



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

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park

2014 Master Plan Executive Summary



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

SAILOR'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD HISTORICAL STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2014 UPDATE

Presented for review at a public meeting on July 10, 2014, then recommended for adoption by the Board of Conservation and Recreation on August 21, 2014, and then reviewed for 30 days by the Virginia General Assembly.

Adopted:

 /S/
Clyde E. Cristman, Director
Department of Conservation
and Recreation

October 15, 2014
Date



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

SAILOR'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD HISTORICAL STATE PARK MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY UPDATE

This Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted on December 4, 2002, by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Director Joseph H. Maroon. The plan was then amended on June 10, 2009, by DCR Director Joseph H. Maroon. This master plan update is intended to set forth a clear vision for the future based on the phased development. This 2014 executive summary represents the most recent five-year review described in §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. It outlines the desired future condition for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park when it is fully developed.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park is located in the Piedmont Region of central Virginia. Sections of the park are in three counties: Prince Edward, Amelia and Nottoway. 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. The Double Bridges site is accessed by following Route 617 north to Route 618 and turning left; following Route 618 to Route 619 and turning left; then following 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.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park is the site of the last major battle of the American Civil War in the state of Virginia. The purpose of the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park master plan is to provide revisions and updates to previous plans and to establish a new plan to support the educational and recreational mission of the park, a National Historic Landmark site. 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 directed planning toward interpreting the action that took place on the property during the American Civil War. The plan establishes 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.

This 2014 update places value on connecting Sailor's Creek to other resources in the community and within Virginia's Retreat (www.varetreat.com). Nearby public lands include the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, five state parks (Holliday Lake, James River, Twin Lakes, Bear Creek Lake, and High Bridge Trail State Parks), 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 is on the “Heart of the Piedmont Loop” of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries’ Birding and Wildlife Trail. It is an important stop along Lee’s Retreat Driving Tour and near stops along the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail. The proposed Cumberland-Appomattox trail would link the park to other public lands nearby. The James and the Appomattox are two rivers not far from the park that offer water recreation and scenic views. The proposed Midland Trail Virginia Byway (Route 60) and the proposed James River Heritage Trail may bring additional visitation to the area in the future. The Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical Park Regional Connectivity Map is an attachment to the full Master Plan document.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation Planners and State Park Staff conducted this master plan update in accordance with §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. This plan outlines the desired future condition of the park over a 20-year planning horizon. As required by the *Code of Virginia*, it must be revisited every five years to ensure that the development objectives outlined in the plan continue to meet the recreational, environmental and historic protection needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. As a part of the 2014 master plan update, the 2002 park master plan and the 2009 amendment were reviewed. It was determined that significant changes had occurred within the master plan, 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.

The adopted park purpose statement is stated below:

“The purpose of Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical 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.”

ATTENDANCE: The following table depicts park attendance during the period 2005 to 2013:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
27,560	25,211	27,012	24,299	23,286	19,124	20,552	44,528	44,392

In 2013 Sailor’s Creek had 44,393 visitors, all of whom 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 \$710,272. 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.

The Hillsman House, built around 1770, is a registered Virginia and National Historic Landmark. The house is 1-2 stories high with an English basement and four rooms and a hallway. The house has electric power but no water or sewer lines. The Hillsman House structure has reinforced floors with replacement timbers in place of damaged ones. The Hillsman House is available to the public on a scheduled basis and as a site for living history demonstrations. The plan recognizes the need for a comfort station in this area of the park.

The Visitor Center, completed in 2009, is located at the southern portion of the park on the former Frank Farm property, where removal of the original farmhouse, barn, and silos provided the ideal

site. The visitor center is large enough to support a number of purposes; including space for restrooms, research library, offices, an environmentally controlled area for curatorial and artifact storage, and a museum that can accommodate up to 50 people for presentations. The architectural design of the visitor center is one that reduces the impact of constructed features on the site by placing the buildings out of the direct sight-line of important battle viewsheds. The visitor center structure is styled after the vernacular architecture of the region and is LEED certified Silver. The siting of the visitor center provides for a gathering space outside that serves as an outdoor exhibit area for presentations on military activities and programs related to the farm setting.

Sailor's Creek is situated on 329 acres of land. Additional land acquisition is recommended to enhance park offerings, establish connective trail easements/corridors, and buffer the park from inappropriate development and/or protect valued viewsheds. Future land acquisitions will only be negotiated with willing property owners. The placement of conservation easements on adjacent property to preserve the natural resources, cultural landscapes, and scenic resources in close proximity to the park will be encouraged. In working cooperatively with neighboring landowners, the park will be enhanced and protected over time.

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 in keeping with the prescriptive management areas as defined by the Park Resource Management Plan and the 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 Environmental Quality's best management practices for erosion, sediment control and stormwater management in order to protect water quality.

Proposed developments for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park are presented in priority order. Completion of all of the projects in this list will represent total build-out (completion of the master plan) and will cover a 20-year timeframe.

The phasing costs are based on 2014 estimates.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park Proposed Phasing

Phase I

Add maintenance facility (standard 2-bay with pole shed and fuel pump)

Remove pit toilet

Trail development with pedestrian bridge

Survey of all park boundaries

Add comfort station/vault toilet in proximity to Hillsman House (cost will be determined when an acceptable location and/or technology is decided upon)

Construct accessible walkway connecting parking, proposed comfort station/vault toilet, and Hillsman House

Place utility lines underground

Historic landscape restoration

The total estimated cost for Phase I developments is \$3,176,356

Phase II

Add staff residence

Historic landscape restoration

Trail development

The total estimated cost for Phase II developments is \$667,979

Phase III

Pond removal and stream restoration

Trail development

The total estimated cost for Phase III developments is \$438,015

The total estimated cost to bring Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park to its desired future condition is \$4,282,350

Staffing and Operations

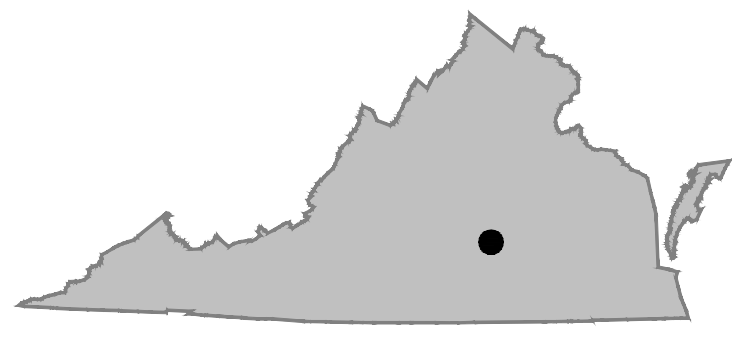
Staffing and operational costs at Sailors Creek Battlefield State Park are presently budgeted at \$279,000 annually, including salaries for three staff positions. Four additional staff positions are identified in Phase I which are either vacant positions or would bring the current park staffing to standard base level. At complete build-out of the proposed 3 phases of development, 4 additional staff will be needed and an additional \$226,000 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 Sailors Creek at full build-out is projected to be \$505,000 with seven staff positions.

SAILOR'S CREEK STAFFING AND OPERATING COSTS

EXISTING (FY 15)	PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III	FULL BUILD OUT
<u>STAFFING</u>				STAFFING
Park Manager				Park Manager
Chief Ranger				Chief Ranger
	Educ. Specialist* (2)			Educ. Specialist (2)
Park Ranger	Park Ranger*			Park Ranger (2)
	Prog. Support Tech.*			Prog. Support Tech
SALARY TOTAL				SALARY TOTAL
\$167,000	\$208,000			\$375,000
WAGE TOTAL				WAGE TOTAL
\$64,000	\$5,000	\$400	\$400	\$69,800
OTPS TOTAL				OTPS TOTAL
\$48,000	\$12,000	\$300	\$300	\$60,600
TOTAL BUDGET (FY15 dollars)				TOTAL BUDGET (FY15 dollars)
\$279,000	\$225,000	\$700	\$700	\$505,400

NOTE – All costs (salary, wage, OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)) are based on FY15 budget projections.

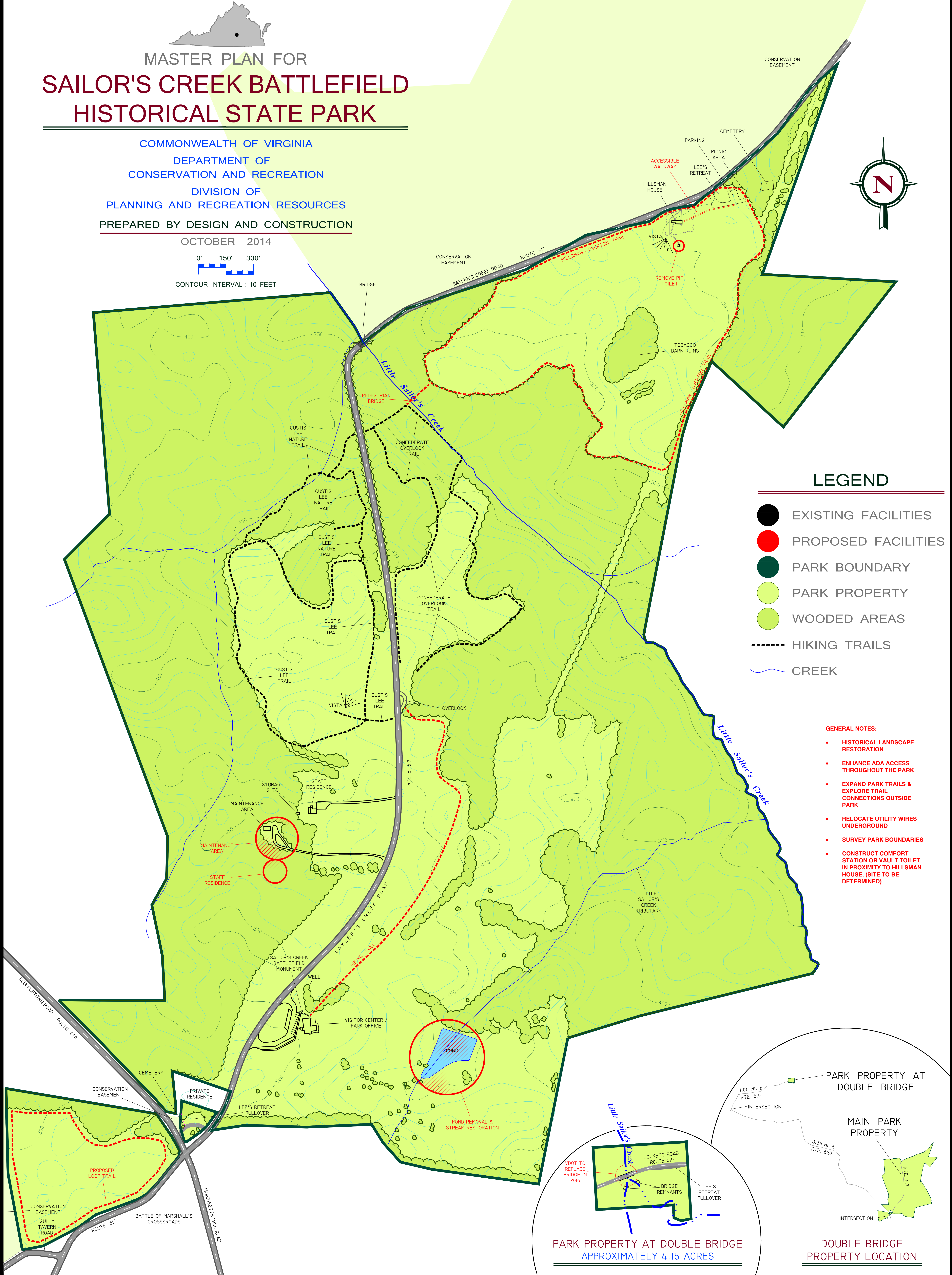
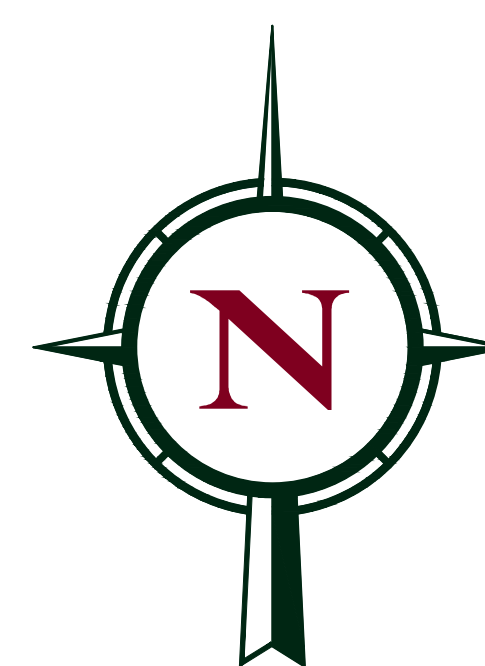
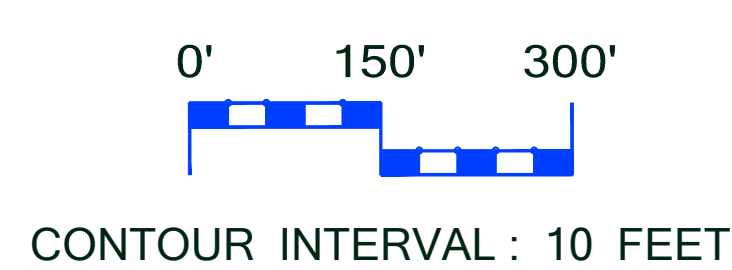
* Additional positions which are vacant and/or will bring park to standard base level staffing.



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

OCTOBER 2014

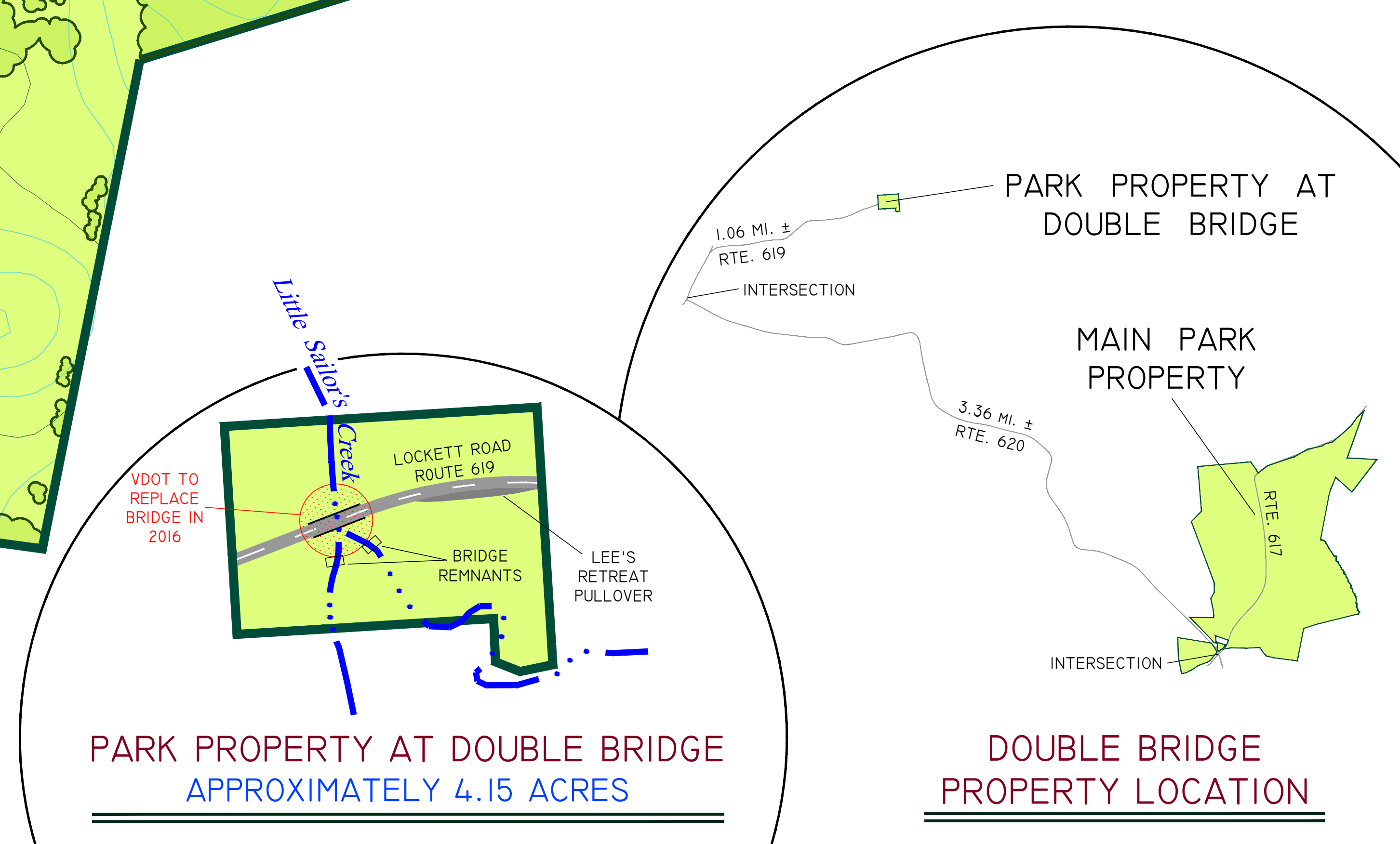


LEGEND

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

GENERAL NOTES:

- HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION
- ENHANCE ADA ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE PARK
- EXPAND PARK TRAILS & EXPLORE TRAIL CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE PARK
- RELOCATE UTILITY WIRES UNDERGROUND
- SURVEY PARK BOUNDARIES
- CONSTRUCT COMFORT STATION OR VAULT TOILET IN PROXIMITY TO HILLSMAN HOUSE. (SITE TO BE DETERMINED)



PARK PROPERTY AT DOUBLE BRIDGE
APPROXIMATELY 4.15 ACRES

DOUBLE BRIDGE
PROPERTY LOCATION