



STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK
1035 Fort Hill Trail
Randolph, VA 23962-9801

Staunton River Battlefield State Park MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2010 UPDATE



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK
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This update of the Staunton River Battlefield State Park Master Plan was adopted by Department of Conservation and Recreation Director David A. Johnson on June 16, 2010, following a review by the Board of Conservation and Recreation at its meeting on June 15, 2010.

Residents of Southside Virginia have always cherished their heritage. One site of particular importance to them is the battlefield at Staunton River Bridge. Here, on June 24, 1864, a hastily assembled group of soldiers, old men and young boys successfully defended the railroad bridge from a determined Union effort to destroy it. The United Daughters of the Confederacy memorialized the battlefield and in 1956 saw to the transfer of a portion of the battlefield to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development. The 6.5-acre Fort Hill was managed as a satellite of Staunton River State Park until additional park land was acquired and it became a separate state park in 2000.

In the mid-1980's Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Virginia Power (ODEC-VAP) began development of an electric power plant adjacent to the park. Some of the lands they acquired included elements of the battlefield. ODEC-VAP subsequently donated 80-acres adjacent to Fort Hill to the Commonwealth and constructed a visitor center on the property that explained electrical power production but also told the story of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge.

Concurrent with the expansion of the state's ownership of lands around Fort Hill, Norfolk Southern Corporation donated .8-miles of their abandoned Richmond to Danville Railroad corridor, including the site of the railroad bridge over which the battle was fought, to the Commonwealth as an important addition to the commemorative park.

The original master plan for this park, adopted in December 1998, identified those lands on the Charlotte County side of the Staunton River that were key to the battle and how it was fought. The Plan identified the core battlefield as well as key battlefield staging and maneuver areas, artillery positions, and command and control points. Many of the areas identified for acquisition in that Plan have since been acquired by the Commonwealth and added to the Park.

In 1999, the Butler Family donated the 35-acre Mulberry Hill Plantation house and grounds to the state as an addition to the park. While the property and its owner at the time played a role in the Battle for Staunton River Bridge, the Plantation's history goes back to the mid-1700's and was the family seat of Judge Paul Carrington and his heirs. The property is listed on the National Historic Register as being significant for the period between 1750 to 1824.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has formulated this Master Plan for the Staunton River Battlefield State Park based on the following Mission Statement developed in consultation with the public. **The mission of Staunton River Battlefield State Park is to protect, preserve, and interpret the natural, historic, cultural, and archaeological resources of the Civil War battlefield, Native American village site, and the Mulberry Hill Plantation site while providing educational and recreational opportunities to visitors to southern Virginia.**

This updated Master Plan describes the desired future condition for the park and a phased plan for

bringing the park to that condition. Since the donation of the first 6.5 acres of Fort Hill property in 1956, the park has now grown to more than 300 acres. The Clover Center provides administrative offices, educational and interpretive media, and a meeting/classroom space. The former railroad bed has been converted to a trail as missing bridges have been replaced and the Staunton River bridge decked to accommodate pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle use. The former railroad depot in Randolph has been acquired, returned to its original location and renovated as the Roanoke Station Visitor Center. The Mulberry Hill Plantation property has been stabilized and awaits funding to restore the buildings and gardens.

Archaeological explorations in the floodplain areas of the battlefield on the Charlotte County side of the park have revealed evidence of a significant Native American habitation that spanned an extensive pre-colonial time period. Some of the artifacts from those explorations have been housed in the Roanoke Station visitor center. The areas where the excavations occurred have been restored to their modern agricultural appearance.

While much of the original desired future condition for the park has been realized, there are several elements that in retrospect no longer seem appropriate and others that need to be added. Two proposed developments that have been determined to be no longer appropriate are the amphitheater near the Clover Center and the period homestead proposed for the entrance field on the Halifax side of the park. The amphitheater is not required for the types of mobile, small group educational and interpretive programs offered at the park. The period homestead has been determined to be unnecessary because the addition to the park of the Mulberry Hill Plantation house and grounds provides the same opportunities for telling the story of life back home on the farm during the Civil War.

When the original 1998 Master Plan was adopted, Staunton River Battlefield was a satellite of Staunton River State Park. As such, it did not require more than one full time on-site staff presence. Since then, it has been made a stand-alone park and is in need of another full time on-site park ranger residence. There is also a need for a park maintenance area, public rest rooms, and additional parking areas. The pond at Mulberry Hill has potential for development of a kid's fishing program and so access improvements are proposed.

The remaining projects that should be completed to bring this park to its desired future condition are as follows. The total cost to complete this work is \$23,068,282.

Phased Development Plan

Phase I:

- Complete stabilization and restoration of Fort Hill, artillery emplacements, and the earthworks on the north side of the bridge
- Complete vista clearing of the battlefield and earthworks
- Demolish former Mulberry Hill caretaker's house
- Construct a new ranger residence in proximity to caretaker's house on the Mulberry Hill Plantation property.
- Address public water supply needs at Mulberry Hill/Town of Randolph
- Develop parking area for Mulberry Hill property
- Conduct engineering study of railroad bridges
- Complete bridge repair/stabilization work identified in study
- Restore Mulberry Hill buildings and gardens
- Acquire property that links Mulberry Hill with remainder of park
- Construct a maintenance area for the park
- Construct a restroom at the Clover Center picnic area.
- Construct a restroom at Mulberry Hill
- Renovate Mulberry Hill Pond dam

Total Cost for Phase I: \$19,865,056

Phase II

- Develop a walking Civil War Interpretive Trail in Randolph
- Stabilize the bank of Roanoke Creek beside the visitor center
- Establish small picnic area between Roanoke Station and Roanoke Creek
- Construct restrooms at Roanoke Station
- Cooperate with Charlotte County and other groups to re-establish the railroad corridor between Randolph and Keysville as the "Wilson-Kautz Raid Trail"
- Construct fishing access trail from parking lot to, and around, Mulberry Hill Pond
- Construct a boat stop with steps near Staunton River Railroad Bridge
- Construct a playground at Clover Center picnic area

Total Cost for Phase II: \$2,062,336

Phase III

- Construct Access Road to Mulberry Hill Pond
- Construct picnic area and SST at Mulberry Hill Pond
- Coordinate with County on development of a canoe trail on Roanoke Creek and access site at Saxe.
- Develop a parking lot and boat slide on Roanoke Creek on the east side of the Route 607 bridge.

Total Cost for Phase III: \$1,140,890

Staffing and Operations Plan

Presently, the park is staffed with two positions, a park manager and a program support technician. For various reasons the park has had ongoing staff shortages, most recently as a result of the state wide budget shortfall. Based on the existing facilities, the park should have five staff positions. In addition to the existing two positions, these would include a chief ranger and 2 park rangers. Taking into consideration the ongoing re-benchmarking efforts, and the strong interest in expanding the existing interpretive and educational components of the park offerings, chief ranger–interpreter and park ranger–interpreter positions were identified as a need for the site. As the proposed phased development is completed, these additional positions will be necessary in maintaining the new and existing facilities, trails and in program development.

The park’s FY2010 budget is \$227,000 including salaries. At full build out and fully staffed to properly manage and operate the park, the budget will need to be approximately \$519,000, an overall increase of about 56%. (See Attachment 1)

Attachment 1

EXISTING (FY 10)	BUDGET SHORTFALL*	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	FULL BUILD OUT
PARK STAFFING	VACANT				PARK STAFFING
Park Manager					Park Manager
	Chief Ranger				Chief Ranger
	Chief Ranger – Interp.				Chief Ranger – Interp.
	Park Ranger (2)				Park Ranger (2)
	Park Ranger – Interp.				Park Ranger – Interp.
Program Support Tech.					Program Support Tech.
SALARY TOTAL					SALARY TOTAL
\$110,000	\$220,000				\$330,000
WAGE TOTAL	REDUCTION				WAGE TOTAL
\$49,000	\$26,000	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$7,000	\$106,000
OTPS TOTAL					OTPS TOTAL
\$68,000	\$2,000	\$9,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$83,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY10 dollars)					TOTAL BUDGET (FY10 dollars)
\$227,000	\$248,000	\$18,000	\$17,000	\$9,000	\$519,000

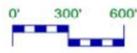
NOTE – All costs (salary, wage, OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)) are based on FY10 budget projections.
 *Budget Shortfall represents positions that were frozen or needed as part of the re-benchmarking effort, and operating costs reduced due to state wide budget reductions.



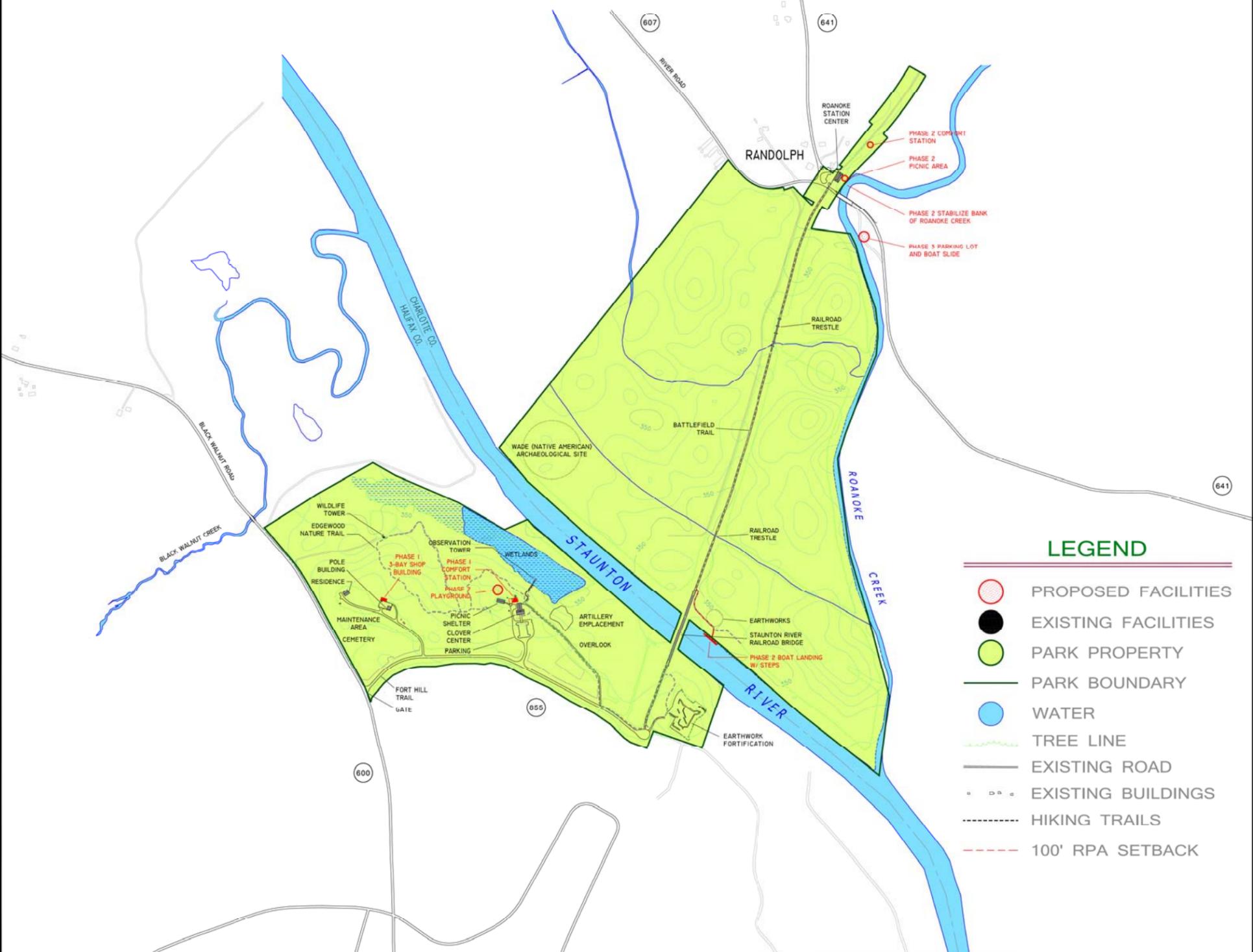
DRAFT PLAN
**STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD
 STATE PARK**

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

APRIL 2010



CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET



LEGEND

- PROPOSED FACILITIES
- EXISTING FACILITIES
- PARK PROPERTY
- PARK BOUNDARY
- WATER
- TREE LINE
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING BUILDINGS
- HIKING TRAILS
- 100' RPA SETBACK