HISTORY AND NATURE

Lake Talquin was formed when the Jackson Bluff Dam was constructed on the Ochlockonee River in 1927 to produce hydroelectric power. The waters held back by the dam formed Lake Talquin, named for the nearby cities of Tallahassee and Quincy. In 1971, approximately 20,000 acres of uplands along the lake were acquired through a donation to the Florida Department of Natural Resources. About 17,000 acres were turned over to Lake Talquin State Forest to manage. Today, Talquin State Park encompasses 526 acres of uplands and offers outstanding recreational opportunities.

The rolling hills of the uplands are covered with forests of pines and hardwoods. Large loblolly pine, American beech, southern magnolia, sweet gum, red maple and majestic oak trees dominate these woods. In the spring, flowering dogwood, redbud and red buckeye are in bloom in the forest understory. Deep steephead ravines along the edge of the lake form fingers that provide a moist habitat for many specially adapted and delicate plant and animal species. The bottoms of the ravines are a haven for salamanders such as the four-toed salamander, which lives and nests in the sphagnum moss that grows in the ravine. Rare and endangered plants including trout lilies, heart-leaf and the pyramid magnolia have been found.

A longleaf pine and wiregrass restoration project is ongoing. The goal of the project is to restore the natural plant communities of this fire-dependent habitat in order to sustain the sandhill community. These improvements will benefit animal species such as gopher tortoise and eastern diamondback rattlesnake.



LAKE TALQUIN STATE PARK

14850 Jack Vause Landing Road Tallahassee, FL 32310 Mailing Address: 1358 Old Woodville Highway Crawfordville, FL 32327 850-487-7989

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a handheld leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Alcohol, fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all Florida State Parks.
- To become a volunteer, call 850-487-7989 for details.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please call 850-487-7989.



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EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Lake Talquin State Park offers outdoor activities for all ages. Bring your canoe or kayak to explore the roughly 10,000-acre lake. You will find outstanding freshwater fishing with common species such as largemouth bass, striped bass, speckled perch, bream and catfish. The average water level of the lake is 68.5 feet.

A small fishing dock is located at the River Bluff area, just west of the boardwalk. The dock provides excellent access to fishing without the use of a boat.

The park features a picnic pavilion that is perfect for family reunions, private parties and weddings. The pavilion can accommodate up to 100 guests, and its location offers a picturesque backdrop. Two covered barbecue pits next to the pavilion provide the outdoor cook with ample space for preparing their grilling specialties.

Lake Talquin State Park boasts a 650-foot boardwalk that rims the water's edge, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the lake. Hikers can enjoy a 1.2-mile nature trail that winds gently through the upland forest, offering a closer look at the steephead ravine system.

The park is an excellent place for wildlife viewing. Visitors are likely to spot bald eagle and osprey soaring high above the trees. Deer, squirrel and wild turkey are seen frequently in the park.



Lake Talquin State Park

