



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

Staunton River Battlefield State Park

MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2015 UPDATE

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219



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2015 UPDATE

Presented for review at a public meeting on June 30, 2015, then recommended for adoption by the Board of Conservation and Recreation on November 6, 2015, and then reviewed for 30 days by the Virginia General Assembly.

Adopted:

/S/

Clyde E. Cristman, Director
Department of Conservation and Recreation
December 29, 2015



**MASTER PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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The Staunton River Battlefield State Park Master Plan Executive Summary is an update to the official unabridged master plan document adopted on December 29, 1998, by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Director David G. Brickley. A Master Plan Update was approved on June 16, 2010, by DCR Director David A. Johnson. This current master plan update is intended to set forth a clear vision for the future (based on the phased development). This 2015 executive summary represents the most recent ten-year review described in §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. It outlines the desired future condition for Staunton River Battlefield State Park when it is fully developed.

Staunton River Battlefield State Park lies on both sides of the Staunton River in Halifax and Charlotte Counties and astride the old Richmond and Danville Railroad bed. Included in the park property is the 35 acre Mulberry Hill Plantation, located north of the original park boundaries. The park is currently 345 acres.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has formulated this Master Plan for the Staunton River Battlefield State Park based on the following park purpose statement developed in consultation with the public: ***“The purpose 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”.***

The following table depicts park attendance during the period 2006 through 2014.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
28,510	24,985	23,634	49,682	30,039	30,224	30,635	29,976	35,198

In 2014 Staunton River Battlefield had 35,198 visitors, all of whom 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 \$563,168. Master plan recommendations designed to increase visitation and improve the visitor experience, once implemented, should have a further positive impact on the region’s economic vitality.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation Planners and State Park Staff conducted this master plan update in accordance with §10.1-200.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. This plan outlines the desired future condition of the park over a 20-year planning horizon. As required by the *Code of Virginia*, it must be revisited every ten years to ensure that the development objectives outlined in the plan continue to meet the recreational, environmental and historic protection needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. As a part of the 2015 master plan process, the 1998 park master plan and the 2010 amendment were reviewed. It was determined that significant changes occurred to the master plan to warrant a full revision. The executive summary and accompanying map have been updated. The phased development plan and costs have been revised to reflect current proposed projects. The park staffing and operations cost data have been also updated to reflect current conditions.

Residents of Southern 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 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-1980s, 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-1700s and was the family seat of Judge Paul Carrington (1733-1818) and his heirs. He is buried on the plantation grounds. Also on the property are the contributing Judge Paul Carrington's office building, a brick kitchen, a frame spinning house, a dairy, a smokehouse, a privy, and servants' quarters. The property is listed on the National Historic Register as being significant for the period between 1750 and 1824.

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 345 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.

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, a playground, picnic areas, canoe/kayak access and additional parking areas. The pond at Mulberry Hill has the potential for fishing opportunities and access improvements to that area are proposed.

This 2015 master plan update describes both proposed facilities and improvements to existing facilities. New facilities are sited to minimize impact to the park, and in keeping with the prescriptive management areas as defined by the Park Resource Management Plan and the guidelines of the Park Visitor Experience Plan, when available. New facilities at this park should be designed and built with consideration to the original design and layout of facilities. These facilities will be carefully sited to minimize impacts to the views in the park and of the park from adjacent lands and water bodies to the greatest extent possible. Consideration will be given to eliminate excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial light in the park in order to maximize the dark sky effect and encourage astronomy and night-sky viewing.

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. Green design initiatives will be considered during the design process for park renovations and new construction. Development activities will comply with requirements set forth by the Department of Environmental Quality's best management practices for erosion, sediment control and stormwater management in order to protect water quality. A setback guideline of 100 feet from the shoreline has been established by DCR, and trails and water dependent facilities such as fishing stations, piers, and other water access facilities will be the only developments permitted within the 100-foot setback.

Additional land acquisition is recommended to enhance park offerings, establish connective trail easements/corridors, buffer the park from inappropriate development and/or protect valued viewsheds. Future land acquisitions 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 will be encouraged. In working cooperatively with neighboring landowners, the park will be enhanced and protected over time.

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 2015 estimates.

Phased Development Plan

Phase I:

Restore Mulberry Hill, surrounding structures and gardens
(Manor House 6936sf Brick Kitchen 816sf Judge's Office 192 sf Spring House 192sf Dairy 114sf
Smoke house 144 sf)
Parking at Mulberry Hill (25 spaces plus bus turn around)
Comfort station at Mulberry Hill
Demo caretakers residence (1000sf)
Resolve public well issue
Stabilize dam at Mulberry Hill Pond
Accessible trail (with fishing nodes) from Mulberry Hill to the Pond (1200 lf)
Build maintenance shop with 3 bays (2700 sf)
Staff residence
Conduct engineering studies of railroad bridges
Complete bridge stabilization/repair based on engineering studies
Complete stabilization and restoration of Fort Hill, artillery emplacements and earthworks on north side
of bridge
Relocate utility lines underground (1400 lf)
Expand park trails (6000 lf)

Total Cost for Phase I: **\$16,638,664**

Phase II

Comfort station at Clover Center
Update exhibits at the Clover Center
Playground at Clover Center (small)
Shoreline restoration of bank of Roanoke Creek (120 lf)
Canoe/kayak landing (with steps)
Relocate utility lines underground (1400 lf)
Expand park trails (6000 lf)

Total Cost for Phase II: **\$1,594,242**

Phase III

Update exhibits at Roanoke Station Center
Comfort station at Roanoke Station Center
Picnic area at Roanoke Station Center (small shelter)
Picnic area, vault toilet and access road (824 lf) at Mulberry Hill Pond
Relocate utility lines underground (1400 lf)
Expand park trails (6000 lf)

Total Cost for Phase III: **\$1,894,024**

Total Cost for Phases I, II and III: **\$20,126,930**

All estimates were developed based on 2015 cost figures.

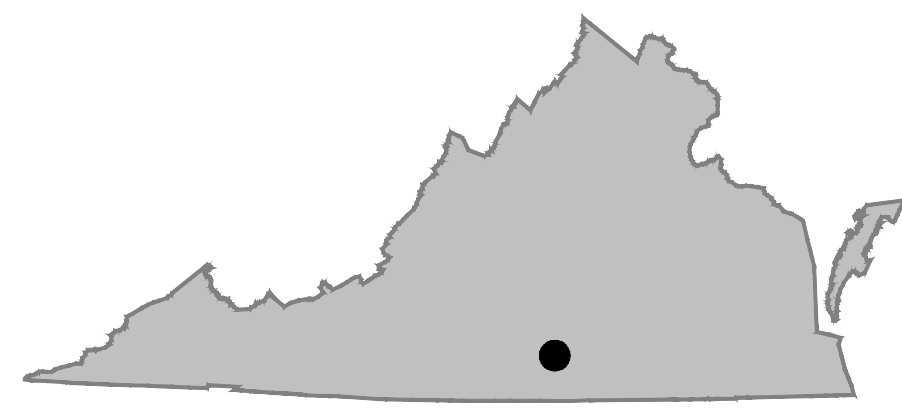
Staffing and Operations

Staffing and operational costs at Staunton River Battlefield State Park are presently budgeted at \$269,000 annually, including salaries for 2 staff positions. Four additional staff positions are identified in Phase 1 which would bring the current park staffing to standard base level. At complete build out of the proposed 3 phases of development, 6 additional staff will be needed and an additional \$442,000 in operating funds. In order for the park to operate effectively and efficiently at full build out, the park must be provided the projected staffing and operating costs for the 3 development phases. The total budget for Staunton River Battlefield at full build out is projected to be \$711,000 with 9 staff positions.

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STAFFING AND OPERATING COSTS

EXISTING (FY 16)	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	FULL BUILD OUT
STAFFING				STAFFING
Park Manager				Park Manager
	Chief Ranger*			Chief Ranger
	Educ. Specialist*		Educ. Specialist	Educ. Specialist (2)
	Park Ranger(2)*	Park Ranger	Park Ranger	Park Ranger (4)
Office Manager				Office Manager
SALARY TOTAL				SALARY TOTAL
\$132,000	\$229,000	\$52,000	\$115,000	\$528,000
WAGE TOTAL				WAGE TOTAL
\$65,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$78,000
OTPS TOTAL				OTPS TOTAL
\$72,000	\$20,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$105,000
TOTAL BUDGET (FY16 dollars)				TOTAL BUDGET (FY16 dollars)
\$269,000	\$257,000	\$63,000	\$122,000	\$711,000

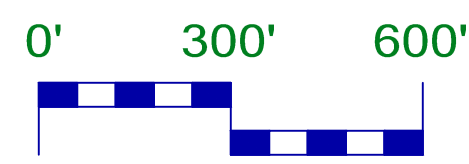
NOTE – All costs (salary, wage, OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)) are based on FY16 budget projections.
 * Additional positions which are vacant and/or will bring park to standard base level staffing.



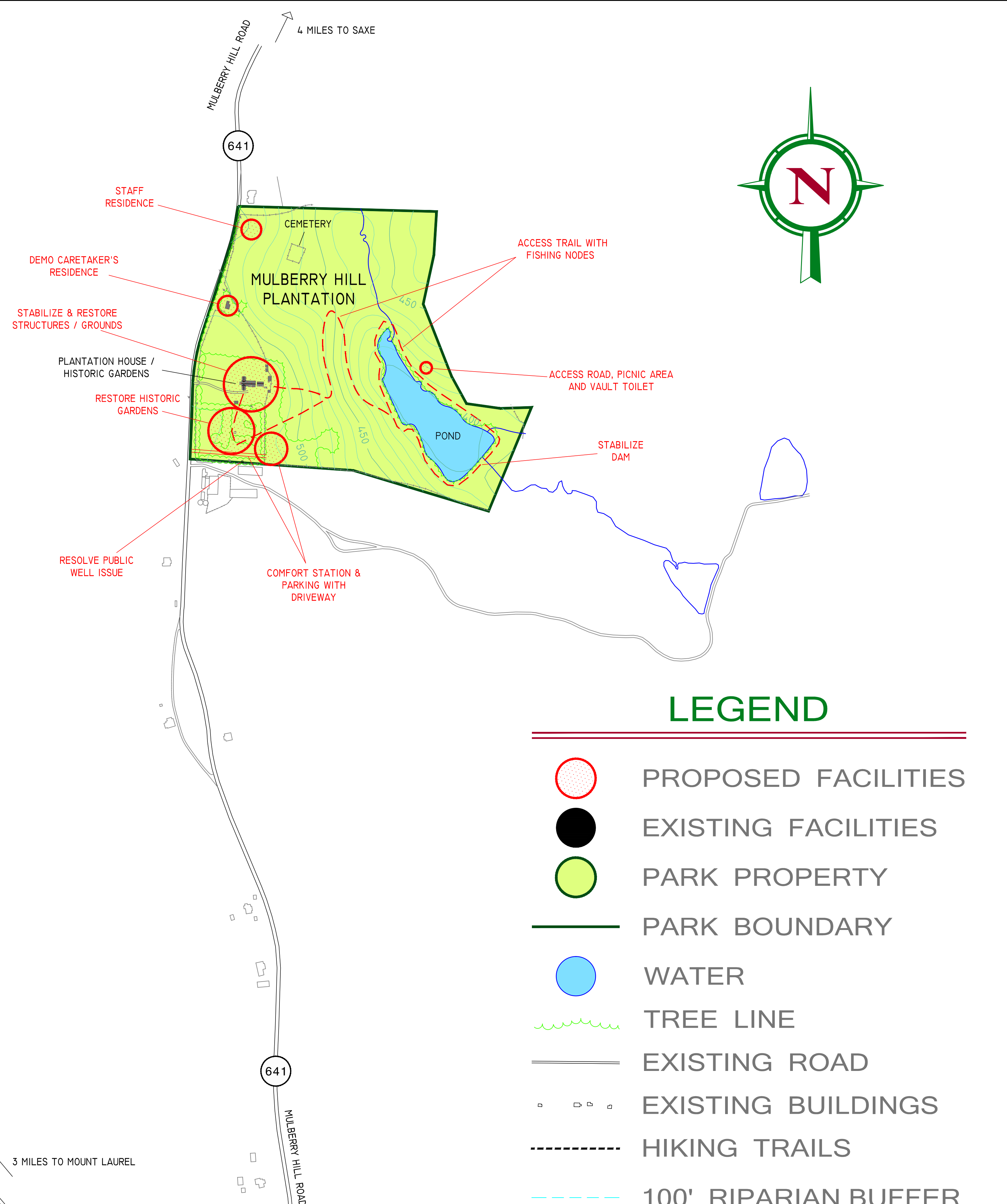
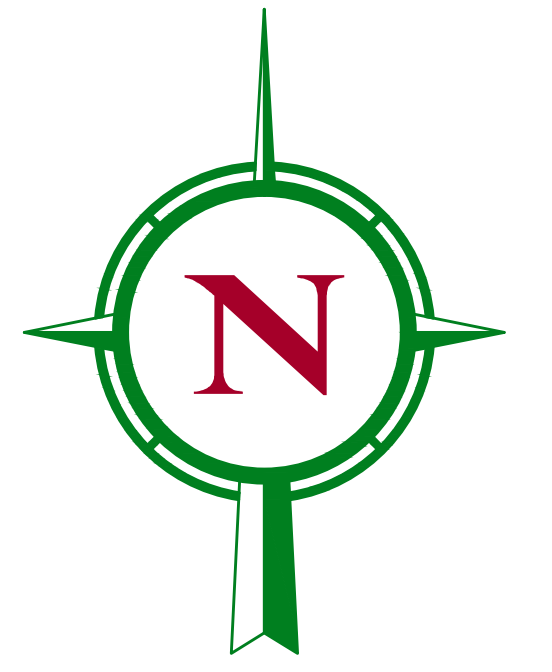
MASTER PLAN FOR STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

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

DECEMBER 2015

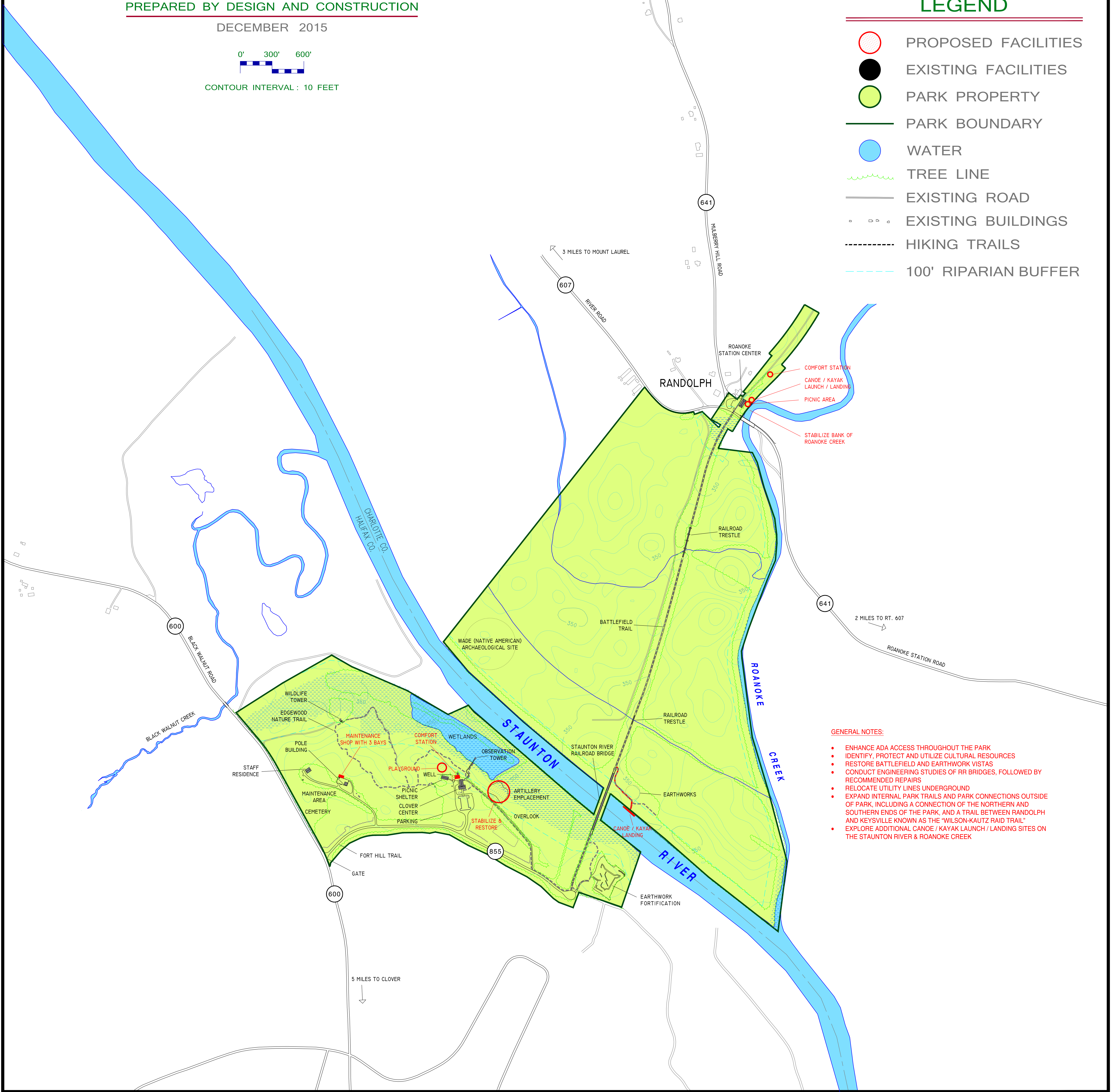


CONTOUR INTERVAL : 10 FEET



LEGEND

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



GENERAL NOTES:

- ENHANCE ADA ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE PARK
- IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND UTILIZE CULTURAL RESOURCES
- RESTORE BATTLEFIELD AND EARTHWORK VISTAS
- CONDUCT ENGINEERING STUDIES OF RR BRIDGES, FOLLOWED BY RECOMMENDED REPAIRS
- RELOCATE UTILITY LINES UNDERGROUND
- EXPAND INTERNAL PARK TRAILS AND PARK CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE OF PARK, INCLUDING A CONNECTION OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ENDS OF THE PARK, AND A TRAIL BETWEEN RANDOLPH AND KEYSVILLE KNOWN AS THE "WILSON-KAUTZ RAID TRAIL"
- EXPLORE ADDITIONAL CANOE / KAYAK LAUNCH / LANDING SITES ON THE STAUNTON RIVER & ROANOKE CREEK