This complete guidance document is unavailable in an electronic format. The executive summary is attached. Please contact:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreational Resources
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-5046

Smith Mountain Lake State Park
1235 State Park Road
Huddleston, Virginia 24104-9547

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 UPDATE

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
203 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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MASTER PLAN

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2011 UPDATE

Reviewed by the Board of Conservation and Recreation on March 18, 2011

Approved:

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

March 22, 2011
Date

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 UPDATE

The Smith Mountain Lake State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted in 2003 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Board. This 2011 executive summary represents the most recent five-year review mandated in §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park is on the 20,600-acre Smith Mountain Lake that was created in 1960 when Appalachian Power Company (now American Electric Power) built a dam on the Roanoke River in Smith Mountain Gap. Construction of the dam was completed in 1966, and a year later Appalachian Power donated the first parcel of land to the Commonwealth for the establishment of the state park. The state bought the rest of the land during the next six years. Early conceptual drawings from 1968 envision a high density development, including a hotel, lodge, cabins, marina, horse stable, campgrounds, ferry landing and other complementary recreation amenities. The original master plan was developed in 1972 and recommended a more moderate approach to developing the park. The first stages of development and road construction began in 1975. The park, which includes 16 miles of lake frontage, opened to the public in 1983.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park is located in Region 2000 Local Government Council (also known as Planning District 11), which lies in the southwest and central part of Virginia along the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge physiographic region on the Roanoke River branch of Smith Mountain Lake. The park consists of 1,248 acres, primarily in Bedford County. An additional 37-acre peninsula across the lake from the main state park property is in Franklin County. This parcel is leased to Franklin County and has been developed as a county park. Smith Mountain Lake State Park is accessed via Route 626. It is about 40 miles southeast of Roanoke, 40 miles southwest of Lynchburg, and 140 miles southwest of Richmond.

This 2011 update places value on connecting the park to other resources in the community. Localities in the region include the Counties of Bedford, Franklin, Roanoke and Pittsylvania along with the Cities of Lynchburg and Roanoke. There are several colleges in Roanoke and Lynchburg that offer opportunities for partnerships on many levels. Portions of State Highway 43 are designated Virginia Byways. There are also opportunities to create partnerships with the American Electric Power (AEP) and Franklin County as they develop the Penn Hall recreation site. Other significant public lands within the area are Booker T. Washington National Monument and the Bourassa State Forest. Additional connectivity opportunities exist with the Roanoke River Greenway and the Staunton River Blueway. The park is already recognized on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Birding and Wildlife Trail. The Smith Mountain Lake State Park Regional Connectivity Map is an attachment to the full master plan document.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park received Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in 1967, 1973, 1978, 1985, 1987, 2000 and 2001 for land acquisition, road development and various 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.

Improvements on state park lands have traditionally followed approved master plans once the state acquired the land. The current Smith Mountain Lake State Park master plan was adopted in 2003 after development of the plan with the assistance of a technical advisory committee that was

comprised of local citizens, business owners, AEP personnel, and representatives from federal, state and local government. With the assistance of the advisory committee, a park purpose statement and goals and objectives were developed. 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 outlined the desired future condition of the park over a 20-year planning horizon. As required by $10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, each park master plan must be revisited every five years to ensure that the park purpose and development objectives outlined in the plan continue to meet the recreational and environmental protection needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

As a part of this process, DCR staff reviewed the 2003 park master plan for Smith Mountain Lake State Park. Following a discussion of changing conditions in the park, it was determined that no significant events had occurred to warrant a full revision of the master plan. The goals and objectives and the desired future condition of the park have not changed since adoption of the 2003 plan. The phased development plan and costs have been revised to reflect projects that have been completed since 2003. Park staffing and operations cost data have also been updated to reflect current conditions. The 2003 adopted park purpose statement is stated below:

> ***"The purpose of Smith Mountain Lake State Park is to provide premiere outdoor recreational and educational opportunities associated with Virginia's largest lake, while interpreting the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the west piedmont region of Virginia."***

The following table depicts park attendance during the period 2002 to 2010.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
329,259	234,499	337,639	335,597	277,554	327,676	308,277	358,611	357,486

In 2010, Smith Mountain Lake State Park had 357,486 visitors; 40,367 were overnight guests, while 317,119 were day-use visitors. With this level of visitation, it is estimated that the park had an economic impact on the local economies in Bedford and Franklin Counties of approximately $8,101,429. Master plan recommendations designed to increase visitation and improve the visitor experience, once implemented, should have a further positive impact on the regional local economy.

Existing amenities in place at the park include 20 cabins with docks, a Discovery Center, a campground with 24 trailer sites with water and electric hook-ups and 25 camping sites without utilities, boat ramp, picnic area with shelter, playground, multi-use trails, boat rental facility, boat launch, beach swimming area with bathhouse, concession area, beach volleyball court, accessible fishing pier, and an amphitheater. Maintenance and management facilities include park office, staff residences, and a maintenance complex as well as a road system, water system, and septic drain fields.

Park improvements since the writing of the 2003 Master Plan include replacement of the campground bathhouse, completion of 10 miles of trails, renovation of 20 campsites, completion of the Visitor Center and office, reconfiguration and paving of boat ramp area, expansion of boat ramp parking, and replacement of eroded beach at the swimming area.

This 2011 master plan update represents both new facilities and improvements to existing facilities. 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. It is intended that the park be connected to public water and sewer as soon as such connections are feasible. 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.

Facilities will be carefully sited to minimize impacts to views to and from the park. Of particular concern at Smith Mountain Lake State Park is the view across the lake to large undeveloped properties that have the potential to become densely populated housing projects. Any development of these properties should consider the protection of this great visual resource.

Additional land acquisition is recommended in this park to enhance park offerings and buffer the park from inappropriate development or protect valued viewsheds, especially on lands across the lake from the park. All lands acquired by sale or donation 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 is encouraged. In working cooperatively with neighboring landowners, the park will be enhanced and protected over time.

The proposed developments for Smith Mountain Lake 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

-Visitor center exhibits.
-Add fuel sales facility.
-Construct Picnic Area – 3 large shelters, a restroom, dock, parking 60 spaces, playground
-Construct Campground – w/ camp cabins
-Construct new cabins with 1 – 6 BR with dock and laundry facility.
-Construct staff residence.
-Widen entrance road at contact station.

- Increase capacity and storage room at discovery center
- Construct ADA trail.
- Install shoreline erosion control.
- Install finger piers.
- Protect and interpret historic sites. [4 sites]
- Install bicycle lanes on all park roads.

The total estimated cost for Phase I development is $19,800,000.

Phase II

- Amphitheater
- Install shoreline erosion control.
- Construct trail connections.
- Install bicycle lanes on all park roads.

The total estimated cost for Phase II development is $13,000,000

Phase III

- Increase transient boat dock capacity at beach by ten slips.
- Install boat pump out.
- Install Shoreline erosion control.
- Install bicycle lanes on all park roads.

The total estimated cost for Phase III development is $3,600,000

The total cost to bring Smith Mountain Lake State Park to its desired future condition is $36,400,000.

Staffing and Operations

Staffing and operational costs at Smith Mountain Lake State Park are presently budgeted at $952,000 annually, including salaries for 6 staff positions. With the current facilities and operational requirements, the park has an identified need for 8 additional positions and $337,000 in funding. At complete build out of the proposed 3 phases of development, 2 additional staff will be needed and an additional $405,000 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 cost identified as "existing additional needs" and the costs for the 3 development phases. The total budget for Smith Mountain Lake at full build out is projected to be $1,694,000 with 16 staff positions.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park – Operating and Staffing Requirements

EXISTING (FY 11)	EXISTING ADDITIONAL NEEDS *	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	FULL BUILD OUT
STAFFING					**STAFFING**
Park Manager					Park Manager
Asst. Park Mgr					Asst. Park Mgr
Chief Ranger	Chief Ranger				Chief Ranger (2)
	Educ. Specialist (2)				Educ. Specialist (2)
Park Ranger (2)	Park Ranger (2)	Park Ranger			Park Ranger (5)
	Housekeeper (2)	Housekeeper			Housekeeper (3)
Office Manager					Office Manager
	Program Support Tech.				Program Support Tech.
SALARY TOTAL					**SALARY TOTAL**
$310,000	$337,000	$80,000			$727,000
WAGE TOTAL					**WAGE TOTAL**
$292,000		$133,000	$10,000	$10,000	$445,000
OTPS TOTAL					**OTPS TOTAL**
$350,000		$138,000	$17,000	$17,000	$522,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY11 dollars)					**TOTAL BUDGET (FY11 dollars)**
$952,000	$337,000	$351,000	$27,000	$27,000	$1,694,000

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.

MASTER PLAN FOR

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF
PLANNING AND RECREATION RESOURCES

PREPARED BY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

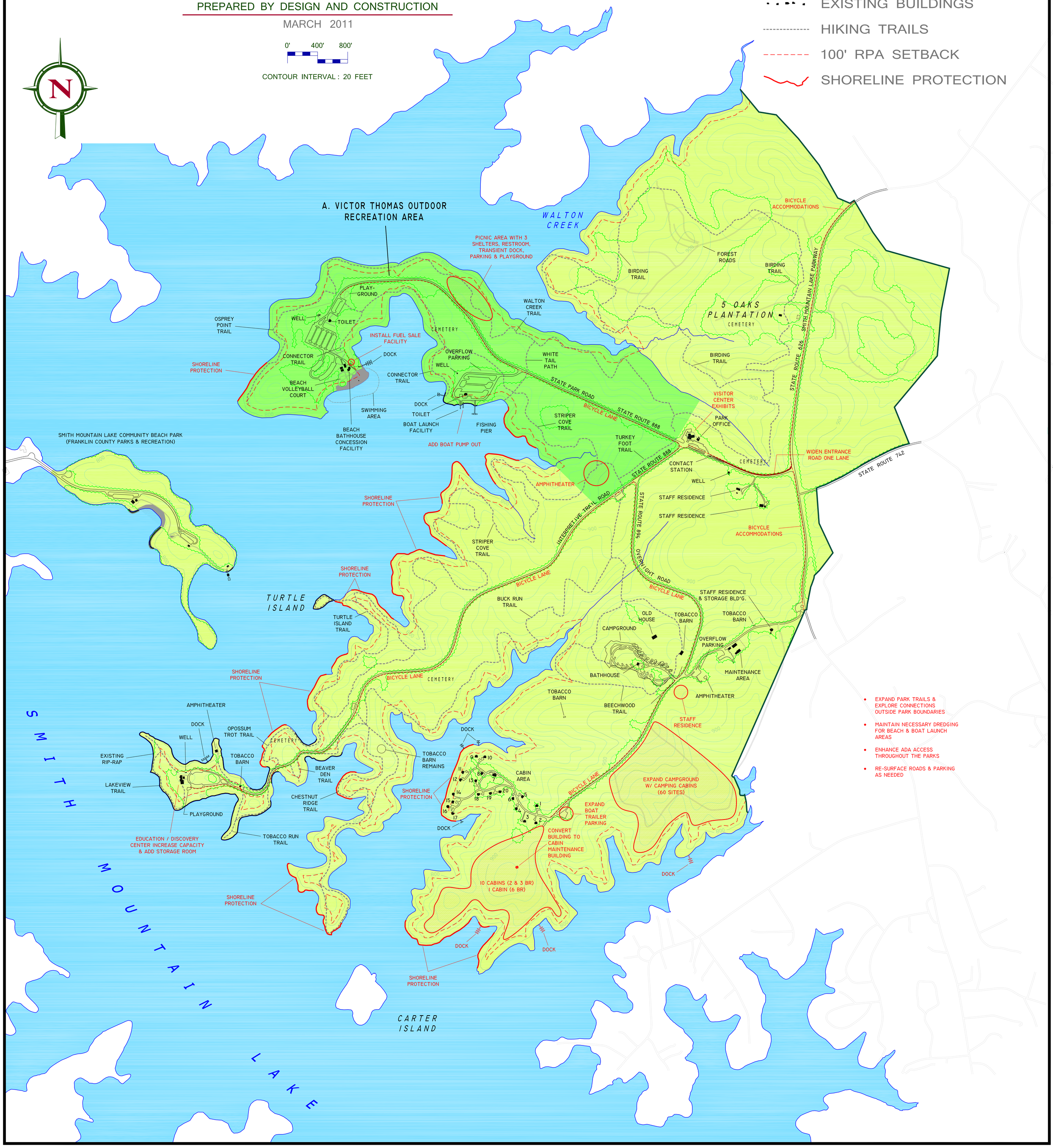
MARCH 2011

0' 400' 800'

CONTOUR INTERVAL : 20 FEET

LEGEND

- PROPOSED FACILITIES
- EXISTING FACILITIES
- PARK PROPERTY
- A. VICTOR THOMAS OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA
- PARK BOUNDARY
- WATER
- TREE LINE
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING BUILDINGS
- HIKING TRAILS
- 100' RPA SETBACK
- SHORELINE PROTECTION



- EXPAND PARK TRAILS & EXPLORE CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE PARK BOUNDARIES
- MAINTAIN NECESSARY DREDGING FOR BEACH & BOAT LAUNCH AREAS
- ENHANCE ADA ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE PARKS
- RE-SURFACE ROADS & PARKING AS NEEDED