



Virginia State Parks-2019 Legislative Session Budget Decision Package for FY 2020

This budget package represents **Phase I** of Vision 2026, a **Mission Critical** effort to address staffing and operational needs of the Virginia State Park System, a system that has been creating memories since 1936.

“Grab an Oar” and help us row forward to ensure the future of Virginia State Parks!

- ✗ Over the last 10 years, Virginia State Parks have experienced an 18 percent increase in overall attendance and an increase in overnight visitation of 4.6 percent. It is critical to properly fund the operational and staffing needs to meet user demand and protect Virginia's investment in the state park system.
- ✗ The last major rebenchmarking effort for mission critical operations and staffing for existing state parks occurred in 2004. That effort was never fully completed.
- ✗ Since 2004, nine state park sites have been added. There are now 38 operational state parks with four under development and scheduled for opening by 2020. Two more are acquired and await development monies. Parks operate year-around with 365/24/7 operations and staffing needs.
- ✗ A series of bond-supported and other capital improvements has expanded the number of facilities and programs. Funding for additional staffing and operations, however, has not kept pace.
- ✗ State parks contribute over \$239 million in economic impact to the Commonwealth and provide \$13.08 in new money to the state economy in return for every \$1 of General Fund Support. More than 3,598 private and public sector jobs are supported by state parks in Virginia.
- ✗ In addition to playing a major role in the economy of the Virginia, state parks provide fun and memorable outdoor recreational experiences that promote and directly relate to mental and physical health of citizens, outdoor classrooms for education, attractiveness for industrial recruitment and a respite from today’s societal pressures.

Budget Amendment Requests-FY 2020 (Listed in Priority Order Phase I of Vision 2026)

✗ State Park Field Staffing - 63 Full-time Positions (incl. benefits and support)	\$3,485,372
✗ State Park Operations - Unmet and Unfunded Annual Needs	\$2,780,000
✗ Equipment and Vehicle Replacement -	\$720,000
✗ Inclusion of DCR Conservation Officers into VaLORS	\$427,000
✗ Ops and Staffing for Parks Under Development	Year 1 \$1,606,101 Year 2 \$1,146,902
○ Natural Bridge State Park (Rockbridge County)	
○ Clinch River State Park (Tazewell, Russell and Scott Counties)	
○ Middle Peninsula State Park (Gloucester County)	
○ Sweet Run State Park (Loudoun County)	
✗ Daniel Boone Interpretive Center Operations and Staffing	Year 1 \$209,352 Year 2 \$159,252
✗ Youth Conservation Corps in All Parks (incl. 1 FTE)	\$623,000
✗ Public Highway Sign Project	\$350,000
✗ Mayo River State Park Operations and Staffing (Henry County) (FY 21)	\$325,694
✗ Maintenance Reserve Needs for Major Deferred Maintenance	\$65,000,000
✗ Capital Improvement Request - Statewide	\$161,400,000