

# The McDowell News

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## State Park Progress Is Reported

Asheville architect Donnie Luke presented drawings and plans charting the progress of Lake James State Park at a meeting of the two-county advisory committee Monday.

Luke and his staff from Architectural Design Studio (ADS) have been busy planning the location of the public beach, picnic areas and campsites. This was the first meeting of the advisory committee since members, ADS staff and state parks and recreation officials toured the site by boat on Feb. 4.

Luke's plans call for campsites to be constructed at the old Camp Ahoy site with the 250-foot-long beach area located approximately half a mile north on the adjacent peninsula. The advisory committee agreed that day-use and night-use facilities should be separate.

The offices, public bathrooms and parking spaces for 70 vehicles will be located near the beach area, according to advisory committee member Rod Birdsong. The parking

area can be expanded in a later phase to accommodate additional vehicles.

The beach area will be roped off to keep boats from entering the swimming area, but a boat dock will be located near the beach for easy access by water.

Birdsong said N.C. Department of Transportation crews began clearing trees on Monday for the road into the beach and campsite areas.

Birdsong also said the state has completed interviewing applicants for the superintendent's position, and a decision should be reached in "two or three weeks." Two additional positions will be filled after July.

A volunteer system to help with park construction is also under way.

Birdsong said area civic groups and organizations are being asked to adopt or sponsor the 40 picnic tables to be constructed. Groups covering the \$185 cost of a table will

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## Park

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be noted on a dedication plaque placed on the table.

Plans for other volunteer work, clearing rocks, blazing trails and constructing an entrance sign are forthcoming, according to Birdsong.

The Burke County Chapter of the Sierra Club will meet at McDowell Technical Community College at 7:30 p.m. on April 20 to give people in both counties a chance to discuss the park. Birdsong said this will be a good opportunity for anyone interested in the park to voice an opinion or learn more about the project.

The advisory committee will meet again on March 29 for a groundbreaking ceremony.