

**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources  
New River Trail State Park Master Plan Public Meeting  
October 29, 2019 7:00 pm  
Jackson Memorial Elementary School  
Austinville, Virginia**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The Public Meeting regarding the Master Plan for New River Trail State Park took place at 7:00 p.m. on October 29, 2019 at the Jackson Memorial Elementary School in Austinville.

**DCR STAFF PRESENT**

Jennifer Wampler, Park Planner  
Theresa Duffey, Resource Management Manager  
Sharon Buchanan, District 6 Manager  
T.J. Nolan, Park Ranger  
James Elliot, Park Ranger  
Sam Sweeney, Park Manager

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Four members of the public attended the meeting.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

The meeting introduced the history of Virginia State Parks, provided an overview of the master planning process, provided an orientation to New River Trail State Park, reviewed the proposed update to the park's master plan and allowed for public comment. Proposed developments for the park include a new campground and other overnight facilities, improvements to trailheads and more services for trail users, new fishing areas, gateway kiosks and the demolition or renovation of various structures. Public comments included expanding facilities to support thru-hikers along the trail, development of the USFS campground, expanded food services at Foster Falls for three meals a day, and working with AEP for additional accessible facilities on the lake at Byllesby (a fishing pier, concrete boat ramp and parking). The citizens in attendance expressed general support for the plan. The draft master plan will next be presented to the Board of Conservation and Recreation for recommended approval.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Draft phased development plan

# **New River Trail State Park Master Plan Update**

## **Public Input Meeting**

October 29, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

**New River Trail State Park  
Jackson Memorial Elementary School (gym)  
4424 Fort Chiswell Road, Austinville, VA 24312 | Phone 276-699-0160**

## **AGENDA**

Welcome

Introduction to Virginia State Parks

Overview of the State Park Master Planning Process

Orientation to New River Trail State Park

Review of Proposed master plan revisions for New River Trail State Park

Public Comment Period

Next Steps in the Process

Adjourn

**THANK YOU!**

Written and emailed comments are also accepted for the New River Trail State Park Master Plan until November 28, 2019.

**Please send comments to:  
Jennifer Wampler, Park Planner  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov)  
804-786-9240**

## **PHASE I**

Add water/septic system at Horseshoe Bend.  
Demolish two existing structures at Austinville.  
Develop a vault toilet at Gambetta.  
Upgrade maintenance area and develop pole shed at Cliffview Access.  
Acquire suitable lands and properties in the Foster Falls area.  
Demo the Lovell house at Foster Falls if needed to make space for a contact station.  
Develop storage space within a YCC bunkhouse to support Foster Falls  
Add a picnic shelter and restroom to the day use area at Foster Falls.  
Demo existing house, make site improvements, expand parking and construct Replica train station for contact station/store and bike rental at Galax trailhead.  
Work with VDOT for safe crossing of Route 58 at Galax trailhead.  
Build contact station at Horseshoe Bend and develop interior road network and parking.  
Demo Cobb House near Horseshoe Bend.  
Demo pool, bathroom, barn and picnic shelter at Horseshoe Bend.  
Develop trail system for hikers and bikers and build connector trail between Horseshoe Bend parking lot and the Trail.  
Construct a restroom, two picnic shelters and a picnic area at Horseshoe Bend.  
Upgrade safety at all road crossings.  
Develop a visitor experience management plan for the park and improve the visitor experience at Foster Falls, Galax, Fries and Dora Junction (trail termini).  
Continue bridge evaluation and maintenance, decking and substructure.  
Continue tunnel and culvert evaluation and maintenance.  
Add a contact station at Foster Falls.  
Develop a museum in the depot at Foster Falls.  
Develop additional trails, a pump track and restroom and improve the visitor experience at Hoover Mountain Bike Area  
Build a bathhouse near Millrace Campground at Foster Falls.  
Develop a gateway kiosk at Dora Junction.  
Conduct archeological surveys to support interpretive work at the park.  
Delineate and mark park boundaries.

## **PHASE II**

Add or connect to water at Lone Ash.  
Add restroom or vault toilet at Hiwassee access.  
Develop a northern maintenance hub and park office between Horseshoe Bend and Randolph Park.  
Develop a paddler stop, bank fishing and a connector trail at Chiswell Hole.  
Develop seasonal toilets at Chiswell Hole/Ivanhoe trestle.  
Develop a full service RV and equestrian campground with a car-top launch, bathhouse, horse trailer parking, park office and concession within range of the I-77 corridor.  
Develop the visitor experience at Shot Tower.  
Evaluate future improvements to the Shot Tower structure and tunnel for living history demonstrations.  
Add bike racks and horse hitching rails to Shot Tower parking area.

Connect to water and sewer at Shot Tower and horse arena.  
Develop a wayside exhibit plan and wayside exhibits throughout the park.  
Continue bridge, tunnel and culvert maintenance and restoration.  
Conduct archeological surveys to support interpretive work at the park.

### **PHASE III**

Develop the visitor experience in the Southern, Central and Northern Management nodes.  
Develop vault toilet and a gateway kiosk at Austinville.  
Develop vault toilet at Chestnut Yard.  
Working within floodplain constraints, develop bathhouse and sewer facilities near Cliffview Campground.  
Develop gateway kiosk at Draper.  
Construct picnic shelter, gateway kiosk and restroom at Fries.  
Connect to water and sewer at Fries.  
Develop full service campground at Horseshoe Bend.  
Develop cabins and yurts at Horseshoe Bend.  
Continue bridge, tunnel and culvert maintenance and restoration.  
Conduct archeological surveys to support interpretive work at the park.

### **PHASE IV**

Provide access to the river at Horseshoe Bend.  
Develop the visitor experience at Austinville.  
Develop parking area and accessible boat access at Barren Springs Station.  
Renovate Melton House and boy's dormitory at Foster Falls.  
Continue bridge, tunnel and culvert maintenance and restoration.