

MINUTES

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK
MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 7, 2003
FAYERDALE HALL, FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and Bob Munson gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and introduced The Honorable W. Roscoe Reynolds, who expressed his sincere appreciation to the advisory committee members for their contributions to the master planning process.

The committee then discussed a list of questions designed to explore the resources, facilities, uses, and users of Fairy Stone State Park. The questions and answers are listed below.

Park Use

1. In what ways do visitors currently use the park?
 - Swim
 - Boat
 - Camp
 - Fish
 - Hike
 - Volleyball
 - Hunting
 - Reunions
 - Receptions
 - Slide presentations
 - Jr. Ranger
 - Playground
 - Biking
 - Equestrian
 - Vacations
 - Wildlife viewing
 - Cabins
 - School groups
 - Fairy Stone hunts
2. What reasons do people have for **not** using the park?
 - No interest in outdoor recreation
 - Lack of marketing
 - Awareness of facilities (ie. the new conference center)
 - Misconceptions of "local" park
 - Price
3. What is the public asking for, that is not currently provided?
 - Frisbee golf
 - Teen activities (appropriate with park environment/theme)
 - Indoor game room, putt golf, horse livery
 - Experiential education/ropes course
 - Shooting range (support facility on park land; impact area on DGIF land, N or S of 57)
 - Hunter safety course
 - Equestrian campground (Acquire LenGlad)
 - Mountain bike trails

Park Facility

4. What areas/facilities are currently heavily used?
 - Beach
 - Campgrounds
 - Cabins
 - Visitor Center
 - Fairy Stone hunting areas
 - Shelters
 - Office
 - Concession Center

5. What areas/facilities are currently under-used?
 - Conference Center
 - Lodge
 - Undeveloped land

6. Are existing support facilities adequate? (Parking, Restrooms, etc.)
 - Campground overflow parking
 - Renovate restrooms
 - Need modern Visitor Center with education node
 - Larger office and sales area
 - Visitor Center and camping check-in
 - Potential location: Hillside behind office and Visitor Center
 - Modern water plant

7. What improvements are a high priority over the next five years?
 - Water plant
 - Dredge lake
 - Office/Visitor Center project
 - Concession upgrade (Beach)

Cultural and Natural Resources

8. Are you aware of any significant cultural or natural resources that should be addressed in the planning process?

None were identified, but all understand that a natural heritage inventory will be done before any new construction is undertaken in the park.

Private Sector Involvement

9. Are there other similar public or private facilities in the area?
 - Philpott Reservoir
 - Deer Run Campground
 - National Park Service – Rocky Knob

10. Are there appropriate private concession opportunities in this park?
 - Horse Livery

Park Direction

11. What do you feel is the current focus/theme of this State Park?
 - Traditional/Outdoor recreation park
 - Passive recreation, solitude
 - Family recreation

12. What do you feel makes this state park unique in the Virginia State Park System?
 - Fairy Stones
 - Iron mining
 - Timber
 - Bootleg history
 - CCC Park
 - Recreation
 - Habitat Diversity
 - Scenery (mountain views)
 - S.P./COE/Federal Co-operative/DGIF
 - Blue Ridge Foothills

13. What should be the future direction of this state park?
 - Renovation of existing facilities
 - Primitive camping
 - No additional cabins to the detriment of the parks aesthetic value
 - More cabins (discussed potential for up to 20 cabins on north side of lake including appropriate infrastructure)
 - Move group camp up hill to former overflow campground to accommodate 2 groups at a time and turn existing group camp into 20 individual tent sites
 - Educational center at amphitheater site instead of combined office/education center
 - Alternative to LenGlad equestrian camp(ridge tops near intersection of Goose Point Road and Park interior road)

At the next meeting we will discuss the park mission statement and develop goals and objectives for the master plan. Future meetings will be held at Fayerdale Hall at Fairy Stone State Park from 3:30 to 6:30 PM on June 3, July 15, August 5, and September 9, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.