



## **Carvers Creek State Park Master Plan Overview**

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation is in the process of developing the master plan for Carvers Creek State Park in Cumberland County. For any state park, careful planning is crucial to balancing recreational demands with our mission to protect the state's valuable natural resources. In essence, the master plan is a blueprint for long-term development of facilities and recreation opportunities and for protection of those natural resources. It is meant to be an organic document that evolves as the park grows and as knowledge is gained about a park's natural resources and public use. Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture of Raleigh is the design consultant in this master planning process.

A strong partner in the creation of this new state park has been The Nature Conservancy, which has donated the 1,420-acre Long Valley Farm, the former estate of James Stillman Rockefeller. The conservancy continues to identify and assist with potential land acquisitions. To date, the park encompasses 4,076 acres.

The development of a long-range plan presents unique challenges at any state park. The Carvers Creek plan will explore ways to protect important longleaf pine ecosystems while developing traditional state park amenities, and ways in which noncontiguous park properties can complement each other and contribute to the park's mission. It's important that the new state park develop its own identity and that with future growth, will fit comfortably in and be a welcome addition to the community at the region.

Public involvement in this process is important. Creating a truly great state park requires a partnership of state government and its citizens. You are invited to visit the state parks system's website to review the draft master plan (from [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov), navigate to the Carvers Creek State Park page). The draft master plan was based upon public comments received during the September 2010 public review of the three design concepts. We invite you to review the draft master plan and give us your comments.

Written comments may be submitted through June 22, 2011 via email at [max.rogers@ncdenr.gov](mailto:max.rogers@ncdenr.gov) or mailed to: State Parks Planner, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615.



# **North Carolina State Parks System Master Planning Process**

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### ***What goes into a master plan and why is it important?***

The creator of a state park master plan must consider what land is available and factors such as ecologically sensitive areas, buffers, natural features that draw visitors and necessary infrastructure such as roads, utilities, entrances and maintenance areas. A master plan determines what types of recreation will be encouraged and where visitor amenities will be located. All this must be balanced against the mission of protecting natural resources. For the most part, the state parks system manages land that has had little or no prior development, and creating a park involves making decisions that are not easily reversed. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation strives to incorporate sustainable design principles in its park development.

### ***Will the public have a chance to participate?***

The public in general, as well as the park's neighbors, local governments and other agencies are encouraged to participate. Landowners surrounding the park are specifically invited and some are contacted individually. A public meeting is always scheduled for people to view conceptual plans and talk to designers, and written public comment is welcome. Public review of the conceptual plans occurred in Sept. 2010. The draft master plan is now available for public review.

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### ***If the master plan calls for new facilities, when and how will they be built?***

Any proposed capital project in the state parks system is individually scored and assigned priority along with all others throughout the state as part of the division's Project Evaluation Program. The priorities are continuously evaluated. This would be the case for any new infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.), facilities or trails at Carvers Creek State Park. The time frame for building new facilities will depend on how each new project is evaluated in relation to others in the state.

Funding for park development comes from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, created in 1994 and supported by a portion of the state's tax on real estate deed transfers. The Parks and Recreation Authority, an appointed body, allocates money for capital projects after considering recommendations from the state parks system staff.

***Will additional property be needed to complete the master plan?***

The draft master plan includes options dependent on additional property. And, every state park master plan identifies parcels that are desirable acquisitions. In most cases, the parcels are contiguous to park boundaries and their acquisition would help protect the park's natural resources, aid in park operations and/or provide needed room to develop facilities and provide buffers.

***If additional property is acquired, how will that be done?***

The state parks system works with willing sellers and coordinates with the State Property Office for independent appraisals and negotiations. Each transaction with a landowner is unique, and on a case-by-case basis the desirability of the property, its intended use and the situation of the landowner are evaluated. Any funding for land acquisition most likely would come from the Parks and Recreation, Natural Heritage or Clean Water Management trust funds or from a combination of those funding sources.

***What are the next steps in the master plan?***

After the conclusion of the public comment period on the park design concepts (which ends on September 27, 2010) we incorporated public comments and staff input into a composite park design. This composite park design was refined by staff in early 2011 to develop a draft master plan.

The draft master plan will be posted online at [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov) for additional public comment. These public comments will be received and considered in the final master plan.

The final master plan is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011.

***N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation Mission Statement***

*The North Carolina state parks system exists for the enjoyment, education, health and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors. The mission of the state parks system is to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features and recreational resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and, to provide environmental education opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage.*