

Bastrop State Park Soft Opening 12/2/11

Well, this day has been 3 months in waiting and park staff are ecstatic to welcome visitors back into Bastrop State Park. Friday will mark a “soft-opening” for the park. Although many areas remain closed we wanted to get folks in at least some areas. The following areas will be open: Piney Hill & Deer Run campgrounds, Group Barracks, picnic areas and about 70% of the interior hiking trails. There is still much work taking place and as we continue to make progress we will continue to open more areas.

The park had some capital projects scheduled prior to the Labor Day Wildfire and many of those were delayed, while some will be starting soon including re-roofing all cabins and refectory and replacing both restrooms. There is a chance that we will be able to open the cabins and refectory for a few weeks in December prior to the roofing project start date. Copperas Creek and Creekside and Scout Area campgrounds will hopefully be open in January. With hazard tree removal in full swing, a majority of Park Road 1A will be closed on weekdays (open on weekends). Park Road 1C, lost pines hiking trail, primitive camping and the orienteering course will remain closed. As you can imagine, we’ve had to re-evaluate some recreational opportunities such as primitive camping and the orienteering. It may be some time before we open these areas. We are taking advantage of this opportunity to evaluate our hiking trails and their sustainability. We are re-routing many of the trails in order to reduce severe erosion. This will provide visitors with many new experiences, along with the changed landscape.

I personally appreciate the support of the community and citizens across the state. We are working very hard to get this park back open. It will look and feel different, however, we will all have the opportunity to watch this forest re-grow. You will be surprised at the scenic views now present.

As you can imagine, the drought and recent wildfire have dramatically hurt Texas State Parks. Please support your local state parks and come visit. I promise, every time you visit Bastrop State Park from now on it will look different each time.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the park.

Todd McClanahan

Park Superintendent - Lost Pines Complex
Bastrop & Buescher State Parks