASE ASSIGNMENT \*\*\*

Standard Case:

**00094877**

Case Status:

**Open**

Please review for next appropriate action. If case status (above) is "closed" no further response is expected.

**IMPORTANT: To close this case notify Public Services. If responding to the customer by email leave the entire reference number in the subject line (do not delete anything in the subject line) and copy [publicservices@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:publicservices@dep.state.fl.us) .**

Assigned To:

**DEP Recreation & Parks (surveys)**

Case Type:

**Suggestion**

Instructions:

**Customer has requested a response  
Please respond  
Please close once a resolution has been made  
If you cannot close please CC resolution to  
[Carrie.Lincoln@floridadep.gov](mailto:Carrie.Lincoln@floridadep.gov) and I will close**

Due Date:

**4/26/2019 5:00 PM**

Contact Name:

**Chris Brooks**

Contact email:

[brooks.chris@comcast.net](mailto:brooks.chris@comcast.net)

City:

**Noblesville**



Contact Phone:

**317 250 4753**

Organization:

**DEP Customer Survey**

Case Subject:

**St. Joe Peninsula**

Case Description:

**St. Joseph Peninsula should be restored to its former condition after the hurricane. A JEWEL of a park that we travel almost 900 miles to visit for a week every year.**

Survey Link:

[https://clicktime.symantec.com/3NjxpWqG3bdn8dMnwEmgiqL7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fsnc%3D1555761813\\_5cbb0a9556e419.96366064%26sg\\_navigate%3Dstart](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3NjxpWqG3bdn8dMnwEmgiqL7Vc?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffloridadep.customer-survey.sgizmo.com%2Fs3%2F%3Fsnc%3D1555761813_5cbb0a9556e419.96366064%26sg_navigate%3Dstart)

Attachments:

- **If responding on behalf of the Secretary** please have appropriate leadership review per your local procedures. The signature is at the discretion of your Division/District/Office Director.
- **If responding on behalf of the Governor** the signature must be by the Division/District/Office Director/Bureau Chief or above.
- If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Carrie Lincoln to request an extension.
- If you are not able to meet the deadline, please contact the correspondent and let them know that their issue is under review and a response is being prepared.
- Update Salesforce by email or advise Carrie Lincoln of all actions taken.

If you have questions about this case or how to respond please contact the person who assigned it to you (below):

**Assigned by:**

**Carrie Lincoln**

**Internal Case Source:**

*Note that all cases may not require a direct response to the customer but all correspondence should be reviewed by the relevant subject matter experts.*

ref:\_00DG0i115\_5004A1f78ss:ref

---



**From:** [Bryan Trochessett](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for updates on post-hurricane recovery, Tues., April 30  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 3:10:31 PM

---

My only feedback is to acknowledge that nature is filling in the cut, so I'd rather not have the public try to stop that. Clearly, the end of the park with the camping area is valuable to the state, Port St Joe, and Gulf County. So, I would be inclined to "help" expedite nature in filling in the cut to as quickly as possible rebuild the road and get campers back into the area. (Selfishly, it wouldn't bother me if no one was able to get a car or camper on what is now an island, but that's purely selfishly thinking as I like fewer people out there while I'm out there.)

I know done have expressed keeping the cut open, and I understand the main reason for this is to help the flow of gulf water onto the bay to counteract the effects of fresh water coming into the bay from the canal. I'm very interested in leveraging the current state park situation to perhaps bring to the top of the county or state initiatives to close the canal to prevent that fresh water from flowing into the bay (which is incredibly detrimental to the long term conservation of what is still a beautiful bay with what I would think would be high state priority to maintain.

Thanks,  
Bryan Trochessett  
850.591.8140

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---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:17:06 PM  
**To:** Bryan Trochessett  
**Subject:** RE: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - public meeting for updates on post-hurricane recovery, Tues., April 30

Hi, Bryan –

The public meeting for St. Joseph Peninsula will begin at 5:30 on Tuesday, April 30, but you are welcome to arrive earlier to view any maps/renderings and discuss recommendations with staff.

Full meeting details are available in the agenda.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments in the meantime.

Regards,  
Daniel

**From:** [Melissa Harris Roombos](#)  
**To:** [Knapke, Mark](#)  
**Cc:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Meeting on 4/30  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 3:31:26 PM

---

Thanks!  
Melissa

**From:** Knapke, Mark <Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 2:27 PM  
**To:** [dcimelissa@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcimelissa@bellsouth.net)  
**Cc:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Meeting on 4/30

Thank you for your interest in the park. As a friends member I assure you the Friends of St. Joseph State Parks will keep everyone updated on their Facebook site and eventually on their website. I am also forwarding your email to the park planner. There will be additional meetings as a new plan is developed for the park, comments or suggestion can be submitted now and in various stages of planning

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:** Melissa Harris Roombos <[dcimelissa@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcimelissa@bellsouth.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** Knapke, Mark <[Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Mark.Knapke@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Public Meeting on 4/30

Hello, Mark,

My name is Melissa Roombos, and I have been vacationing at SJPSP since 1991. Our group has grown over the years, and last year we had 7 of the 8 cabins rented along with four of the campsites! We truly love your park...

Last week, my husband and I rented a townhouse at Barrier Dunes, just outside the SP entrance. We visited the park a few times and saw the announcement of the public meeting to discuss the post-hurricane efforts. We live in Mobile, AL, and will not be able to travel to attend this meeting. So, I was wondering if there are any plans to stream the meeting, or to record it and post it on your website?

As Friends of the SJSPS, will we receive any email updates concerning recovery progress? We recognize that it will be a few years before all is rebuilt, and we were very happy to see that the pass is filling in naturally.

We will appreciate any information that you are able & willing to send.

Thank you,

*Melissa Roombos*

**251.421.3153 - m**





**From:** [iverstins@cox.net](mailto:iverstins@cox.net)  
**To:** [Degagne, Demi](#)  
**Subject:** Park Meeting Inputs  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 1:31:28 AM

---

RE: **Tuesday, April 30** meeting on the post-hurricane recovery planning for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Please address the parking situation at the Park.

As you are aware, hurricane Michael took the majority of the parking area around the boat ramp for both boaters and non-boaters. The initial recovery restored some of the parking area, but not anywhere near the pre-hurricane level. As summer approaches, we foresee a catastrophe developing whereby competition for parking slots will kill the pleasure of visiting the Park.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the 30 April meeting. We are members of the "Friends of the Park" organization and think that the Park is an invaluable resource. Thanks holding the meeting and for allowing us to provide an input via EMAIL.

Smokey and Frankie Iverstine  
4393 Wavecrest LN  
Port St Joe, FL, 32456  
850-797-1701

**From:** [iverstins@cox.net](mailto:iverstins@cox.net)  
**To:** [Degagne, Demi](#)  
**Subject:** Park Meeting Inputs  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 1:31:28 AM

---

RE: **Tuesday, April 30** meeting on the post-hurricane recovery planning for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Please address the parking situation at the Park.

As you are aware, hurricane Michael took the majority of the parking area around the boat ramp for both boaters and non-boaters. The initial recovery restored some of the parking area, but not anywhere near the pre-hurricane level. As summer approaches, we foresee a catastrophe developing whereby competition for parking slots will kill the pleasure of visiting the Park.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the 30 April meeting. We are members of the "Friends of the Park" organization and think that the Park is an invaluable resource. Thanks holding the meeting and for allowing us to provide an input via EMAIL.

Smokey and Frankie Iverstine  
4393 Wavecrest LN  
Port St Joe, FL, 32456  
850-797-1701

**From:** [Dwayne Piergiovanni](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** State Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 2:51:32 PM

---

Hi Daniel,

I hope you are doing well.

I am just checking in to see if there have been any updates as to the rebuilding/recovery plans for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park?

**Dwayne Piergiovanni**

Cone Heads 8020

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e: [eat@coneheadseightytwenty.com](mailto:eat@coneheadseightytwenty.com)

p: [850.229.5252](tel:850.229.5252)

[www.coneheadseightytwenty.com](http://www.coneheadseightytwenty.com)

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*Sent from iPhone.*



**From:** [FLStateParkPlanning](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Cc:** [Baxley, Demi](#)  
**Subject:** FW: T H Stone Memorial State Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2019 8:32:16 AM

---

Public Email Received

---

**From:** Fran Donaway <ezrunner@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** T H Stone Memorial State Park

As an out-of-state resident who has frequently visited Florida State parks to camp, I can honestly say that T H Stone Memorial State Park was the most beautiful park we had ever visited. After just one stay, we made plans to double the length of our visit in 2019...and then Michael happened.

While we were camped there, we bought seafood at the local market, bought gas at the station at Cape San Blas, purchased donuts and ice cream and other treats at small businesses there, and went out to eat locally. The \$\$ that we spent there was spent elsewhere this year.

If T H Stone campground were to re-open, I assure you that we would be back there in a heartbeat. Please give serious consideration to finding a way to give this wonderful park and campground back to campers like me who cannot afford to rent a house but who appreciate the beauty of Cape San Blas.

Fran Donaway  
Supply, NC

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

**From:** [Brian Davis](#)  
**To:** [Alsentzer, Daniel](#)  
**Subject:** T.H. Stone Memorial State Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:07:05 AM

---

Good morning Mr. Alsentzer,

My name is Brian Davis and I am from Knoxville, TN. I am writing concerning the future plans regarding the camping and cabin areas of T.H. Stone Memorial State Park. I am aware that the hurricane in 2018 did significant damage to the park and these areas have been closed since. For the last 5 or 6 years I have brought my wife and 6 children to the park, Cape San Blas and the Port Saint Joe area. We were actually scheduled to come down again last year for the week after the hurricane. We're truly heart broken over the devastation in the area as we considered this park and the Port Saint Joe area "our spot!" We found a peaceful place in T.H Stone where we could bring our little ones. We felt safe there. We are now having a terribly hard time finding a replacement that fills the spot T.H. Stone once held.

In short, I would like to know if there are plans to restore the park again and if so, is there a time frame? I truly hope so and I know my family does as well.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Brian and Jessica Davis  
with Aiden, Jude, Eve, Asher, Ezra and Audrey!



**From:** [noreply@salesforce.com](mailto:noreply@salesforce.com) on behalf of [Public Services](#)  
**To:** [FSP.Feedback](#)  
**Cc:** [emailtosalesforce@2bzkzckk43cdbvc1faeca7e7xyq0w23zaz8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com](mailto:emailtosalesforce@2bzkzckk43cdbvc1faeca7e7xyq0w23zaz8r11i3jwexhri50.0r-8bb8uai.cs94.le.sandbox.salesforce.com)  
**Subject:** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park #00092376 SF Reference: ref:\_00DG01115.\_5004A1bjpAw:ref  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2019 6:03:31 AM

---



\*\*\* NEW CASE ASSIGNMENT \*\*\*

Standard Case:  
**00092376**

Case Status:  
**Closed**

Please review for next appropriate action. If case status (above) is "closed" no further response is expected.

**IMPORTANT: To close this case notify Public Services. If responding to the customer by email leave the entire reference number in the subject line (do not delete anything in the subject line) and copy [publicservices@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:publicservices@dep.state.fl.us) .**

Assigned To:  
**DEP Recreation & Parks (correspondence)**

Case Type:  
**Suggestion**

Instructions:  
**FYI**

Due Date:  
**2/25/2019 5:00 PM**

Contact Name:  
**Karen Grantham**  
Contact email:  
**karengrantham624@gmail.com**  
City:

Contact Phone:  
Organization:  
**Citizen**  
Case Subject:



**St. Joseph Peninsula State Park**

Case Description:

**From:** ,Karen Grantham <karengrantham624@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 17, 2019 9:21 PM

**To:** Office of Public Services <Public.Services@FloridaDEP.gov>

**Subject:** Restoration

**I would very much like to see St. Joseph Peninsula State Park restored. This was our family's favorite place to camp. We love Port. St Joe/ Cape San Blass area.**

**Thank you so much,**

**Karen Grantham**

Survey Link:

Attachments:

- **If responding on behalf of the Secretary** please have appropriate leadership review per your local procedures. The signature is at the discretion of your Division/District/Office Director.
- **If responding on behalf of the Governor** the signature must be by the Division/District/Office Director/Bureau Chief or above.
- If the assignment cannot be completed within the allotted time, please contact Teri Plichta to request an extension.
- If you are not able to meet the deadline, please contact the correspondent and let them know that their issue is under review and a response is being prepared.
- Update Salesforce by email or advise Teri Plichta of all actions taken. If you have questions about this case or how to respond please contact the person who assigned it to you (below):

**Assigned by:**

**Teri Plichta**

**Internal Case Source:**

*Note that all cases may not require a direct response to the customer but all correspondence should be reviewed by the relevant subject matter experts.*

ref:\_00DG0i115.\_5004A1bjpAw:ref

## **Degagne, Demi**

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 9:05 PM  
**To:** Degagne, Demi  
**Subject:** public comment received by text message - January 30

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

## Degagne, Demi

---

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 10:39 AM  
**To:** Degagne, Demi  
**Cc:** Cutshaw, Steven  
**Subject:** FW: St. Joe Peninsula State Park

**From:** Caleb Church /Allensonbooks [mailto:backwaterreddy@embarqmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 01, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** St. Joe Peninsula State Park

We are happy to hear about forward motion achieved in the recovery of public use of the park. Although there is no doubt that you are already inundated with "suggestions" as to how and what to do with the effort - I have offered a few myself - I would like to weigh in again.

First suggestion is that you consider a crushed-shell road instead of blacktop or pavement when the road into the north end is redone. And this only as far as the last cabin. The sand trail out to the end of the peninsula was more than adequate for walking and ranger/emergency access. It seems fairly obvious that a crushed shell road will have less environmental impact when the next storm takes it out and will be rebuilt relatively easily.

My next suggestion is that you **open up the north end for wilderness hiking/camping/day use ASAP**. Not only is revenue lost every day it is closed, but I feel somewhat lost without it. There are other places, and I go there, but here is an undeniable void that could fairly easily be fixed.

I understand there are new hazards especially concerning structures and infrastructure that has been destroyed or damaged. **The easy fix: Make the north end off limits between the new cut and the end of the cabin road**. So boat access to the remainder (and majority) of the peninsula. As to new but natural hazards resulting from the storm in the wilderness part of the peninsula - well, it's wilderness - provide waivers if necessary for those of us willing to take our own chances. I can manage jellyfish, sunburn and dog flies on my own. Tree clutter happens.

So rather than bury you in an avalanche of suggestions, I will just submit these two in hopes that I can get out there again before we are into the dog fly season is upon us.