

Lake James park to expand

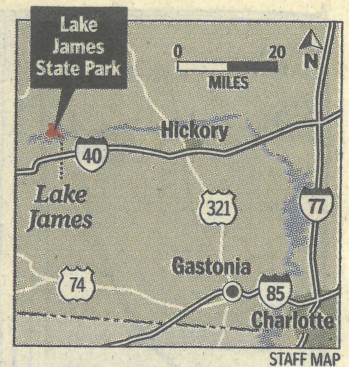
State will buy 2,915 acres in Burke County from developer

BY HEATHER HOWARD
Staff Writer

Lake James State Park in Burke County will be nearly six times bigger under an agreement announced Thursday between the state and a large residential developer.

The state has agreed to buy 2,915 acres from Crescent Resources along the lake's northern shore. The project will give Lake James, about 75 miles northwest of Charlotte in Burke and McDowell counties, the largest waterfront park in Western North Carolina.

"It's a great day for Burke County, it's a great day for the state," said Gov. Mike Easley, who arrived by boat at a lake-side news conference with



Crescent and local leaders.

The state will pay Crescent, the land-development arm of Duke Energy, more than \$18 million for the land.

Appraisals by Crescent and the state valued the property at more than \$30 million, officials

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