

**Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
Pocahontas State Park Master Plan Public Meeting
Thursday, October 6, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Pocahontas State Park Heritage Center
Pocahontas State Park
Chesterfield, Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The Public Meeting to consider the Master Plan for Pocahontas State Park took place at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2016, at the Heritage Center at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Virginia.

DCR STAFF PRESENT

Bill Conkle, Jennifer Wampler, Theresa Duffey, Lisa McGee, Clark Jones, Joshua Ellington, Irene Frentz, Bryce Wilk, Rebecca Whalen, Jon Tabb, AndiAdrianna Clinton and Tim Shrader.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Thirty-six members of the public attended the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

Staff began the meeting with a brief history of Virginia State Parks, presented an overview of the master planning process, provided an orientation to Pocahontas State Park, reviewed the proposed update to the park's master plan and requested comments from attendees. Proposed developments for the park include improvements and additions to park trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use, cabins, upgrades to pool complex, a park office/welcome center and the renovation to or replacement of many park structures. A majority of the public comments expressed the desire for more single-use mountain bike, hiking and equestrian trails, and supporting the conversion of multi-use trails to single use. Support for a connection between Pocahontas State Park and the James River park system was expressed, as well as the completion of the planned Richmond Ride Center. Many members of the public expressed the desire for user groups to work together, for strength in numbers, so everyone can enjoy Pocahontas State Park. Concerns were expressed for water quality in the creeks and lakes, and for the protection of habitat and natural communities in the park. Concern was expressed on how park projects are prioritized and funded considering the best interest of the park and its users. Comments were also made to have facilities that support programs that educate the next generation to the value of nature and outdoor recreational pursuits. Next, the draft master plan will be presented to the Board of Conservation and Recreation for their review.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Draft phased development plan

Pocahontas State Park Master Plan Update

Public Input Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2016
6:00 P.M.

Heritage Center
10301 State Park Road
Chesterfield, Virginia

AGENDA

Welcome

Introduction to Virginia State Parks

Overview of the State Park Master Planning Process

Orientation to Pocahontas State Park

Review of Proposed master plan revisions for Pocahontas State Park

Public Comment Period

Next Steps in the Process

Adjourn

THANK YOU!

Written and emailed comments are also accepted for the Pocahontas State Park Master Plan until **November 6, 2016.**

**Please send comments to:
Bill Conkle, Park Planner
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Bill.conkle@dcr.virginia.gov
804-786-5492**

**Pocahontas State Park Master Plan
Draft Phased Development Plan
October 3, 2016 DRAFT**

Proposed developments for the 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. The phasing costs are based on 2016 estimates.

Phase I

Construct ride center with parking (100 spaces), comfort station, shelter, outdoor showers staging area, training center, contact station mountain bike trails
Construct 20 cabins with support facilities and access road
Renovate cabins, lodges and support buildings at Swift Creek and Ecology Camps
Replace bathrooms (4) at Swift Creek and Ecology Camps
Replace comfort stations in picnic area
Pool facility upgrades
Park office/welcome center with park store
Upgrade boat ramp area with canoe launch, parking, fishing nodes and road improvements
Upgrade bathhouses (2) at northern campground loop
Playground at Amphitheater
Upgrade picnic shelters 4-7, construct additional parking, better access and a playground
Construct logistics center and sign shop
Replace bathhouses (2) at southern campground loop
Single and multi-use trail improvements and additions for hiking, biking and equestrian

Phase II

Construct Discovery Center
Improve park entrance (add turning lanes) add traffic lane from entrance to contact station
Add pedestrian cross walk on Beach Road (2 potential sites identified)
Add a bridge crossing of Swift Creek
Stabilize water towers and develop interpretive signage
Upgrade park roads (3.0 miles)
Increase dump station capacity (add an additional station)
Repurpose existing logistics center for park maintenance
Single and multi-use trail improvements and additions for hiking, biking and equestrian

Phase III

Renovate district IV office
Comfort station at Beaver Lake
Renovate amphitheater
Bright Hope Horse Complex improvements
Staff residence
Single and multi-use trail improvements and additions for hiking, biking and equestrian