Pocahontas State Park
10301 State Park Road
Chesterfield, VA 23832

POCAHONTAS 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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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

POCAHONTAS STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 UPDATE

The Pocahontas State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted in 1989 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Board. This 2011 executive summary represents the most recent five-year review as described in §10.1-200.1 in the *Code of Virginia*.

Pocahontas State Park is located on Swift Creek in Chesterfield County. It was purchased for recreation in 1934 by the National Park Service (NPS) under the Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The area known as the Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area was constructed in cooperation with the Virginia Conservation Commission with the understanding that upon completion it would be managed by the Commission. Most of the recreation area was completed during the summer of 1937 by two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) companies and a workforce of 300 from the Work Projects Administration (WPA). The park's day-use area was not opened until July 1938. On June 6, 1946, after twelve years of cooperative work between the NPS, the Virginia Conservation Commission and a number of other state agencies, the Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area was handed over to the state and became known as Pocahontas State Park.

This 2011 update places value on connecting Pocahontas to other resources in the community. Localities in the region include those represented in the Richmond and Crater Planning Districts. Scenic Rivers in the area include sections of the Appomattox and James Rivers. Additional connectivity opportunities exist with the Lee's Retreat driving route and the East Coast Greenway. The park is already recognized on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. The Pocahontas State Park Regional Connectivity Map is an attachment to the full Master Plan document.

Pocahontas State Park received Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in 1966, 1978, 1997 and 2001 for 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.

As part of this 2011 master plan update process, the 2004 executive summary and the 1989 master plan were reviewed. 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 current update in 2004. The phased development plan and costs have been updated herein to reflect projects that have been completed since the 2004 update, and the park staffing and operations costs data have also been revised to reflect current conditions. The adopted park purpose statement is written below.

"The purpose of Pocahontas State Park is to provide active and passive recreational opportunities to park visitors, while protecting and ensuring continued health of the natural, cultural, and historic resources present in the rapidly growing and changing Richmond metropolitan area."

The following table depicts park attendance during the period 2001 to 2010.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
219,827	182,529	218,609	290,539	303,073	281,8691	353,429	353,320	381,306	386,895

Pocahontas State Park visitation is increasing. The surrounding metropolitan area continues to grow, making the park a key feature for local and regional outdoor recreation as well as providing an anchor of green infrastructure for the region. Historical park attendance from 1991 – 2009 represents a 41% increase in visitation over this eighteen year time period. In 2010 Pocahontas State Park had 386,895 visitors; 105,362 were overnight guests, while 281,533 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 $12,406,678. Pocahontas State Park ranks third in the State Park system when measured by the amount of local economic benefit. Master plan recommendations designed to increase visitation and improve the visitor experience, once implemented, should have a further positive impact on the area's economic vitality.

The park is a significant natural and cultural resource in the midst of the highly urbanized and rapidly growing Central Virginia region. With an abundant 7,635 acres of park land, Pocahontas is Virginia's largest state park, and it draws visitors from near and far. The park offers access to nature and a "wilderness experience" within a 45-minute drive from anywhere in the Richmond area. The myriad of outdoor recreational opportunities includes individual and group campsites, group cabins, the Heritage Center, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Museum, and non-motorized boating and fishing opportunities as well as an aquatic recreation center with concessions area. Other amenities available to park guests include multi-use trails, an amphitheater, and picnic shelters. A number of interpretive programs are also offered. Maintenance and management facilities include the park office, staff residences, and the maintenance complex. Four wells, including one with a water chlorination system, serve the park. There are multiple septic systems, including one alternative septic system, a pool water and chlorination system, and municipal water service with a booster station.

Park improvements since the 2004 master plan include: acquisition of 194.5 acres located off Woodpecker Road, expansion of the campground, completion of camping cabins, and repair and upgrading of the equestrian center and parking lot. Since 2004, storm damage has caused other park changes; the most obvious is the loss of the fishing pier below the pool in 2008.

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. 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 process to the greatest extent possible. These facilities will be carefully sited to minimize impacts to the views of the park from 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.

The proposed developments for Pocahontas State Park are presented in priority order. Phases I through III are representative of total build-out (completed development of the this master plan) over the course of the plan's 20 year time span.

Phase I

- Replace substandard comfort station in picnic area (cost estimate based on new comfort station)
- Retreat/Training Center with classrooms and overnight lodging. Roads from the lodge to the proposed Retreat/Training Center should be improved and/or paved.
- Construct Visitor/Discovery Center
- Pool facility upgrades (bath house)
- Park office construction with store
- Renovate existing park office for district office
- Provide county water from Beach Road at existing water vault to the Swift Creek group camp
- Increase dump station capacity by adding and an additional station
- Upgrade/construct new park roads (2.5 miles)
- ADA accessible facilities are needed at the Bright Hope Equestrian Center, the campground laundromat and at the campground playground.
- Multi-use trail improvements for hiking, bicycling and equestrian uses.

The estimated cost for implementation of Phase I projects is $28,889,266

Phase II

- Picnic shelter for campground
- Develop new hiking and jogging/fitness trails (2.5 miles)

The estimated cost for implementation of Phase II projects is $1,937,520.

Phase III

- Construct 20 cabins (1 six-bedroom, 2 three-bedroom and 17 two-bedroom) with support facilities and access road
- Expand amphitheater (add roof and 2000 seats)
- Develop new hiking and jogging/fitness trails (3.5 miles)
- Establish new equestrian trail head to include parking near the Department of Forestry office
- Construct three picnic groves each with restroom and water to include the loop access road.

The estimated cost for implementation of Phase III projects is $19,587,766.

The total cost to bring Pocahontas State Park to its desired future condition is $50,414,551.

Staffing and Operations

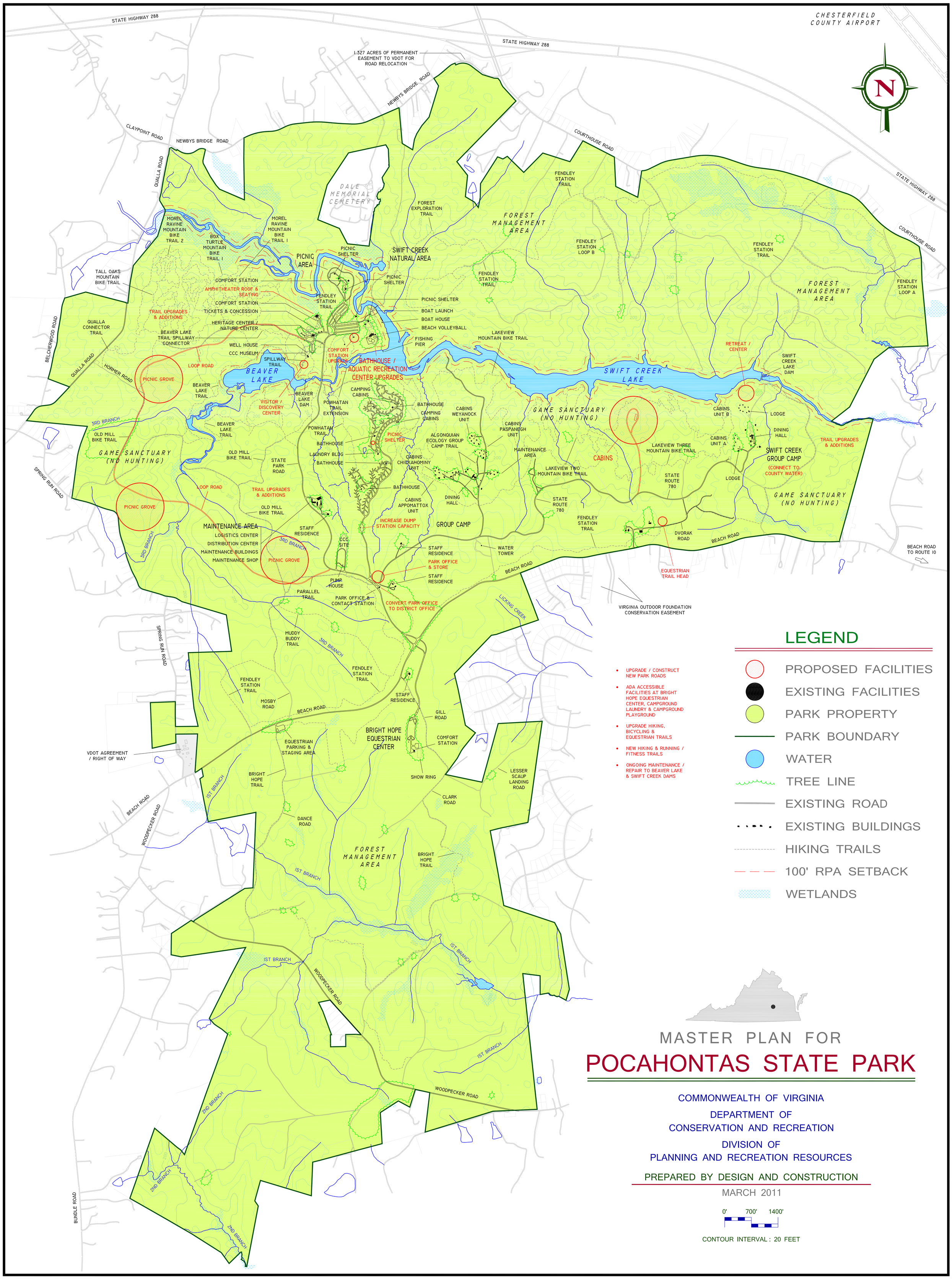
Staffing and operational costs at Pocahontas State Park are presently budgeted at $1,354,000 annually, including salaries for 9 staff positions. With the current facilities and operational requirements, the park has an identified need for 4 additional positions and $305,000 in funding. At complete build out of the proposed 3 phases of development, 2 additional staff will be needed, and an additional $518,000 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 Pocahontas at full build out is projected to be $2,177,000 with 16 staff positions.

Pocahontas State Park – Operating and Staffing

EXISTING (FY 11)	EXISTING ADDITIONAL NEEDS*	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	FULL BUILD OUT
DIST STAFFING	**VACANT**				**DIST STAFFING**
District Park Mgr					District Park Mgr
Visitor Serv. Spec					Visitor Serv. Spec.
Resource Coordinator					Resource Coordinator
Business Manager					Business Manager
	Maintenance Spec				Maintenance Spec
	Program Support Tech.				Program Support Tech.
	Programs Coord.				Programs Coord.
	Trail Coordinator				Trail Coordinator
	Grant Coordinator				Grant Coordinator
DIST SALARY TOTAL					**DIST SALARY TOTAL**
$225,000	$247,000				$472,000
PARK STAFFING	**VACANT**				**PARK STAFFING**
Park Manager					Park Manager
	Assistant Park Mgr				Assistant Park Mgr
Chief Ranger (2)					Chief Ranger (2)
Office Manager					Office Manager
Park Ranger (5)	Park Ranger (1)				Park Ranger (7)
	Educ. Specialist (2)				Educ. Specialist (2)
				Housekeeper (2)	Housekeeper (2)
SALARY TOTAL					**SALARY TOTAL**
$431,000	$189,000			$80,000	$700,000
WAGE TOTAL	**REDUCTION**				**WAGE TOTAL**
$498,000	--	$81,000	$4,000	$137,000	$720,000
OTPS TOTAL					**OTPS TOTAL**
$425,000	$116,000	$88,000	$3,000	$125,000	$757,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY11 dollars)**					**TOTAL BUDGET** (FY11 dollars)**
$1,354,000	$305,000	$169,000	$7,000	$342,000	$2,177000

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.
**Total Budget amount does not include salaries specific to district positions.


CHESTERFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT
STATE HIGHWAY 288
1.327 ACRES OF PERMANENT EASEMENT TO VDOT FOR ROAD RELOCATION
NEWBYS BRIDGE ROAD
CLAYPOINT ROAD
QUALLA ROAD
COURTHOUSE ROAD
DALE MEMORIAL CEMETERY
FOREST EXPLORATION TRAIL
FENDLEY STATION TRAIL
FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA
FENDLEY STATION LOOP B
FENDLEY STATION LOOP A
MOREL RAVINE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL 2
BOX TURTLE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL 1
MOREL RAVINE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL 1
TALL OAKS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
PICNIC AREA
PICNIC SHELTER
SWIFT CREEK NATURAL AREA
COMFORT STATION
AMPHITHEATER ROOF & SEATING
TICKETS & CONCESSION
TRAIL UPGRADES & ADDITIONS
HERITAGE CENTER / NATURE CENTER
BOAT LAUNCH
BOAT HOUSE
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
FISHING PIER
LAKEVIEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
QUALLA CONNECTOR TRAIL
BEAVER LAKE TRAIL SPILLWAY CONNECTOR
WELL HOUSE
CCC MUSEUM
SPILLWAY TRAIL
COMFORT STATION UPGRADE
BATHHOUSE / AQUATIC RECREATION CENTER UPGRADES
BELCHERWOOD ROAD
HORMER ROAD
LOOP ROAD
PICNIC GROVE
BEAVER LAKE
SWIFT CREEK LAKE
RETREAT / CENTER
SWIFT CREEK LAKE DAM
BEAVER LAKE TRAIL
VISITOR / DISCOVERY CENTER
BEAVER LAKE DAM
POWHATAN TRAIL EXTENSION
CAMPING CABINS
BATHHOUSE
CABINS WEYANOCK UNIT
GAME SANCTUARY (NO HUNTING)
CABINS PASPANEGH UNIT
CABINS UNIT B
LODGE
DINING HALL
3RD BRANCH
OLD MILL BIKE TRAIL
POWHATAN TRAIL
PICNIC SHELTER
ALGONQUIAN ECOLOGY GROUP CAMP TRAIL
CABINS UNIT A
LAKEVIEW THREE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
SWIFT CREEK GROUP CAMP
(CONNECT TO COUNTY WATER)
TRAIL UPGRADES & ADDITIONS
STATE PARK ROAD
LAUNDRY BLDG
CABINS CHICKAHOMINY UNIT
MAINTENANCE AREA
CABINS
LAKEVIEW TWO MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
STATE ROUTE 780
SPRING RUN ROAD
CABINS APPOMATTOX UNIT
DINING HALL
INCREASE DUMP STATION CAPACITY
GROUP CAMP
FENDLEY STATION TRAIL
DVORAK ROAD
BEACH ROAD
MAINTENANCE AREA
LOGISTICS CENTER
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS
MAINTENANCE SHOP
STAFF RESIDENCE
CCC SITE
WATER TOWER
PARK OFFICE & STORE
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL HEAD
BEACH ROAD TO ROUTE 10
PUMP HOUSE
PARALLEL TRAIL
PARK OFFICE & CONTACT STATION
CONVERT PARK OFFICE TO DISTRICT OFFICE
LICKING CREEK
VIRGINIA OUTDOOR FOUNDATION CONSERVATION EASEMENT
MUDDY BUDDY TRAIL
MOSBY ROAD
GILL ROAD
EQUESTRIAN PARKING & STAGING AREA
BRIGHT HOPE EQUESTRIAN CENTER
COMFORT STATION
VDOT AGREEMENT / RIGHT OF WAY
BRIGHT HOPE TRAIL
SHOW RING
LESSER SCAUP LANDING ROAD
1ST BRANCH
CLARK ROAD
DANCE ROAD
WOODPECKER ROAD
2ND BRANCH
BUNDLE ROAD
UPGRADE / CONSTRUCT NEW PARK ROADS
ADA ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES AT BRIGHT HOPE EQUESTRIAN CENTER, CAMPGROUND LAUNDRY & CAMPGROUND PLAYGROUND
UPGRADE HIKING, BICYCLING & EQUESTRIAN TRAILS
NEW HIKING & RUNNING / FITNESS TRAILS
ONGOING MAINTENANCE / REPAIR TO BEAVER LAKE & SWIFT CREEK DAMS
LEGEND
PROPOSED FACILITIES
EXISTING FACILITIES
PARK PROPERTY
PARK BOUNDARY
WATER
TREE LINE
EXISTING ROAD
EXISTING BUILDINGS
HIKING TRAILS
100' RPA SETBACK
WETLANDS
MASTER PLAN FOR
POCAHONTAS STATE PARK
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND RECREATION RESOURCES
PREPARED BY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
MARCH 2011
0' 700' 1400'
CONTOUR INTERVAL : 20 FEET