LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

CENTRAL PIEDMONT STATE PARK



REPORT TO THE 1981 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING RALEIGH 27611



January 14, 1981

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 1981 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Legislative Research Commission herewith reports to the 1981 General Assembly on the matter of the need for a park in the Central Piedmont Region of North Carolina. The report is made pursuant to Resolution 73 of the 1979 General Assembly.

This report was prepared by the Legislative Research Commission's Committee to Study the Need for a Park in the Central Piedmont Region of North Carolina and is transmitted by the Legislative Research Commission for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl J. Stewart, Jr.

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Cochairmen Legislative Research Commission

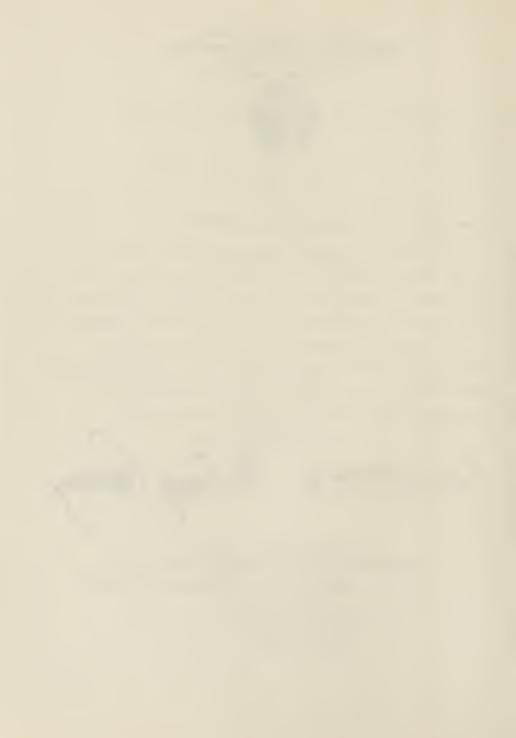


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INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Central Piedmont Park Studies was created by the 1979 General Assembly by virtue of its enabling legislation, Resolution 73, (See Appendix A). This Resolution cited the creation of the North Carolina State Parks Study Commission by the 1977 Session of the General Assembly to report on parks and recreation in the State and this Commission's later recognition of the Central Piedmont area as deserving special attention. The Resolution further authorized the Legislative Research Commission (See Appendix B) to study the need for a Central Piedmont State Park.

The Legislative Research Commission, authorized by Article 6B of Chapter 120 of the North Carolina General Statutes (G.S.), is a general-purpose legislative study group. Among the Commission's duties is that of making or causing to be made, upon direction of the General Assembly or of either of its houses,

such studies of and investigations into governmental agencies and institutions and matters of public policy as will aid the General Assembly in performing its duties in the most efficient and effective manner (G.S. 120-30.17(1).

To facilitate the Commission's study of the need for a central piedmont State park, the co-chairmen of the Legislative Research Commission, under the authority of G.S. 120-30.10 (b) and (c), appointed a Committee on Central Piedmont Park Studies consisting of six members of the General Assembly and one public member (See Appendix C).

Senator Melvin R. Daniels, Jr. was appointed to serve as Legislative Research Commission member in charge of this study while Representative Robie L. Nash and Senator James D. Speed were appointed co-chairmen of the Committee. The balance of Committee membership from the General Assembly included Senators Rowe Motley,* Robert Monroe Davis, Jr., Ralph H. Scott, Representative Harold G. Brubaker, and John W. Varner; while Mr. Eddie Smith served on the Committee as a public member.

*Senator Motley replaced the original appointee, deceased Senator Fred D. Alexander.

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Committee has pursued the charge set out in Resolution 73, of the 1979 Session to study the need for parks and recreational areas in eight counties of the central piedmont area (Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Randolph and Cabarrus) during its six meetings.

During the Committee's organizational meeting, held November 13, 1979, the Committee was presented with a discussion of the recreational facilities, small watershed projects and an open space plan for the central piedmont, a State land acquisition plan and a discussion of funds available for land acquisition in North Carolina. At that time the Committee heard the following witnesses:

1. Mr. Alan Eakes, Chief of Design and Development for the Division of Parks and Recreation (Natural Resources and Community Development /NRCD/; reviewed a description of all recreational facilities of one hundred acres or more, maintained either privately or publicly by all levels of government within the eight county regions, as well as those facilities within a fifty-mile radius of these counties (See Appendices D and E).

2. Mr. Fred Hagenberger, Assistant Chief of Design and Development for NRCD, described the Randleman Lake project.

3. Mr. Bob Buckner, Chief of Planning and Special Studies for the Division of Parks and Recreation (NRCD), described the Soil Conservation Service's small watershed projects while listing the type and status of each project (See Appendix F).

4. Mr. Alan Eakes discussed the open space plans, prepared by the Council of Governments, which include at least one of the counties in the central piedmont.

5. Mr. James S. Stevens, Jr., Director, Division of Parks and Recreation (NRCD), addressed the Committee regarding the five year land acquisition plan developed by the State Parks System for the entire State (See <u>New Directions, A Plan for North</u> <u>Carolina State Parks and Recreation System, 1979-1984</u>, published by the State Parks Study Commission which was established by the 1977 General Assembly).

6. Mr. Fred Aiken, Research Assistant for the General Assembly, discussed the distribution of recreation areas for the eight county Central Piedmont Area.

7. Mr. Jim Newlin, Fiscal Analyst for the General Assembly, apprised the Committee of the status of land acquisition funds.

The December 11, 1979 meeting focused on a response to specific questions raised orally, or in writing, by Committee members. These questions and responses were primarily concerned with information regarding the "Randleman Lake Project" and the "High Rock Lake Property," The witnesses appeared as listed below:

1. Mr. Jim Newlin responded to Committee members' questions regarding the development of the Randleman Lake Facility, the development of water projects in the eight county region, participation of local government in water project development, and which governmental body or bodies will assume the costs of water supply and recreational facilities.

 Sandra P. Babb, Director of Bureau of the Outdoor Recreation Grants Office, discussed the Land and Water Conservation Fund in North Carolina.

3. Mr. John Morris, Director for the Office of Water Resources, responded to Committee member's questions concerning the assignment of water supply costs to local governments, including an overview of non-federal costs (See Appendix G for statistics on Federal Reservoir Projects in North Carolina).

4. Mr. Alan Eakes explained the negotiations that had transpired between the State and Mr. Daniel regarding his family's property in Davidson County and the State's appraisal of this property.

5. Mr. John Layden, Recreation Planner for NRCD, discussed the projected recreational needs of the central piedmont (See Appendix H).

The third meeting, held January 15, 1980, was highlighted by a presentation made by the Davidson County Board of Commissioners of a proposed site for a State park on High Rock Lake (Daniel property - See Appendix I). A comparison of recreation benefits from the Randleman Reservoir and High Rock Lake was also presented, as well as a description of the appraisal procedure as it relates to the purchase of park and recreation land. Recognized in order of appearance were:

 Mr. Doug Flick, County Manager for Davidson County, narrated a slide presentation on 2,000 acres of property known as the "Daniel Property" located on High Rock Lake in Davidson County.

2. Mr. Jim Newlin offered cost comparisons of the Randleman Reservoir recreation benefits and the potential High Rock Lake State Park recreation benefits.

3. Mr. Alan Eakes discussed the appraisal procedure followed by the State while investigating the purchase of park and recreation land, as well as explaining the topography and land ownership of the region around the "Daniel Property" in Davidson County.

The Committee proceeded to an on-site tour of the proposed High Rock Lake Park site (Daniel property) during its May 15, 1980 meeting. This tour followed a presentation of the Cabarrus County master recreation plan. Appearing before the Committee were two persons discussing the items as listed:

 Mr. William "Bud" Cowan, Director of the Cabarrus County Parks and Recreation Department Staff, presented a summary report on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Cabarrus County.

2. Mr. Doug Flick reviewed the planned tour agenda for the inspection of the proposed High Rock Lake Site ("Daniel Property").

During its June 10, 1980 meeting, the Committee received a report on the status of contracts with the Corps of Engineers concerning the Randleman Lake Project as well as a review of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development's report on the recreational needs of the Central Piedmont area. These presentations were as follows:

 Mr. Jim Newlin gave a report on the status of contracts with the Corps of Engineers concerning the Randleman Lake Project.

2. Mr. Sammy Thomasson reviewed the Committee's review of the eight county region, as presented by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The Committee assembled for a fifth meeting on August 20, 1980 to receive comments from members of the Triad Park Commission and representatives of the Sandy Ridge-Colfax Community concerning a piedmont park site preference. Also, representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and the Department of Administration responded to the Committee's questions regarding development costs of the High Rock Lake Site and an overview of the Department's statewide plan of park development.

 Nr. Carson Baine, Chairman of the Triad Park Commission, explained that the Commission envisioned a type of amusement park similar to Carowinds or Disneyland, owned by the State but self-amortizing, to serve the Triad area.

2. Mr. Roger P. Swisher, Mayor of Kernersville and Triad Park Commission member, urged that the State develop parks in populated areas and that it act soon due to escalating land prices.

3. Mr. Bert Hall, Triad Park Commission member, endorsed the idea of an industrial park and discussed the availability and prices of land in the Triad area.

4. Mr. J. G. McGeorge and Mr. Nelson H. Leonard, representatives from the Sandy Ridge-Colfax Community of Guilford County presented a petition protesting a park in their community.

5. Mr. Samuel G. Thomasson reported on the additional land required to complement the Daniel tract to develop a park and made suggestions as to alternative development needs in the State.

6. Mr. J. K. Sherron, Director of the State Property Office of the Department of Administration, estimated the time required for and cost of an update of the 1977 State appraisal of the Daniel tract on the High Rock Lake Site.

The Committee met to complete its work on October 15, 1980. It had requested from the State Property Office an update of the 1977 land appraisal made of the "Daniel" property (on High Rock Lake in Davidson County), a new, independent appraisal of the property, and that "estimates" be made of the market value of tracts adjoining the Daniel property which the Parks and Recreation Division had said would be necessary in the development of the park.

Mr. Joe Henderson, State Property Officer, presented the new appraisal which was prepared by McCracken and Associates of Greensboro and the State Property Office's in-house update of the 1977 land appraisal. The "estimated" values of adjoining tracts, which the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development had identified as necessary for full development of this potential park, were made available to the Committee.

The State Property Office had also been requested to obtain an "asking price" for the Daniel's tract on High Rock Lake from the Daniel family. Mr. Henderson reported that his office had made the request but that no asking price was provided by the family.

FINDINGS

The Legislative Research Commission's Central Piedmont Park Study Committee, after consideration of the presentations made before it and evaluating existing park and recreational facilities, makes the following findings:

 Beginning in 1974, the State has developed State park and recreation areas closer to the citizens of this state so that over
 percent of North Carolina's population is now within 50 miles
 of a state park, recreation area, or natural area.

(2) The Five Year Plan (1979-1984) developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development recognizes that the Department's major emphasis is on making the parks and recreation system more usable for the public.

(3) The present and projected needs of the eight county, central piedmont region are not presently met and are growing.

(4) Following its consideration of a number of sites, a site which is referred to as the "Daniel Property" on High Rock Lake in Davidson County appears geographically unique and scenic while being readily accessible to more than one and a half million citizens who live within a one-hour driving distance.

(5) Despite an authorized request made by the State Property Office of the Department of Administration, no definite selling price for the Daniel Property was made available to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that further determinations concerning the acquisition of a park in the Central Piedmont region, specifically the High Rock Lake area, be made by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development in coordination with its statewide park acquisition plan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 1979 RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 73

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 923

A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY THE NEED FOR A CENTRAL PIEDMONT STATE PARK.

Whereas, the 1977 Session of the General Assembly created the North Carolina State Parks Study Commission to report on parks and recreation of the State; and

Whereas, that commission recognized that the Central Piedmont area deserves special attention; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives,

the Senate concurring:

Section [. Central Piedmont area defined. For purposes of this resolution, the Central Piedmont area consists of the following counties: Alamance, Guilford, Parsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Bandolph, and Cabarrus.

Sec. 2. The Legislative Research Corrission may study:

(1) the possibilities for parks and recreational areas with the perspective that lands may be purchased and maintained either by the State of North Carolina for State Parks or by local governments for county or municipal parks and recreation areas, according to their rules and regulations;

(2) the possibilities, with the cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, of any available matching funds to purchase any areas the commission may recommend.

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Sec. 3. This resolution shall become effective on July 1, 1979.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 8th day of June, 1979.

JAMES C. GREEN

James C. Green

President of the Senate

CARL J. STEWART, JR.

Carl J. Stewart, Jr.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

APPENDIX B

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1979-1981

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Senator Carolyn Mathis Post Office Box 30035 Charlotte, North Carolina 28230 Phone: (704) 542-1460 Senator R. C. Soles, Jr. Post Office Box 6 Tabor City, North Carolina Phone: 653-2015 Senator Charles Vickery 139 E. Rosemary St. Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 Phone: 942-8523

APPFIDIX C

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Senator Ralph H. Scott P. O. Box 909 Burlington, North Carolina 27215 Phone: 919 226-6392 (Business) 919 578-2616 (Home)

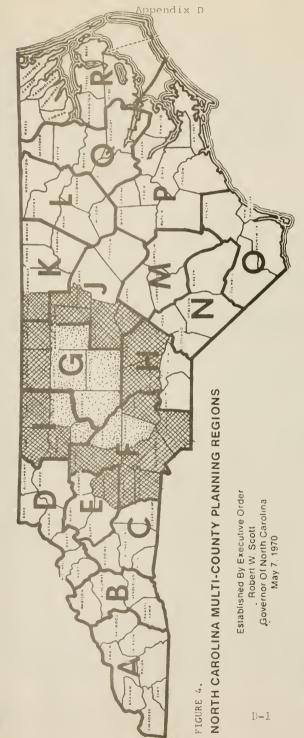
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Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr. 604 E. Main Street, Box 346 Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27909 Phone: 919 338-2141 (Business)

919 338-6939 (Home)





COUNTIES WITHIN THE CENTRAL PIEDMONT STATE PARK STUDY AREA.



COUNTIES WITHIN A 50 MILE RADIUS OF THE MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS IN THE STUDY AREA.



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION 1977-77 2 OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS INVENTORY®

SITE OPERATOR	Burlington Recreation Dept. Burlington Recreation Cept. Alamance Co. Rec/Parks Dept.	Board of Light & Water Comm. Board of Light & Water Comm. Wildlife Resources Commission Dept. of Cultural Resources	Parks & Recreation Dept. U. S. Forest Service State Parks	Wildlife Resources Commission	City Recreation Defartment City Recreation	Parks , Recreation Department Farks , Recreation Department Farks , Recreation Department Public Works Department Recreation Depart at Recreation Depart at Performent Park at
MAJOR ACTIVITY	Boat Access Golf Green <i>P</i> ee	Hunting Hist. Interpret.	Runting	Hunting	Swim-Child Fishing Swim-Child	Golf Gcen Fee Gceen Fee Athletics Athletics Caff Galf Galf Hunting
ACRES	102.5 1.0 276.0 350.0 723.5	100.0 75.0 785.0 750.0 1,710.0	127.5 959.0 110.0 1,196.5	2,588.0 2,588.0	1,280.0 1,280.0 492.0 1,956.7	270.0 152.9 152.9 152.9 265.0 176.1 176.1 277.1 8.344.0 8.3444.0 9.715.0
TOTAL ACRES	902.5 481.0 275.0 413.5 2,072.0	377.0 342.0 785.0 750.0 2,254.0	130.0 959.0 110.0 1,199.0	2,588.0 2,588.0	184.7 1,645.0 492.0 2, ³ 21.7	300.00 152.9 152.9 152.9 160.0 107.0 107.0 1.6 7,350.0 7,450.0 7,450.0 8,364.0 8,364.0 9,735.0
1977-74 ° OOTDOOR RELEATION AREAS INVERTORE TOTAL ACRES	Park and Marina City Lake Fishing Access Indian Valley Park & Golf Course Cedarock Park	Lake Fisher Lake Concord River View Acres Game Land Reed Gold Mine	Finch Park Uwharrie Matıcnal Forest Daniel Boone Menorial Park	Cooleemee Plantation Game Lands	Reynolds Park Salem Lake Winstor Lake Park	Bryan Park Blair Park Nunicipal Golf Course Blair Park Nunicipal Golf Course Lake Townend Greenbord Country Park drand Stone Park findley Park Gulfori Countouse Mat. Will fark Gulfori Countouse Mat. Will fark Gulfori Country Farm Game Land Uwharrie National Forest W. C. Zoological Park
SITE NO.	A {0013 B 0014 B 0218 C 2602	P 1227 E 1238 F 3518 & N.A.	City H 1286 FederalII 2252 State U 2461	K 3519	L 0171 M 0172 N 0181	City 0 0038 City 7 1081 City 7 1081 City 7 1119 City 7 215 Sile X 252 Sile X 2537 Sile X 2537 Sile X 2537 Sile X 2537
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SUB-CLASS	nce County-wide Park County-wide Park *SDA Low County-wide Park COUNTY TOTAL	rus *SORA Low *SORA Low *III SORA Low Hist/Cultural Area COUNTY TOTAL	son City-wide Park • 111 SORA Low Unique Watural Area COUNTY TOTAL	*III SORA LOW COUNTY TOTAL	th County-wide Park County-wide Park County-wide Park County-Wide Park	<pre>std County-wide Park >SDR Low *County-wide Park County-wide Park Conty-wide Park County-wide Park County-wide Park County Park *Til Bank Low *SOR Low *</pre>
COUNTY	Alamance COUNT	Cabarrus Count	Davidson CothT	Davie COUNT:	Forsyth County	Guilford Count Randolph Count

*Public Recreation and Park Area 100 acres or larger operated by Federal, State or Local government.
•SORA Low - Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas - Low Intensi*y Use
•III SORA Low - Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas - Federal Class III Low Intensity Use

Appendix r Soil Contervation Service Small Watershel Projects in the Contral Picdmont Study Area

There are eleven (11) Small Watershed Projects in the 8-county Central Piedmont study area. None have been completed. Six of these projects have been terminated. Of the remaining five projects, two are authorized for construction, one is authorized for planning, and two have had applications approved.

Watershed	Map No.	Application Approved	Planning Authorized	Construction Authorized
Abbotts Creek	1	TERMIN	ATED	
Town Fork Creek	5	6/8/55	10/8/58	6/30/60
Stony Creek	14	TERMIN	λΤΕΟ	
Turner Creek	30	TERMIN	ΛΤΕΟ	
Fourth Creek	38	TERMIN	ΑΤΕΟ	
Dutchman Creek	47	1/3/61	8/27/62	8/22/66
Second Creek	49	TERMIN	ATED	
Coddle-Coldwater Dutch Buffalo				
Creeks	72	3/8/65	2/21/66	
S. Yadkin River	84	10/28/66		
Muddy Creek of Yadkin River	94	6/27/72		
Tri-Creek	95	4/27/73	6/26/75	Planning suspended 6/13/79
Three of Athe remainin	g five proj	ects that have	recreation po	tential and that
appear to be most	viable are	:		
Project No.	W.	ater Area	Land Area	Total
72		90 acres	100 acres	190 acres
95		55 acres	75 acres	130 acres
94 Planni	ng just sta	rted. No site	s identified.	

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FEDERAL RESERVOIR PROJECTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Torri ' To Warer S. rface	Sevaracio Recrestion		Non-federal Ar Water Supply - Water Supply - Rep	Annual Repayment	kon-federal Recreation	Annual Reray ent
Be Actuation Received			Cust Ove	G.er 50 Yrs.	Cort	J.er 50 Yr
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45 EastmtlFlood Control Pok. 4,400	TOL PO1. 4,400 -		\$33,400,000		\$5,850,000	

NRCD - Office of Water Resources Updated by the Corps of Engineers in December 1975 Land requirements and costs subject to change

Appendix G

Projected Recreation Needs for the Central Piedmont Park Study Committee

The Division of Parks and Recreation was requested to respond to several questions developed by the Study Committee. This is our reply to question #6, "What are the projected recreational needs of the eight county Central Piedmont area?" In a meeting with Ann Christian, and others, it was agreed that our response would be limited to three categories of outdoor recreation sites and that we would show comparable data for multi-county planning Regions F, H, G, and J.

Categories of Outdoor Recreation Areas

 District Parks. Intensively developed parks located in rural settings and designed to provide a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities to rural residents.

 County Parks. Extensively developed parks that are designed to serve the residents of several municipalities or a large rural area.

 State Parks. Outdoor recreation areas with emphasis on providing a quality natural environment within a one-hour of regional population centers.

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Planning Methods

The Division of Parks and Recreation have developed planning standards for each category of recreation areas.

District Park	2.5 acres per 1000 population
	(Rural or non-urban population only)
County Park	10 acres per 1000 total population
State Park	15 acres per 1000 total population

Applying these standards to population data provides the Gross Need for recreation areas.

The Division also maintains an inventory of recreation areas in the state which provides a figure, in acres, of Present Supply.

The difference between the Gross Needs and Present Supply is the Net Need-Unmet Recreation Needs. The attached tables show the Net Needs for the three categories of recreation area for the eight county Central Piedmont area and, for comparison purposes, Multi-County Planning Regions F, H, G, and J.

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Recreation Needs 1978 and 1990

(Acres)

- 3-

1978	Central Piedmont	Region F	Region H	Region J	Region G
District Parks	902	566	186	476	1,201
County Parks	3,413	7,21.7	964	3,991	3,411
State Parks	15,047	6,841	1,908	2,425	7,386
1990					
District Parks	1,214	762	250	641	1,617
County Parks	4,459	9,434	1,260	5,217	4,854
State Parks	19,766	8,986	2,506	3,186	9,704

Appendix I

PROPOSED SITE

North Carolina State Park Central Piedmont Area

Many people in the Piedmont believe the 2,000 acre Daniel property lining the shores of Flat Swamp Creek is among the most beautiful property on the waters of High Rock Lake.

In August of 1978, the Davidson County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution urging the state to purchase the Daniel property as a site for a new state park. The resolution was reaffirmed by the board of commissioners in January of 1980.

This property has many unique characteristics which make it ideal for a state park. One of the noteable features is that the entire 2,000 acres is in a single ownership which does not contain any farms or housing developments, in short, dealing with one individual and not displacing families from their homes.

Other characteristics are that of High Rock Mountain, the highest point in Davidson County, which is located within this tract of land. The property contains approximately three miles of lake and river frontage and over thirty miles of established trails, picnic areas and the serene enjoyment of our natural heritage.

The Daniel property is readily accessible to more than one and a half million citizens who live within a one-hour driving distance. In fact, thousands of citizens from surrounding counties, maintain second homes on beautiful High Rock Lake which borders

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this scenic property.

Located within less than an hour's drive of the Daniel property are counties encompassing the major population centers of North Carolina. Acess to the Daniel property is facilitated by our state's excellent system of highways. From Charlotte, two routes are available, via NC 49 or I-85 to NC 8. Citizens in Winston-Salem have access on US 52/NC 8 to the Daniel property. Greensboro and High Point residents can follow I-85 to NC 8. In addition to those major cities in Piedmont North Carolina, citizens throughout the Piedmont have excellent roads affording easy access to the Daniel property. Some other areas which will be served by this park are Rowan County (Salisbury & Kannapolis), Cabarrus County (Concord), Stanly County (Albemarle), Randolph County (Asheboro), Iredell County (Statesville), Union County (Monroe), Anson County (Wadesboro), Montgomery County (Troy), Davie County (Mocksville), Yadkin County (Yadkinsille), Richmond County, Moore County and, of course, Davidson County (Lexington and Thomasville).

For most of those citizens, there are no major recreational facilities within a reasonable distance which offers the wide variety of possible outdoor activity which is available on the Daniel property.

Another important factor is that of land itself. Currently, the land under a single ownership is in a natural state protecting the water shed in this area of the Piedmont as well as helping preserve our natural heritage. However, the owners of the property

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do have plans to develop this scenic property. Once this is done, ownership will be among many people, trees will be felled and the area will no longer be accessible for a quiet walk through the woods, fishing, camping or for family outings.

We urge you to purchase this piece of property for the citizens of Piedmont North Carolina.

FACTS CONCERNING DANIEL PROPERTY (PROPOSED STATE PARK)

- Property is located in southern Davidson County on Flat Swamp Branch of High Rock Lake.
- Daniel property consists of approximately 2000 acres in single ownership.
- Property includes High Rock Mountain; highest point in Davidson County at approximately 1160 feet.
- Daniel property contains approximately 3 miles of lake and river frontage.
- Daniel property has over 30 miles of established trails on this mountain range.
- More than 1,500,000 citizens in the Piedmont area are less than an hour's drive from the Daniel property.
- Property is ideal for passive outdoor recreational uses such as camping, hiking and fishing.
- Purchase and development by the State will preserve one of the most beautiful natural features in North Carolina and help maintain adequate open space in the rapidly urbanizing Piedmont, North Carolina.
- Thousands of citizens from surrounding counties maintain second homes on High Rock Lake.



