



**SAILOR'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD
HISTORICAL STATE PARK
6541 Saylers Creek Road
Rice, Virginia 23966**

Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park MASTER PLAN

2002 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
And 2009 Amendment.



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park
Master Plan Amendment

Adopted April 28, 2009, and scheduled for updating October 2014.

The adopted master plan for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park was signed on December 4, 2002, by Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, Joseph H. Maroon. Since adoption of the plan, the structures on the former Frank property have been removed, and a maintenance shed has been added to the property. The stabilization and renovation of the Hillsman House have been completed. Construction on the Visitor Center has begun.

There are no changes to the master plan other than to reflect the completed projects.

The Board of Conservation and Recreation recommended adoption of these amendments at their meeting on April 28, 2009. Based on the requirements of §10.1-200.1 et seq., these proposed amendments are approved and made part of the Master Plan for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park.

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

_____June 10, 2009_____
Date

SAILOR’S CREEK BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adopted December 4, 2002

Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historic State Park is located in the Piedmont region of central Virginia. Sections of the park are found in Prince Edward, Amelia, and Nottoway Counties. Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historic State Park is the site of the last major battle of the War Between the States in the state of Virginia. To preserve the historic significance of the site, the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Association was formed in 1934. Ownership of the house remained with the Hillsman family until 1936. Through the efforts of the Battlefield Association, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$1,500 for the purchase of the Hillsman House and ten accompanying acres under the direction of the Virginia Conservation Commission. Over the years, the park has been expanded through acquisitions of surrounding land, culminating with a purchase of the Gerald L. Frank Farm in 1996. Total park acreage is currently 324.62 acres. This includes the Double Bridges tract (4.1 acres) located on Route 619, approximately 2 miles northwest of the Hillsman House.

The park is primarily a cultural landscape, which contains elements of the battlefield and the attendant settlement features. The Hillsman House, built around 1770, is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark, and the site is a historic district. In the vicinity of the historic structure is a cemetery containing the remains of the Hillsman Family and Captain Moses Overton, Jr., a veteran of the War of 1812. There is a parking area and a pit toilet located behind the residence. Other buildings at the park consist of a residence and storage shed, and on the recently acquired Frank property, a house, barn and other dependencies.

The park can be reached from Routes 360, 460, and 307 by following the directional signs to Route 617, which cuts through the largest portion of the park and leads to the Hillsman House. To reach the Double Bridges site, follow Route 617 north to Route 618 and turn left; follow Route 618 to Route 619 and turn left; follow Route 619 approximately 3.0 miles to the site. Sailor’s Creek State Park is located approximately 48 miles southwest of Richmond, 15 miles east of Farmville and 17 miles north of Twin Lakes State Park.

The table below reflects park attendance over the last ten years:

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
11,085	18,884		22,612	12,703	7,312	14,135	33,467	35,522	42,505

The purpose of this master plan is to provide revisions and updates to previous plans and establish a new plan to support the educational and recreational mission of the park. In 1962, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Economic Development’s Division of State Parks, prepared a master plan for the Battlefield Park. The plan identified the main mission of the site, which was directed toward interpreting the action that took place on the property during the Civil War. This plan will establish a viable comprehensive approach to the development of needed public facilities and programs for the public interpretation of the 1865 battle, the site’s cultural landscape, and the families that occupied the site.

The process for developing the master plan included the development of a park purpose statement and goals and objectives. The park purpose is stated as follows:

"The purpose of Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park is to preserve the cultural landscape as it was in 1865, and to provide the historic setting to tell the story of the last major battle of the Civil War in Virginia, before the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox Courthouse, and its impact on the citizens of Southside Virginia."

For the purpose of developing this master plan, the following goals were established for Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park:

- Protect and conserve the historic and cultural resources of the park.
- Provide historical interpretive/educational programs and low impact recreational opportunities to the public.
- Protect and conserve the natural resources of the park while actively interpreting the agricultural use of the land.
- Participate in mutually beneficial efforts with partner citizens and organizations to enhance the park and the entire region.
- Administer and manage the park in a manner which foster the public 's trust.

These goals, along with specific objectives derived from meetings with a citizens advisory committee, input from public meetings, and other sources, serve as the driving force for the revision of the previous plans. Information obtained from the *2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan*, the 2000 Virginia Outdoors Survey, and the citizen advisory committee has aided in the preparation of this master plan.

The master plan describes new developments for the park planned in phases as follows:

Phase I -- Enhancements to include cemetery improvements and adjacent parking, comfort station, Hillsman House stabilization, visitor center and supporting parking facility, maintenance facility, trail development, and viewshed and landscape enhancements.

This phase should include research to establish the boundaries of the cemetery and the installation of a fence consistent with the historic character of the site. A new parking area should be developed in the vicinity of the cemetery that will support the programming at the nearby Hillsman House and the visitor use of the battlefield area. The pit toilet should be removed, and a new comfort station constructed for public use. This building, as any other constructed because of proposals in this master plan, should reflect the endemic architecture of the area and period. The Hillsman House should be stabilized to prevent any more deterioration of this important architectural feature. A visitor center should be constructed on the Frank property after the demolition of the existing buildings. The visitor center should be able to accommodate meetings of 100 or more people and present exhibits and information related to the Battle and the families that settled and lived on the property. A maintenance facility should be constructed -- out of the viewshed and in the vicinity of the existing staff residence. Landscape and viewshed protection measures

should be undertaken in this phase. Elements of the nature trails should be constructed from the Hillsman House to the location of identified architectural remains and Sayler's Creek. The total cost of developments in Phase I is estimated to be \$2,582,547 (this figure includes \$1,520,000 for projects specified in the 2002 Parks and Natural Areas General Obligation Bond).

Phase II -- Enhancements to include a stabilized parking area to support the historic demonstration area, Hillsman House renovations, and landscape and viewshed protection measures.

The demonstration area designed for special events and reenactments should have a parking area constructed on a stabilized surface and maintained with natural vegetative cover. Restoration of important features of the Hillsman House should be undertaken to facilitate its role in interpretation of the battle and the families that occupied the site. Landscape and viewshed protection measures should be undertaken in this phase. Elements of the nature/cultural resource and battle feature trails should be constructed from the Hillsman House to the location of identified architectural remains and Sayler's Creek. The total cost of developments in Phase II is estimated to be \$233,582.

Phase III -- Enhancements to include construction of group camp, staff residence, landscape and viewshed protection measures.

An 18-site group camp should be constructed in the vicinity of the existing pond and out of the viewshed of the visitor center. Landscape and viewshed protection measures should be undertaken in this phase. A new staff residence should be provided to effectively manage the park and its facilities. Elements of the nature/cultural resource and battle feature trails should be constructed from the Hillsman House to the location of identified architectural remains and Sayler's Creek. The total cost of developments in Phase III is estimated to be \$1,516,234.

Completing the plans for the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park Master Plan would fulfill the park's purpose statement: *"The purpose of Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park is to preserve the cultural landscape as it was in 1865, and to provide the historic setting to tell the story of the last major battle of the Civil War in Virginia, before the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox Courthouse, and its impact on the citizens of Southside Virginia."*

Staffing and Operation Costs (Estimated)

Costs of developing and operating the park are considered from two aspects. First, there are the costs associated with park operation under the present conditions. These costs are reflected in the park operating budget, which is a component of the total General Assembly budget allocation to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The park's Fiscal Year 2002 budget was used as the base budget for estimating future needs. The FY2002 budget does not reflect any of the reductions associated with the state's overall budget deficit which would be reflected in the park's

FY2003 budget. Costs associated with the proposed development are projected in FY2004 dollars, which will need to be adjusted for inflation in future years. Additional funds necessary for inventorying, protecting, and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the park are also identified.

The second aspect is the capital and maintenance reserve costs that will be required to develop the park as described in the master plan. These estimates are in 2002 dollars and will need to be adjusted for inflation. All capital and maintenance reserve projects are required to go through an internal and/or state mandated environmental review process to ensure that future construction minimizes or avoids impacts to sensitive natural areas, viewsheds, cultural or historic resources, or areas containing heritage resources. These costs are contained in the cost analysis section included in this master plan.

The park is managed as a satellite operation of Twin Lakes State Park, which is located approximately 17 miles away. A chief ranger position is housed in the residence at Sailors Creek Battlefield to provide security, however, the job duties are split between Twin Lakes and the Battlefield.

Presently, day use facilities are all that are available and the only restroom is a pit toilet located behind the Hillsman House. The proposed addition of a visitor center and comfort station will lead to increased visitor use in the park. Also proposed for development are a new maintenance area, trails, and better parking facilities. The Hillsman House is proposed for renovation, which would result in the opportunity to provide more interpretive tours to the public. The new visitor center and enhancements proposed for the Hillsman House area will increase the demand for additional programming within the park. These new facilities and programs will need to be adequately maintained and managed to ensure quality programming can be offered. Future phases propose the construction of an additional residence and a group camping area. To manage, operate, and maintain all these proposed facilities will require additional staff and operating funds. Future maintenance costs could be minimized if, during the design phase, consideration is given to energy efficient and low maintenance fixtures and materials.

The annual maintenance and operating costs associated with the proposed development in the master plan are projected to increase the base budget by about \$107,840 (FY04 dollars) of which \$41,981 would be allocated to seasonal wages. The remainder covers supplies and materials to support the proposed new facilities and programs. The assumption has been made that the proposed road system to the various new facilities would be maintained by VDOT as are the other roads, so no costs have been identified for their upkeep.

To support the proposed development, funding for staffing will need to increase by approximately \$71,731 over the existing salary budget. This amount would provide salary and fringe benefits for two new permanent employees. An assistant park manager would be needed for the increased administrative and management requirements as well as to assist with the operation of the visitor center. One park ranger position has been identified to assist with the existing and additional maintenance requirements of the new and expanded facilities, and to also assist with resource management activities. The assistant park manager would be required to obtain a law enforcement commission to handle the need for an increased security presence. The chief ranger position needs

to be assigned strictly to the Battlefield, which will result in a staff shortage at Twin Lakes State Park.

Resource management needs during the next budget cycle are projected to be approximately \$30,000. This amount, and possibly more, will be needed each of the next several biennium in order to properly inventory, monitor, and maintain the natural and cultural resources found at the park. This does not include the estimated \$17,500 needed for surveying and boundary marking. Also needed is approximately \$40,000 to demolish the old farmhouse and barn located on the former Frank property. In addition, \$75,000 has been identified in the cost analysis chart to complete the proposed trail system. Operating funds would need to be allocated each year to ensure the trails continue to be maintained.

The table on the next page outlines the operating and staffing requirements.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park

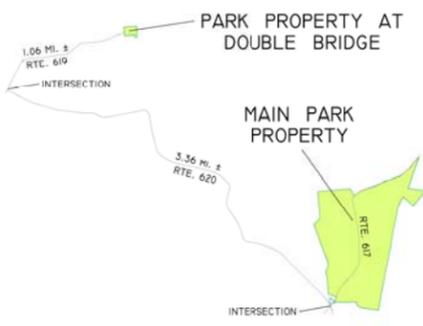
OPERATING AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS		
STAFF: Existing	Proposed Increase	Future
	Assistant Park Manager	Assistant Park Manager
Chief Ranger		Chief Ranger
	Park Ranger	Park Ranger
SALARY* TOTAL:		
\$36,920	\$71,731	\$108,651
WAGE TOTAL:		
\$11,770	\$42,698	\$54,468
OTPS TOTAL:		
\$30,734	\$67,731	\$98,465
TOTAL BUDGET: Existing (FY02 dollars)	Proposed** (FY04 dollars)	Future (FY04 dollars)
\$79,424	\$182,160	\$261,584

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

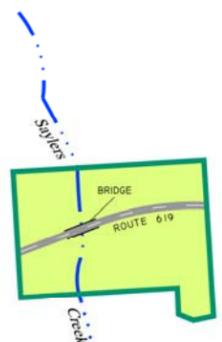
Budgeted Wage/OTPS based on FY02 park budget

** Proposed and Future Budget estimates based on FY04 dollars

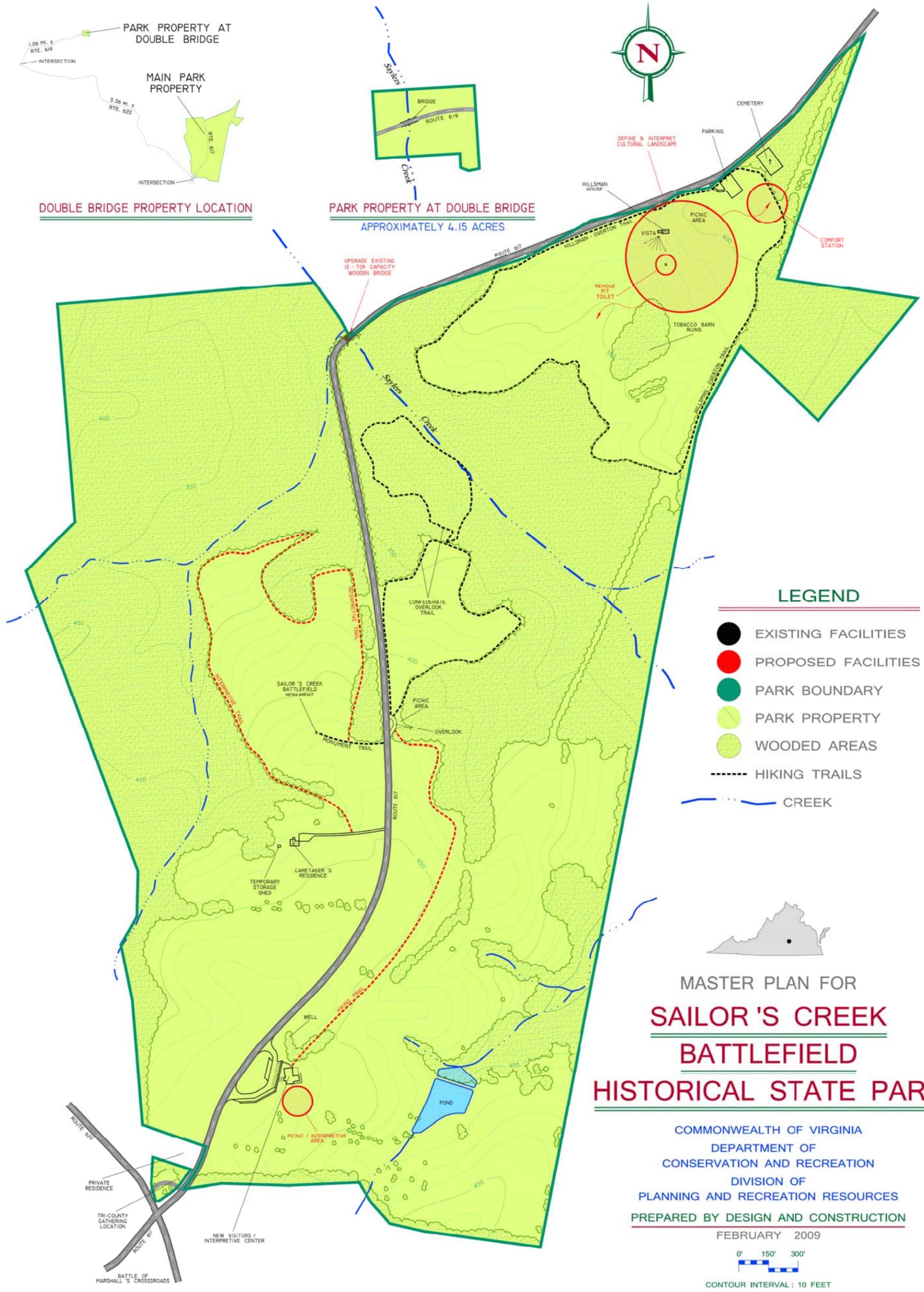
Proposed budget estimates for wage and OTPS include increases for existing budget to correlate to FY04 dollars



DOUBLE BRIDGE PROPERTY LOCATION

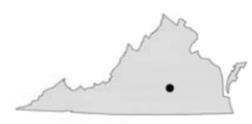


**PARK PROPERTY AT DOUBLE BRIDGE
APPROXIMATELY 4.15 ACRES**



LEGEND

-  EXISTING FACILITIES
-  PROPOSED FACILITIES
-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  PARK PROPERTY
-  WOODED AREAS
-  HIKING TRAILS
-  CREEK



**MASTER PLAN FOR
SAILOR'S CREEK
BATTLEFIELD
HISTORICAL STATE PARK**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
DIVISION OF
PLANNING AND RECREATION RESOURCES
PREPARED BY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
FEBRUARY 2009

