

Twin Lakes State Park

Master Plan

Public Meeting

April 28, 2021



Agenda

Introductions

Melissa Baker

Director of Virginia State Parks

Kevin Faubion

Park Manager, Twin Lakes State Park

Bill Conkle

DCR Park Planner

- State Park History
- Intro to Twin Lakes State Park
- Master Plan Process
- Review TLSP 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 29, 2021)
- This presentation will be available online following the meeting

Additional comments will be received until May 28, via email or in writing to:

Bill Conkle, Park Planner
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



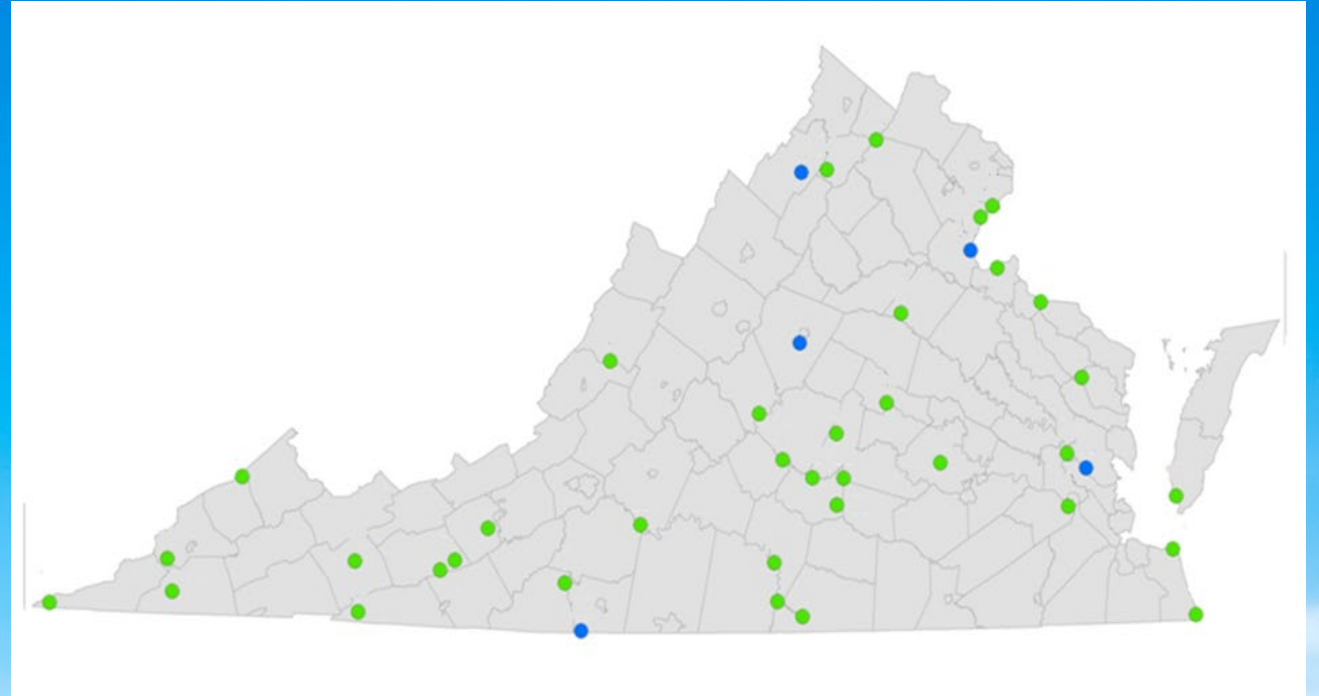
Voters support more growth and development

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.

Twin Lakes State Park

A full service park rich in history with cabins, campground, conference facility, beach swimming, and seasonal concessions

A Total of 496 acres inside of the 6,496 acre Prince Edward - Gallion State Forest



The Park Name



Twin Lakes State Park is named for its two bodies of water: Prince Edward and Goodwin Lakes, both of which were created by the 1390th, an African-American company of the Civilian Conservation Corps, in the 1930s.

The Park Name

Originally named Prince Edward State Park for Negroes, the park opened in 1950 as the first Virginia State Park accessible to people of color. In 1976, the park grew to include neighboring Goodwin Lake State Recreational Area and was renamed Prince Edward-Goodwin Lake State Park. In 1986, the park was rebranded under a new, more succinct name--Twin Lakes State Park.



In 2019, 423 educational programs were conducted for 6,388 people.

In 2020, 122 educational programs were conducted for 940 people.





- Over 6 miles of hiking trails around 2 lakes
- Beach swimming
- 9 overnight cabins and 1 lodge
- 33 campsites



- Park Office / Gift Shop
- 2 Picnic Areas w/ Shelters
- 2 Boat Ramps



- Conference Center
- Concession Building / Nature Center



Staffing

6 Full Time Staff Including:

- Park Manager
- Assistant Park Manager
- Chief Ranger of Operations
- Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience
- Office Manager
- Park Ranger Maintenance

Of these positions, 3 are law enforcement



Financial

Annual Operating Budget - \$460,872

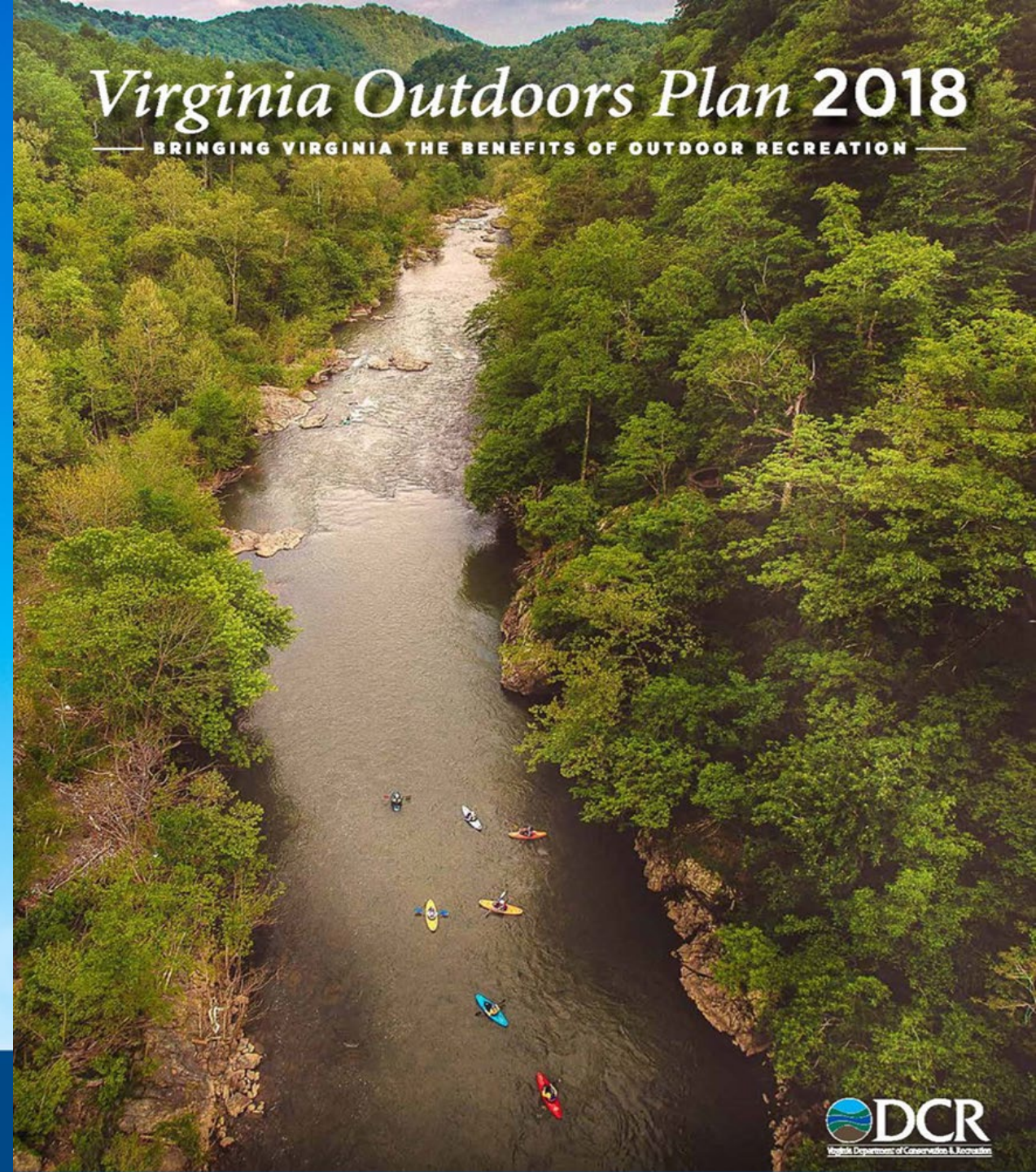
Annual Revenues - \$381,719

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

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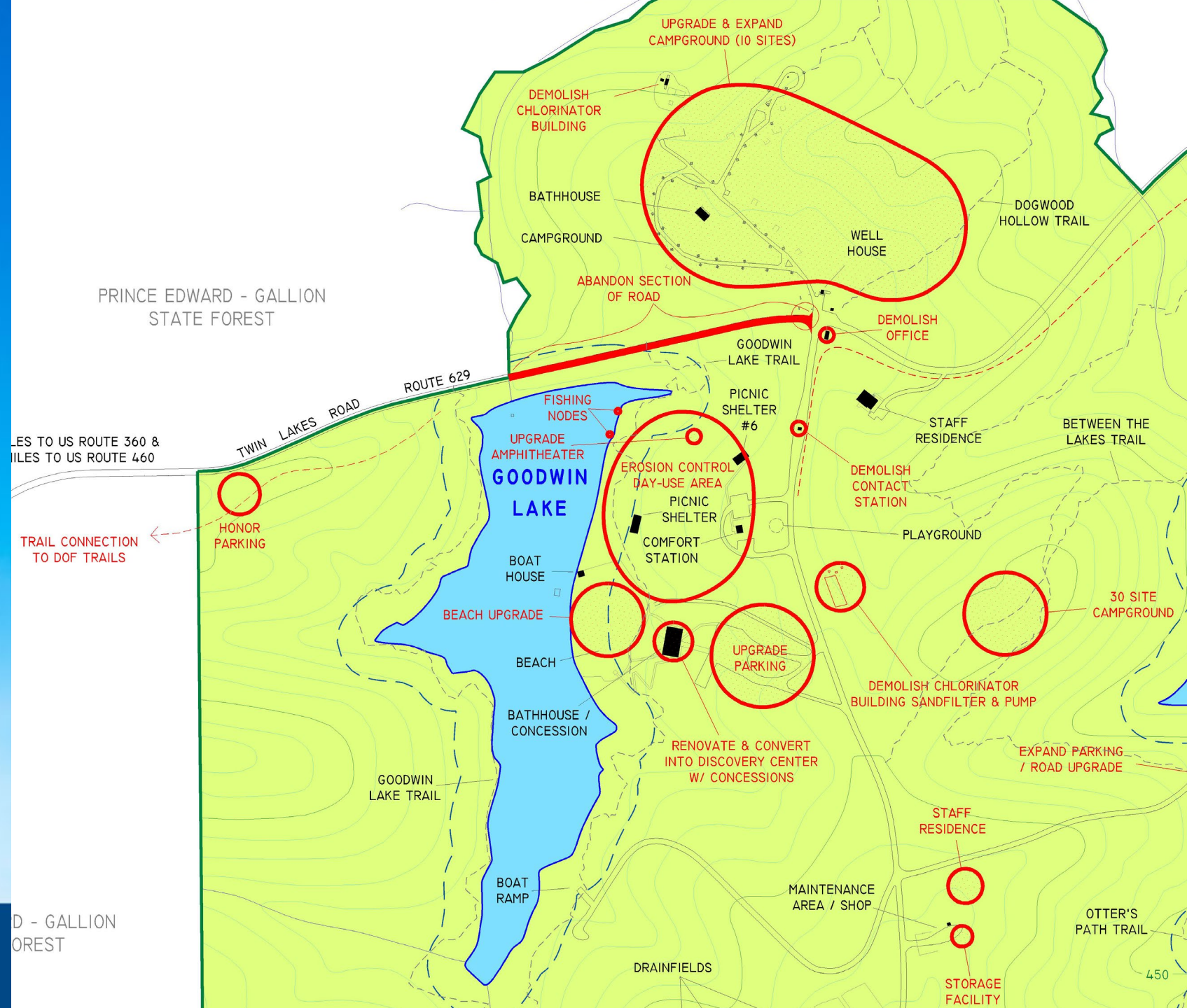


PHASE 1

- Historical exhibit at large original Prince Edward Lake State Park shelter
- Group and Primitive Camp
- Renovate Cabins, Martin Cottage and Hill Lodge
- Construct 2 Accessible Cabins
- Staff residence
- Convert Staff residence to a rental cabin
- Upgrade and expand campground
- Upgrade and expand beach area, add play items and outdoor showers
- Create trail connections to High Bridge State Park and State Forest trails
- Construct Office / contact station / visitor center (with exhibits) Alter access road
- Abandon road over Goodwin Dam creating single access point for park
- Upgrade and expand boat launch areas with parking and erosion control

Twin Lakes State Park Master Plan

Blowup of Goodwin Lake Side



PHASE 2

- Provide additional bank fishing and boat house on Prince Edward Lake
- Improve picnic area, including erosion control and upgraded comfort stations
- Renovate current housekeeping office as a cabin support facility
- Demolish existing contact station and office
- Build a shared-use off-road trail from day use area to overnight facilities
- Improve 6 miles of park trails (re-routing, bridges & upgrading surfaces)
- Replace existing playground, and add an accessible playground
- Campground – 30 sites, including 3 camping cabins and multiple RV sites
- Accessible Fishing Piers and path near Cabin Area

Blowup of Prince Edward Side

PHASE 3

- Retrofit concession building into discovery center / concession with window sales
- Upgrade day use parking area
- Upgrade Amphitheater
- Staff residence
- Demolish 9 abandoned buildings (4 chlorinator buildings, 2 storage, well house, water storage and shop)
- Renovate Cedar Crest Conference Center for use as an event center
- Build storage facility in shop area

Public Input Session Guidelines

Bill Conkle, Facilitator

Please make comments in the chat box.

These will be recorded and responded to by May 28, 2021





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



Send comments

Written comments will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m. on May 28, 2021.

Please send to:

Bill Conkle, Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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

