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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

**Natural Bridge State Park
Master Plan Update**

Virtual Public Input Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
7:00 P.M.

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 recreational opportunities.

AGENDA

Welcome - Purpose, Introductions & Housekeeping

Introduction to Virginia State Parks & Orientation to Natural Bridge State Park

Overview of the State Park Master Planning Process & Natural Bridge State Park Master Plan Process

Review of proposed master plan for Natural Bridge State Park and phasing

Public Input via Chat Box

Next Steps in the Process

THANK YOU!

Written and emailed comments are also accepted for the Natural Bridge State Park Master Plan until **November 21, 2020.**

Please send comments to:
Lynn Crump, Park Planner
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Lynn.Crump@dcv.virginia.gov, 804-786-5054

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-786-6124

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC INPUT FOR NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

During the public input portion of the meeting, the staff and master plan committee will review and record everyone who wishes to comment on the plan via the Chat Box. If a previous comment has stated your position, you may make that known by reference. In order to give all comments equal treatment and courtesy, we ask that all adhere to the following guidelines:

- Add your comments into the Chat Box during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- Include your name.
- Public comments are only accepted from the Chat Box.
- State your comment and give facts and other data to support your position.
- If you represent a group or organization, please indicate that.
- Back-and-forth debate is prohibited during the public input session.
- Written statements and other supporting material are also welcomed if you do not wish to speak.

General notes will be taken on your spoken comments.

Written comments will also be accepted tonight and up until 7:00 p.m. on November 21, 2020.

Please send written comments to:
Lynn Crump, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
or email Lynn.Crump@dcv.virginia.gov, 804-786- 5054 or by fax to 804-371-7899.

DCR Mission Statement

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

State Parks Mission Statement

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

Natural Bridge State Park Purpose Statement

The purpose of Natural Bridge State Park is to protect one of Virginia's unique natural features, the Natural Bridge; connect visitors to our storied past; demonstrate ecologically sound management; offer a range of outdoor recreation opportunities; and work across sectors to promote this premier destination.

Natural Bridge State Park

Goals and Objectives

These six goals were established to provide a wide range of traditional and unique park experiences with appropriate support facilities that are managed by well-equipped and trained staff.

GOAL 1 – Protect, conserve and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources of the Park, especially the Natural Bridge.

GOAL 2 - Create attractive spaces that provide visitors an experience that enhances and sustains their park visit.

GOAL 3 – Provide a range of overnight and day use opportunities and facilities.

GOAL 4 – Provide facilities and programs for environmental education and interpretation including cultural and historical programs.

GOAL 5 – Work across sectors to provide mutually beneficial efforts to enhance Natural Bridge and the surrounding region.

GOAL 6 – Administer and manage the park in a professional and transparent manner, which fosters public trust.

NBSP PHASING Proposal

Following recommendations from the VDOT Natural Bridge Study to remove traffic from the Bridge, the majority of the park renovations and new construction should not begin before the realignment of Route 11.

NBSP Phase I - Protect the Bridge

- Protect the Bridge (VDOT)
 - Upgrade drainage to remove runoff from bridge
 - Develop alternative bypass downstream of the Bridge
- Renovate Rockbridge Center (RBC)– as discovery center/ environmental education facility with meeting/training facilities and exhibit space that provides a tourism component, retail, administration and snack bar/catering kitchen; and the 3rd floor for housing or office space [determine good use of inside pool area]. Complete utility renovation/replacement.
- Renovate Cedar Creek Pavilion for an event venue
- Maintain other existing structures
- Develop a Maintenance Area with shop and storage facility near the barn. Renovate barn for storage
- Develop Blue Ridge Trailhead on Route 11 with parking, restrooms, small shelter, and picnic tables
- Renovate staff residence
- Develop a detailed site design plan to upgrade parking and access sequence; including upgrades to vehicular circulation to and through the park*
 - Identify clear park access
 - Create a stronger front door appearance
 - Removal of museum building
 - Re-work parking in front of RBC to include tree islands
 - Upgrade satellite parking and shuttles, if necessary
 - Create an attractive trail to connect to the Bridge
- Remove /repair/ renovate dams (in priority order)
 - Remove lower, high hazard dam
 - Lower Turner Pond dam
 - Repair Cedar Creek dam
- Develop trailhead access at Buck Hill to include parking

NBSP Phase II – Celebrate the Bridge in community

- Remove Wax Museum
- Upgrade satellite parking and provide shuttles and/or attractive trail to connect to the Bridge
- Create additional parking for up to 250 for car and RV parking*
- Upgrade walking trail to base of bridge
- Demolish temporary staff residence

- Construct new Staff Residence
- Construct a new more park like visitor center entrance facade sequence*
- Development along Golf Course Road
 - Create an observation point with small shelter/gazebo on north side of Golf Course Road
 - Provide for a large gathering area including a large shelter with catering kitchen, picnic facilities, restrooms and parking. Also well and septic will be needed
 - Create a trailhead, parking and restrooms with discovery area south of Golf Course Road
 - Add group camp to discovery area
- Create campground [non- RV] and yurts south of Route 130
- Add shelter to Blue Ridge Trailhead
- Remove concrete amphitheater near Monacan Village
- Develop a mountain bike area on the north side of Route 130

NBSP Phase III – Experience the Bridge – It’s a Park

- Provide picnic area near mountain bike area on the north side of Route 130 east in the park; include restrooms and water
- Add chairlift or alternative transportation to the base of the Bridge
- Add a contact station at Golf Course Road and one along Route 11 near Buck Hill Road
- Develop walk-in primitive camping with designated sites, vault toilet above Blue Ridge Trailhead