



**Holliday Lake State Park
2759 State Park Rd.
Appomattox, Virginia 24522**

MASTER PLAN

Executive Summary 2014 Update

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Holliday Lake State Park

MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2014 UPDATE

Presented for review at a public meeting on December 5, 2013; recommended for adoption by the Board of Conservation and Recreation on May 12, 2014; and reviewed for 30 days by the Virginia General Assembly.

Adopted:

_____/S/
Clyde E. Cristman, Director
Department of Conservation and Recreation
July 7, 2014



HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK
2014 MASTER PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Holliday Lake State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted in 2005 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This 2014 executive summary represents the most recent five-year review described in §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Holliday Lake State Park lies in Appomattox County in the central Piedmont region of Virginia. The park is located 75 miles west of Richmond, 55 miles south of Charlottesville, and 35 miles east of Lynchburg. It is approximately two hours from either Richmond or Roanoke. Holliday Lake is accessible from U.S. 460, U.S. 15, U.S. 60, and VA Route 60; the primary park entrance is from VA Route 24.

Deep in the heart of Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Holliday Lake State Park is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast. Situated in the Piedmont Physiographic Province, the park consists of approximately 560 acres of gently rolling topography where fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill is a popular activity on the 150-acre lake within the park. Nearby, a managed Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries delayed-harvest trout stream allows anglers to fish for brown and rainbow trout. The park is just minutes from the famous Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, the site of General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant in 1865. The park abuts the 19,000-acre Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest and neighbors the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, which is located on 156 acres of State Forest property. The park features excellent trails for hikers, and access to a cooperatively managed 10.2-mile trail for hikers, bikers and equestrians. A guarded swimming beach with a food service concession is provided from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.

The area encompassing Holliday Lake State Park and the surrounding state forest was cleared in the 1800s for farmland. In the 1930s, the federal government, through the Resettlement Administration, began buying the farms to return the land to its former productive hardwood forest status. Construction of a dam was begun at Fish Pond Creek; however, efforts were shifted to Holliday Creek where a lake could be developed. Traces of family cemeteries can still be found in the area. The park was established in 1939 and acquired by the state in 1945. Holliday Lake State Park, formerly Holliday Lake Recreational Area, was renamed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in 1972. In 2010, DCR and the Department of Forestry (DOF) completed a land exchange. Holliday Lake received approximately 300 acres of land in exchange for approximately the same acreage at Grayson Highlands State Park. In October 2012, Holliday Lake State Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This 2014 update places value on connecting Holliday Lake State Park to other resources in the community and within Virginia's Retreat (www.varetreat.com) which highlights historic and outdoor adventures in South Central Virginia. Nearby public lands include the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park, five state parks (Sailor's Creek Battlefield, James River, Twin Lakes, Bear Creek Lake, and High Bridge Trail), three state forests (Cumberland, Prince Edward-Gallion and Appomattox-Buckingham), Briery Creek Wildlife Management Area, Sandy River Reservoir, and Wilck's Lake Park. Longwood University and Hampden- Sydney College are also neighbors. All proposed trail connections to these public lands are independent of the state park facility.

The park already has great connectivity to adjacent state lands through an extensive trail and road system on the state forest. There are 20 miles of trails and a driving tour in the state forest, along with the 4H Center. Holliday Lake is on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Birding and Wildlife Trail and is close to Lee's Retreat Scenic Byway and stops along the Civil Rights Tour. The proposed Cumberland-Appomattox Trail would link the park to the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park and High Bridge Trail State Park. The James and the Appomattox are two rivers not far from the park that offer water recreation and scenic views. The proposed Midland Scenic Trail Byway (Route 60) and the proposed James River Heritage Trail may bring additional visitation to the area in the future. The Holliday Lake State Park Regional Connectivity Map is an attachment to the full Master Plan document.

Holliday Lake State Park received Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in 1978 for park facility development. In compliance with the LWCF Act of 1965 and amendments thereto, the Commonwealth of Virginia is required to maintain the park for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

Planners from the Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted this master plan update in accordance with §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. As a part of the 2014 master plan process, the 2005 park master plan was reviewed. It was determined that significant changes occurred in the interim and a full revision was warranted. The executive summary and accompanying map have been updated. The phased development plan and costs have been revised to reflect current proposed projects. The park staffing and operations costs data have been also updated to reflect current conditions. This 2014 master plan update was reviewed at a public meeting on December 5, 2013, prior to being presented to the Board of Conservation and Recreation on May 12, 2014, and to the General Assembly for review and comment, and finally to the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for adoption.

The adopted park purpose statement is:

“The purpose of Holliday Lake State Park, situated on a 150-acre lake created by the Works Project Administration (WPA) in the 1930s, is to provide opportunities to participate in traditional outdoor recreational activities while appreciating the natural, historical, and cultural resources that are available in and around the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest in the heart of Virginia.”

The following table depicts park attendance during the periods 2005 to 2013.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
43,872	37,195	46,767	44,713	49,637	48,375	47,415	43,969	43,086

In 2013 Holliday Lake had 43,086 visitors: 13,205 were overnight guests, while 29,881 were day-use visitors. With this level of visitation, it is estimated that the park had an economic impact on the local economy of approximately \$1,468,471. Master plan recommendations designed to increase visitation and improve the visitor experience, once implemented, should have a further positive impact on the region's economic vitality.

Facilities at Holliday Lake include two campgrounds: the Redbud Campground has 30 campsites, and the Laurel Ridge Campground has seven sites and a group camp. The park has a lake with boathouse that offers paddle boats, rowboats, kayaks, and canoes for rent; boat launch for gas-free vessels; and a swimming beach with concession area, bathhouse, and water toys. Also available at the park are multi-use trails, a small amphitheater complex, two playgrounds, and two picnic shelters. Other management facilities include a park office, staff residences, a maintenance complex, road system, parking, contact station, comfort stations, and water/septic systems.

This 2014 master plan update describes both proposed facilities and improvements to existing facilities. New facilities are sited to minimize impact to the park and to keep with prescriptive management areas as defined by the Park Resource Management Plan and guidelines of the Park Visitor Experience Plan, when available. To the greatest extent possible, Virginia State Parks strives to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards. Building and site design will implement green energy standards using energy-efficient and sustainable materials and process to the greatest extent possible. Green design initiatives will be considered during the design process for park renovations and new construction. These facilities will be carefully sited to minimize impacts to the views in the park and of the park from adjacent lands and water bodies. Consideration will be given to eliminate excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial light in the park in order to maximize the dark sky effect and encourage astronomy and night-sky viewing. Development activities will comply with the requirements set forth by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Best Management Practices (BMP) Handbook for Erosion and Sediment Control in order to protect water quality.

Minimal development is planned for the 300 acres acquired in 2010 from the Department of Forestry. Maintaining the property in its natural state provides protection of the water quality in the lake and also protects views of the lake.

The proposed developments for Holliday Lake State Park are presented in priority order. Phases I through III are representative of total build-out (completed development of this master plan). This plan outlines the desired future condition of the park over a 20-year planning horizon. Total estimated cost is \$22,261,047.

PHASE I

Contact station near park entrance on State Park Road
Office/Welcome center near contact station (new well to also serve future cabins)
Demolish existing contact station
Staff residence
Demolish staff residence
Demolish existing office/add parking spaces
Renovate concession building bathhouse
Add covered eating area at concession building/make façade improvements
Replace Redbud Campground bathhouse/upgrade electric and water
Upgrade three existing campsites for ADA accessibility
Camping Cabins (3)
Renovate boat ramp (with dredging)
Update #1 and #2 wells, water treatment, water storage and distribution systems
Improve the drainage in the day use area
Improve access to the beach
Enhance and expand trails
Enhance and expand playground equipment in the park
Enhance directional signage to the park
The total estimated cost for Phase I development is \$5,975,016

PHASE II

Cabin area
Staff residence
Construct an ADA accessible fishing and wildlife observation pier
Enlarge picnic shelter #2
Enhance the amphitheater with water and additional seating
Maintenance area
Demolish comfort station
Discovery Center
Enhance and expand trails
The total estimated cost for Phase II development is \$14,461,694.

PHASE III

Renovate the concession building
Parking at the well house area, road improvement, trail extension.
Demolish existing maintenance area
Group Camp
Enhance and expand trails
Improvements to #3 Well house

The total estimated cost for Phase III development is \$1,824,337.

The total estimated cost for Phases I, II and III development is \$22,261,047.

Staffing and Operations

Staffing and operational costs at Holliday Lake State Park are presently budgeted at \$423,000 annually, including salaries for four staff positions. Two additional staff positions are identified in Phase 1 to bring the current park staffing to standard base level. At complete build-out of the proposed three phases of development, seven additional staff will be needed as well as an additional \$726,000 in operating funds. In order for the park to operate effectively and efficiently at full build-out, the park must be provided with the projected staffing and operating costs for the three development phases. The total budget for Holliday Lake at full build-out is projected to be \$1,149,000 with 11 staff positions.

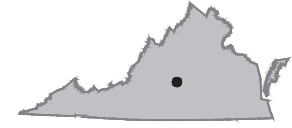
HOLLIDAY LAKE STAFFING AND OPERATING COSTS

EXISTING (FY 14)	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	FULL BUILD OUT
<u>STAFFING</u>				STAFFING
Park Manager				Park Manager
		Asst. Park Mgr		Asst. Park Mgr
Chief Ranger				Chief Ranger
	Educ. Specialist*			Educ. Specialist
Park Ranger	Park Ranger*	Park Ranger	Park Ranger	Park Ranger (4)
		Housekeeper (2)		Housekeeper (2)
Office Manager				Office Manager
SALARY TOTAL				SALARY TOTAL
\$202,000	\$104,000	\$202,000	\$46,000	\$554,000
WAGE TOTAL				WAGE TOTAL
\$118,000	\$15,000	\$134,000	\$15,000	\$282,000
OTPS TOTAL				OTPS TOTAL
\$103,000	\$11,000	\$190,000	\$9,000	\$313,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY14 dollars)				TOTAL BUDGET (FY14 dollars)
\$423,000	\$130,000	\$526,000	\$70,000	\$1,149,000

NOTE – All costs (salary, wage, OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)) are based on FY14 budget projections.

* Additional positions will bring park to standard base level staffing.

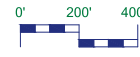
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
"APPOMATTOX-BUCKINGHAM STATE FOREST"



MASTER PLAN FOR HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

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

JULY 2014








CONTOUR INTERVAL : 10 FEET



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
"APPOMATTOX-BUCKINGHAM STATE FOREST"

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
"APPOMATTOX-BUCKINGHAM STATE FOREST"

LEGEND

-  PROPOSED FACILITIES
-  EXISTING FACILITIES
-  PARK PROPERTY
-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  WATER
-  TREE LINE
-  EXISTING ROAD
-  EXISTING BUILDINGS
-  TRAILS
-  100' RIPARIAN BUFFER
-  WETLANDS

GENERAL NOTES:

- ENHANCE DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE TO THE PARK
- UPDATE WATER TREATMENT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION
- ENHANCE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT THROUGHOUT PARK.
- ENHANCE ADA ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE PARK
- EXPAND PARK TRAILS & EXPLORE TRAIL CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE PARK
- RELOCATE UTILITY WIRES UNDERGROUND

