

# Lake Anna State Park Master Plan

Public Comment Meeting

October 17, 2024



# Housekeeping

- Please mute your phones
- Please hold questions until the end of the presentation
- Additional comments will be received until **November 17, 2024** via email to:  
PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov
- This presentation will be made available after the meeting and be posted at:  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/la-masterplan>

# Agenda

- **Meeting Purpose** – Josh Bateman, Environmental Program Planner
- **Introduction to State Parks** – Timothy Shrader, Eastern Field Operations Manager
- **Overview of Lake Anna State Park** – Dan Quesenberry, Park Manager
- **Planning Authority, Purpose & Process**
- **Public Engagement & Input**
- **Market Analysis**
- **Visitor Experience** – David Bryan, State Parks Planner
- **Master Plan Goals**
- **Proposed Phased Development Plan & Master Plan Map**
- **Staffing Plan**
- **Next Steps & Public Comment**

# Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- share project process and objectives
- summarize and report on previous input
- present key elements of the overall park master plan including the existing and proposed site amenities, experiences and phased development
- provide the public an opportunity for comment

# VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

## District 1 - Tidewater

**BI** - Belle Isle State Park  
**CP** - Chippokes State Park  
**FC** - False Cape State Park  
**FL** - First Landing State Park  
**KP** - Kiptopeke State Park  
**MA** - Machicomoco State Park  
**YR** - York River State Park

## District 2 - Potomac

**CA** - Caledon State Park  
**CB** - Culpeper Battlefields Historical State Park  
**LA** - Lake Anna State Park  
**LE** - Leesylvania State Park  
**MN** - Mason Neck State Park  
**SN** - Sweet Run State Park  
**WE** - Westmoreland State Park  
**WW** - Widewater State Park

\* under development

## District 3 - Shenandoah

**DO** - Douthat State Park  
**HF\*** - Hayfields State Park  
**JR** - James River State Park  
**NB** - Natural Bridge State Park  
**SE** - Seven Bends State Park  
**SH** - Shenandoah River State Park  
**SK** - Sky Meadows State Park

## District 4 - Central

**BC** - Bear Creek Lake State Park  
**HB** - High Bridge Trail State Park  
**HL** - Holliday Lake State Park  
**PO** - Pocahontas State Park  
**PW** - Powhatan State Park  
**SB** - Staunton River Battlefield Historical State Park  
**SC** - Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park  
**TL** - Twin Lakes State Park

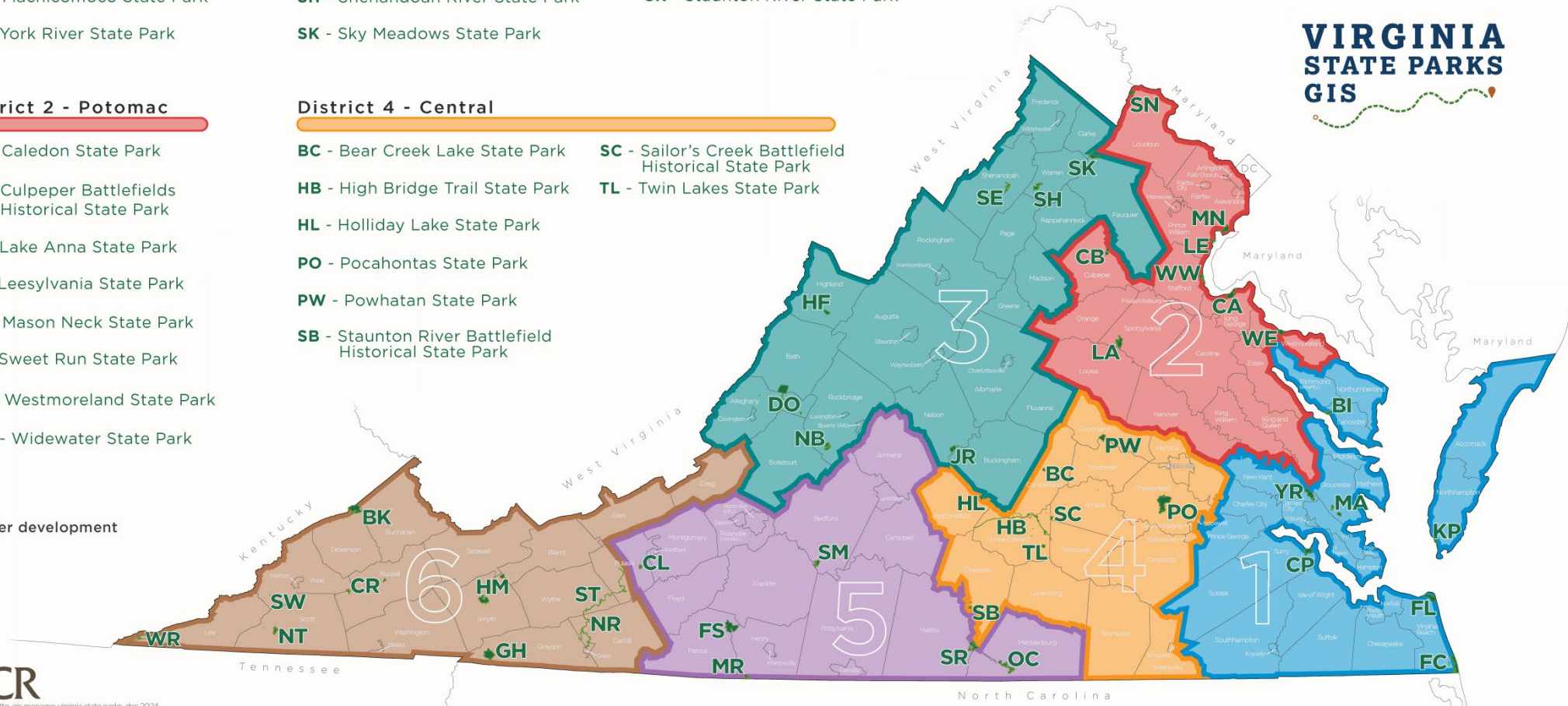
## District 5 - Piedmont

**CL** - Claytor Lake State Park  
**FS** - Fairy Stone State Park  
**MR\*** - Mayo River State Park  
**OC** - Oconeechee State Park  
**SM** - Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
**SR** - Staunton River State Park

## District 6 - Southwest

**BK** - Breaks Interstate Park  
**CR** - Clinch River State Park  
**GH** - Grayson Highlands State Park  
**HM** - Hungry Mother State Park  
**NR** - New River Trail State Park  
**NT** - Natural Tunnel State Park  
**ST** - Shot Tower Historical State Park  
**SW** - Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park  
**WR** - Wilderness Road State Park

**VIRGINIA  
STATE PARKS  
GIS**



# Overview of Lake Anna State Park

# Summary of Existing Park Amenities

- **Beach and Picnic Area**

- Concession Building and Bathhouses
- Visitor Center, Mill Pond, Overwater Pavilion, ADA Fishing, Boat Dock
- Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier

- **Ware's Cove Picnic Area**

- Picnic Pavilion and Picnic Pads
- Cartop Canoe/Kayak Launch

- **Campground**

- Standard Non-Electric and W/E Sites
- Camping Cabins and Yurts
- Bathhouses

- **Cabin and Lodge Area**

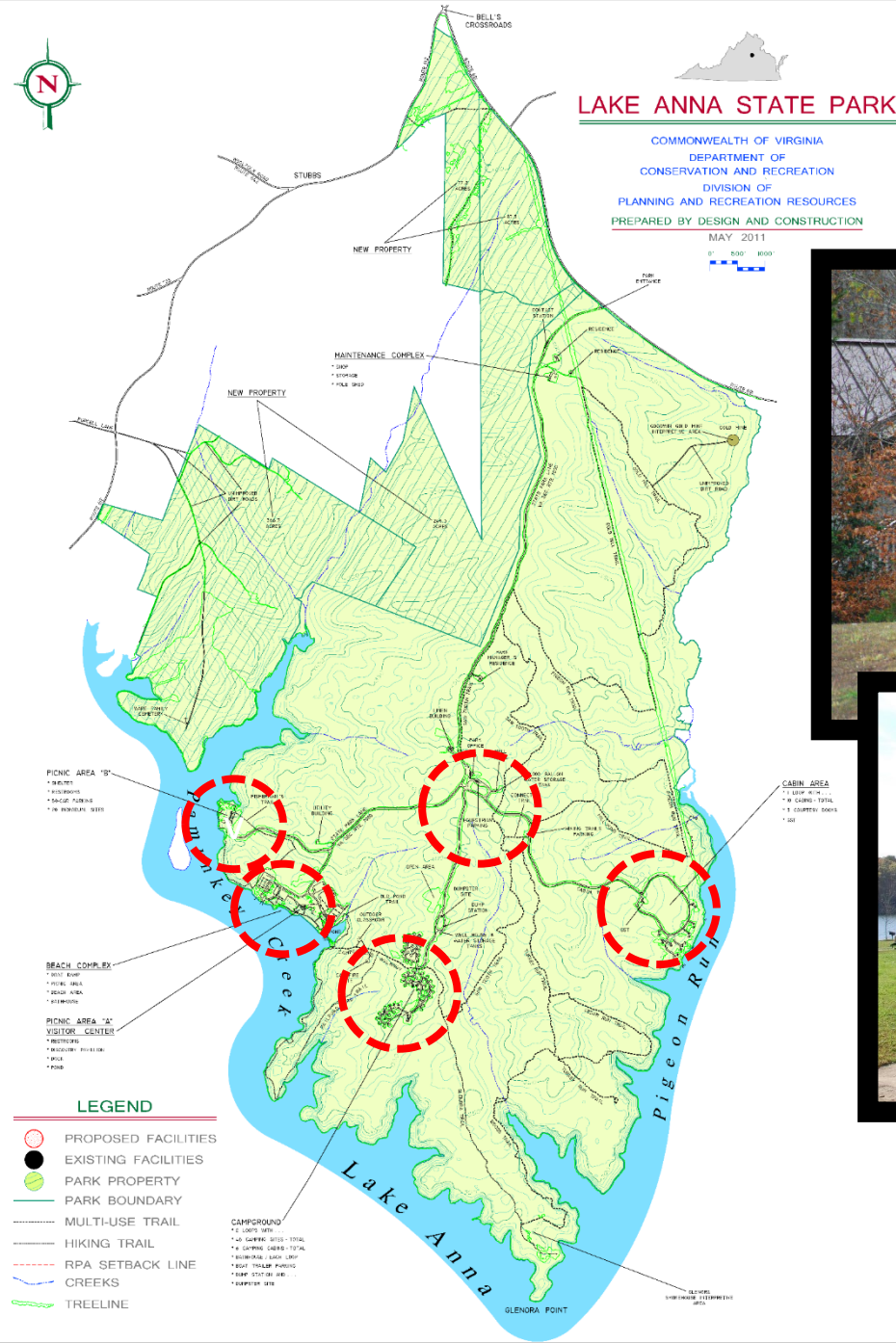
- 8 Cabins, 2 Lodges

- **Park Office, Hiking/Equestrian Trailheads**

- **Trail System and Gold Mine Area**



# Existing Facilities





# Planning Authority, Purpose, and Process



# State Park Master Planning Code

## § 10.1-200.1. State park master planning

- (i) for all **existing state parks**, (ii) substantial **land acquisitions**, and (iii) prior to **major improvements**
- A **guide for the development, utilization and management** of a Parks natural, cultural, and historic resources
- Developed in stages with public input at each step

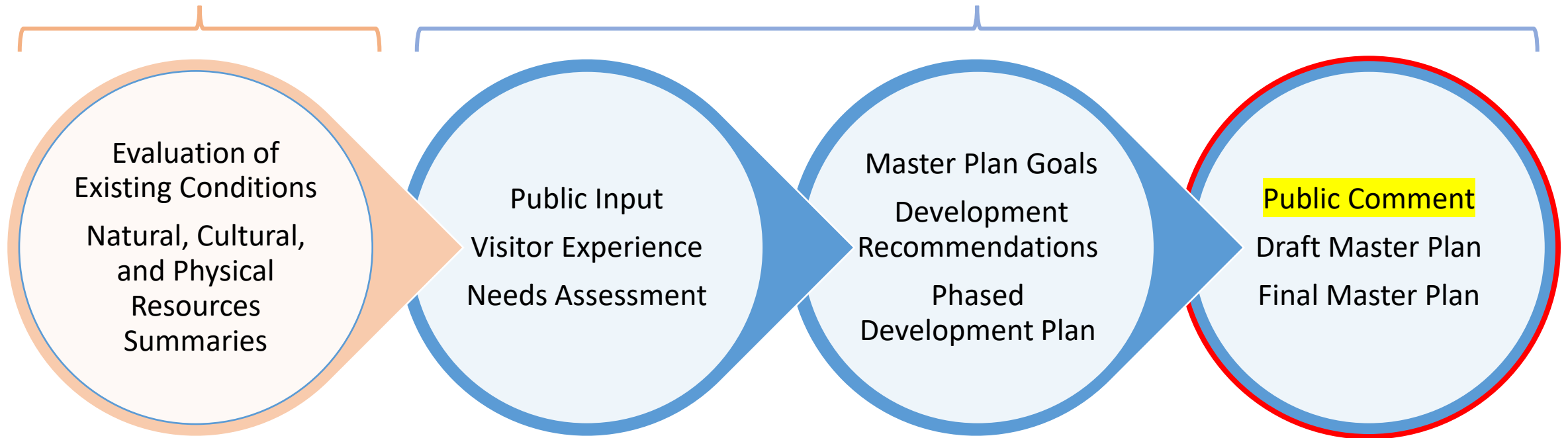
# Planning Purpose

- Update the Lake Anna State Park Master Plan based on changes to existing conditions and trends in outdoor recreation relative to the park's context within the local community, region, and Virginia State Parks system
- Update the phased development plan based on current and projected needs over the next 30 years
- Set a framework of goals, programming, and priority implementation for the development of the park and future acquisitions

# Planning Process

## Stage 1 - Conservation

## Stage 2 - Recreation





# Public Engagement & Input



# Stakeholder Input

- Public information meeting on February 21, 2024
- 94 respondents to online public input survey (Feb – March & May – July 2024)
- *Your Comments Count* Survey (2023 – 2nd Quarter 2024)
- Virginia Outdoors Survey (2022)





# Public Input Survey Results

## Recreational Activities

- #1 Hiking
- #2 Swimming
- #3 Camping
- #4 Horseback riding
- #5 Canoeing/kayaking

## Educational Activities

- #1 Outdoor recreation skills
- #2 Outdoor safety skills
- #3 Environmental education

## Seen Using the Park

- #1 Families
- #2 Hikers
- #3 Equestrians

## Day-Use Facilities Needed

- #1 Trails
- #2 Restrooms
- #3 Kayak/canoe launch
- #4 Parking
- #5 Picnic shelters

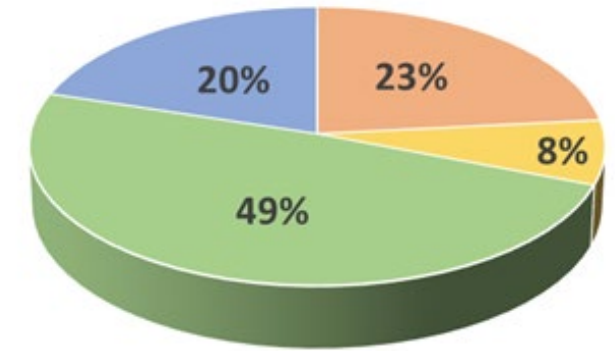
## Overnight Needed

- #1 Tent campsites
- #2 Camping cabins
- #3 RV campsites

## What Visitors Value

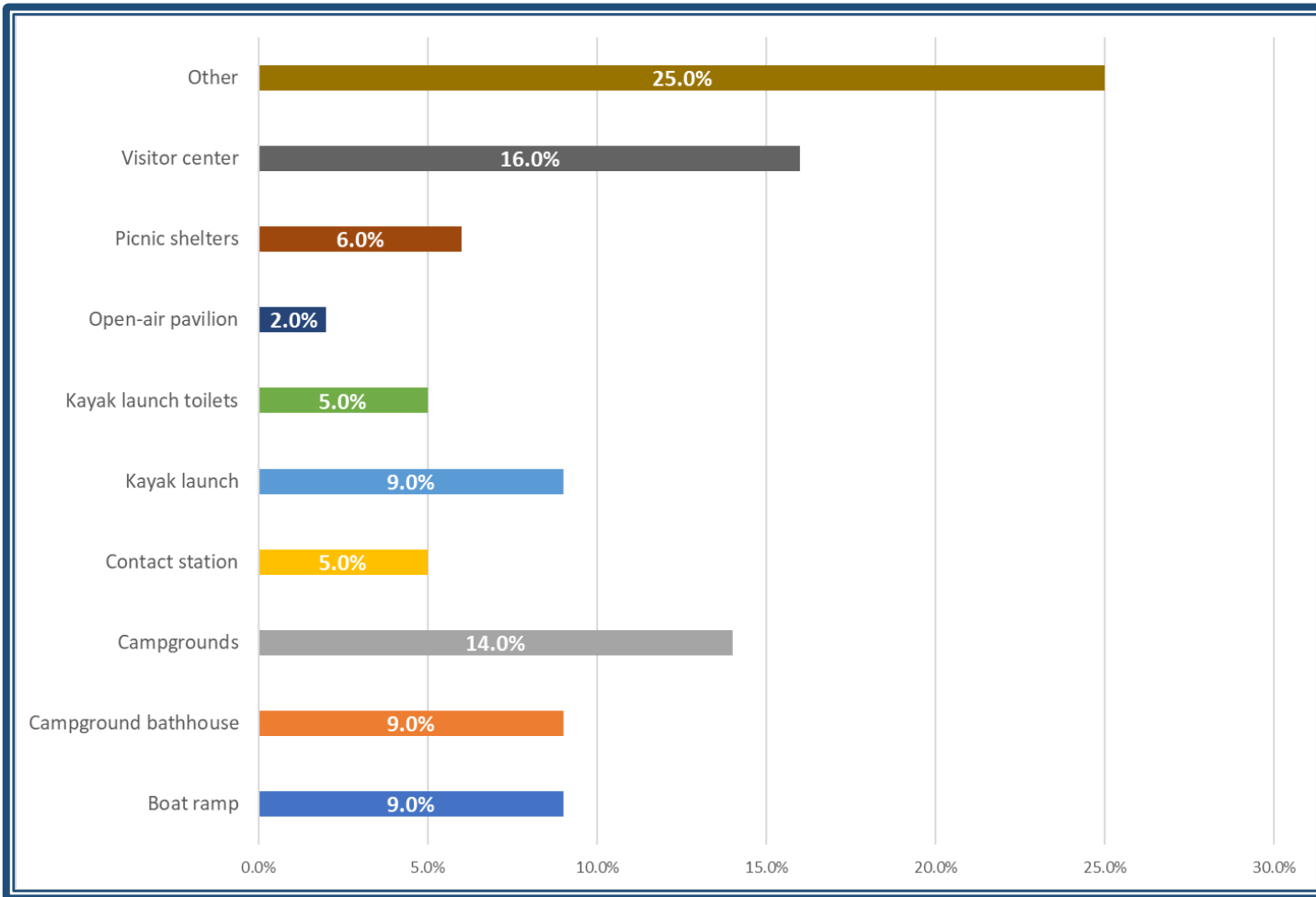
- #1 Nature/outdoors
- #2 Peace and quiet
- #3 Beauty/scenery

How many times have you visited Lake Anna State Park in the last 12 months?



- Frequently (at least once per month)
- I have not visited the park
- Occasionally (3-5 visits)
- Once

# Public Survey



68.1% of respondents cited the need for improvements to one or more park facilities. Facilities cited most frequently as needing improvement were:

1. Visitor Center (16%)
2. Campground (14%)
3. Other: Trails (14%)
4. Campground bathhouse (9%)  
Canoe/kayak launch  
Boat ramp





# Your Comments Count Survey

## **Recreational Activities Conducted**

- #1 Hiking
- #2 Swimming
- #3 Fishing
- #4 Bicycling, Educational Programs

## **Satisfaction w/ Day-Use Facilities**

- #1 Trails
- #2 Beach/Swimming
- #3 Picnic Areas/Reservations
- #4 Boat Launch
- #5 Disabled Access

## **Overnight Accommodations Used**

- #1 Developed Campground
- #2 Cabin
- #3 Yurt

## **Satisfaction w/ Cabins & Lodges**

- #1 Check-In/Check-Out
- #2 Reservations
- #3 Cleanliness

## **Satisfaction w/ Campground**

- #1 Campsites
- #2 Check-In/Check-Out
- #3 Reservations

# Virginia Outdoors Survey (2022)

Which activities are people pursuing?

Which activities are most needed?

- Conducted Every 5 Years
- Informs the Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Informs Planning for Outdoor Recreation Facilities Generally
- Most Popular Activities (> 20%): Participation versus Most Needed
  - **Participation > Need:** Walking for pleasure, viewing the water, viewing scenery
  - **Need = Participation:** Visiting a park, visiting natural/historical areas, hiking, sunbathing, bird watching, fishing
  - **Need > Participation:** Outdoor festivals, nature-based tours, nature study/programs canoeing/kayaking, tubing on the water, horseback riding, swimming, picnicking, bike trails, staying in a cabin or yurt, tent camping

# Market Analysis

# Market Analysis

## 2010-2020 ANNUAL GROWTH RATE



**1.39%**

Population



**-1.51%**

Group Quarters



**1.47%**

Households



## KEY FACTS

**692,080**

Total Population

**266,955**

Housing Units

**191.3**

Population Density

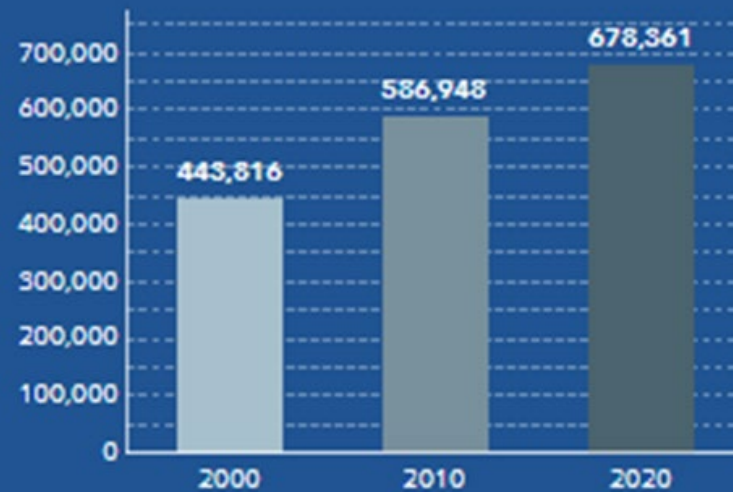
**2.72**

Average Household Size

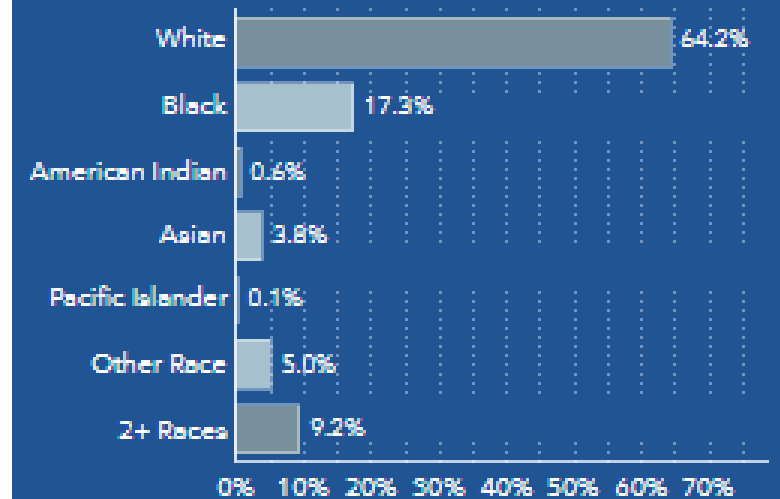
**63.3**

Diversity Index

## HOUSEHOLD POPULATION



## TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE





# Visitor Experience

# Visitor Experience

**Visitor Experience (VE) is a broad term encompassing the overall journey, activities and interactions of park users, as well as their personal, subjective feelings, impressions and level of satisfaction with the park**

Master Planning looks at VE to understand:

- Audiences & User Groups
- User Group Wants, Needs, and Expectations
- Park Purpose Statement
- Themes and Subthemes
- Essential Experiences
- Experience Areas
- Future Visitor Needs & Interpretive Opportunities



# Audiences & User Groups

- Day-Use Beach & Picnicking Users
  - Swimmers, Picnickers
- Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts
  - Bikers, Birders, Equestrian Users, Families (Day Use), Hikers, Locals
- Overnight Users
  - Families (Overnight)
- Water Access Users
  - Anglers, Boaters, Paddlers
- Curriculum-Based Users
  - Education Program Users (e.g. Schools, Scouts)
- Neighbors and Locals
- Event Attendees
  - Special User Permit Users





# Purpose Statement

Nestled in the gold-laced hills along the shores of Virginia's fourth largest lake, **Lake Anna State Park** provides abundant opportunities for active recreation, personal exploration and solitude that are forever preserved for future generations.



# Visitor Experience Themes

- Theme:
  - *Created by the need for electricity, Lake Anna has become a haven for recreation within a unique ecosystem that diverse flora and fauna call home*
- Subthemes:
  - *The Lake Itself*
  - *Unique Ecosystems and Wildlife*
  - *Recreational Opportunities*
  - *Birding*





# Visitor Experience Themes

- Theme:
  - *The rich mineral veins in the folded and fractured bedrock of the piedmont have drawn people and industry to the area for generations*
- Subthemes:
  - *The Chopawamsic Fault*
  - *The Gold Mine and other historic ore extraction*
  - *The Railroad*



# Visitor Experience Themes

- Themes:
  - *Though the rolling fields and forests of yesteryear have transformed into the present-day park, this land's resources still provide, sustain, and remain the heart of the Lake Anna community*
- Subthemes:
  - *Hardwood Forests*
  - *Farming and Forestry*
  - *Glenora Plantation*
  - *Indigenous Peoples*
  - *African American History & Enslavement*







# Essential Experiences

Immersive Opportunities offered by the Park that visitors should enjoy to fully take in its story and resources

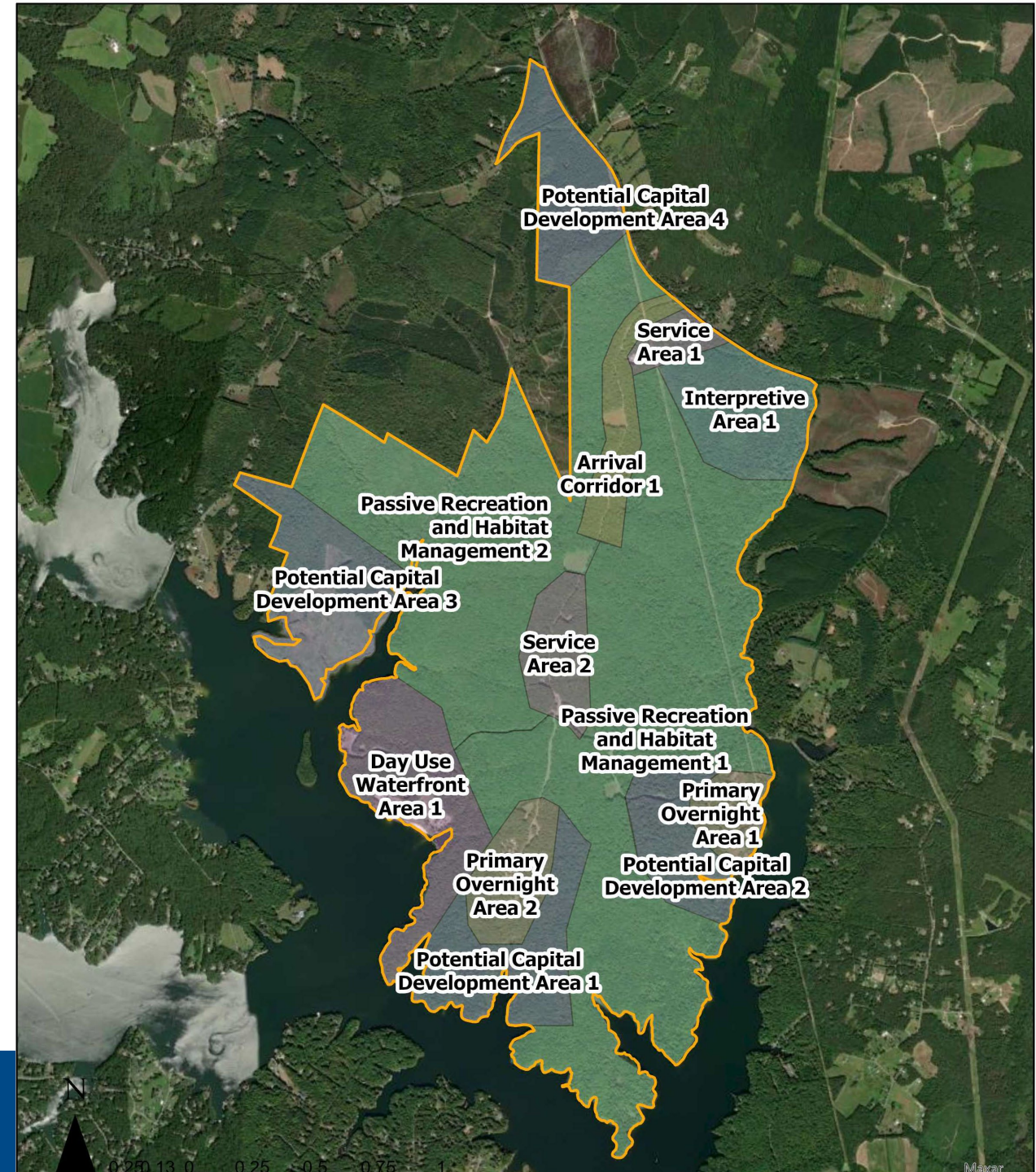
- Gold Mining
- Ware's Cove Picnic Area
- Ware Creek Paddling
- Lake Anna Viewshed
- Upland Hardwood Hiking
- Cabin on the Water
- Fishing at the Points



# Experience Areas

Distinct areas of the park, each with its own purpose, character, resources, landscapes, and value

- Arrival Corridor
- Service Areas
- Interpretive Area
  - *Historic Gold Mine*
- Day Use Waterfront Areas
  - *Beach, Ware's Cove Picnic Area*
- Primary Overnight Areas
  - *Campground, Cabin/Lodge Loop*
- Capital Development Areas
- Passive Recreation/Habitat Management





# Master Plan Goals

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**Goal 1.0. Resource Protection** – Protect the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources encompassed within the park boundaries by [preserving the lakeshore, its tributaries, and rich upland forest and meadows](#) flanking its shores.

**Goal 2.0. Recreational Facilities** – Provide a haven for day-use and overnight recreational activities by [affording access to the land and water while protecting resources from damage](#) associated with overuse.

**Goal 3.0. Public Engagement** – Administer the park in professional manner that enhances [public participation, transparency, and accountability](#) to foster trust and give visitors and the Lake Anna community a [stake in decisions concerning the park](#).

**Goal 4.0. Community Partnerships** – [Collaborate with community partners](#) to market the state park as a [regional destination](#), address issues and concerns associated with park usage, and provide local volunteer opportunities.

# Master Plan Goals

**Goal 5.0. Educational and Interpretive Programs** – Increase public awareness of the park by providing meaningful opportunities to learn about its unique history and by highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship through development of hands-on educational opportunities and immersive interpretive exhibits.

**Goal 6.0: Visitor Satisfaction** – Optimize operations and visitor services to ensure a welcoming environment by providing ample spaces for the safe enjoyment of the lakeshore and its environs while protecting against the effects of overcrowding.

**Goal 7.0. Staffing, Funding, and Equipment** – Provide sufficient staffing and facilities to fulfill the purpose of the Lake Anna Master Plan and meet visitors' needs while striving for positive economic impacts to the Commonwealth and community, respectively.

# Phased Development Plan & Master Plan Map

# Proposed Amenities & Facilities

## New

- Visitor Center w/Offices & Parking
- Beach Comfort Station w>Showers
- Beach Picnic Shelters
- Campground Loop
- Cabin/Lodge Loop
- Group Campgrounds
- Contact Station (Relocated)
- Equestrian Trailhead, Parking, & Connections
- Railroad Bed Multi-Use Trail
- Western Hiking, Equestrian, & Mountain Biking Trails
- Discovery Playgrounds
- Ware Field Conference Center & Road
- Road Access to Gold Mine
- Ranger Residence (LE)
- Central Storage Area

## Renovate/Upgrade (Existing)

- Relocated Boat Ramp
- Beach Expansion
- Beach Area Picnic Pads
- Visitor Center for Community Center
- Upgrade Standard Campsites to W/E
- Upgrade Yurts to Electric
- Trail Bridges
- Trailhead Parking
- Boat Docks at Cabin/Lodges
- Extend Fishing Pier
- Canoe/Kayak Rentals
- Maintenance Staff Office Space
- Ranger Residence (LE) (Volunteer Housing)





# Phased Development Plan

## Phase 1

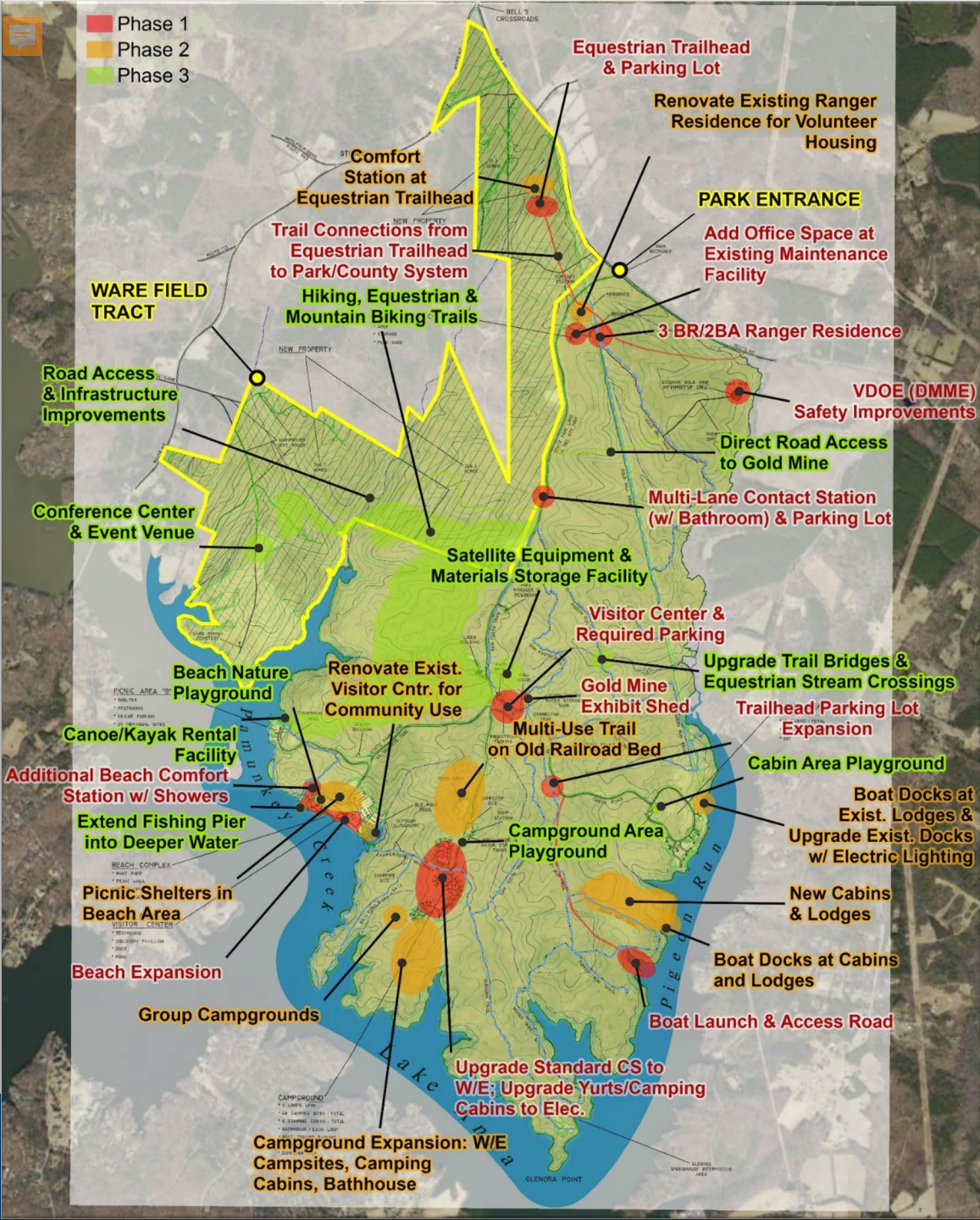
- New Visitor Center w/Offices & Parking
- Equestrian Trailhead & Connections
- Relocate Boat Ramp
- Beach Expansion & Comfort Station
- Upgrade Standard Campsites to W/E & Yurts to Electric
- Trailhead Parking
- Contact Station w/Parking & Restrooms
- Gold Mine Safety Improvements
- Ranger Residence (LE)
- Maintenance Office Space

## Phase 2

- Campground Expansion
- Cabin/Lodge Expansion
- Group Campgrounds
- Boat Docks at Existing Cabin/Lodges
- Boat Docks for New Cabins/Lodges
- Picnic Shelters at Beach
- Railroad Bed Multi-Use Trail
- Equestrian Trailhead Comfort Station
- Renovate Ranger Residence (LE)
- Renovate Existing Visitor Center for Community Use

## Phase 3

- Ware Field Conference Center & Access Road
- Western Hiking, Equestrian, & Mountain Biking Trails
- Discovery Playgrounds
- Road Access to Gold Mine
- Trail Bridges
- Canoe/Kayak Rentals
- Extend Fishing Pier
- Central Storage Area



# Master Plan Map

- Shows the proposed locations of developments by phase
- The most immediate and highest priority needs assigned to Phases 1 and 2
- **Phase 1:** Establishes New Visitor Center, Boat Ramp Relocation, Beach Expansion, New Contact Station, and New Equestrian Trailhead
- **Phase 2:** Focuses on expansion of overnight facilities as well as additional amenities at the beach area
- **Phase 3:** Proposes new amenities to properties acquired since 2001



# Staffing Needs

# Existing Staff Positions

## 9 Current FTE Positions (plus Wage & Seasonal Staff):

- Park Manager
- Assistant Park Manager
- Chief Ranger – Law Enforcement
- Chief Ranger – Visitor Experience
- Office Manager
- Park Ranger – Maintenance (x2)
- Park Ranger – Law Enforcement
- Park Ranger – Custodial



# Staffing Needs

## Immediate

- Facilities & Maintenance Manager
- Education Specialist
- Park Ranger – Maintenance
- Park Ranger – Resource Management
- Park Ranger – Custodial

## Phase 1

- Office Assistant

## Phase 2

- Park Ranger – Maintenance
- Park Ranger – Law Enforcement
- Park Ranger – Custodial

## Phase 3

- Assistant Park Manager – Conference & Events Manager



# Next Steps



# Timeline

- **Tonight:** Public Comment Meeting followed by a 30-day comment period
- **Spring 2025:** Presentation to the Board of Conservation and Recreation (BCR) and additional opportunity for public input
- Following public comment and approval from BCR, Master Plan will be made available to the General Assembly for a 30-day review
- **Spring/Summer 2025:** Final adoption by the DCR Director
- Expected buildout is 30 years

# Thank you for attending!

Please submit any additional comments to  
[PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov)  
by **November 17th, 2024**

## Questions?

Please contact Josh Bateman,  
Environmental Program Planner at the  
email noted above!

All emails and questions will be taken under  
consideration and responses provided



Visit us on the web for project updates and  
presentation materials!

[https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-  
planning/la-masterplan](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/la-masterplan)