

# Green River Lake Campground closed for another year

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PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

With its fishing, boating, hiking trails and campgrounds, Green River Lake is the single biggest tourist attraction in the region.

Visitors to the state park pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Taylor County economy, creating jobs and providing many businesses with additional funds to stay afloat.

However, there will be fewer tourists coming to the area this summer as the state has announced that the campground will be closed for the second year in a row. Some local leaders are concerned the ongoing closure will change habits of many outdoor enthusiasts who regularly visited Green River and cause them to find other weekend getaways.

"The campground suffered major infrastructure damage due to the historic rainfall and flooding event that occurred in 2025," said Anita Hatchett, a spokesperson for Kentucky State Parks. "To address this, we are

working closely with FEMA, our insurance provider and a design team to repair and restore the campground to full operation that is safe for guests. Unfortunately, a thorough assessment found that the entire electrical system needs to be replaced."

State Rep. Sarge Pollock says improvements to the park should have taken place years before the 2025 floods. The 2022 Kentucky General Assembly allocated \$25 million to upgrade state parks. According to Pollock, some of that money was to improve the electrical system and the Wifi at the Green River campground site.

"Most of the camping sites have 25-amp hookups for the campers and RVs," Pollock said. "A few of them had 50 amps which is the minimum that you can have in this day and time."

When the funds became available in 2023, Kentucky State Parks did an assessment of the campgrounds across the state.

"In the western region, Kenlake State Resort Park was the first

project bid, followed by Green River Lake State Park and Lake Malone State Park," Hatchett said. "The Green River bathhouse received a \$126,642 renovation that had already been completed in the winter of 2024, prior to the flooding in the spring of 2025. Luckily, the bathhouse was not impacted by flooding."

Pollock, who is a member of the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation committee, encouraged the state to spend the money that was appropriated.

"They told me in November that they would have it open and going by July 1 of this year," he said. "I met with them in late February or early March and they decided to close it down this whole year. They are blaming FEMA and some other places about the reason why they can't start. My whole point was they've got the money and should get started. It's just wrong for us to have this for two years in a row, shut down for nobody to come in here and enjoy our campsites. All of this work should have been

done two years ago." Jason Keltner, executive director of the Taylor County Tourism Commission, said the county is losing out on the 3% transient tax that campers pay. Although the campground sites traditionally stay sold out, being closed for a second year in a row could cause some people to go elsewhere.

"It may take a while to build back up because they may have found another favorite spot," he said. "It is like a restaurant closing and people find somewhere else to go out to eat."

Hatchett, the public information officer, said there is so set date for work to begin at the park.

"We know how important this campground is to the community and understand the frustration caused by last year's historic flooding and the resulting pause," she said. "Our priority is to reopen Green River Campground safely for our guests, and we remain committed to updating the public on future plans about the site's reopening as they become available."

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