

History & 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, which now offers outstanding recreational opportunities. 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, the uplands of Lake Talquin State Park encompasses 526 acres. The lake is named for the cities of Tallahassee and Quincy which lie on either side of its perimeter.

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.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Lake Talquin State Park

14850 Jack Vause Landing Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32310
(850) 922-6007

FloridaStateParks.org

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 are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a hand-held 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.
- Become a volunteer. Call (850) 922-6007 for details.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please call (850) 922-6007.

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Lake Talquin State Park

A scenic view of Lake Talquin from the boardwalk



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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 a boat. A Florida freshwater fishing license may be required.

The park features a **picnic pavilion** that is perfect for family reunions, private parties and weddings. Its location offers a picturesque backdrop and can accommodate up to 100 guests. Two covered barbecue pits located 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

