

First Landing State Park

Master Plan

Public Meeting | April 7, 2021



Agenda

Introductions

Melissa Baker
Director of Virginia State Parks

Bruce Widener
Park Manager, First Landing State Park

Bill Conkle
DCR Park Planner

- State Park History
- Intro to First Landing State Park
- Master Plan Process
- Review FLSP MP
- Public Comment via Chat Box

Housekeeping

- Place all phones / mics on mute
- All comments & questions accepted in Chat Box (These will be recorded and responses will be made prior to May 8, 2021)
- This presentation will be available online following the meeting

Additional comments will be received until May 8, via email or in writing at:

Bill Conkle
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov
804-786-5492 or by fax @ 804-371-7899





Meeting Purpose

To present the park master plan and facility phasing. Public input is encouraged regarding recommended park amenities. Attendees will have the opportunity to provide input with regard to priorities for facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Introduction to state parks

DCR Mission

Conserve, protect, enhance and advocate wise use of the Commonwealth's unique natural, historical, recreational, scenic and cultural resources.

State Park Mission

To conserve the natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources of the Commonwealth & provide recreational & educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters & facilities that leave them unimpaired for future generations.



History of Virginia State Parks

The first 6 parks...out of the Depression

1936: Virginia opens a system of 6 state parks...most were a combination of donated land plus state funds for development



The System Grows

1940's through 1980's:

A steady procession of new parks acquired and developed through a combination of funds: donations, federal grant money and state capital development



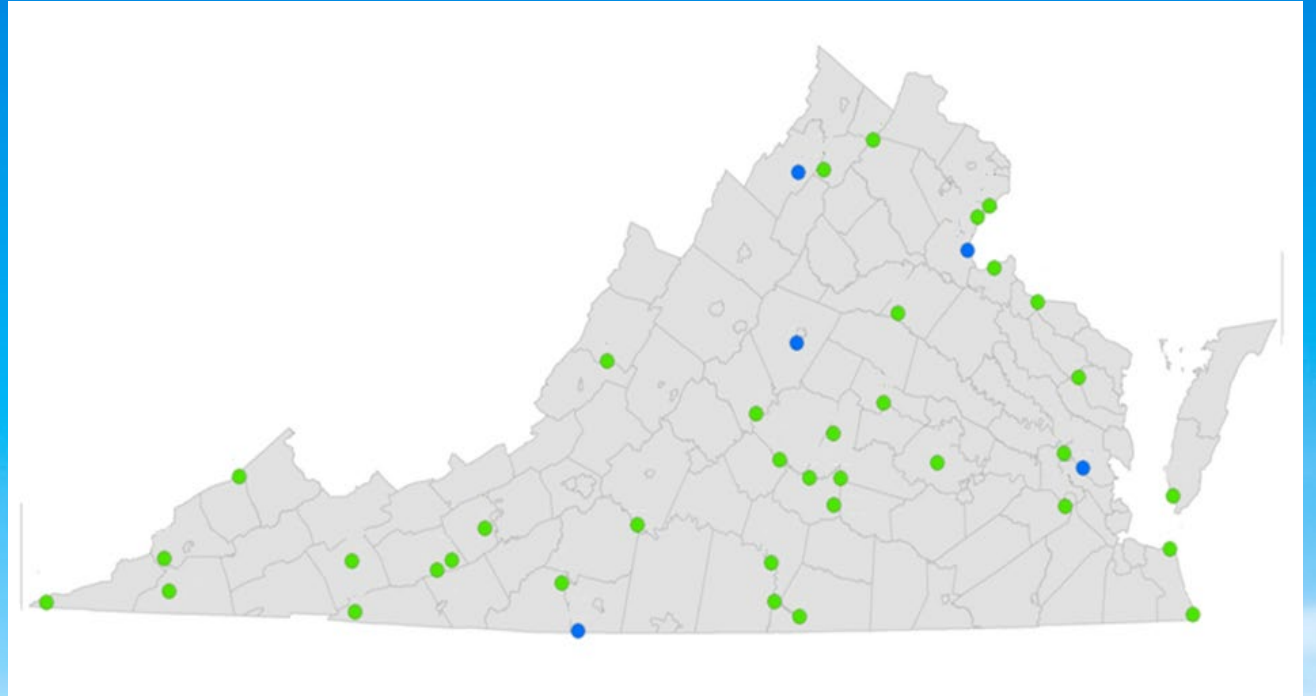
Voters support more growth and development

1990's through present: Two major bond referendums in 1992 and 2002 funded more than \$214 million in funds; 5 new parks and land for 6 more; 31 natural areas; 296 building projects: campgrounds, cabins, support facilities, etc.

We continue to acquire lands, largely by donation or discounted sales ... the challenge is to find the development funds.

Today's Virginia State Park System

40 parks, 4 under development
75,895 acres
34 historic register sites
662 miles of trails
32 parks with overnight facilities
11 day use parks
29 visitor centers
99 picnic shelters
11 swimming beaches
4 swimming pools
2 restaurants; 19 snack bars



Park Services and Facilities

Each park has a unique set of facilities, activities and services

Day Uses: hiking,
swimming, picnicking,
boating, bicycling,
horse riding,
canoeing, rafting

Overnight: cabins
and camping

Programs, education,
interpretation

Conference and
meeting facilities



The relevancy of state parks in the 21st century & beyond

Parks are a part of the Community: Friends Groups, volunteerism, economic benefit.

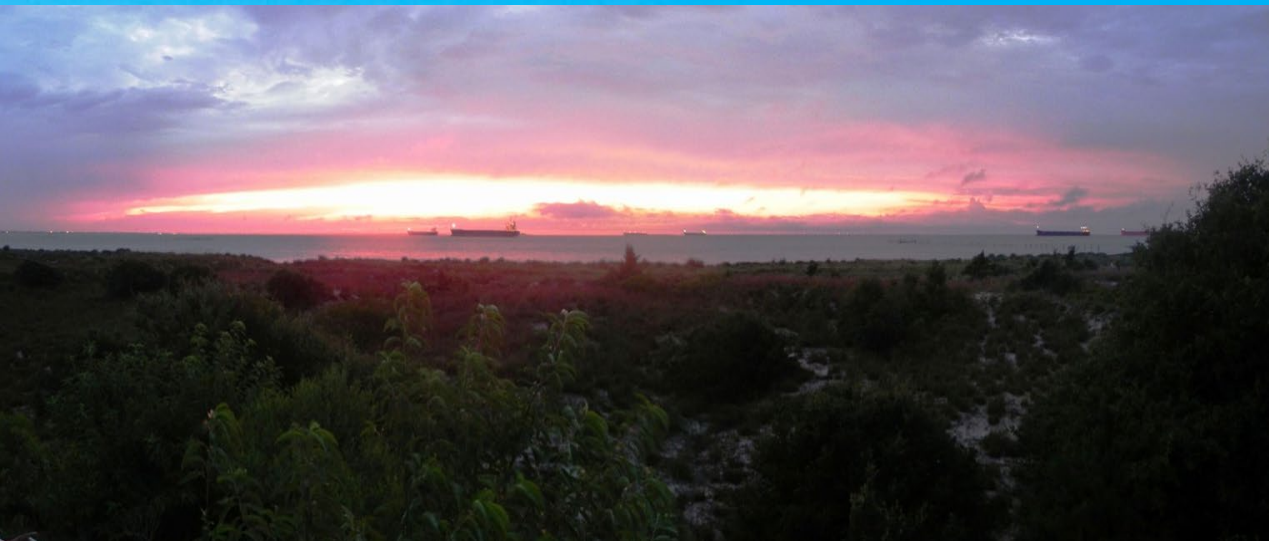
Solutions to many of today's challenges: "Nature Deficit Disorder", daily stress, and the need for affordable recreational opportunities.

The need for parks is greater today than it has ever been ... places to reconnect to nature, to be with families and friends, and to re-establish personal well being.

First Landing State Park

One of the most visited Virginia state parks with over 700,000 visits per year.

Total acreage of 2,888 acres



The Park Name

Original name of Seashore State Park was changed to First Landing State Park in 1997 to reflect the history of English colonists with the Virginia Company landing on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in 1607 prior to settling in Jamestown



Over 450 educational programs
conducted for over 14,000 people.

Over 100 school presentations
and field trips enlightening over
3,000 students.





- Over 19 miles of hiking trails.
- 1.5 miles of beach along the Chesapeake Bay.
- 20 overnight cabins.
- 205 campsites.
- 4 overnight yurts.



- Visitor Center / Park Office
- Trail Center
- Picnic Area w/ Shelter
- Boat Ramp



- Camp Store
- Conference Meeting Space

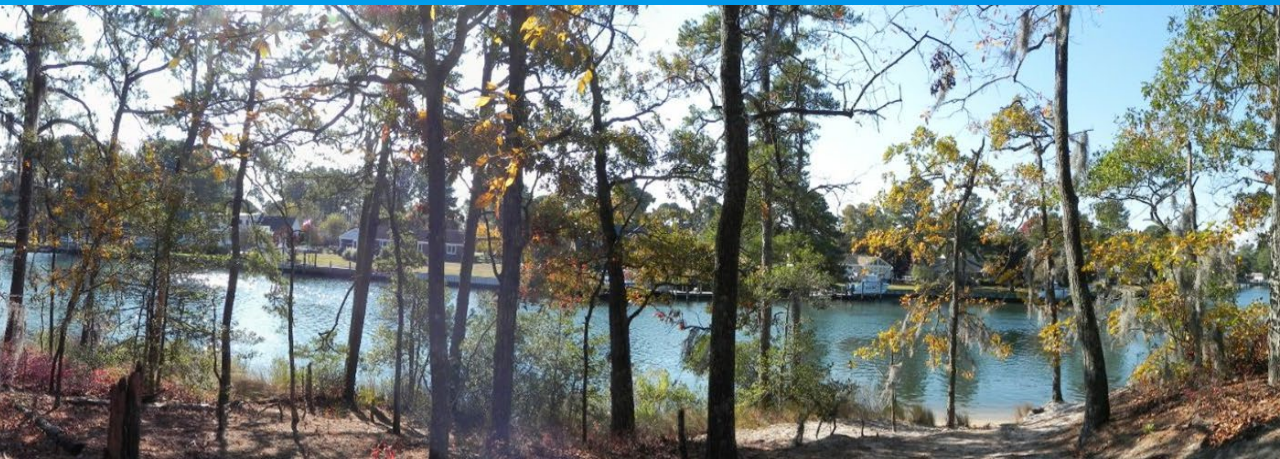


Staffing

- 10 Full Time Staff:
- Park Manager
- 2 Assistant Park Managers
- 2 Chief Rangers
- Office Manager
- 4 Park Rangers

Of these positions 4 are law enforcement

Financial



Annual Operating Budget - \$1,125,000

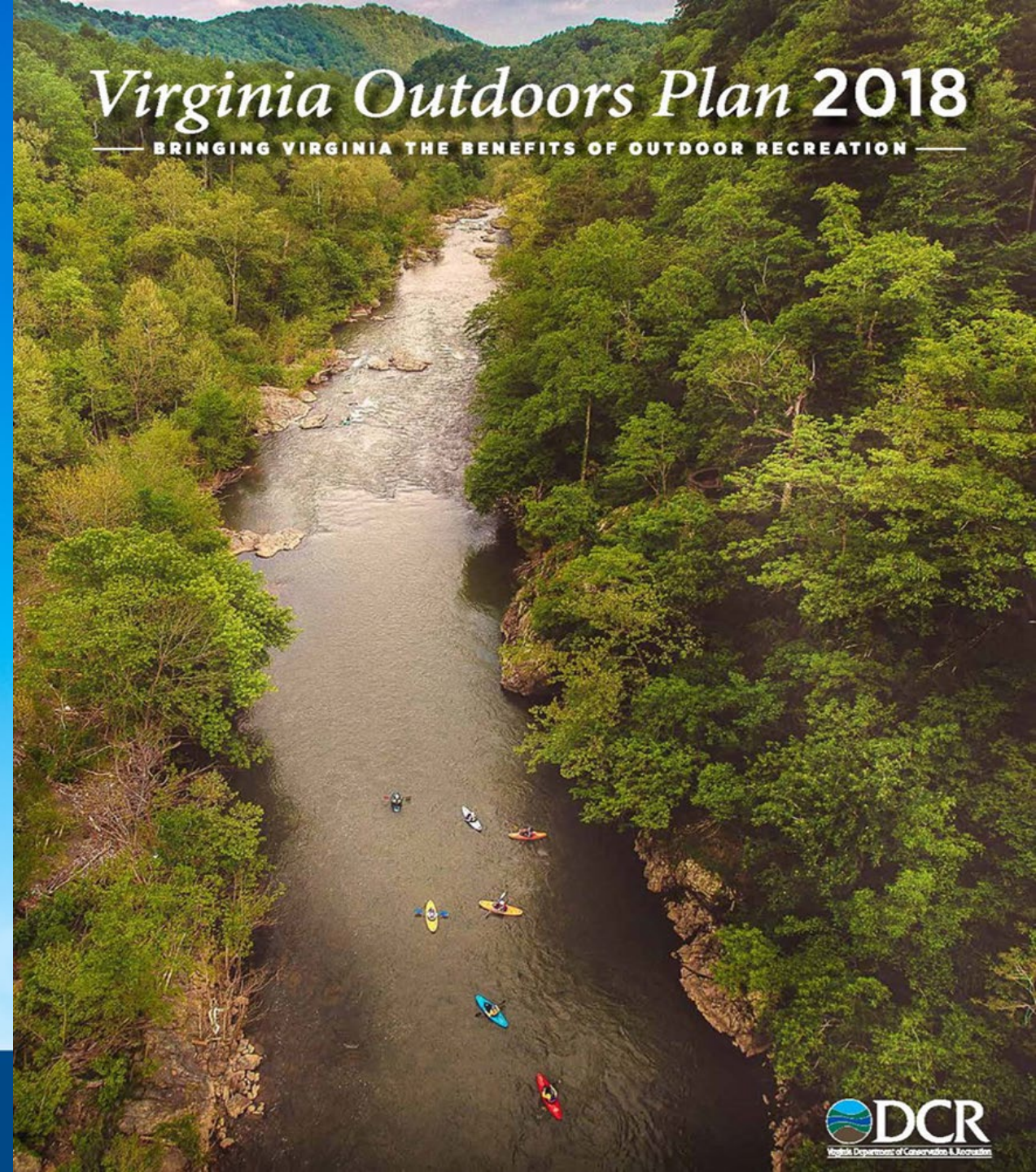
Annual Revenues - \$2,540,000

State parks rely on park generated revenues to support operations.

Master Plan Process

Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018

— BRINGING VIRGINIA THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION —

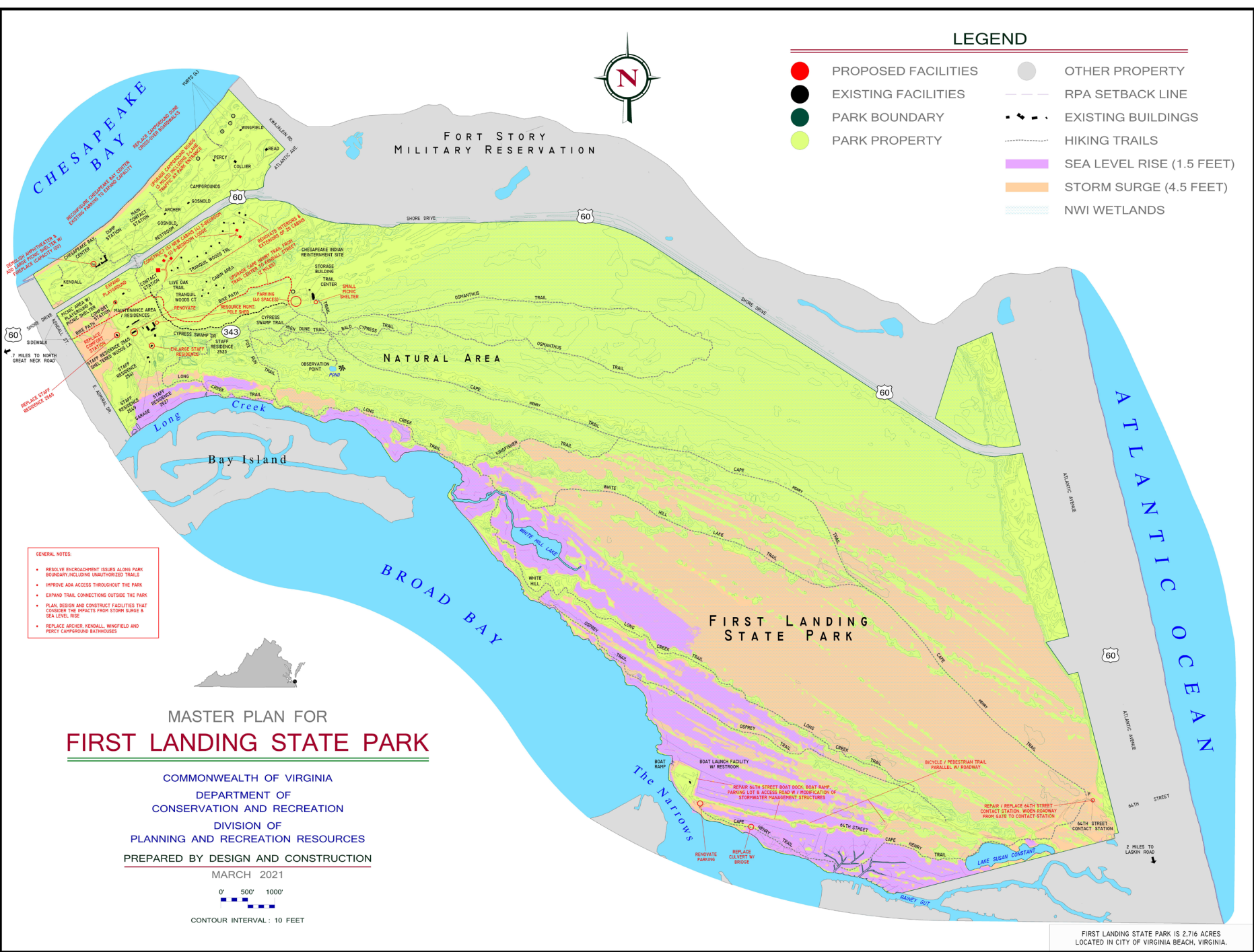


State Park Master Planning Code

§ 10.1-200.1. State park master planning

- (i) for all **existing state parks**, (ii) **substantial land acquisitions**, (iii) prior to major **improvements**
- A **guide for the development, utilization and management** of its natural, cultural and historic resources
- Developed in stages with public input
- Required to be updated every 10 years

First Landing State Park Master Plan

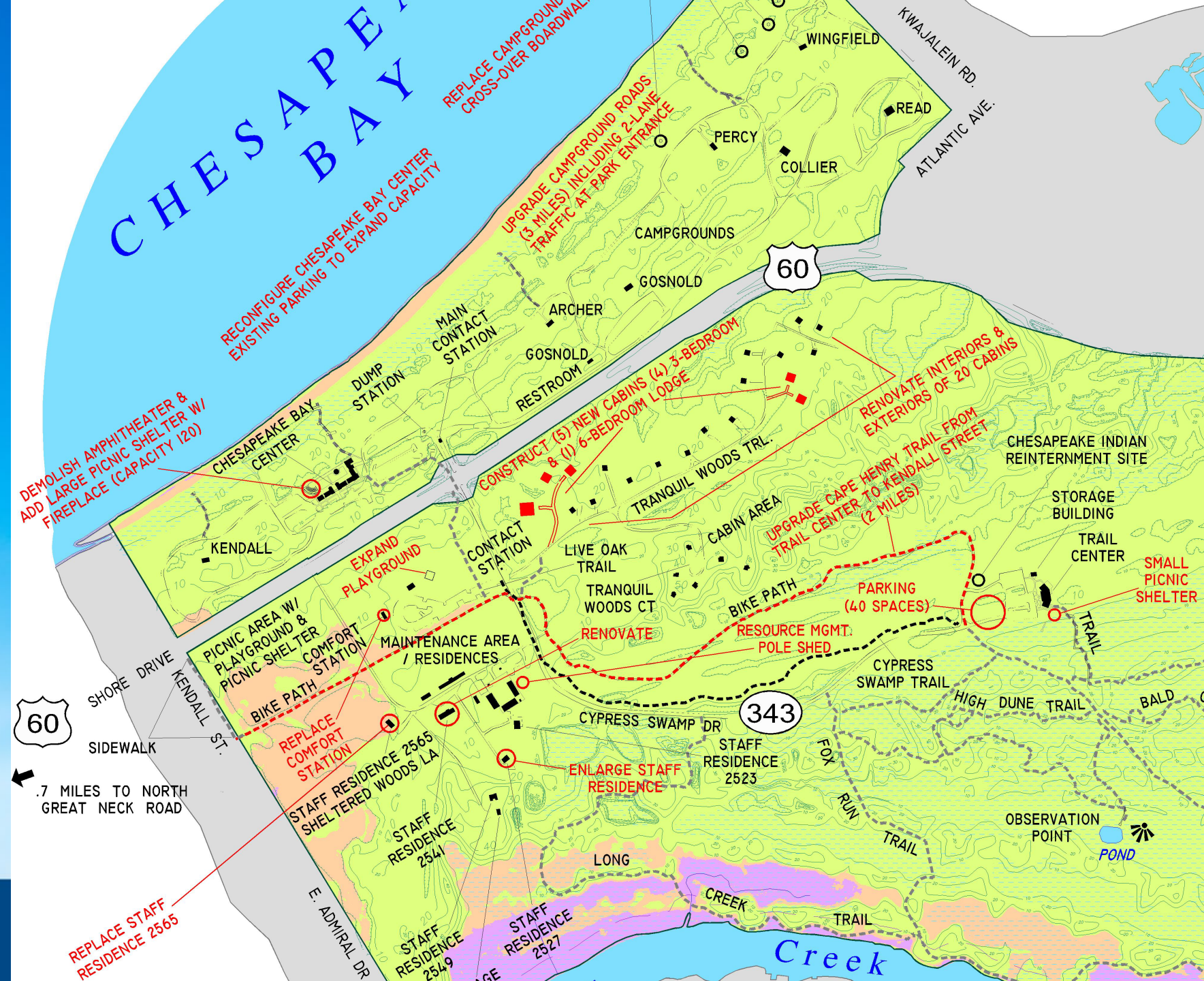


PHASE 1

- Renovate 20 cabin interiors and exteriors
- Replace Archer, Kendall, Wingfield and Percy Campground Bathhouses
- Construct 1-six bedroom lodge and 4-three bedroom cabins
- Construct pole shed in maintenance area for resource management storage
- Replace staff residence at 2565 Sheltered Woods Lane
- Enlarge and renovate staff residence at 2527 Sheltered Woods Lane
- Replace culvert with bridge on Cape Henry Extension Trail
- Upgrade campground roads (3 miles), including two lane traffic at contact station/entrance
- Replace Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery dune crossovers in campgrounds
- Demolish amphitheater, and add a large screened shelter (capacity 120) with a fireplace

First Landing State Park Master Plan

Blowup of developed area

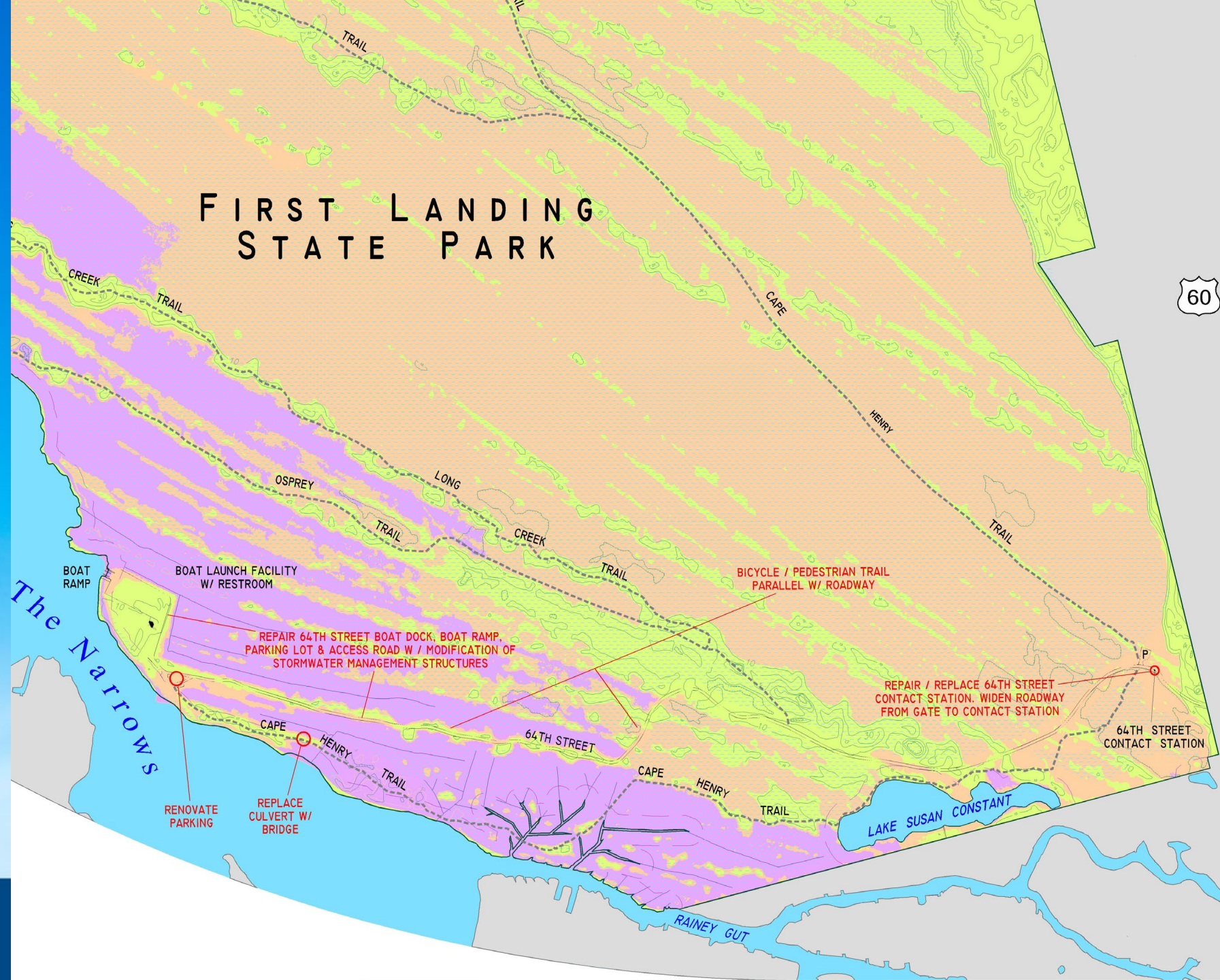


PHASE 2

- Upgrade 64th Street Boat Ramp including road, parking, dock, ramp and site drainage
- Replace comfort station in picnic area.
- Upgrade campgrounds with sewer and campsite improvements. (205 sites)
- Reconfigure the existing parking at the Chesapeake Bay Center to increase capacity
- Upgrade parking lot near the Narrows
- Reconfigure 64th Street entrance with signage, new gate, fence removal and road widening
- Construct parking (40 spaces) at Trail Center

First Landing State Park Master Plan

Blowup of eastern area of park (The Narrows)



PHASE 3

- Replace the 64th street contact station, include a rest room
- Upgrade Cape Henry Trail from Kendall St. to the Trail Center (2 miles)
- Expand playground in picnic area
- Construct small picnic shelter at Trail Center
- Add bike / pedestrian path along 64th Street (3 miles)



Public Input Session Guidelines

Bill Conkle, Facilitator

Please make comments in the chat box.

These will be recorded and responded to by May 8, 2021



Send comments

Written comments will be accepted up
until 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2021.

Please send to:

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or email Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov
or by fax to 804-371-7899.



Next Steps



- Update the Executive Summary and Map
- Present to Board of Conservation and Recreation for recommended approval
- Send updated plan to General Assembly for 30 day review
- Adoption of plan by DCR Director

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