



Lake Anna State Park
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LAKE ANNA STATE PARK MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 UPDATE

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
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Reviewed by the Board of Conservation and Recreation on June 17, 2011

Approved:

 /S/
David A. Johnson, Director
Department of Conservation
and Recreation

9/2/11
Date



LAKE ANNA STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 UPDATE

This Lake Anna State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted in 1998 and renewed in 2004 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). It is the most recent review as described in §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. This master plan update is intended to set forth a clear vision for the future (based on phased development), while fulfilling the narrative text requirements of Chapter IV of the Virginia Capital Outlay Manual and §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. It outlines the desired future condition for Lake Anna State Park when it is fully developed.

Lake Anna State Park's central geographic location, its position on one of Virginia's premier freshwater lakes, and its proximity to rapidly expanding population centers place it in a unique position within the Virginia State Park system. The park, located about 20 miles west of I-95 in Virginia's central Piedmont, is within fifty miles of the four expanding population centers of Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Northern Virginia. It is located in southern Spotsylvania County within the George Washington Regional Commission area (Region 16). The 13,000 acre lake was created as an impoundment on the North Anna River to supply water for the North Anna Nuclear Power Station. The park site is described as mostly wooded, with gentle to steeply rolling topography that drains into the headwaters of the North Anna River. Resource inventories and field investigations revealed a durable, easily developable site with few limiting elements. Access to the park is via Route 601 West off Route 208, 25 miles southwest of Fredericksburg and 60 miles northwest of Richmond.

Lake Anna State Park is renowned for its position along the northern shore of Lake Anna and its beach and boating activities. Considering the park's central location it is no surprise that visitors from near and far are inspired to visit the park to enjoy its beautiful scenery, rich history, and ample recreational opportunities. All this makes this 2,810-acre state park nestled on Lake Anna in Spotsylvania County a special place for state park enthusiasts.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) acquired the property in the early 1970s, and by 1977, a master plan had been completed. The park opened in 1983 with limited day-use facilities: a boat ramp, some trails, graveled parking areas, and limited picnicking. Throughout the 1980s, facilities were added, including a beach and swimming area, environmental center, picnic areas, modern restrooms, approximately nine miles of hiking trails, and related parking. In the summer of 2001, a 246 acre parcel was purchased from an adjacent land owner on the western side of the park. Since that time more parcels have been added to the western boundary for viewshed and resource protection as well as to provide additional recreational opportunities. Currently the park has a total of 2,810 acres with 10 miles of shoreline.

The water in Lake Anna is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and when the lake was completed in 1972 Dominion Resources Inc. (Dominion) began management of the lake under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license which created the lake as cooling areas for the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant. Along with other state agencies and local citizen groups, DCR provides comments to Dominion on the development of the recreational and shoreline management components for Dominion's FERC relicensing effort. As part of an ongoing effort to improve water quality, each spring DCR assists in cooperative effort to addle Canada geese eggs under a permit issued by United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Lake Anna State Park has a

radiological emergency response plan in place and participates in a bi-annual practice exercise for evacuation in case of a radiological emergency. DCR continues to provide recommendations for recreational enhancements, including, but not limited to portage routes and additional public access for fishing and boating. Protecting the quality of the recreational experience is one of the key issues in this process.

This 2011 update places value on connecting Lake Anna State Park to other resources in the community. Aside from Lake Anna and the North Anna River, the park is not far from the Matta, Po, and Ni Rivers. The Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative is working on a trail connection to the park that will tie into a larger system throughout the county. U.S. Bike Route 76 passes south of the lake on Kentucky Springs Road. This route intersects with U.S. Bike Route 1 and the interim route of the East Coast Greenway south of the North Anna River, a river with many scenic attributes, east of the lake. Lake Anna is listed as a site on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Birding and Wildlife Trail. South of the lake, Route 613 is a Virginia Byway. Lake Anna is in or close to the borders of Orange, Hanover, Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties, thus partnership opportunities exist with all four. The Lake Anna State Park Regional Connectivity Map is an attachment to the full Master Plan document.

Lake Anna State Park received Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in 1973 for land acquisition; in 1979 for picnic, boating and trail facilities; in 1989 for beach development; in 2001 for acquisition; and in 2004 for campground 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 a master plan update in 1999 in accordance with §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. The Lake Anna State Park Master Plan was developed with the assistance of a technical advisory committee comprised of local citizens, business owners, and representatives from local government. The committee met and advised DCR staff on appropriate developments and the park purpose statement, goals and objectives. Public input was solicited at the beginning and at the end of the process to ensure that plan recommendations were understood and accepted by the community. The plan was renewed again in 2004.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation began updating the master plan in 2011 when staff conducted their initial assessment. Following an assessment of the upgrades and land acquisitions since the previous review, it was determined that changes were significant enough to require the formation of a citizen advisory committee as had been done in 1999. The committee was formed and twice met with staff. In addition, there was a public information meeting, where all were given the opportunity to discuss their support for the park as well as any concerns. Staff and the committee decided that an update to the purpose statement as well as the goals and objectives was needed to reflect the desired future condition of the park. Below is the park purpose statement adopted in 2011:

“The purpose of Lake Anna State Park is to conserve in perpetuity the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources of the park and to provide recreational and educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters, and facilities on one of Virginia’s largest lakes.”

In 1991, the first year of full operation, attendance exceeded 109,000. By the end of 2010, annual visitation had increased by almost 162% to more than 285,889. The beach and swimming area reach their optimum carrying capacity during most summer weekends, requiring the closing of the park to additional visitors. Existing park facilities have become so popular that additional and expanded facilities are necessary. The following chart depicts park attendance since 2002.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
181,854	165,254	207,514	206,280	272,138	262,021	250,830	222,960	285,889

In 2010 Lake Anna State Park had 285,889 visitors; 29,740 were overnight guests, and 256,149 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 \$6,328,884. Planned facilities have been designed to accommodate an increased number of visitors and improve the visitor experience. Once constructed, these facilities should further contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

Existing facilities at Lake Anna include a contact station, small visitor center/discovery center, boat launch, beach (with swimming area, diving platform and bathhouse), concession area, playground, picnicking facilities (including three temporary picnic shelters and one group shelter), parking, accessible fishing pier, bank fishing areas, and hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails. Park maintenance and management facilities include park office, staff residences, and a small maintenance complex. Park infrastructure includes provision of electricity, a road system, a water system with well houses, and septic drain fields.

Park improvements since the last master plan review include acquisition of 778 acres, construction of 10 two-bedroom cabins, construction of 23 water and electric campsites and 23 standard campsites (with six camping cabins and bathhouses), additional trails, and creation of a 70-seat outdoor classroom for interpretive education.

This 2011 master plan update represents both new facilities and improvements to existing facilities. New facilities at this park should be designed and built with consideration to the original design and layout of facilities, 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. To the greatest extent possible, Virginia State Parks strives to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards. All future phases of park construction will be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner. Building and site design will implement green energy standards using energy-efficient and sustainable materials and processes to the greatest extent possible. These facilities will be carefully sited to minimize impacts to the views within the park and of the park from the adjacent lands and water bodies. 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.

A portion of Lake Anna was recently dredged to improve conditions at the beach area. Roads and parking areas in Lake Anna State Park need to be evaluated as many are in poor condition and need to be resurfaced for safety and aesthetics. Staff residences do not meet current standards and should be renovated.

Additional land acquisition is recommended to enhance park offerings, establish connective trail easements/corridors, and protect park viewsheds from inappropriate development. 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.

The proposed developments for Lake Anna 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 covers a 20-year timeframe.

PHASE I

Construct internal connector road to new properties

Construct a new Visitor Center on Ware property

- Parking (50)

- Utilities

Build an amphitheater adjacent to the new Visitor Center (accommodations for 200)

- Restrooms

Relocate boat launch area

- Four launch lanes and separate space for hand carry launching

- Parking

- Restrooms

- Docking for temporary stay

- Dumping facility

- Utilities

Expand beach & facilities

- Increase size of beach, parking, concession and restrooms

- Increase number of picnic tables

- Add two permanent picnic shelters and a shelter with restroom, kitchen, and fireplace

- Remove existing boat launch and add temporary docking

- Increase utility services

Build cabins adjacent to existing cabins (10)

- Remove the SST

Expand contact station creating a "Welcome Center"

Expand maintenance complex

Renovate staff residences

Stabilize shoreline

Install additional fencing to expand enclosures around the Goodwin Mine area

The total estimated cost for Phase I development is \$20,718,688

PHASE II

Construct equestrian facilities west of contact station

- Overnight campsites (15) sites

- Restroom

- Day-use parking (15) spaces

- Group site

- Utilities

Construct additional campsites (30)

- Dock slips (5)

- Bathhouse

Construct multi-use trails

Build staff residence

Stabilize shoreline

The total estimated cost for Phase II development is \$11,386,440.

Phase III

Construct trails
Construct group campground
 Bathhouse
Convert existing Visitor Center into Environmental Education/Discovery Center w/ restrooms
Construct shelter
Stabilize shoreline

The total estimated cost for Phase II development is \$7,493,148.

The total cost to bring Lake Anna State Park to its desired future condition is \$39,598,276

Staffing and Operations

Staffing and operational costs at Lake Anna State Park are presently budgeted at \$676,000 annually, including salaries for 5 staff positions. With the current facilities and operational requirements, the park has an identified need for 6 additional positions and \$279,000 in funding. At complete build out of the proposed 3 phases of development, 3 additional staff will be needed along with an additional \$466,000 in operating funds. In order for the park to operate effectively and efficiently at full build out, the park requires the projected staffing and operating funds identified in the budget as “existing additional needs” and the funds for the 3 development phases. The total budget for Lake Anna at full build out is projected to be \$1,421,000 with 14 staff positions.

EXISTING (FY 11)	EXISTING ADDITIONAL NEEDS *	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				Educ. Specialist (2)
Park Ranger	Park Ranger (3)**	Park Ranger		Park Ranger	Park Ranger (6)
	Housekeeper	Housekeeper			Housekeeper (2)
Office Manager					Office Manager
SALARY TOTAL					SALARY TOTAL
\$284,000	\$250,000	\$80,000		\$40,000	\$654,000
WAGE TOTAL					WAGE TOTAL
\$151,000	\$13,000	\$117,000	\$33,000	\$19,000	\$333,000
OTPS TOTAL					OTPS TOTAL
\$241,000	\$16,000	\$141,000	\$25,000	\$11,000	\$434,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY11 dollars)					TOTAL BUDGET (FY11 dollars)
\$676,000	\$279,000	\$338,000	\$58,000	\$70,000	\$1,421,000

NOTE – All costs (salary, wage, OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)) are based on FY11 budget projections.

* Existing additional needs represents staff shortages that were identified as part of the 2002 re-benchmarking effort, and/or staff positions and operating costs reduced due to multiple years of state wide budget reductions.

** Chief Ranger and one park ranger position in process of being filled.

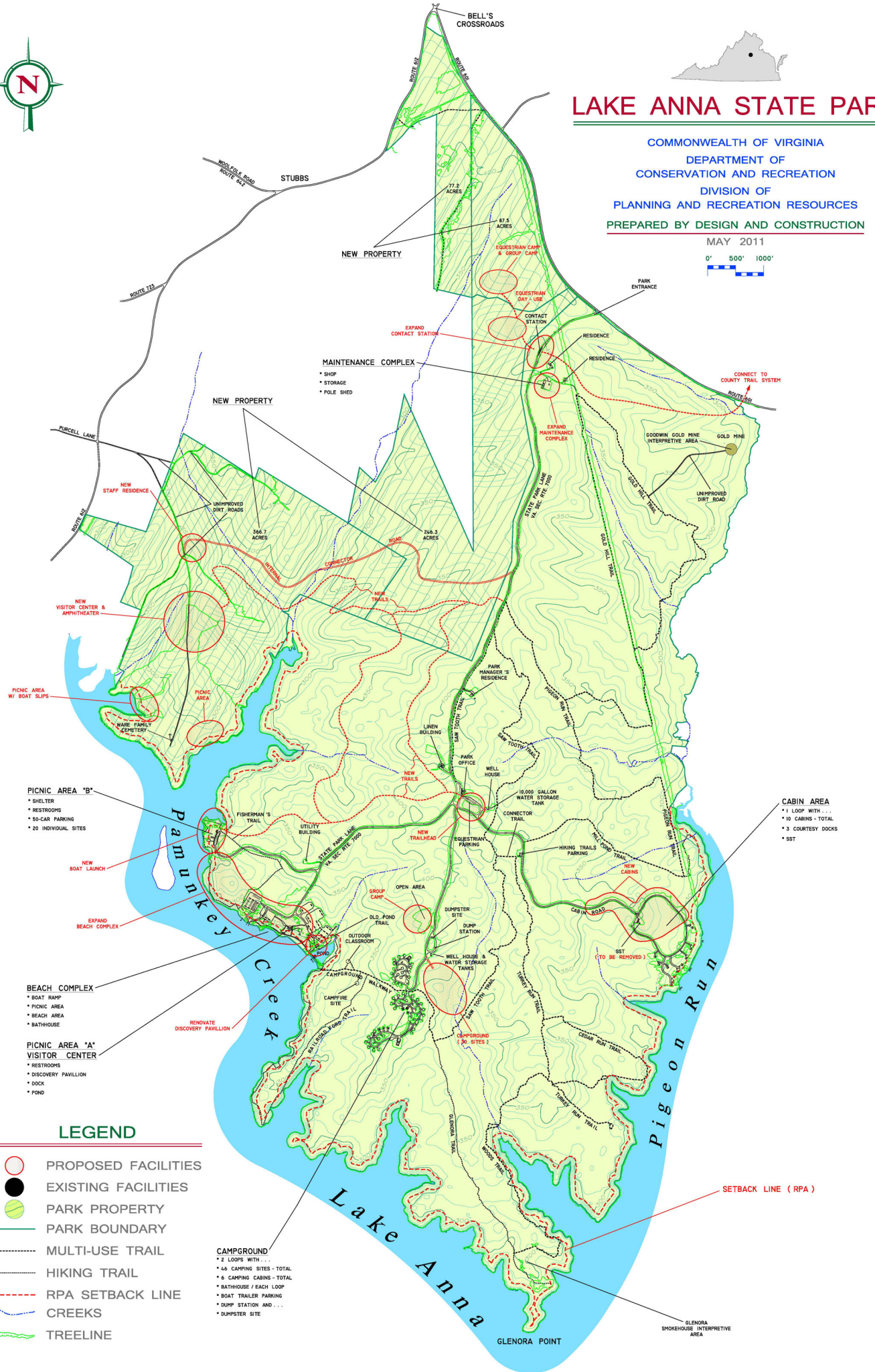


LAKE ANNA STATE PARK

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

MAY 2011

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LEGEND

- PROPOSED FACILITIES
- EXISTING FACILITIES
- PARK PROPERTY
- PARK BOUNDARY
- - - MULTI-USE TRAIL
- - - HIKING TRAIL
- - - RPA SETBACK LINE
- CREEKS
- TREELINE

- CAMPGROUND**
- * 2 LOOPS WITH . . .
 - * 46 CAMPING SITES - TOTAL
 - * 6 CAMPING CABINS - TOTAL
 - * BATHHOUSE / EACH LOOP
 - * BOAT TRAILER PARKING
 - * DUMP STATION AND . . .
 - * DUMPSTER SITE

- CABIN AREA**
- * 1 LOOP WITH . . .
 - * 10 CABINS - TOTAL
 - * 3 COURTESY DOCKS
 - * SST

SETBACK LINE (RPA)

GLENORA SHOREHOUSE INTERPRETIVE AREA