



## VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

# Cummins Falls State Park

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Site Fact Sheet that outlines demographics of the park
- Assessment created to help the park manage trails effectively

## FACTS

**306** acres of protected land in Cummins State Park

**275k+** visitors per year

## MORE INFORMATION

- [Cummins State Park Strategic Management Plan](#)

## SUMMARY

Cummins Falls State Park in Cookeville, Tennessee, is a 306-acre site that is home to the renowned Blackburn Fork River, a designated Wild and Scenic River that runs for nearly 20 miles. It is recognized for its pristine swimming holes and recreational offerings. The park's strategic management plan, in effect until 2033, focuses on enhancing park resources, visitor experiences, and operational excellence.

The 'Visitors' section of the strategic plan emphasizes creating diverse programs for interpretation, recreation, and outreach to ensure inclusivity and warmth for all audiences. The plan not only prioritizes improving visitor experiences but also fosters collaborations with Tennessee Naturalist programs and other partners. The action plan outlines the expansion of junior ranger programs, off-site initiatives with schools and organizations, maintaining collaborative partnerships, and developing self-guided opportunities through signage and educational materials for diverse age groups.

## MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Cummins State Park has created a Site Fact Sheet that outlines various facets of the park such as the site manager, acreage, number of visitors, total revenue, etc. They have highlighted potential opportunities for improvement such as building upon their agricultural heritage and land acquisition for the future protection of land, sense of place, and watershed resources. An assessment was created that illustrates the condition and acreage of each facility within the park. They also have the condition and mileage of each trail so that managers may prioritize the trails in need of the most management. A fact sheet of labor support is also provided on this management plan. This ultimately will help the park allocate time and resources better as future projects will vary in how much manpower and time they receive. Management efforts have led to reduced crowding in and around the main swimming holes and reduced parking congestion.