



STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

**1170 Staunton Trail
Scottsburg, Virginia 24589-9636**

Staunton River State Park MASTER PLAN

2003 Executive Summary
And 2008 Amendment



Department of Conservation & Recreation

CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

Master Plan Amendment

Adopted February 11, 2008 and scheduled for updating in October 2014.

The adopted master plan for Staunton River State Park was approved on June 9, 2003, by Joseph H. Maroon. Since adoption of the plan, more than 1,000 acres of adjacent land have been purchased as an addition to the park. In light of the new opportunities this land provided, the Master Plan Advisory Committee was reconvened to decide which elements of the adopted master plan's program should be transferred to the newly acquired property. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee were subsequently presented to the public at a meeting held on October 29, 2007, in Halifax, Virginia. The 30 members of the public who attended the meeting unanimously agreed that the proposed changes were appropriate for the park. The amended master plan was recommended at the November 7, 2007, meeting by the Board of Conservation and Recreation. The recommended changes are as follows:

1. Move the proposed equestrian campground to the new property.
2. Move the equestrian day-use parking lot to the new property.
3. Use the old equestrian parking lot as a trailhead parking and picnic area.
4. Construct a picnic area with shelters, restroom, and parking area to the north side of the lake on the new property.
5. Provide bank fishing and hand-carry launch to the north side of the lake on the new property. Ensure fishing nodes are ADA accessible.
6. Develop an environmental education center where the cabin is located on the lake at the new property.
7. Develop a multi-use non-motorized trail system on the new property and connect with existing trail system in park.
8. Develop a handicapped accessible nature trail at the small pond on the new property.
9. Upgrade the Captain Staunton Trail to meet ADA standards.
10. Create a handicapped accessible fishing area in conjunction with the shoreline stabilization project on the Staunton River near the boat ramp.
11. Move the location of the proposed campground addition to the north of the old contact station.
12. Construct a new park contact station near the new entrance to the park.
13. Provide an additional staff residence.
14. Develop a group camp north of the lake picnic area. Use the same parking lot and restroom to serve both areas.

Based on the requirements of Section 10.1-200.1 et seq., these proposed amendments are approved and made a part of the master plan for Staunton River State Park.

_____/S/_____
Joseph H. Maroon, Director
Department of Conservation and Recreation

February 11, 2008
Date

**STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Adopted June 9, 2003 by Joseph H. Maroon, DCR Director

Staunton River State Park was opened in 1936 as one of the first six state parks in Virginia. The skilled hands of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) built the original buildings and facilities. Since then, the park has evolved from a CCC demonstration project into a thriving natural resource/recreation facility. As a result, the park has come under increasing dual pressure -- to provide users with more facilities and activities and to enhance and protect the natural resource foundation. Flooding from the construction of John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir reduced an original 1,766 acres to approximately 1,597 acres of fields and forest; however, the park still succeeds in providing diverse cultural, historical, and recreational experiences for users. It is a favorite vacation and day-use spot for members of the community and tourists alike.

Staunton River State Park is located at the confluence of the Dan and Staunton Rivers in Halifax County. The park property was known as Fork Plantation in the antebellum South. There were several owners, including H.E. Coleman, and after 1839, Richard Logan. After the Civil War, the plantation fell into ruins, and tenant farmers tilled the land. In 1933, the State Commission of Conservation and Development of Virginia bought 1,196-acres from the Johnson family. In 1935, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp (CCC) was established at "The Fork" to convert the plantation into a State Park, and the property's "modern" history began.

The park is located in southeastern Halifax County in Virginia's south Central Piedmont area; it is 10 miles east of Route 360 via Route 344. The park is within reasonable driving distance of major cities in Virginia and North Carolina: 185 miles from Charlotte, NC, 121 miles from Roanoke, 107 miles from Richmond, 94 miles from Raleigh, NC, 78 miles from Lynchburg and 48 miles from Danville. The following table depicts park attendance during the period 1994 through 2002.

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
94,351	146,103	181,735	154,005	180,998	136,298	114,568	116,521	123,497

Facilities at Staunton River include 7 cabins, 48 campsites, swimming pool with wading pool, concessions, picnic areas with shelters, restrooms, visitor center, amphitheater, bank fishing areas, boat storage building, boat launching ramps, multi-use trail system, parking areas including horse trailer parking, and playgrounds. Maintenance and management facilities include park office, staff residences, and a maintenance area as well as a road system, water system, and septic fields.

Planners from the Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted the master plan update in accordance with §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. A technical advisory committee was appointed, which was comprised of local citizens, businesses, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives, and representatives of local government. With the

assistance of the advisory committee, a park purpose statement and goals and objectives were developed and public input was solicited at the beginning and at the end of the process to ensure plan recommendations were understood and accepted by the community. The new park purpose statement is: “The purpose of Staunton River State Park, an original CCC park built at the confluence of the Staunton River and the Dan River, is to provide water access and traditional outdoor recreation experiences on Buggs Island Lake.”

The new facilities or improvements to existing facilities listed below are proposed for the park. These facilities are carefully sited to minimize impacts to the parks’ viewshed. The building designs will utilize “green,” energy efficient and sustainable materials and processes as much as feasible. All development activities will comply with Best Management Practices and utilize the most environmentally efficient storm water management and erosion and sediment control methodologies to protect water quality. All future phases of park construction will be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

A setback guideline of 100 feet from the reservoir shoreline has been established by DCR, and trails and water dependent facilities such as fishing stations, piers, and other water access facilities will be the only developments permitted within the 100-foot setback. The proposed developments are presented in priority order; projects listed in Phase One are those proposed for funding under the 2002 Virginia Parks and Natural Areas General Obligation Bond or with grant monies already approved. Phases I through III are representative of total “build-out” of the park over the course of the park’s twenty-year plan.

Phase I

- Renovate Visitor Center and Exhibits
- Develop 25-site Equestrian Campground with Hookups
- Construct Concession Building with Restrooms at Dan River Boat Ramp
- Provide Parking Lot and Pier Lighting At Dan River Ramp
- Install 2500-feet of Shoreline Erosion Control

The total estimated cost for Phase I developments is \$3,576,000.

Phase II

- OPTION #1: Construct Sewage Treatment Plant
- OPTION #2: Connect to County Sewer
- Relocate Contact Station to Park Entrance
- Construct Staff Residence
- Expand Swimming Pool with Water Play Area
- Replace Bathhouse in Campground
- Construct Comfort Station at Staunton River Ramp
- Construct Fringe Pier along Shoreline on Staunton River
- Construct Picnic Shelter at Staunton River Ramp Area
- Install Playgrounds at Picnic Areas 1 and 2

The total estimated cost for Phase II (w/ Option #1) developments is \$6,788,000

The total estimated cost for Phase II (w/ Option #2) developments is \$7,661,000

Phase III

Construct Four Cabins

Construct 30-site Campground with Water and Electric Hookups

Upgrade Amphitheater

Construct Overflow Parking Area for Campers

Construct Picnic Shelter at Visitor Center

Construct Picnic Shelter at Dan River Ramp

The total estimated cost for Phase III developments is \$4,501,000.

The estimated cost for the 20-year build out of Staunton River State Park (**with Phase II – Option #1**) is \$14,864,345.

The estimated cost for the 20-year build out of Staunton River State Park (**with Phase II – Option #2**) is \$15,737,545.

The park currently has five full time staff positions, including a park manager, assistant manager, chief ranger, park ranger, and a program support technician. The regional resource specialist for State Park District IV works out of Pocahontas State Park. The chart on the following page represents the operating and staffing costs associated with Phase One development and complete “build-out” for Staunton River State Park.

OPERATING AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS		
Existing	Proposed Increase	Future
Park Manager		Park Manager
Assistant Park Manager		Assistant Park Manager
Program Support Tech		Program Support Tech.
Chief Ranger	Chief Ranger	Chief Ranger (2)
Park Ranger	Park Ranger (3)	Park Ranger (4)
SALARY* TOTAL		
\$201,307	\$132,296	\$333,603
WAGE TOTAL:		
\$87,973	\$91,707	\$179,680
OTPS TOTAL:		
\$132,770	\$109,647	\$242,417
TOTAL BUDGET:		
Existing (FY02 dollars)	Proposed** (FY04 dollars)	Future (FY04 dollars)
\$422,050	\$333,650	\$755,700

* Salary based on FY03 dollars for Existing, Proposed and Future needs

Budgeted Wage/OTPS based on FY02 park budget

** Proposed and Future Budget estimates based on FY04 dollars

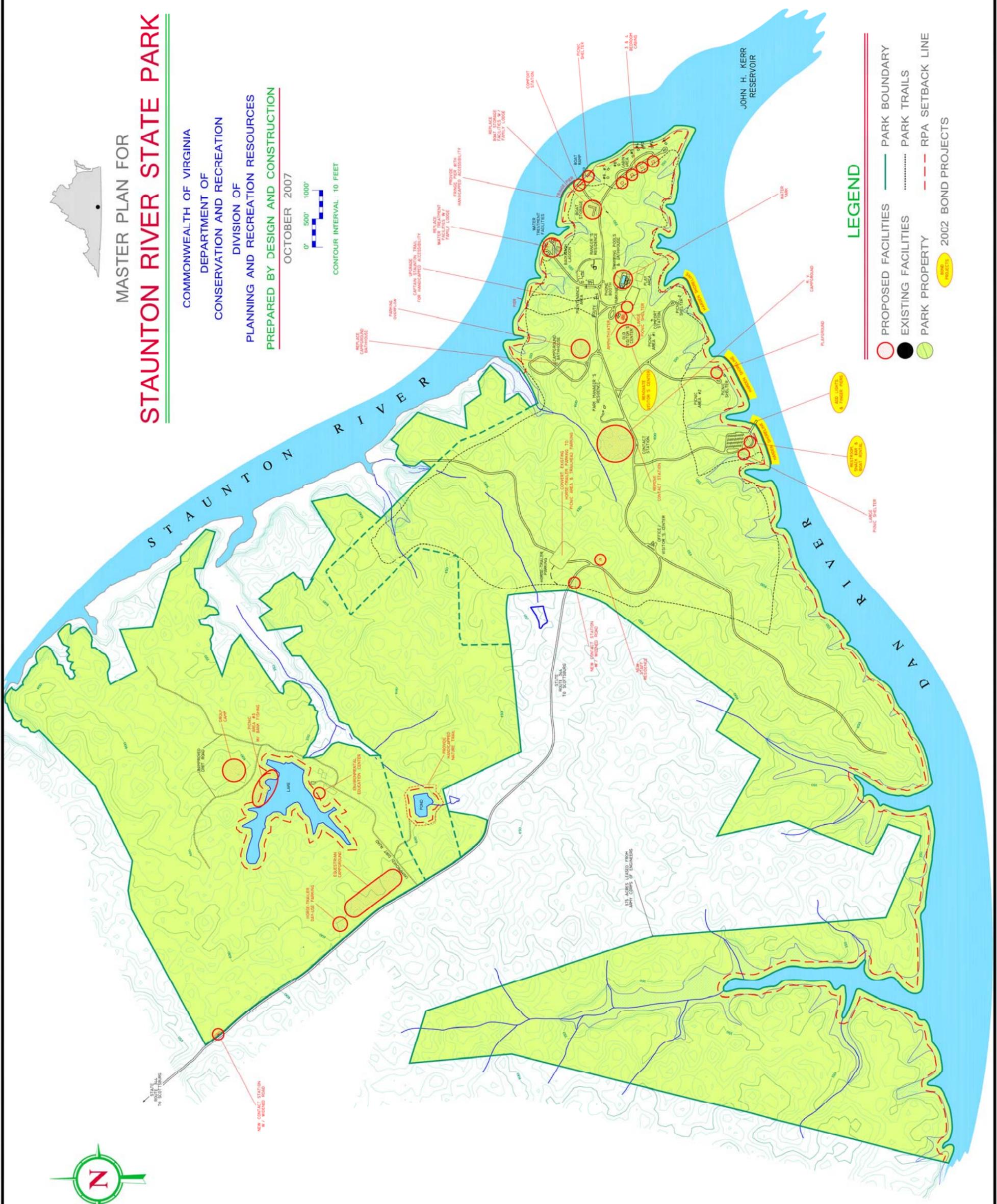
Proposed budget estimates for wage and OTPS include increases for existing budget to correlate to FY04 dollars



MASTER PLAN FOR STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
DIVISION OF
PLANNING AND RECREATION RESOURCES
PREPARED BY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

OCTOBER 2007



LEGEND

- PROPOSED FACILITIES (Red circle)
- EXISTING FACILITIES (Black circle)
- PARK PROPERTY (Green circle)
- PARK BOUNDARY (Green line)
- PARK TRAILS (Dotted line)
- RPA SETBACK LINE (Red dashed line)
- 2002 BOND PROJECTS (Yellow oval)