

# Twin Lakes State Park

## Master Plan

Public Meeting  
April 28, 2021



# Agenda



## Introductions

**Melissa Baker**

Director of Virginia State Parks

**Kevin Faubion**

Park Manager, Twin Lakes State Park

**Bill Conkle**

DCR Park Planner

- State Park History
- Intro to Twin Lakes State Park
- Master Plan Process
- Review TLSP MP
- Public Comment via Chat Box



# Housekeeping

- Place all phones / mics on mute
- All comments & questions accepted in Chat Box  
(These will be recorded and responses will made prior to May 29, 2021)
- This presentation will be available online following the meeting

Additional comments will be received until May 28,  
via email or in writing to:

**Bill Conkle, Park Planner**  
**Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation**  
**600 East Main Street, 24th Floor**  
**Richmond, VA 23219**  
[Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov)  
**804-786-5492 or by fax @ 804-371-7899**





# Meeting Purpose

To present the park master plan and facility phasing. Public input is encouraged regarding recommended park amenities. Attendees will have the opportunity to provide input with regard to priorities for facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities.



# Introduction to state parks

## DCR Mission

Conserve, protect, enhance and advocate wise use of the Commonwealth's unique natural, historical, recreational, scenic and cultural resources.

## State Park Mission

To conserve the natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources of the Commonwealth & provide recreational & educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters & facilities that leave them unimpaired for future generations.



# History of Virginia State Parks

## The first 6 parks...out of the Depression

1936: Virginia opens a system of 6 state parks...most were a combination of donated land plus state funds for development



# The System Grows

1940's through 1980's:

A steady procession of new parks acquired and developed through a combination of funds:

donations, federal grant money and state capital development



# Voters support more growth and development

1990's through present: Two major bond referendums in 1992 and 2002 funded more than \$214 million in funds; 5 new parks and land for 6 more; 31 natural areas; 296 building projects: campgrounds, cabins, support facilities, etc.

We continue to acquire lands, largely by donation or discounted sales... the challenge is to find the development funds.



# Today's Virginia State Park System

40 parks, 4 under development

75,895 acres

34 historic register sites

662 miles of trails

32 parks with overnight facilities

11 day use parks

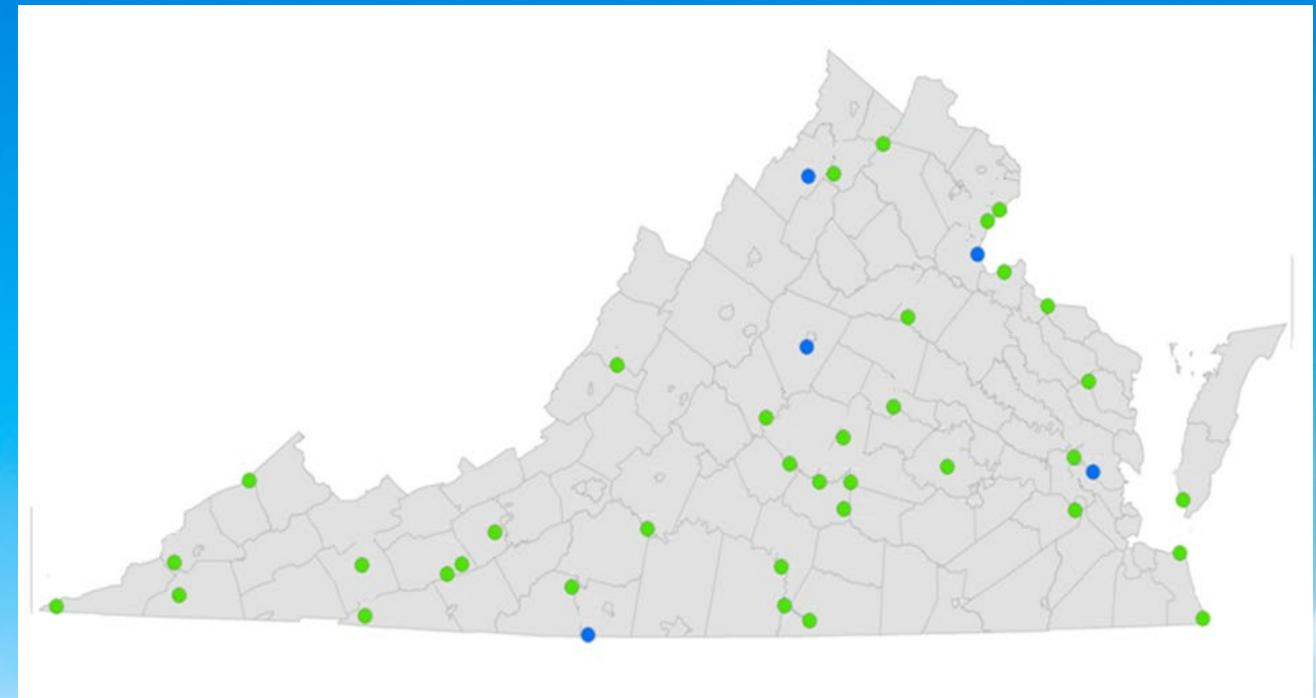
29 visitor centers

99 picnic shelters

11 swimming beaches

4 swimming pools

2 restaurants; 19 snack bars



# Park Services and Facilities

Each park has a unique set of facilities, activities and services

Day Uses: hiking,  
swimming, picnicking,  
boating, bicycling,  
horse riding,  
canoeing, rafting

Overnight: cabins  
and camping

Programs, education,  
interpretation

Conference and  
meeting facilities



# The relevancy of state parks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century & beyond

Parks are a part of the Community: Friends Groups, volunteerism, economic benefit.

Solutions to many of today's challenges: "Nature Deficit Disorder", daily stress, and the need for affordable recreational opportunities.

The need for parks is greater today than it has ever been ... places to reconnect to nature, to be with families and friends, and to re-establish personal well being.



# Twin Lakes State Park

A full service park rich in history with cabins, campground, conference facility, beach swimming, and seasonal concessions

A Total of 496 acres inside of the 6,496 acre Prince Edward - Gillion State Forest



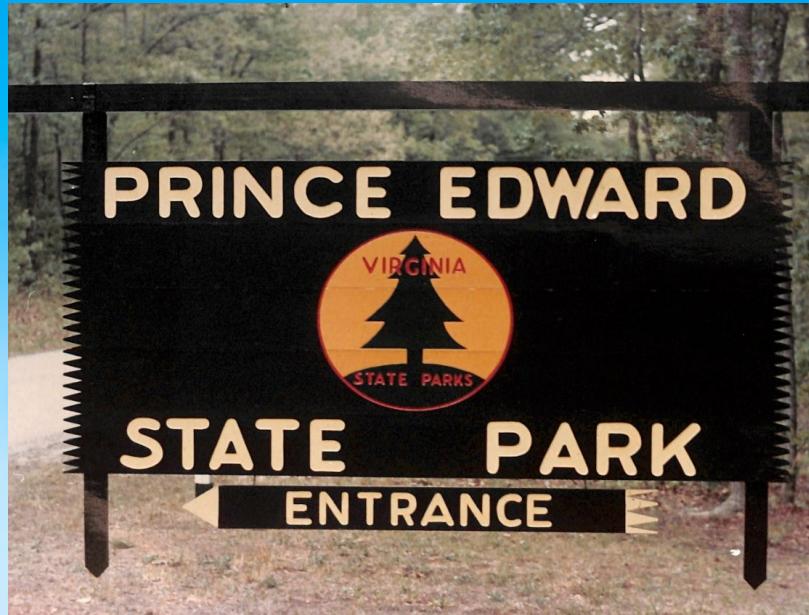


# The Park Name

Twin Lakes State Park is named for its two bodies of water: Prince Edward and Goodwin Lakes, both of which were created by the 1390th, an African-American company of the Civilian Conservation Corps, in the 1930s.

# The Park Name

Originally named Prince Edward State Park for Negroes, the park opened in 1950 as the first Virginia State Park accessible to people of color. In 1976, the park grew to include neighboring Goodwin Lake State Recreational Area and was renamed Prince Edward-Goodwin Lake State Park. In 1986, the park was rebranded under a new, more succinct name--Twin Lakes State Park.



In 2019, 423 educational programs were conducted for 6,388 people.

In 2020, 122 educational programs were conducted for 940 people.





- Over 6 miles of hiking trails around 2 lakes
- Beach swimming
- 9 overnight cabins and 1 lodge
- 33 campsites





- Park Office / Gift Shop
- 2 Picnic Areas w/ Shelters
- 2 Boat Ramps





- Conference Center
- Concession Building / Nature Center

# Staffing

6 Full Time Staff Including:

- Park Manager
- Assistant Park Manager
- Chief Ranger of Operations
- Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience
- Office Manager
- Park Ranger Maintenance

Of these positions, 3 are law enforcement



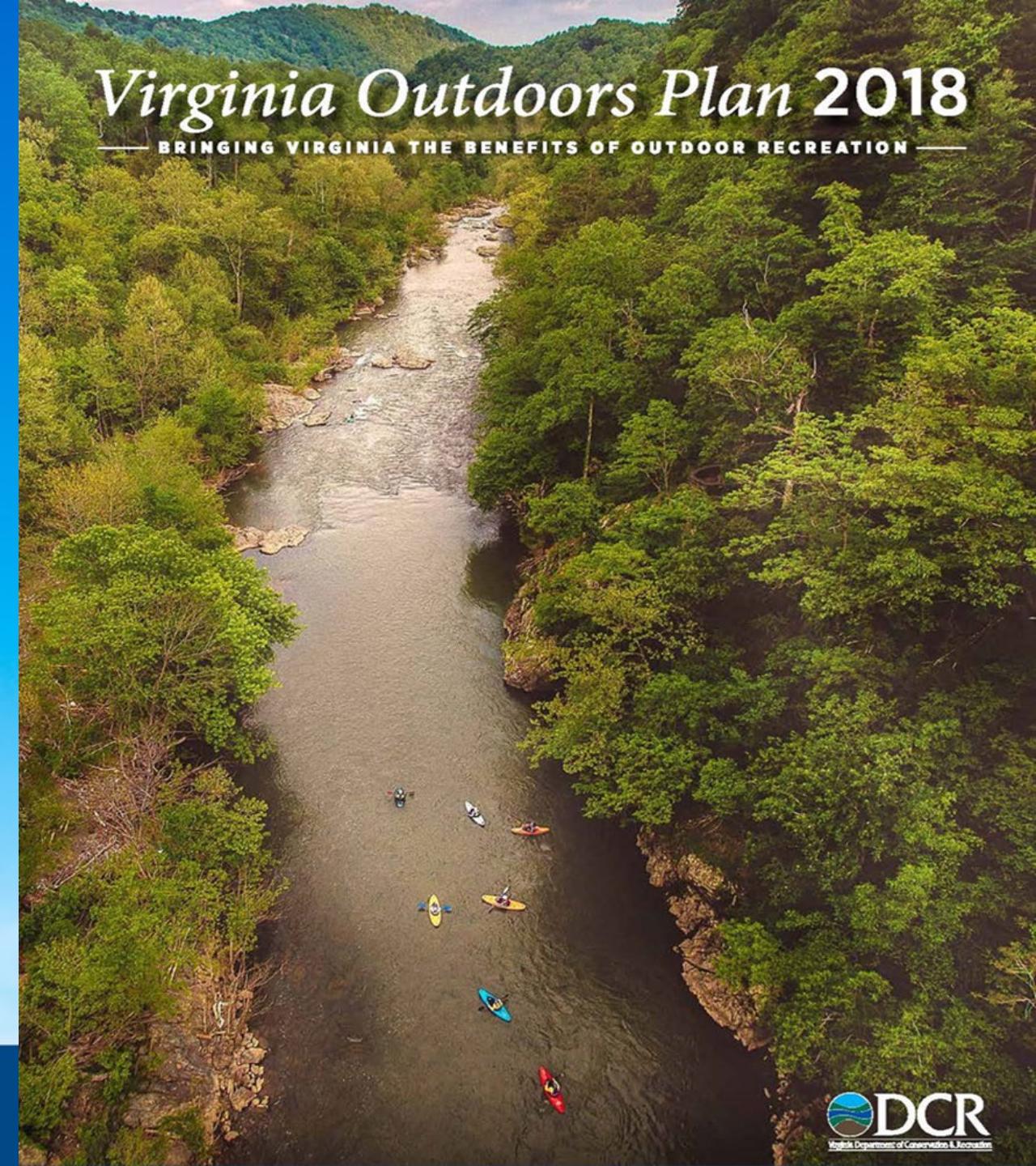
# Financial

Annual Operating Budget - \$460,872  
Annual Revenues - \$381,719

State parks rely on park generated revenues to support operations.



# Master Plan Process



# State Park Master Planning Code

## § 10.1-200.1. State park master planning

- (i) for all **existing state parks**, (ii) substantial **land acquisitions**,  
(iii) prior to major **improvements**
- A **guide for the development, utilization and management** of its natural, cultural and historic resources
- Developed in stages with public input
- Required to be updated every 10 years



# Twin Lakes State Park Master Plan



## 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 PARK
  - EXPAND PARK TRAILS & EXPLORE TRAIL CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE PARK BOUNDARIES
  - ONGOING MAINTENANCE / REPAIRS TO PARK DAMS
  - CREATE A PAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL PARALLEL TO EXISTING ROAD TO CONNECT VISITOR CENTER TO DAY-USE AREA
  - CREATE A SINGLE ENTRY POINT FOR PARK

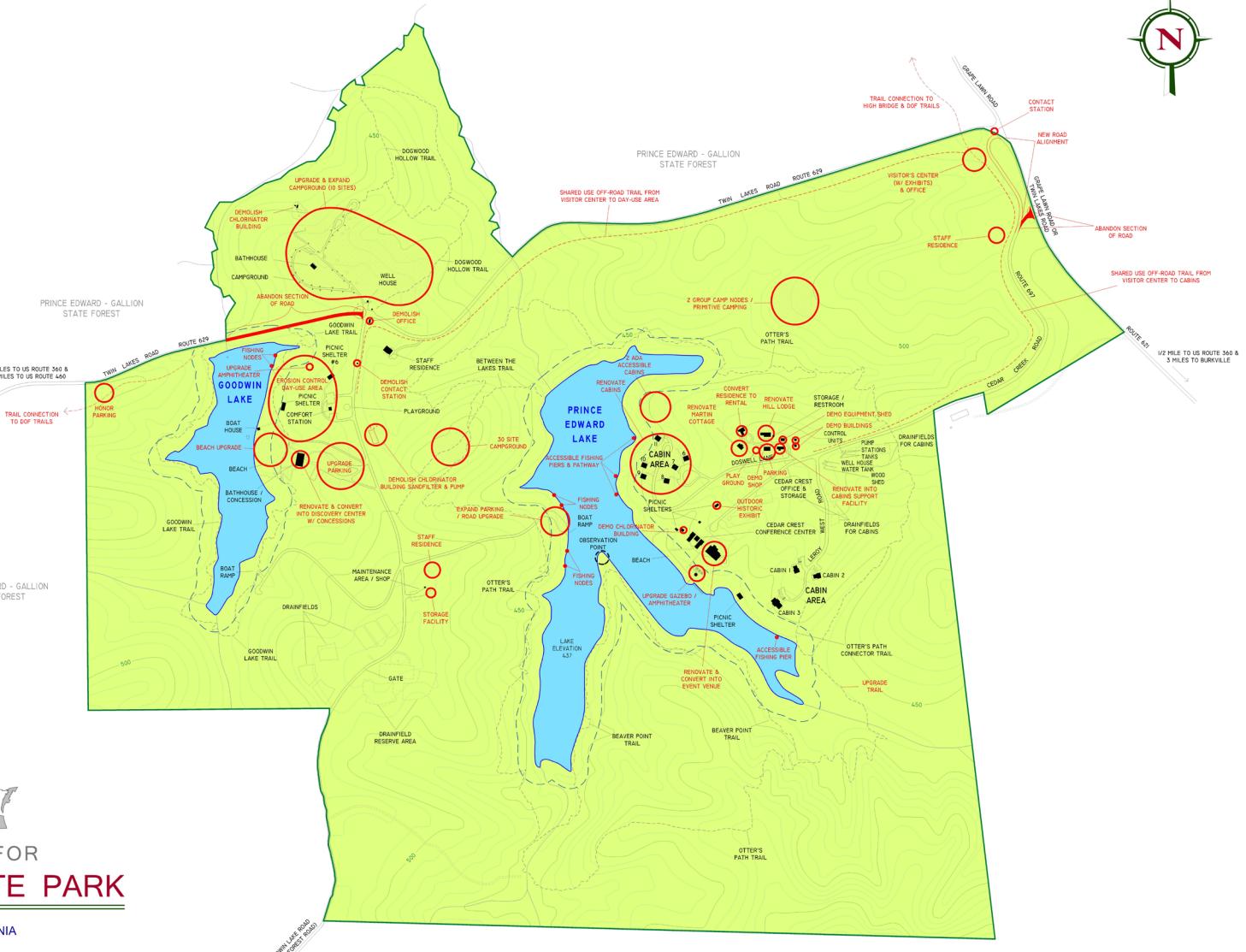


MASTER PLAN FOR  
**TWIN LAKES STATE PARK**

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

MARCH 2021

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET



PRIVATE  
LAND

PRIVATE  
LAND

TWIN LAKES STATE PARK IS 548.46 ACRES  
LOCATED IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

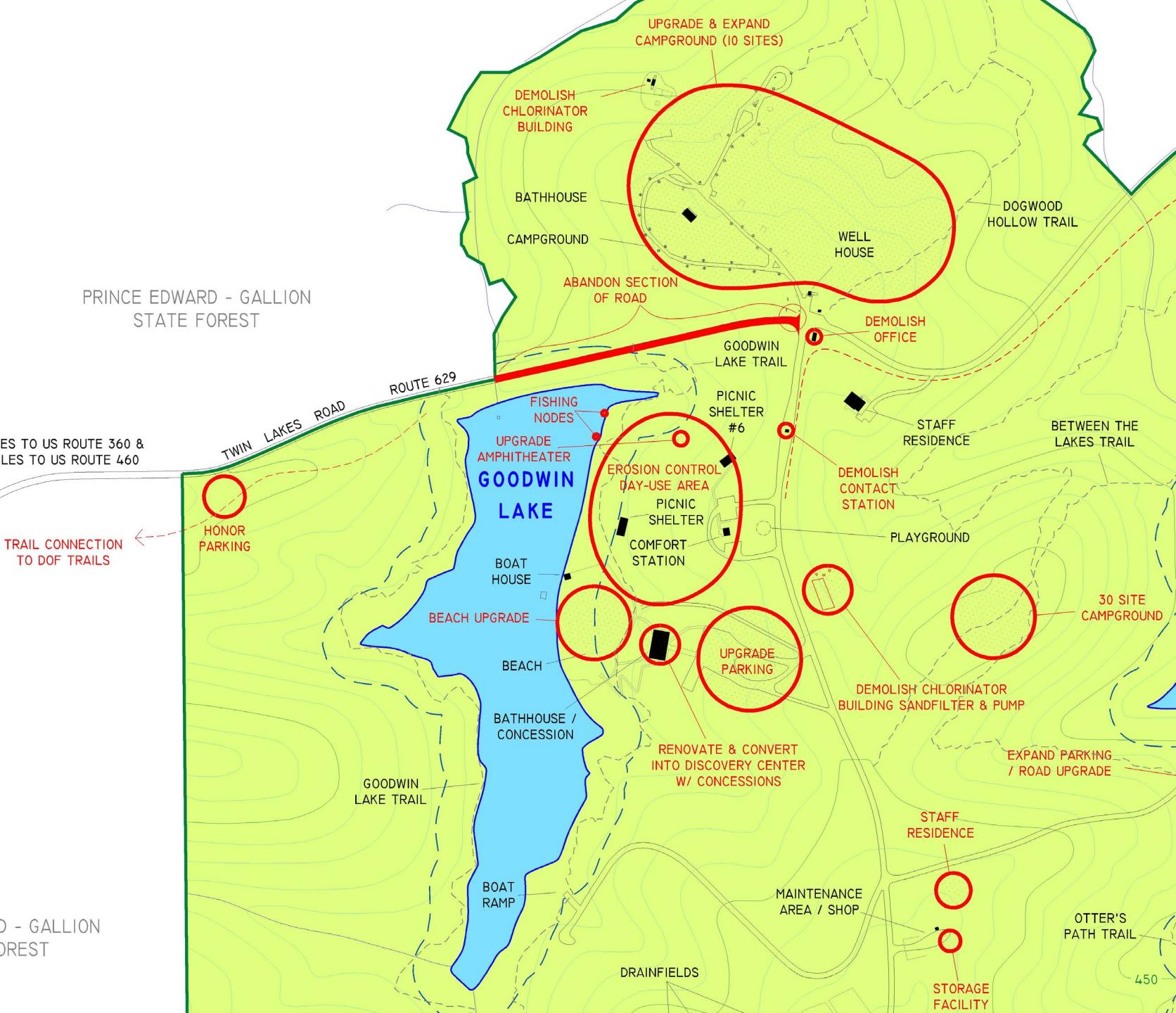
# PHASE 1

- Historical exhibit at large original Prince Edward Lake State Park shelter
- Group and Primitive Camp
- Renovate Cabins, Martin Cottage and Hill Lodge
- Construct 2 Accessible Cabins
- Staff residence
- Convert Staff residence to a rental cabin
- Upgrade and expand campground
- Upgrade and expand beach area, add play items and outdoor showers
- Create trail connections to High Bridge State Park and State Forest trails
- Construct Office / contact station / visitor center (with exhibits) Alter access road
- Abandon road over Goodwin Dam creating single access point for park
- Upgrade and expand boat launch areas with parking and erosion control



# Twin Lakes State Park Master Plan

Blowup of Goodwin Lake Side



# PHASE 2

- Provide additional bank fishing and boat house on Prince Edward Lake
- Improve picnic area, including erosion control and upgraded comfort stations
- Renovate current housekeeping office as a cabin support facility
- Demolish existing contact station and office
- Build a shared-use off-road trail from day use area to overnight facilities
- Improve 6 miles of park trails (re-routing, bridges & upgrading surfaces)
- Replace existing playground, and add an accessible playground
- Campground – 30 sites, including 3 camping cabins and multiple RV sites
- Accessible Fishing Piers and path near Cabin Area



# Twin Lakes State Park Master Plan

Blowup of Prince Edward Side



# PHASE 3

- Retrofit concession building into discovery center / concession with window sales
- Upgrade day use parking area
- Upgrade Amphitheater
- Staff residence
- Demolish 9 abandoned buildings (4 chlorinator buildings, 2 storage, well house, water storage and shop)
- Renovate Cedar Crest Conference Center for use as an event center
- Build storage facility in shop area



# Public Input Session Guidelines

**Bill Conkle, Facilitator**

**Please make comments in the chat box.**

**These will be recorded and responded to by May 28, 2021**





# Next Steps

- Update the Executive Summary and Map
- Present to Board of Conservation and Recreation for recommended approval
- Send updated plan to General Assembly for 30 day review
- Adoption of plan by DCR Director





# Send comments

Written comments will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m. on May 28, 2021.

Please send to:

Bill Conkle, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

or email [Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Bill.Conkle@dcr.virginia.gov)  
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