

**Briefing Update  
Seven Bends State Park  
June 26, 2017**

The following document has been prepared to update the public on the current and ongoing development of Seven Bends State Park. Additionally it will inform citizens of the process of updating the Seven Bends State Park master plan.

*“The purpose of Seven Bends State Park, the gateway to the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, is to provide water and land based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the spectacular scenic viewshed and the unique geological, natural, and historical resources of the storied seven bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Virginia.”*

**Introduction**

Seven Bends State Park is located in east-central Shenandoah County near the Town of Woodstock. The park consists of 1,066 acres situated in the geographically unique Seven Bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The majority of the park was assembled from donated land. The Town of Woodstock donated almost 85 acres of what had been the town reservoir site. Dr. James R. Myers donated the largest parcel, approximately 674 acres, which is adjacent to the reservoir site. The third parcel, more than 306 acres known as Camp Lupton, was purchased by the state from the Massanutten Military Academy.

**Current Construction/Demolition**

While funding has been approved for initial development of the Seven Bends State Park in preparation of opening the park for day use activities, unfortunately, demolition and construction has been temporarily delayed due to VDOT reducing the weight limit on Lupton Road Bridge for safety concerns, therefore not allowing construction vehicles to cross the bridge. New facilities will include limited development at the southern entrance to the park and the Lupton Road entrance. It is anticipated that this construction will be completed in 2018. The construction includes demolition of existing structures on the north side of the park. Steps will be taken through signage and management to inform visitors of what property is public park land and what is private property.

The initial improvements include:

- Two vault toilets - (Locations both on Lupton Rd. & S. Hollingsworth Rd.)
- Two river access points - (Locations both on both Lupton Rd. & S. Hollingsworth Rd.)
- Two parking areas - (Locations both on Lupton Rd. & S. Hollingsworth Rd.)
- Several picnic tables - (Locations on Lupton Rd. & S. Hollingsworth Rd.)
- A small maintenance shed - (Location to be determined off S. Hollingsworth Rd.)
- Partial access road - (S. Hollingsworth Rd. into park interior)

### **Access to Seven Bends**

In 2017 VDOT will be completing modifications to the Lupton Road low water bridge for safety and to increase weight limit capacity. Bridge improvements will allow DCR to follow through on initial projects as a part of the implementation of Phase I of the park's current master plan.

### **Master Plan Update**

Master plans are required for every state park prior to development. The master plan must be updated every 10 years or when a major change is recommended for the park. The process for developing and updating a state park master plan was established in accordance with § 10.1-200.1. of the Code of Virginia. Proposed changes to the Seven Bends State Park master plan are significant enough at this time to require a plan update.

Staff will create an updated master plan that includes a phased development plan, the park master plan executive summary, and an associated map. Proposals in the master plan will be presented for comment at a public meeting. Following the public meeting, the master plan will be reviewed by the Board of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia General Assembly prior to adoption by the DCR Director. We are aiming to have the revised master plan completed in the 2017 calendar year.

Former Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, Joseph H. Maroon, adopted the initial park master plan on November 26, 2008. The master plan was then renewed on August 24, 2014, by Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, Clyde E. Cristman.

Possible changes for the 2017 master plan update include:

- Reevaluate proposed overnight facilities
- Removing or relocating proposed road connecting north and south sides of the park
- Relocating visitor center
- Defining the environmental education facility
- Relocating the maintenance facility

### **Schedule for Development**

Constructing proposed facilities in the master plan is dependent upon funding that would be approved by the General Assembly. In general a master plan projects out 30 years and represents the full build-out of the park.

### **Additional Information**

If we can provide additional information, please contact acting Park Manager, Tony Widmer at [Tony.Widmer@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Tony.Widmer@dcr.virginia.gov) or by phone at 540-635-3260.