

REPORT OF THE STATE PARKS STUDY COMMISSION



**REPORT TO THE
1985 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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February, 1985


TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 1985 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The State Parks Study Commission by this document reports to the 1985 General Assembly under the authority of Chapter 1112 of the 1983 Session Laws (House Bill 738).

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Henson P. Barnes



Representative Naivel J. Crawford

Cochairmen
State Parks Study Commission

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

INTRODUCTION

It has been sixty-nine years since Governor Locke Craig shuddered at the sight of loggers near Black Mountain obliterating a beautiful mountain top. His reaction led to the State's purchase of Mount Mitchell a few months later and the beginning of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation System.

The numbers associated with the State Parks and Recreation areas of today would stagger the imagination of Governor Craig--5.7 million visitors annually to land and facilities conservatively valued at \$350 million.

Forty-one areas covering 119,000 acres of land and water are managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. These forty-one areas include twenty-eight parks, eight natural areas, one scenic river, three recreation areas, and one state lake.

In 1984, Chapter 1112 of the 1983 Session Laws (House Bill 738) created the State Parks Study Commission and authorized it to study with highest priorities: the need for funds for land acquisition and development of new and existing facilities; the need for additional personnel and for better salary levels for parks personnel. In addition, the Commission could study efforts to increase public awareness, financing alternatives, use of volunteers, support for natural heritage, rivers and trails, public access programs, and any other issues pertinent to the future of our State Parks and Recreation System.

There are fewer better pursuits of government than to preserve our natural heritage. Although North Carolina has the most extensive local park and recreation system in the United States, in 1983 North Carolina ranked forty-ninth in per capita expenditures for State Parks and Recreation Areas.

North Carolinians have always loved their land. The task of protecting our natural showcase is finite and immediate. This report will document that the time is now or never for ourselves, our children and their children.

L E G I S L A T I V E B A C K G R O U N D

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The first legislatively-mandated study of State Parks in North Carolina was conducted in 1968 by the State Parks and State Forests Study Commission. The major emphasis was to identify and locate the parks. The Commission recommended the following program:

1. Enlarge the Park System to accommodate an additional 2.1 million visitors per year by adding at least 15 new areas;
2. Locate a park within an hour's access of every citizen in the State;
3. Upgrade existing facilities;
4. Expand staff for site planning and development;
5. Insure access to public waters; and
6. Provide for equitable location of parks.

The Commission endorsed a land standard of 20 acres per 1,000 of population and acquisition of 58,675 acres by 1980. (A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Library.)

In 1977, legislation was passed creating a State Parks Study Commission to prepare a report on the needs of parks and recreation in North Carolina. The major emphasis was to make the park system more usable for citizens. A five-year plan was developed, and it recommended the following:

1. Expand existing parks and recreation areas by over 20,000 acres;
 2. Complete 156 capital improvement projects at 31 sites;
 3. Increase staffing by 88% (48 permanent and 42 seasonal employees);
 4. Identify and establish a system of protected natural areas;
 5. Establish a Mountains-to-Sea Trail;
 6. Increase revenue by rental fees from cabins and marinas; and
 7. Expand services to local park and recreation efforts.
- (A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Library.)

The State appropriations history of parks and recreation has been spotty. During the period 1915-1946, the State spent a total of \$57,845 for land acquisition and \$47,655 for development. Historically, 84% of the land, other than natural lakes, for State parks has been acquired through gifts or transfers of publicly-owned lands. By 1968 gifts totalled 19,651 acres as compared with purchases of 3,729 acres. The operating costs of the Park System in 1968 was double the amount of ten years previous.

The 1979 Study recommended expenditures of \$30 million. The Department of Natural Resources and Community Development has received and spent only \$3 million since 1979 (\$2.5 million was federal money, \$.5 million state money). Only 4,000 acres have been purchased since 1979. There have not been any appropriations for capital improvements or land acquisitions since 1982-83, other than individual legislators special appropriations.

The following chart details the appropriations record over the past decade:

Appropriations for Parks Since FY 73-74

Year	Land Acquisition		Capital Improvements		TOTAL
	New Direct.	Actual	New Direct	Actual	
73-74	NA	\$ 11.5 M	NA	\$ 2.5 M	\$ 14.0 M
74-75	NA	\$ 5.5 M	NA	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 8.5 M
75-76	NA	\$ 0.5 M	NA	\$ 1.0 M	\$ 1.5 M
76-77	NA	\$ 0.5 M	NA	\$ 0.8 M	\$ 1.3 M
77-78	NA	\$ 0.5 M	NA	\$ 1.2 M	\$ 1.7 M
78-79	NA	\$ 0.5 M	NA	\$ 1.2 M	\$ 1.7 M
79-80	\$ 1.4 M	\$ 0.0	\$ 4.6 M	\$ 0.5 M	\$ 0.5 M
80-81	\$ 1.0 M	\$ 0.2 M	\$ 3.9 M	\$ 0.5 M	\$ 0.7 M
81-82	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 0.0	\$ 4.8 M	\$ 0.5 M	\$ 0.5 M
82-83	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 0.0	\$ 6.0 M	\$ 0.1 M	\$ 0.1 M
83-84	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 0.2 M*	\$ 6.1 M	\$ 0.1 M*	\$ 0.3 M

* special bill

C O M M I S S I O N P R O C E E D I N G S

COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

The State Parks Study Commission met seven times. Each meeting was arranged to study and consider the topics as charged in the authorizing legislation. The Commission thought it important to visit some parks and did, in fact, tour Mount Mitchell, Hanging Rock, and Pilot Mountain.

The first meeting of the State Parks Study Commission was held September 26, 1984, in Raleigh. At that meeting Secretary James A. Summers of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and other personnel from the Department presented an overview of the State Parks and Recreation Areas System in North Carolina.

October 14, 1984, was the date of the second meeting of the Study Commission, which was held in Asheville. The agenda covered staffing, salary needs, and river protection issues. The Commission also hiked the Horsepasture River in Transylvania County and toured Mount Mitchell State Park.

The third meeting, November 20, 1984, included tours of Hanging Rock State Park and Pilot Mountain State Park. The business meeting concerned capital improvements.

The Commission met December 7, 1984, regarding land acquisition and reservoirs in Raleigh.

The January 10, 1985, meeting in Raleigh covered many miscellaneous items, including Recreation Advisory Services, public awareness, trails, natural heritage areas, and supplemental revenue sources.

At the final two meetings, the Commission considered previously flagged items and adopted the final report.

Detailed minutes of each meeting are available in the Legislative Library.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S A N D R A T I O N A L E

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

Salary Recommendations for Parks Personnel:

1. The Commission recommends that the entry level pay for parks staff be increased to a decent, professional wage.
2. The Commission endorses the salary grade change of the Park Ranger I's from 56 to 58 to be funded from the Salary Adjustment Funds in the Office of the State Budget.
3. The Commission endorses and recommends the proposed salary range revision of parks personnel as outlined below:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Current Salary Grade</u>	<u>Proposed Salary Grade</u>
Park Ranger I	56 \$10,704-15,780	60 \$12,708-18,852
Park Ranger II	58 \$11,664-17,232	62 \$13,872-20,664
Park Ranger III (Chief)	60 \$12,708-18,852	64 \$15,132-22,572
Park Superintendent I	64 \$15,132-22,572	66 \$16,464-24,756
Park Superintendent II	66 \$16,464-24,756	68 \$18,036-27,204
Park Superintendent III	68 \$18,036-27,204	70 \$19,716-29,940
Park Superintendent IV	70 \$19,716-29,940	70 \$19,716-29,940
District Superintendent	72 \$21,612-32,916	73 \$22,572-34,524
State Parks/Recreation Superintendent	74 \$23,616-34,524	76 \$25,980-39,816

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$147,149

(Employee benefits will raise this figure to \$200,000)

Rationale:

One hundred dedicated state park employees and an administrative staff of five operate our state system of parks and recreation areas. They are responsible for the safety and recreation experiences of 5.7 million visitors annually. Such a limited staff is expected to keep our 41 state park and recreation areas open most of the daylight hours, 365 days a year.

Each ranger has, on the average, approximately one thousand acres to protect and manage with 50,000 visitors. Rangers are managing resources worth millions.

Rangers wear many hats--they act as law enforcement officers, firefighters, business managers, maintenance workers, public relations employees, administrative and executive officers, and naturalists. Presently, eleven out of the fifteen Park Ranger I's are college graduates.

Unfortunately, the lowly compensation makes some rangers with families eligible for the food stamp rolls and other public assistance programs.

It is essential that ranger compensation fairly reflect the level of expected responsibility and the public trust placed in rangers as the most direct steward of our natural sanctuary.

Staffing Recommendations:

1. The Commission recommends that all N.C. State Parks and Recreation Areas be operated with a minimum of three rangers and a half-time clerical employee year-round.
2. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to employ a Trails Coordinator within the Division of Parks and Recreation.
3. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to provide two staff positions for river protection in NRCD.
4. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to employ two staff positions for natural heritage areas protection within NRCD.
5. The Commission endorses the proposals for additional staff submitted by NRCD and included in the budget request.

N.R.C.D. EXPANSION BUDGET REQUEST 1985-87
 DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Positions Requested

<u>Division/Program</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>	<u>1985-87</u>
State Parks Field Operations	Full-time	10	8.5	18.5
Reservoirs Field Operations	Full-time	9.5	5	14.5
	TOTALS	19.5	13.5	33.0
State Parks Field Operations	Seasonal	4	1	5
Reservoirs Field Operations	Seasonal	17	0	17
	TOTALS	21	1	22
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:		\$1.7 MILLION		

Rationale:

Parks personnel manage over 119,000 acres contained in our parks and recreation areas. The tremendous increase in visitation has resulted in understaffing and overcrowding of limited facilities. Many park rangers are regrettably becoming parking lot attendants.

The problems of staffing the state's parks and recreation areas are clear:

- o ten of the parks within the system have only two staff members on duty--and they are expected to keep the gates open seven days a week, year-round;
- o in some parks there are hours when there is no permanent staff on duty, during busy or slow seasons;
- o some of the state parks have realized almost their full potential of planned uses - offering everything from picnicking to boating to interpretive programs. Many of them, such as the 2,208-acre Jones Lake State Park, do so with only two Rangers on duty;
- o adherence to the normal 40-hour work week for park rangers leaves only 65 days a year when both will be on duty--and only 40 days a year when they would be able to conduct any park maintenance;
- o many of the park rangers by necessity handle office and clerical duties as well as patrol duties, because sufficient funds have not been available to hire full or part-time clerical personnel; and

- o the inability of park Rangers to patrol and protect some parks covering thousands of acres creates the ominous potential for poaching, vandalism and destruction of our natural resources.

Without adequate staff to act as the public's landlord, our natural resources and heritage areas cannot receive the caring and watchful eye they deserve.

Recommendations for Land Acquisition:

1. The Commission recommends the purchase of the 9,559 "critical" acres to protect the integrity of the North Carolina Parks System. The "critical" acres are those acres necessary to complete the purchase of the resource itself, inholdings, required access and buffer zones. For example, the State owns only half of Kings Pinnacle at Crowders Mountain State Park, half a lake at Carolina Beach State Park, and two-thirds of the lake shoreline at Merchant's Millpond State Park. (Estimated cost \$23 million)
2. The Commission recommends the General Assembly adopt and fully fund the Plan for Land acquisition proposed by the Division of Parks and Recreation under NRCD. (See Appendix D)
3. The Commission recommends the State acquire land adjacent to the Horsepasture River and establish a State Park.
4. The Commission endorses the efforts to complete the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. (Estimated cost of \$3.8 million)
5. The Commission recommends the acquisition and protection of our Natural Heritage Areas. (Estimated cost of \$160,000 per year for five years)

Rationale:

When Mount Mitchell was purchased in 1915 as the first state park, it set in motion a slow, steady process of state park land acquisition which has brought the system to today's 119,000 acres of park lands owned by North Carolina.

Park professionals during those intervening 69 years carefully set criteria for all the eventual state parks and recreation areas, establishing minimums for size and standards for operation. Today, our state parks range in size from 385 acres to 17,368 acres.

The early acquisition of land for state park purposes focused on the efforts to preserve a particular feature. More recent acquisitions were to protect natural boundaries of a particular park or recreation area. The Division acquires land systematically, tuning itself to long-established criteria--including the aim of placing a state park or recreation area within a 50-mile radius of all North Carolinians.

In the early years, growth in the parks and recreation system revolved around gifts and allocations of property by private citizens. Almost half of the acreage now in the system was acquired in that manner.

The environmental consciousness of the 1970's spelled boom years for the park system. The upward shift in recreation assets for the state can be attributed to:

- o a widespread public awareness of parks and recreation area needs;
- o careful planning by state park officials; and
- o a major infusion of \$19 million for park land acquisition in the decade of the 1970's. (Most of that effort centered on the 1973-75 biennium, when \$17 million was invested by the state for land in its park and recreation area system.)

The 1977-79 State Parks Study Commission recommended increases in fiscal commitment to the State Park and Recreation Area System, calling for the state to add 13,558 acres of lands deemed "critical" to the full protection and use of its sites administered by the Division.

But the pattern of land acquisition has shifted dramatically in the past five years. Growth in the size of the state park system has reverted to its pre-1970's history of acquisition funding and "hoped for" reliance on gifts of land.

A slow-down in state acquisition funding since 1979 and the growing difficulties in obtaining gifts of land leaves 9,579 acres yet to be acquired--just to meet goals set five years ago and expected to be achieved by 1984. It would take \$9 million per year for the next five years just to catch up to those 1979 goals.

Recommendations for Capital Improvements:

1. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly adopt and fully fund the Six-Year Plan for capital development and improvement proposed by the Division of Parks and Recreation under NRCDC. (Estimated cost of \$43 million) (See Appendix E)
2. The Commission endorses and recommends the priorities as outlined by NRCDC for capital development.
3. The Commission endorses and recommends the Master Planning System and recommends updating of all Master Plans where appropriate.

Rationale:

The capital development effort of the Division is to have adequate facilities to ensure that our parks and recreation areas offer the best recreation opportunities for the public, now and for the foreseeable future.

Attendance at the parks reached 5.7 million in 1983/84. If full use is made of existing parks and recreation areas, the system will grow to be able to accommodate 12 million visitors by the year 2000. Trends indicate the visitation rate to our state parks and recreations areas is growing six times faster than is the population of the state.

Most of the major park sites within our system have Master Plans, and each was designed with "total phase development" in mind. But all of the plans are at least five years old, and all need to be updated. Yet, recent cut-backs in state personnel leave that work begging because not enough professional park planners are on hand to do the job.

Historically, the capital development efforts for our state parks and recreation areas have focused on small scale units at each site. Development guidelines call for each state park and recreation area to have, as a bare minimum, access, parking areas, safe drinking water, sanitary facilities, employee housing, and maintenance buildings. Few of the existing 41 state park and recreation areas can boast today that they have all of these "bare essentials".

Small scale developments reflect the need to "shuffle" priorities, always in favor of park visitors. It has created some notable conflicts:

- o new use facilities, but no operations or maintenance facilities;

- o parks limited to day-use or overnight use only, but rarely both;
- o ample supplies and materials in some areas, but no warehouse to store them;
- o a verifiable need for park staff additions, but no quarters to house them; and
- o plenty of visitors to our state parks and recreation areas, but only scattered education programs, visitor centers, or even park brochures.

The renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities in our state recreation system is becoming a major concern to the using public, as well as to state park professionals in the Division. Most repairs have simply been on a "brush fire" basis for several years. Our park officials now deal with facilities built in the pre-World War II years by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many are approaching their fiftieth birthday, relatively unchanged since original construction and carefully patched up. Entire electric, water or sewer systems in some of these aging facilities are having to be replaced.

It would take \$43 million in the next five years to fully outfit and complete the facilities needed and anticipated at the state park and recreation areas in North Carolina.

The problems of understaffing and funds to properly maintain the facilities affects the state recreation areas, as well as state parks. Federal funds were used to acquire land for major state recreation areas such as Jordan Lake and Kerr Lake. While the U.S. Corps of Engineers funds cost of land and recreation areas, it is up to the State to administer the resource.

In the case of Falls Lake, the recreation area was developed on a 50-50 matching fund basis for land for specific recreation purposes and for initial recreation facilities between the Corps and the State. Because State funding for park operations has dwindled in recent years, many of those federal dollars waiting to be matched were simply turned back and spent elsewhere.

Current Division land responsibilities at Kerr Lake include 3,500 acres at nine sites. By 1988, the Division will have responsibility to manage 3,999 acres at Falls Lake in seven sites and 2,200 acres at Jordan Lake located at seven sites.

The density of development at all three of these lakes is substantially higher than at State parks across the system. The Division only takes over highly developed areas as they are completed by the Corps. This leaves the undeveloped remainder of project lands for the Wildlife Division to administer. Therefore, substantially more manpower and operation funds are needed for these areas.

What is needed to keep our State parks and recreations areas safe and in a useful condition for the millions who visit each year does not match the resources on hand to do just that. New fiscal resources must be thrown into the battle or alternative funding sources found. Otherwise, deterioration will continue.

Other Areas for Consideration:

1. The Commission finds and endorses that the "Parks Principles" continue to be used as the guidepost for our Parks and Recreation System.
2. The Commission recommends that NRCD develop policy with local government units to protect parks within their respective locales, especially buffer zoning and compatible development.
3. The Commission recommends the purchase of two-way radios for each park and recreation area as a step towards minimum communication within each area. (Estimated cost of \$52,650)
4. The Commission recommends the purchase of telephone answering equipment at each park and recreation area. (Estimated cost of \$100 at each of the 28 areas)
5. The Commission supports and recommends the creation of a State-funded Land and Water Conservation Fund.
6. The Commission commends all volunteer efforts, both individual and organizational, and encourages the establishment of "park watch" or adopt-a-park" groups.
7. The Commission reiterates support for public access to public waters and encourages the Secretaries of NRCD and Transportation to meet regularly to review this issue.
8. The Commission recognizes the difficulty of long-term funding for our parks and recreation system and sees the need for other revenue sources besides appropriations. The Commission proposes the following as a financing alternative:

The Commission recommends that the General Assembly submit to the people of North Carolina a bond referendum for land acquisition for our State Parks up to \$50 million. Three objectives are also endorsed as part of the bond referendum:

- a. That the first acquisitions constitute the "critical acres."
- b. That subsequent acres be purchased in accordance with the NRCD and legislatively-endorsed goal of one state park within a 50 mile radius of each citizen in North Carolina.
- c. That all purchases be planned and completed consistent with the "Park Principles."

- 9. The Commission recommends inclusion of the Horsepasture River into the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System.
- 10. The Commission endorses the concept of federal legislation to give states complete control over small hydroelectric projects.
- 11. The Commission recommends that NRCD develop policy on temporary and permanent leasing to private vendors and concessionaires.
- 12. The Commission recommends the enactment of legislation establishing a permanent dedication procedure for owners of natural heritage areas.
- 13. The Commission recommends that no entrance fees to the State Parks be charged.
- 14. The Commission recommends that NRCD continue its present policy on user fees and also that NRCD annually evaluate user fees to keep them in line with market conditions.
- 15. The Commission recommends the enactment of all proposed legislation attached in the appendices:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A RIVER A POTENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM AND TO PROTECT AGAINST DIRECT AND ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND DEDICATION OF NATURAL AREAS

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE HORSEPASTURE RIVER A SCENIC RIVER UNDER THE NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO-WAY RADIOS AND TELEPHONE ANSWERING EQUIPMENT FOR THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREAS

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT VARIOUS STATE PARK AND RECREATION
AREAS

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
STATE PARK BONDS, IF APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN A
REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION ON
STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREAS

16. The Commission recommends continuation of the State Parks
Study Commission.

A P P E N D I C E S

SESSION 1983

D

HOUSE BILL 738
Proposed Committee Substitute PCS6215See Section 11

Short Title: Studies Authorized..

Sponsors: Representative

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AUTHORIZING STUDIES BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL STUDIES, AND MAKING VARIOUS APPROPRIATIONS FOR STUDIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1.. In addition to the subjects authorized by Chapter 905 of the 1983 Session Laws (1983 Regular Session), the Legislative Research Commission may study the topics listed below.. Listed with each topic is the 1983 bill or resolution that originally proposed the study and the name of the sponsor.. The Commission may consider the original bill or resolution in determining the nature, scope and aspects of the study.. The topics are:

- (1) Hazardous Wastes Strict Liability (H.B. 738-Clark);
- and
- (2) Legislative Office Building (H.B. 250-Miller)..

Sec. 2.. Bills and Resolution References.. The listing of the original bill or resolution in Section 1 of this act is for reference purposes only and shall not be deemed to have

1 (6) all vacancies shall be filled by the
2 appointing officer..

3 (d) The Legislative Services Commission shall provide
4 staff assistance to the Commission.. The Commission may hold its
5 meetings in the legislative buildings..

6 (e) Members of the Commission shall be paid subsistence
7 and travel expenses at the rate set forth in G.S. 120-3.1..

8 (f) The Commission shall make a report to the General
9 Assembly on or before February 15, 1985, containing the
10 recommendations of the Commission as to the need, if any, for
11 changes in existing statutes or the need for new statutes.. The
12 Commission shall terminate upon submission of its report..

13 (g) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
14 General Assembly for the work of the Credit Insurance and
15 Interest Rates Study Commission the sum of ten thousand dollars
16 (\$10,000) for fiscal year 1984-85 to cover all expenses of the
17 Commission..

18 (h) The Commissioners of Insurance and Banks shall
19 collect and compile all data requested by the Credit Insurance
20 and Interest Rates Study Commission and return said data to the
21 Commission no later than 30 days after said request..

22 Sec. 11. State Parks Study Commission.. (a) There is
23 created a State Parks Study Commission to be composed of nine
24 members, three to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three
25 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three to be
26 appointed by the Governor.. Appointments shall be made before
27 August 1, 1984. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker shall
28 each appoint a cochairman from the membership of the Committee..

Either cochairman may call the first meeting of the Committee. The Commission may hold its meetings in the legislative buildings.

(b) (1) The Commission shall have as its purpose the study and formulation of recommendations for administrative and legislative action concerning the system of State Parks and recreation areas. The Commission shall give highest priority to the following issues:

- a. The need for funds for land acquisition and development of new and existing facilities; and
- b. The need for additional personnel and for better salary levels for parks personnel.

(2) In addition to the above issues, the Commission shall, to the extent feasible, study and formulate recommendations concerning any other issues pertinent to the future of our State parks and recreation system including efforts to increase public awareness, financing alternatives for park lands and operation of recreational facilities, use of volunteers, and support for natural heritage, rivers and trails, and public access programs.

(c) The Commission shall consult with the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development about and may request from the Department, such information concerning parks and recreational areas as it deems necessary to achieve its purposes; and the Department shall make available such information and expertise as it possesses or is reasonably able to obtain.

1 (d) The Commission shall file a written report of its
2 findings and recommendations with the presiding officer of the
3 House of Representatives and the Senate on or before February 15,
4 1985. Upon the filing of the report, the Commission shall
5 terminate.

6 (e) Members of the Commission who are legislators, if
7 any, shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses in
8 accordance with G.S. 120-3.1. Members of the Commission who are
9 not officers and employees of the State, if any, shall receive
10 per diem and necessary travel and subsistence expenses in
11 accordance with G.S. 138-5. Members of the Commission who are
12 officers or employees of the State shall receive travel
13 reimbursement and subsistence in accordance with G.S. 138-6.

14 (f) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
15 General Assembly for the work of the State Parks Study Commission
16 the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the fiscal year
17 1984-85.

18 Sec. 12. Commission on a Cafeteria-Style Benefits
19 Program for Teachers and State Employees (E. J. E. 1032-Rayden).

20 (a) The Commission on a Cafeteria-Style Benefits
21 Program for Teachers and State Employees is hereby created.

22 (b) The Commission on a Cafeteria-Style Benefits
23 Program for Teachers and State Employees shall study the
24 feasibility of establishing a cafeteria-style benefits program
25 for all teachers and State employees. The Commission shall study
26 the current benefits offered by the State to determine which, if
27 any, of these benefits could be incorporated into a cafeteria-
28 style benefits program and shall also study benefits not offered

State Parks Study Commission

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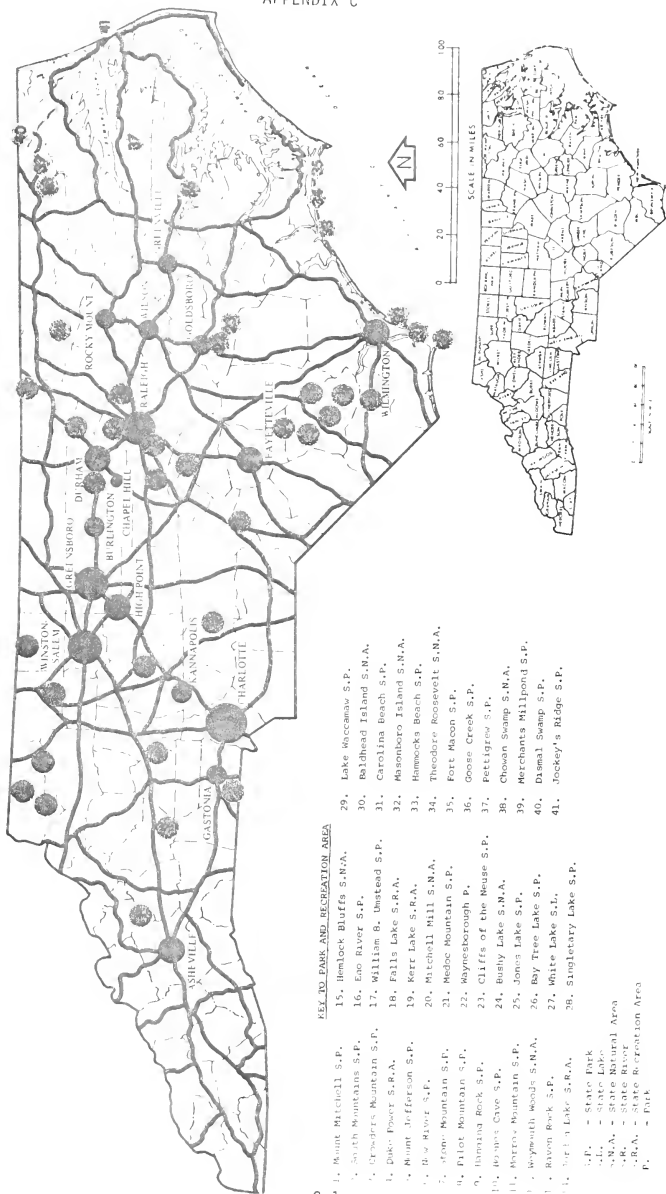
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Department of Natural Resources and Community Development
 Division of Parks and Recreation
 Design and Development Section

PROJECTED SIX-YEAR LAND ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS

1985-1991

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1	Carolina Beach State Park - 23.7 ac. to protect existing resources and eliminate inholding	\$ 115,000
2	Merchants Millpond State Park - 126 ac. for campground; primary resource/entrance protection	103,600
3	Mount Jefferson State Park - 79 ac. to eliminate control problems along existing park entrance	158,000
4	Jockey's Ridge State Park - 10.45 ac. for access control and protective buffer	151,600
5	Pettigrew State Park - 8 ac. for access control and for future development	88,000
6	New River - 15 ac. at rest stop #1 and 114 ac. at U.S. 221 access area to complete park	\$ 310,000
7	State Rivers - 22 ac. to provide public access and to protect natural resources	130,000
8	State Trails - 111 ac. to provide scenic protection and public access	330,000
9	Jockey's Ridge - 3 ac. to eliminate inholdings along U.S. 158 and to control access	\$ 230,000
10	Lake Waccamaw - 225 ac. to protect 2 miles of undeveloped shoreline - Walters Property	262,000
11	Mountains-to-Sea Trail - 50 ac. to provide critical links to existing trail segments	120,000
12	Mitchell Mill - 83 ac. - Complete acquisition of rock outcroppings	83,000
13	William B. Umstead - 172 ac. - Protect park along I-40 and U.S. 70. Tracts 18, 19, 64(B), 53-56	1,720,000

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
14	Cliffs of the Neuse - 135 ac. - river protection, new picnic and camping developments	\$ 322,500
15	Weymouth Woods - 76 ac. - complete park	328,000
16	Stone Mountain - 272 ac. - park entrance and watershed protection. Tracts 126, 149, 183-187, 195, 207	442,000
17	Pettigrew - 202 ac. - complete park, provide land for development	254,400
18	State Trails - 113 ac. - provide necessary easements for public access	226,000
19	State Rivers - 61 ac. - resource protection and public access	100,000
20	South Mountains - 400 ac. - provide lands suitable for campground development and visual and watershed protection of surrounding ridges - Champion Paper Co.	600,000
21	Merchants Millpond - 193 ac. - complete protection of millpond shoreline	289,500
22	Eno River - 117 ac. - River protection and access to Cole Mill Road Use Area. Parcels - Scarlett, Holloway, Zener, Coolridge	351,000
23	Raven Rock - 526 ac. - protect Fish Creek watershed provide major development	931,500
24	Stone Mountain - 205 ac. - protect major natural resources eliminate mineral reservation	410,000
25	Goose Creek - 96 ac. - protect entrance area. Cutler - 59 acres, Knott - 37 ac., across road at entrance - 6 ac.	210,000
26	Hammocks Beach - 200 ac. - provide park development on mainland	400,000
27	William B. Umstead - 125 ac. - complete acquisition on southeast boundary of park. Tracts 20-28, 43, 44	1,250,000
28	South Mountains - 845 ac. - protect watershed above High Shoals Falls	845,000
29	Jockey's Ridge - 10 ac. - complete park.	400,000

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
30	Crowders Mountain - 639 ac. - protect slopes of Crowders and Kings Pinnacle, provide development area	\$1,278,000
31	Mount Mitchell - 400 ac. - control access to park, resource protection	\$ 400,000
32	Lake Waccamaw - 265 ac. - protect remaining 2½ miles of undeveloped shoreline.	330,000
33	Morrow Mountain - 256 ac. - inholding and access control	512,000
34	Cliffs of the Neuse - 107 ac. - complete park	214,000
35	State Trails - 250 ac. - provide necessary public access	500,000
36	State Rivers - 10 miles - resource protection and public access	500,000
37	Crowders Mountain - 428 ac. - complete areas to receive facility development	856,000
38	William B. Umstead - 128 ac. - protect park along U.S. 79 and I-40. Tracts 1-6, 65, 66	1,280,000
39	Stone Mountain - 579 ac. - control access and quality of entrance from Traphill Tracts 59, 62-71, 72-79, 181, 182	868,500
40	Raven Rock - 760 ac. - complete park	\$1,368,000
41	Merchants Millpond - 263 ac. - complete park	394,000
42	Lake Waccamaw - 900 ac. - complete park	900,000
43	Bushy Lake - 300 ac. - Protect remaining portion of bay area	300,000
44	Medoc Mountain - 192 ac. - complete park	288,000
45	Duke Power - 56 ac. - eliminate inholdings, control access	500,000
46	White Lake - 25 ac. - required for State Lakes visitor	50,000

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
47	State Trails - 300 ac. - provide necessary public access	\$ 626,000
48	State Rivers - 10 miles - resource protection and public access	500,000
	Six-Year Total	\$22,825,600

Department of Natural Resources and Community Development
 Division of Parks and Recreation
 Design and Development Section

PROPOSED SIX - YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

1985 - 1991

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Park Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Total/ Park</u>
<u>CAROLINA BEACH STATE PARK</u>			
17	Warehouse Building (1700 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	\$ 77,140	
	Interpretive Center (2400 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	525,000	
	Road Improvements (Pave residence road, office area, and maintenance area)	25,200	
	Ranger Residence (1440 sq. ft., site	94,500	
		<hr/>	<u>\$721,840</u>
TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK			\$721,840
<u>CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE STATE PARK</u>			
19	Picnic Area Rehabilitation	42,000	
	Primitive Camping Area Development (Access road, toilets, and campsites)	64,960	
	Water System Improvements (Elevated tank, and piping)	182,000	
		<hr/>	\$288,960
53	General Development* (Development of new picnic area, residence) piping)	\$1,033,200	
			<u>\$1,033,200</u>
TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK			\$1,322,160
*Land Dependent			

BAY TREE

14	Access Road and Lake Access	<u>\$199,640</u>	
	TOTAL		\$199,640

CROWDERS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

41	*	Lake Improvements (28 acre lake and road crossing)	\$909,580	
		Park Office (1600 sq. ft. office, and temporary visitor center)	\$100,800	
			_____	\$1,010,380
58	*	General Development (Camping Areas, hiking trails, access roads, residence)	\$686,000	
		General Development Phase II (2400 sq. ft. interpretive center, amphitheatre, parking areas, access roads, equestrian camping and trails)	\$764,000	
			_____	<u>\$1,450,400</u>
		TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		<u>\$2,460,780</u>

DUKE POWER STATE PARK

7		*Park Office/Visitor Center (1500 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	<u>\$278,185</u>	\$278,185
35		2 Rangers Residences (1440 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	\$189,000	
		40 Vacation Cabins	\$1,200,000	
		Camping Area Expansion	\$224,000	
		Interpretive Center (Site work, utilities, parking, access road, 2000 sq. ft.)	\$574,000	
			_____	\$2,187,000
		*Land Dependent		

62	Camping and Picnic Area Expansion (Campsites, washhouse roads, tables, toilet bldg., and access roads)	\$525,000	
			<u>\$525,000</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$2,712,000

ENO RIVER STATE PARK

1	Picnic Area Toilet Bldg.	<u>\$120,374</u>	\$120,327
10	Maintenance & Storage Bldgs. with equipment	<u>\$207,100</u>	\$207,100
18	General Development, <u>Cates Ford Access</u> Phase II (canoe launch, expansion of picnic area, equestrian trailhead, campsites, and trails)	<u>\$300,000</u>	\$300,000
66	General Development, <u>Pump Station</u> (Picnic area, parking, displays, access road, toilet bldg, trails, and ranger res.)	\$240,800	
	General Development, <u>Cole Mill Road</u> (Picnic area expansion, toilet bldg., parking, trail improvements)	<u>\$109,200</u>	
			<u>\$350,000</u>
	TOTAL		\$977,427

FALLS LAKE

37	Yearly payback on cost-sharing- 50 years (potential to include in Water Resources budget)	<u>\$850,000</u>	\$850,000
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FORT MACON STATE PARK

34	Fort Restoration (continuation program)	<u>\$686,700</u>	\$686,700
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16	Interpretive Facilities (Auditorium & museum)	\$ 77,000	
	Sewer and Water Improve- ments	84,000	
	Fort Restoration (continuation program)	<u>\$711,200</u>	<u>\$872,200</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$1,558,900

GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK

6	Family Campground Main Park	<u>\$322,848</u>	\$322,848
13	Dinahs Landing Road, Boat launch, and Picnic area	<u>\$289,756</u>	\$289,756
42	General Development Phase III & IV	\$2,069,200	
	Ranger Residence (site work, and utilities)	<u>\$94,500</u>	\$2,163,700
54	Interpretive Center and Exhibits	\$840,000	
	Rangers Residence (1440 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	<u>\$94,500</u>	<u>\$934,500</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$3,710,804

HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK

55	Pedestrian Path Improve- ments on Island	\$56,000	
	Ranger Residence	\$94,500	
	Boat Landing and Dock on Island	\$105,000	
	Nature Study Building	<u>\$70,000</u>	
	TOTAL		\$323,500

HANGING ROCK STATE PARK

4	6 Family Cabins	<u>\$160,000</u>	
25	Parking at Lower Cascades	28,000	\$160,000
	Parking at Torys Den	21,000	
	Natural History Bldg. and Exhibits	210,000	
	Waterline replacement Reservoir repair	42,000	
	Bathhouse Replumbing	56,000	
	Trail Development	16,000	
	Ranger residence at Torys Den	94,500	
	Ranger residence at Lower Cascades	94,500	
	Washhouse Replacement	<u>105,000</u>	
57	Residence at Indian Creek	94,500	\$667,800
	Trails Center parking	70,000	
	Nature Study Building (trails, equipment, and exhibits)	<u>524,300</u>	
			<u>\$688,800</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$1,516,600

JOCKEYS RIDGE STATE PARK

15	Ranger Residence (1440 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	<u>\$102,728</u>	
			\$102,728
26	Ranger Residence (1440 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	\$102,728	
	Day Use Area Development (Concession Bldg., trails)	<u>\$208,600</u>	
			<u>\$311,328</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$414,056

JONES LAKE STATE PARK

20	Ranger Residence (1440 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	\$94,500	
	Water and Electrical Supply	\$123,200	
	Warehouse Building (1700 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	\$99,120	
	Water System Piping	\$58,800	
	Trail System Improvements	<u>\$53,200</u>	\$428,820
60	Interpretive Center & Exhibits	<u>\$840,000</u>	<u>\$840,000</u>
	TOTAL		\$1,268,820

JORDAN LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

24	General Development 5 Ranger Residences	<u>\$500,000</u>	\$500,000
59	23 Vacation Cabins	<u>\$1,265,000</u>	<u>\$1,265,000</u>
	TOTAL		\$1,765,000

KERR RESERVOIR STATE RECREATION AREA

21	Nutbush - Picnic Area expansion & washhouse	\$148,281	
	Hibernia - N.W. camp area toilet bldg.	70,420	
	Satterwhite Point	122,080	
	Bullocksville - Ball field	15,400	
	Renovations adding new water and electric hookups and 40 new sites	466,900	
	County Line - Water and Electric hookups	12,600	

Henderson Point - Campground paving, and water and electric hookups	88,200
Satterwhite Point - Beach and parking	61,460
Henderson Point - Area Improvements, N.E. Family camping loop (56 sites)	261,380
Hibernia - Improve existing well and system	70,000
Kimball Point - Improve existing well and system	70,000
Kimball Point - Recon- struction of boat launch	21,000
Nutbush - Reconstruction of boat launch	21,000
Satterwhite Point - recon- struction of boat ramp, and construct new parking area	56,000
Hibernia - Warehouse at M & O area	70,000
County Line - Improvements to well and water system	70,000
Bullocksville - Boat ramp and parking area improve- ments	49,000
Nutbush - Improvements to existing well and water system	70,000
Henderson Point - Construct washhouse in group use area	<u>140,840</u>

\$1,884,561

61	Bullocksville - renovate picnic area toilet bldg., expand parking, & pic- nicking	\$44,800
	County Line - maintenance shed	5,600

	Construct S.E. Picnic Area	105,000	
	Kimball Point - maintenance shed	5,600	
	Nutbush - Improve S.E. camp with water & electric hookups	10,500	
	Satterwhite - Construct 30' X 100' storage shed	42,000	
	Henderson Point - Improve water system and well	145,600	
	Bullocksville Sewage dumpstation	17,500	
	County Line Sewage dumpstation	17,500	
	Henderson Point - Expand picnic area, dumpstation, maintenance shed	<u>30,100</u>	
			<u>\$424,200</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$2,308,761
	<u>LAKE WACCAMAW STATE PARK</u>		
30	Interim Use Facilities (Water supply, utilities, toilet bldg.)	\$350,000	
	*General Development (Access road, camping, and picnic area)	330,400	
	*General Development (1700 sq.ft., maintenance bldg., day use area, 1500 sq. ft. visitor center, toilet bldg., parking, hiking trails, & residence)	<u>862,400</u>	
			\$1,542,800
67	*General Development (Overnight use area, cabins, mess hall, camp area washhouse, roads, parking, boat dock, and trails)	<u>\$1,188,600</u>	
			<u>\$1,188,600</u>
	TOTAL		\$2,731,400
	*Land Dependent		

MEDOC MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

NO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED OTHER THAN EXISTING DAY
USE AREA UNTIL EXPIRATION OF MINING RIGHTS ON PARK LANDS.

MERCHANTS MILLPOND STATE PARK

12	Access roads to family picnic area, toilet bldg., and utilities	<u>\$615,103</u>	\$615,103
43	Visitor Center and Canoe concession bldg., hiking and canoe trails, group picnic area	420,000	
	Family primitive camp, group primitive camp, group tent camp	140,000	
	Expansion of family picnic area, group picnic area, family tent & trailer area	<u>420,000</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>\$980,000</u> \$1,595,103

MITCHELL'S MILL NATURAL AREA

36	*Interim use facilities (Control gates, parking area, trails, toilets)	<u>\$21,420</u>	
	TOTAL		\$21,420

MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

4	6 Cabin renovations	<u>\$160,000</u>	\$160,000
29	Interpretive Center (Convert Lodge to center)	\$280,000	
	Trail improvements (Fire, hiking, and nature trail construction)	8,400	
	Area Rehabilitation (Mountain scenic area, shoreline, camping area, trail renovation)	<u>175,000</u>	\$463,400
44	Cabin colony (17 rental cabins, roads, utilities)	<u>791,000</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>\$791,000</u> \$1,414,400

*Land Dependent

MOUNT JEFFERSON STATE PARK

45	Trail Development (Hiking and nature)	\$16,800	
	Conversion of shop bldg. to interpretive center	<u>112,000</u>	<u>\$128,800</u>
	TOTAL		\$128,800

MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK

27	Picnic Area Renovation	\$10,500	
	Restroom Renovation at concession stand	35,000	
	Waterline Replacement	49,000	
	Trail Development	7,000	
	Naturalist Office (Addition to museum)	<u>35,000</u>	<u>\$136,500</u>
	TOTAL		\$136,500

NEW RIVER

2	Toilet Building, Site #1	<u>\$127,192</u>	\$127,192
3	General Development	<u>718,860</u>	\$718,860
28	*River Access Site 3 (access road, parking, picnic sites, water supply, sanitary facilities residence, office, and visitor center)	<u>542,000</u>	\$542,000
46	Rest Stops (Sanitary and water facilities, picnicking, and camping sites)	53,200	
	Alleghany County Access (Access road, parking, picnic sites, water and sanitary facilities)	<u>289,100</u>	<u>\$342,300</u>
	TOTAL		\$1,730,352

*Land Dependent

PETTIGREW STATE PARK

22	Fishing pier and parking family campground expansion, washhouse and toilet bldg.	<u>\$420,000</u>	\$420,000
63	*General Development (Picnic area, access roads, parking areas, toilet bldg., dredging, pier, historic and hiking trails, ranger residence)	\$3,043,040	
	*Boathouse and concession building	<u>\$140,000</u>	\$3,183,040
	TOTAL		<u>\$3,603,040</u>

PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

9	Grassy Creek (Access road & picnic area)	<u>\$722,000</u>	\$722,000
52	General Development (Access road, picnic sites, parking area, toilet bldg., picnic shelter, and utilities)	\$507,780	
	Mountain Picnic Area toilet (500 sq.ft., site work, and utilities)	\$70,000	
	Interpretive Building	<u>\$203,000</u>	\$780,780
64	General Development Grassy Creek (Bathhouse, beach, and 20 acre lake)	\$627,200	
	Mountain Picnic Area expansion	\$84,000	
	Mountain Parking Area expansion	\$131,600	
	Trail Development (Fire, hiking, and nature)	<u>\$65,000</u>	\$908,600
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		<u>\$2,411,380</u>

*Land Dependent

RAVEN ROCK STATE PARK

40	Interpretive Displays	\$190,000	
	*Ranger Residence	94,500	
	*Lake Construction, Main Park, Family Campground, Washhouse, and 40 sites	<u>\$1,241,520</u>	\$1,526,420
65	Office, 14 family campsites, bathhouse and beach area	\$533,400	
	Maintenance bldg., road to group day camp, 12 family cabins, and hiking trails	<u>\$709,800</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>\$1,243,200</u> \$2,769,620

SINGLETARY LAKE

50	Picnic Area Development (Access road, parking area, picnic sites and toilet bldg., repave road system)	\$429,100	
	Boating facility	115,640	
	*Camping Area Development (primitive campsites, trails, water and sanitary facilities)	<u>115,640</u>	
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		<u>\$660,380</u> \$660,380

SOUTH MOUNTAINS STATE PARK

51	*General Development Phase 1 (Family tent & trailer camping (23 sites), utilities, fire, hiking, and nature trails, park office/maintenance bldg., 2000 sq.ft., 500 ft. access road	<u>\$730,800</u>	
	TOTAL		\$730,800

*Land Dependent

STONE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

4	4 cabin renovations	<u>\$146,005</u>	\$146,005
11	Office/Visitor Center (1700 sq. ft., site work, and utilities)	<u>\$271,100</u>	\$271,100
23	Picnic Area Development (Access road, parking area, picnic sites, water and sanitary facilities)	<u>\$210,000</u>	<u>\$210,000</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK (WITHOUT LAKE SECTION)		<u>\$627,105</u>

WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

39	Ranger Residence (1440 sq.ft., site work, and utilities)	<u>\$94,500</u>	
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		\$94,500

WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK

8	General Development (Access road and bridge)	<u>\$2,009,981</u>	\$2,009,981
38	Interpretive Center (2400 sq.ft., site work, access road, utilities, parking, exhibits, and trails)	<u>\$840,000</u>	
	Equestrian Area (Access roads, parking area picnic sites, equestrian trails, water and sanitary facilities)	<u>\$92,120</u>	
	General Development Crabtree Section (Concession bldg., picnic and camping area, toilet bldg., washhouse, road, parking, hiking trails)	<u>\$711,200</u>	
	Family Group Picnic Area waterline replacement	<u>\$165,200</u>	\$1,808,520
56	Central warehouse	<u>\$120,000</u>	<u>\$120,000</u>
	TOTAL TO COMPLETE PARK		<u>\$4,018,501</u>

STATE TRAILS

5	Mountain to sea trail and water trail (trail construction, access roads, parking, toilet facilities, signs, primitive camping/rest stops)	<u>\$155,434</u>	\$155,434
31	*Mountain to sea trail development (items as above)	<u>\$160,300</u>	\$160,300
48	Trail development (items as above)	<u>\$176,330</u>	<u>\$176,330</u>
	TOTAL		<u>\$492,064</u>

SCENIC RIVERS

32	General development (access roads, parking, toilet facilities, primitive camping/reststops, and canoe launches)	<u>\$134,400</u>	\$134,400
47	General development (items as above)	<u>\$147,840</u>	<u>\$147,840</u>
	TOTAL		<u>\$282,240</u>

NATURAL AREAS

33	General development (pit toilets, interpretive station, observation tower, and trails)	<u>\$9,800</u>	\$9,800
49	General development (items as above)	<u>\$10,780</u>	<u>\$10,780</u>
	TOTAL		<u>\$20,580</u>

*Land Dependent

RESOLUTION
PARKS AND RECREATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, park rangers and park superintendents are critical to the safety of park visitors and the efficient operation of our state parks;

AND WHEREAS, park rangers are expected to possess a high level of managerial and professional skills;

AND WHEREAS, North Carolina has built a corps of park personnel which is highly qualified and dedicated which the Division of Parks and Recreation wishes to retain;

AND WHEREAS, the low salary of park operations personnel is making it difficult to attract and retain such qualified individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Parks and Recreation Council supports an effort to raise the salary of parks operations personnel to a level commensurate with their responsibilities and importance to our state park and recreation system.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the N.C. Parks and Recreation Council has caused this Resolution to be duly executed in its behalf and attested this 29th day of May, 1984.

N.C. PARKS AND RECREATION COUNCIL


Charles S. Hubbard, Chairman

TO: Members of the Study Commission on State Parks designated by the North Carolina General Assembly

FROM: Friends of State Parks

Friends of State Parks is a statewide group dedicated to the improvement of our State Park system and its maintenance in accordance with the State Parks Principles. We have a growing membership, including a number of persons who are willing to give actively of their time to do whatever is necessary to further these objectives.

Friends has a position paper, recently updated, which is attached. We hope that the Study Commission's report will recommend the positions we have taken. The most important are summarized as follows:

Personnel:

- * An increase to Grade 60 (12,708) for beginning Rangers and higher grades adjusted accordingly
- * At least one additional Ranger at most Parks
- * More clerk-typists and maintenance personnel
- * Overtime pay for professional personnel during the summer season

Land acquisition

- * At least \$8,000,000 for the biennium to acquire lands, many of which are immediately threatened with development or degradation. These tracts will still not be sufficient to fill out the Master Plans for the Parks and another \$16,000,000 will be required in the following two biennia.

Policies

- * We are strongly opposed to leasing of State Park Lands
- * Another immediate concern which was not addressed in the Position Paper is that of alcoholic beverages in the State Parks. We favor retention of the current policy of prohibiting alcoholic beverages.

Friends of State Parks stands ready to assist DNRCD and the Study Commission to secure these objectives in the General Assembly if we are called upon to do so.

October 11, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Parks Study Commission

FROM: Division of Travel & Tourism
Department of Commerce

SUBJECT: Tourism information requested by Study Commission

Tourism, the umbrella industry whose success impacts upon a very large sector of the economy, emerged as one of the state's fastest growing industries during the late 70's.

Annual expenditures have increased from \$1 billion in 1975 to nearly \$4 billion in 1984, as the result of drastically expanded advertising and promotion programs during the administration of Governor Hunt.

The 165,000 jobs created by tourism are vitally important to North Carolina as is the some \$100 to \$150 million in state and local tax revenue generated annually.

While the past decade has been a very good one for the North Carolina travel industry, the years ahead loom as the best of all times because of the great potential for new growth and development which tourism offers. Most of the state's great travel destinations have off-season periods when occupancy is far below peak season highs. Improving business in the shoulder seasons represents one significant opportunity, encouraging quality and new development represents another.

North Carolina State Parks have contributed significantly to the travel industry.

State Parks led five state-operated sites in 1983 with a 26 percent increase in visitation from 1982. More than five million travelers visited North Carolina State Parks in 1983.

DESIGN FOR NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Following recommendations are made by the Natural Heritage Advisory Committee to the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development for purposes of assuring the adequate protection of North Carolina's natural areas.

I. Establish a Nature Preserves System .

Recommendation I.A. We recommend that the State of North Carolina seek legislation enabling the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development to establish a Nature Preserves System featuring:

- * registry and permanent dedication of nature preserves in private ownership;
- * monitoring of the management, or where appropriate, state management of property within the system; and
- * state acquisition of preserves that need and deserve protection under the system.

Recommendation I.B. We recommend that the State of North Carolina provide tax incentives to encourage private landowners to voluntarily and permanently dedicate nature preserves.

II. Provide Sustained Funding .

Recommendation II.A. We recommend that the State of North Carolina establish a land and water conservation fund to make it possible for state and local agencies to acquire and protect natural areas. Prior to the time when such a sustaining fund can be implemented, we recommend that special appropriations be sought from the N.C. General Assembly to resume the acquisition of state park lands and nature preserves.

Recommendation II.B. We recommend that the State of North Carolina provide sustained funding by direct appropriations for full operation of the Natural Heritage Program.

III. Land Preservation -- Technical and Extension Services .

Recommendation III.A. We recommend that an individual be employed on the staff of the Natural Heritage Program to provide a range of protection functions -- technical and legal assistance for state and local agencies and private land conservancies; coordination among land protection agencies; assistance for local land use planning; assistance for local land trusts; and other natural lands protection and acquisition expertise.

Recommendation III.B. We recommend that the State of North Carolina adopt policies -- through Executive Orders and Administrative Rules -- to promote conservation of natural lands by all state agencies.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers Act declares as state policy the "necessity for a rational balance between the conduct of man and the preservation of the natural beauty along the many rivers of the State". Under the provisions of this act, the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development is responsible for reports detailing the facts which make a river a worthy addition to the system. Designation into the system requires action by the General Assembly. The Division of Parks and Recreation has the lead responsibility for coordinating natural and scenic river studies.

The North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers Act provides for Class I - Natural River areas and Class II - Scenic River areas. Natural River areas are free-flowing rivers and adjacent lands that exist in a natural condition. They are free of man-made impoundments and are generally inaccessible except by trail. Scenic River areas are largely free of impoundments, with the lands within the boundaries largely primitive and largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

The Act states that rivers designated as Natural and/or Scenic must meet the following criteria:

- (1) River segment length - must be no less than one mile;
- (2) Boundaries - shall be the visual horizon or such distance from each shoreline as may be determined to be necessary by the Secretary, but shall not be less than 20 feet. Provided, that this shall not be construed to authorize the Secretary to acquire, except by donation or gift, more than 320 acres of land per mile for inclusion within the boundaries;
- (3) Water quality - shall not be less than that required for Class "C" waters as established by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.
- (4) Water flow - shall be sufficient to assure a continuous flow and shall not be subjected to withdrawal or regulation to the extent of substantially altering the natural ecology of the stream.
- (5) Public access - shall be limited, but may be permitted to the extent deemed proper by the Secretary, and in keeping with the property interest acquired by the Department and the purposes of the Act.

A hydroelectric project has been proposed for the Horsepasture River which would divert part of the flow from the natural channel. Water would be diverted just above Drift Falls and returned below Windy Falls.

A Natural and Scenic River study has been requested by both the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners and a citizens' group known as Friends of the Horsepasture. This report is in response to these requests.

This report is based upon data and information gathered by a study team made up of staff from the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. A field trip was made to the Horsepasture River on August 30, 1984 by a majority of the study team members. The study team began its August 30th investigation at Bohaynee Road (NC 281) and hiked down the east side of the river to the top of Windy Falls and back. There has been no investigation of the river for Natural and Scenic River designation purposes above Bohaynee Road.

CONCLUSIONS OF STUDY

Criteria for Designation

That segment of the Horsepasture River from the Bohaynee Road Bridge (NC 281) downstream to Lake Jocassee meets the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers Act criteria for designation as a State Natural River, as indicated below:

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Horsepasture River segment</u>
Length	No less than one mile	4 miles
Boundaries	Visual horizon	From all vantage points on the river to the visual horizon the river qualifies as natural
Water Quality	Not less than Class "C"	Currently classified as "Class C-Trout"
Water flow	Continuous and not subject to withdrawal that substantially alters the natural ecology of the stream	Yes
Public Access	Limited	Yes

INTRODUCED BY:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A RIVER A POTENTIAL COMPONENT OF
2 THE NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM AND TO PROTECT AGAINST DIRECT AND
3 ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 113A-36 is amended by adding a new subsection (c1)
6 to read:

7 "(c1) Upon receipt of a request in the form of a Resolution from
8 the Commissioners of the county or counties in which a river
9 segment is located and upon studying the segment and
10 determining that it meets the criteria set forth in G.S.113A-35,
11 the Secretary may designate the segment a potential component
12 of the natural and scenic rivers system. The designation
13 shall be transmitted to the Governor and all appropriate
14 State agencies. Any segment so designated is subject to
15 the provisions of this Article applicable to designated
16 rivers, except for acquisition by condemnation or otherwise,
17 and to any regulations adopted pursuant to this Article.
18 The Secretary shall make a full report and, if appropriate,
19 a proposal for an addition to the natural and scenic river
20 system to the General Assembly within 90 days after the
21 convening of the next session following issuance of the
22 designation, and the General Assembly shall determine whether
23 to designate the segment as a component of the natural and
24 scenic rivers system."

1 Sec. 2. Article 3 of Chapter 113A of the General Statutes is
2 amended by adding a new section to read:

3 "§113A-44. The State Utilities Commission may not permit the con-
4 struction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse
5 transmission line, or any other project works on or
6 directly affecting any river that is designated as a
7 component or potential component of the state natural
8 and scenic rivers system. No department or agency of the
9 State may assist by loan, grant, license, permit, or
10 otherwise in the construction of any water resources
11 project that would have a direct and adverse effect on any
12 river that is designated as a component or potential
13 component of the state natural and scenic rivers system.
14 This section shall not, however, preclude licensing of or
15 assistance to a development below or above a designated
16 or potential component. No department or agency of the
17 State may recommend authorization of any water resources
18 project that would have a direct and adverse effect on
19 any river that is designated as a component or potential
20 component of the state natural and scenic rivers system,
21 or request appropriations to begin construction of any
22 such project, regardless of when authorized, without
23 advising the Secretary in writing of its intention to do
24 so at least sixty days in advance and without presenting
25 to the General Assembly in writing at the time it makes
26 its recommendation or request, a report specifically
27 describing how construction of the project would be in
28 conflict with the purposes of this Act and how it would

1 affect the component or potential component."
2 Sec. 3. G.S. 113A-35.1 is amended in the third paragraph by deleting
3 the number "550" and substituting the number "700".
4 Sec. 4. This Act is effective upon ratification.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND DEDICATION OF
3 NATURAL AREAS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 113A of the General Statutes is
6 amended by adding a new Article 9A to read:

7 "Article 9A.

8 "Nature Preserves Act.

9 "§ 113A-164.1. Short Title.--This Article shall be
10 known as the Nature Preserves Act.

11 "§ 113A-164.2. Declaration of policy and purpose.--

12 (a) The continued population growth and land development in
13 North Carolina have made it necessary and desirable that
14 areas of natural significance be identified and preserved
15 before they are destroyed. Such natural areas are irre-
16 placeable as laboratories for scientific research, as
17 reservoirs of natural materials for uses which are not now
18 known, as habitats for plant and animal species and biotic
19 communities, as living museums where people may observe
20 natural biotic and environmental systems and the interdepen-
21 dence of all forms of life, and as reminders of the vital
22 dependence of the health of the human community on the
23 health of the other natural communities.

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1 (b) It is important to the people of North Carolina
2 that they retain the opportunity to maintain contact with
3 such living communities and environmental systems of the
4 earth and to benefit from the scientific, aesthetic, cultur-
5 al and spiritual values they possess. The purpose of this
6 Article is to establish and maintain a State Registry of
7 Natural Heritage Areas and to prescribe methods by which
8 nature preserves may be acquired for the benefit of present
9 and future citizens of the State.

10 "113A-164.3. Definitions.-- As used in this Article,
11 unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms
12 have the meanings specified:

13 (1) 'Articles of dedication' means the writing by
14 which any estate, interest, or right in a natural area if
15 formally dedicated as a nature preserve as authorized in
16 G.S. 113A-164.6.

17 (2) 'dedicate' means to transfer to the Secretary an
18 estate, interest, or right in a natural area in any manner
19 authorized in G.S. 113A-164.6.

20 (3) 'Natural area' means an area of land or water, or
21 both land and water, whether publicly or privately owned,
22 that either retains or has reestablished its natural charac-
23 ter, or provides habitat for rare or endangered species of
24 plants or animals, or has biotic, geological, scenic, or
25 paleontological features of scientific or educational value.

26 (4) 'Nature preserve' means a natural area that has
27 been dedicated pursuant to G.S. 113A-164.6.
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1 (5) 'Person' means any individual, corporation,
2 partnership, trust, or association.

3 (6) 'Registration' means an agreement between the
4 Secretary and the owner of a natural area to protect and
5 manage the natural area for its specified national heritage
6 resource values.

7 (7) 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Department
8 of Natural Resources and Community Development.
9 13A-16.04. Powers and duties of the Secretary.--The
Secretary shall:

10 (1) Establish by regulation the criteria for selec-
11 tion, registration, dedication, management, protection, and
12 use of natural areas and nature preserves.

13 (2) Cooperate or contract with any federal, state, or
14 local government agency, private conservation organization,
15 or person in carrying out the purposes of this Article..

16 (3) Inventory public and private lands to assess
17 possible natural areas to be registered or dedicated.

18 (4) Maintain a Natural Heritage Program to provide
19 assistance in the selection and nomination for registration
20 or dedication of natural areas. The Program shall include
21 classification of natural heritage resources, an inventory
22 of their locations, and a data bank for such information.
23 The Program shall cooperate with the Department of Agricul-
24 ture in the selection and nomination of areas that contain
25 habitats for endangered and rare plant species, and shall
26 cooperate with the Wildlife Resources Commission in the
27 selection and nomination of areas that contain habitats for
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1 endangered and rare animal species. Information from the
2 natural heritage data bank may be made available to public
3 agencies and private persons for environmental assessment
4 and land management purposes. Use of the inventory data for
5 any purpose inconsistent with the Natural Heritage Program
6 shall not be authorized. The Program shall include other
7 functions as may be assigned for registration, dedication,
8 protection and management of natural areas and nature
9 preserves.

10 (5) Prepare a Natural Heritage Plan that shall govern
11 the Natural Heritage Program in the creation and management
12 of a system of registered and dedicated natural areas.

13 (6) Carry on interpretive and educational programs and
14 publish and disseminate information pertaining to natural
15 areas and nature preserves within the State.

16 (7) Appoint advisory committees composed of represen-
17 tatives of government agencies, scientific and academic
18 institutions, conservation organizations, and private
19 business, to advise him on the identification, selection,
20 registration, dedication, protection and management of
21 natural areas and nature preserves.

22 (8) Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a
23 biennial report on or before February 15, 1987, and on or
24 before February 15 of subsequent odd numbered years
25 describing the activities of the past biennium and plans for
26 the coming biennium, and detailing specific recommendations
27 for action which the Secretary deems necessary for the
28 improvement of the program.

1 "113A-164.5. Registration of natural areas.--(a) The
2 Secretary shall maintain a State Registry of voluntarily
3 protected natural areas to be called the North Carolina
4 Registry of Natural Heritage Areas. Registration of natural
5 areas shall be accomplished through voluntary agreement
6 between the owner of the natural area and the Secretary.
7 Property of government agencies may be registered by agree-
8 ment with the administering agency. Registration agreements
9 may be terminated by either party at any time, and such
10 termination removes the area from the Registry.

11 (b) A natural area shall be registered when an agree-
12 ment to protect and manage the natural area for its speci-
13 fied natural heritage resource value has been signed by the
14 owner and the Secretary. The owner of a registered natural
15 area shall be given a certificate signifying the inclusion
16 of the area in the Registry.

17 "113A-164.6. Dedication of nature preserves.--(a)
18 Acquisition of nature preserves.--The Secretary may, on
19 behalf of the State of North Carolina, acquire nature
20 preserves by gift, devise, purchase, or exchange, provided
21 that any natural area owned by the State or by any political
22 subdivision of the State shall be dedicated by voluntary act
23 of the agency having jurisdiction over the area. The
24 Secretary may acquire the fee simple interest in a natural
25 area or any lesser estate, interest, or right, including a
26 leasehold estate; an easement either appurtenant or in gross
27 and either granting the State specified rights of use or
28 denying to the grantor specified rights of use, or both; a

1 license; a covenant; or other contractual rights. A dedica-
2 tion shall be deemed effective, and an area shall become a
3 nature preserve, only upon the acceptance of the articles of
4 dedication by the Secretary. Articles of dedication shall
5 be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the
6 county or counties in which the natural area is located.

7 (b) Articles of dedication. Articles of dedication
8 may: (1) contain restrictions and other provisions relat-
9 ing to management, use, development, transfer, and public
10 access, and may contain such other restrictions and provi-
11 sions as may be necessary or advisable to further the
12 purposes of this Article; (2) define, consistently with
13 the purposes of this Article, the respective rights and
14 duties of the owner or operating agency and of the Secretary
15 and provide procedures to be followed in case of violation
16 of the restrictions; (3) recognize and create reversionary
17 rights, transfers upon conditions or with limitations, and
18 gifts over; and (4) vary in provisions from one nature
19 preserve to another in accordance with differences in the
20 characteristics and conditions of the several areas.

21 (c) Amendments of articles. With the approval of the
22 Governor and upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary
23 may determine, the Secretary may, after giving notice and
24 holding a public hearing as provided in G.S. 113A-164.8,
25 enter into amendments of any articles of dedication upon
26 finding that such amendments will not permit an impairment,
27 disturbance, use, or development of the area inconsistent
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1 with the purposes of this Article; provided, however, that
2 if the fee simple estate in the nature preserve is not held
3 by the State under this Article, no amendment shall be made
4 without the written consent of the owner or owners of the
5 other interests therein.

6 "113A-164.7. Nature preserves held in trust.--Nature
7 preserves dedicated pursuant to this act are held in trust
8 for those uses and purposes expressed in this Article for
9 the benefit of the people of North Carolina. They shall be
10 managed and protected according to regulations adopted by
11 the Secretary. They shall not be taken for any other use
12 except another public use after a finding by the Secretary
13 of the existence of an imperative and unavoidable public
14 necessity for such other public use, and with the approval
15 of the Governor. Except as may otherwise be provided in the
16 articles of dedication, the Secretary may grant an estate,
17 interest or right in a nature preserve, but only after a
18 finding by the Secretary of the existence of an imperative
19 and unavoidable public necessity for such grant or disposi-
20 tion, and with the approval of the Governor.

21 "113A-164.8. Disposal of preserve; hearing, no-
22 tice.--Before the Secretary shall make any finding of the
23 existence of an imperative and unavoidable public necessity,
24 or shall grant or dispose of any estate, interest or right
25 in a nature preserve as provided in G.S. 113A-164.7, or
26 shall enter into any amendment of any articles of dedication
27 as provided in G.S. 113A-164.6, he shall give notice of the
28 proposed action and an opportunity for any person to be

1 heard. The notice shall be published at least once in a
2 newspaper with a general circulation in the county or
3 counties where the nature preserve is located. The notice
4 shall set forth the substance of the proposed action and
5 describe the nature preserve affected, and shall specify a
6 place and time not less than thirty [30] days after the
7 notice is published for a public hearing before the Secre-
8 tary or his designated representative on such proposed
9 action. All persons desiring to be heard shall have a
10 reasonable opportunity to be heard prior to action by the
11 Secretary on the proposal.

12 "113A-164.9. Dedication of preserves by governmental
13 units.--All units, departments, agencies, and political
14 subdivisions of the State, including counties, and municipi-
15 palities, are authorized to dedicate as nature preserves
16 suitable areas or portions of areas within their jurisdic-
17 tions."

18 Sec. 2. G.S. 105-287(b) is amended by adding a
19 new subsection (10) to read: "(10) Has increased or
20 decreased in value as a result of being dedicated as a
21 nature preserve."

22 Sec. 3. G.S. 105-317(a)(1) is amended by adding
23 after the phrase "water privileges;" the phrase: "dedica-
24 tion as a nature preserve;".

25 Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.
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INTRODUCED BY:

Referred to:

~~A BILL TO BE ENTITLED~~

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE HORSEPASTURE RIVER A NATURAL RIVER
2 UNDER THE NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 Section 1. G.S. 113A-35.2 is amended by adding a
5 second paragraph to read:

6 "The Horsepasture River from the headwaters to the
7 South Carolina border shall be a natural river area and
8 shall be included in the North Carolina Natural and Scenic
9 Rivers System."

10 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.
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INTRODUCED BY:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO-WAY RADIOS AND
3 TELEPHONE ANSWERING EQUIPMENT FOR THE STATE PARKS AND
4 RECREATION AREAS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General
7 Fund to the Department of Natural Resources and Community
8 Development the sum of fifty-five thousand four hundred
9 fifty dollars (\$55,450) for the 1985-86 fiscal year for the
10 purpose of establishing communications within our State Park
11 and Recreation System by the purchase of two-way radios
12 costing a total of fifty-two thousand six hundred fifty
13 dollars (\$52,650) and telephone answering equipment costing
14 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each of the twenty-eight
15 State Parks.

16 Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1,
17 1985.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT
VARIOUS STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development the sum of six million nine hundred eighty-six thousand sixty-five dollars (\$6,986,065) for the 1985-86 fiscal year for capital improvement projects at State Parks and Recreation Areas and the sum of seven million three hundred ninety-nine thousand six hundred twenty-one dollars (\$7,399,621) for the 1986-87 fiscal year for capital improvement projects at State Parks and Recreation Areas.

Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1985.

APPENDIX P

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREA BONDS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE VOTERS IN A REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 113-1 is amended by deleting the word "Article" and substituting the word "Subchapter".

Sec. 2. The second paragraph of G.S. 113-8 is amended by adding a new sentence at the end of that paragraph to read:

"As part of its care of State parks and recreational areas, the Department shall determine when a bond issue under Article 1E of this Subchapter is needed."

Sec. 3. Subchapter I of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 1E.

"State Park and Recreation Area Bonds.

"§113-28.27. Bonds authorized.--Subject to a favorable vote in the election on whether State Park and Recreation Area Bonds should be issued, the State Treasurer, at the request of the Department, is authorized to issue and sell, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the State, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), to provide funds to purchase land to complete and expand the State's park and recreation areas.

"§113-28.28. Issuance of bonds.--The Department shall determine when a bond issue is necessary and the principal amount of the bonds, not exceeding a total of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), that need to be issued. The State Treasurer shall determine whether to issue the bonds requested by the Department and shall determine all questions concerning the issuance and sale of the bonds. Bonds issued under this Article shall be issued in accordance with Article 1 of Chapter 142 of the General Statutes and Chapter 159E of the General Statutes. All expenses incurred in the sale and issuance of the bonds shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds.

"§113-28.29. Use of bond proceeds.--The proceeds of sale of the bonds shall be placed in a special fund known as the "State Parks and Recreation Area Fund". This Fund may be used only to purchase land for State parks and recreation areas in accordance with the following priorities:

- (1) Completion of the existing parks and recreation areas, including acquiring access and buffer zones and acquiring privately owned land within a park or recreation area; and
- (2) Expansion of the State park system to establish a park within a fifty-mile radius of every resident of this State.

"§ 113-28.30. Tax exemption.--Bonds issued under this Article are exempt from State or local property taxes, and the interest on the bonds is exempt from State income tax.

"§ 113-28.31. Credit of State pledged.--The credit of the State is pledged for the payment of the principal and interest on the bonds authorized by this Article."

Sec. 4. The question of whether general obligation bonds of the State, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), should be issued to provide funds to purchase land to complete and expand the State's park and recreation areas shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next Statewide primary election. The form of the question on a ballot for the bond election shall be: "FOR the issuance of \$50,000,000 State Park and Recreation Area General Obligation Bonds" or "AGAINST the issuance of \$50,000,000 State Park and Recreation Area General Obligation Bonds". If a majority of those voting on this question in the election vote in favor of the issuance of the bonds, the bonds may be issued in accordance with Article 1E of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act. If a majority of the voters voting on this question do not vote in favor of the issuance of the bonds, the bonds may not be issued. The result of the election shall be certified to the Secretary of State by the State Board of Elections.

Sec. 5. Section 4 of this act is effective upon ratification. The remaining sections of this act shall become effective only if State Park and Recreation Area Bonds are approved by the voters in the election held on this issue, as required by Section 4. If the voters approve State Park and Recreation Area Bonds, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act

shall become effective when the results of the election are certified to the Secretary of State.

INTRODUCED BY:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION ON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
3 AREAS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts.

5 Section 1. Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is
6 amended by adding a new Article 12A to read:

7 "Article 12A.

8 "Commission on State Parks and Recreation Areas.

9 "§ 120-70.1. Creation; membership; appointment --There
10 is created a Commission on State Parks and Recreation Areas
11 to be composed of nine members, three Senators to be
12 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, three
13 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House,
14 and three public members to be appointed by the Governor.
15 Appointments to the Commission shall be made within fifteen
16 days subsequent to the adjournment of each regular session
17 of the General Assembly in the odd-numbered years, beginning
18 in 1985.

19 "§ 120-70.2. Terms of office; organization.--Members
20 shall serve two-year terms, beginning on the day of
21 appointment and ending on adjournment of the regular session
22 of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years. Vacancies
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1 occurring during a term shall be filled for the unexpired
2 term by the original appointing authority.

3 The President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House
4 shall each designate a cochairman from their appointees.
5 Either cochairman may call the first meeting of the
6 Commission. The Commission may hold its meetings in the
7 legislative buildings.

8 "§ 120-70.3. Powers and duties of the Commission.--The
9 Commission is authorized:

- 10 (1) To identify the needs of State Parks and
11 Recreation Areas;
- 12 (2) To review and formulate recommended legislation;
- 13 (3) To collect and evaluate reports and
14 recommendations of various agencies, councils, and
15 associations relating to State Parks and
16 Recreation areas;
- 17 (4) To monitor all programs associated with State
18 Parks and Recreation Areas;
- 19 (5) To study any other issues pertinent to the State
20 Park and Recreation System; and
- 21 (6) To file a report with the General Assembly not
22 later than February 15, 1987, and February 15 of
23 each subsequent session in the odd-numbered years
24 on its work and recommendations.

25 "§ 120-74.4. Members to serve without compensation;
26 subsistence and travel expenses.--Members of the Commission
27 shall serve without compensation, but they shall be paid
28 such per diem and travel expenses in accordance with G.S.

1 138-5. Members who are legislators shall be reimbursed for
2 travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with G.S.
3 120-3.1.

4 "§ 120-70.5. Commission staffing.--The Commission
5 shall use available employees, both secretarial and
6 professional, of the General Assembly or may employ such
7 employees as the Commission deems proper. The cochairmen
8 may assign and direct the activities of the employees,
9 subject to the advice of the Commission.

10 "§ 120-70.6. Assistance to the Commission.--The
11 Department of Natural Resources and Community Development
12 and any other departments, boards, or associations shall
13 assist the Commission and furnish any information or
14 expertise requested."

15 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General
16 Fund to the General Assembly the sum of ten thousand dollars
17 (\$10,000) for the fiscal year 1985-86 and five thousand
18 dollars (\$5,000) for the 1986-87 fiscal year for the
19 expenses of the Commission on State Parks and Recreation
20 Areas.

21 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1,
22 1985.
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