

VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

2001 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB3 (Introduced)

Bill Order » Office of Natural Resources » Item 410

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Item 410	First Year - FY2001	Second Year - FY2002
Leisure and Recreation Services (50400)	\$36,179,996	\$30,717,848 \$29,917,848
Preservation of Open-Space Lands (50401)	\$11,239,850	\$6,714,850 \$5,914,850
Financial Assistance for Recreational Development (50402)	\$2,246,563	\$1,531,563
Acquisition, Design, and Construction of Outdoor Recreational Facilities (50403)	\$1,506,084	\$1,383,936
State Park Conservation; Operations, Preservation, and Management (50404)	\$20,215,325	\$20,215,325
Natural, Outdoor Recreational, and Open Space Resource Planning and Technical Assistance (50406)	\$972,174	\$872,174
Fund Sources:		
General	\$27,661,975	\$23,124,827 \$22,324,827
Special	\$6,776,458	\$6,776,458
Federal Trust	\$1,741,563	\$816,563

Authority: Title 10.1, Chapters 1, 2, 2.1, 3, 4, 4.1, and 17, Code of Virginia.

A.1. Out of the amount for Financial Assistance for Recreational Development shall be paid the Commonwealth's matching share of support for the operation and maintenance of Breaks Interstate Park, not to exceed \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year from the general fund.

2. The Breaks Interstate Park Commission shall provide quarterly financial reports detailing all revenues and expenditures to the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Commission shall also submit an annual audit of a fiscal and compliance nature of its accounts and transactions to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

3. Out of the amount for Financial Assistance for Recreational Development shall be paid \$625,000 the first year from the general fund to continue capital improvements at the Breaks Interstate Park. This appropriation is contingent upon matching funds provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

B. Net revenues generated from forest product sales on public park, recreational, and conservation lands owned or managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall be deposited in the Conservation Resources Fund (§ 10.1-202, Code of Virginia). From the total revenues collected by the Department, the Department shall reimburse the Department of Forestry or other sources of forestry expertise for their expenses related to the management, harvesting, and reforestation of the Departmental lands.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 10.1-202, Code of Virginia, the amount for State Park Conservation;

Operations, Preservation and Management include \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year from special fund revenues from park operations for a program of in-state travel advertising. Such travel advertising shall feature Virginia State Parks and the localities or regions in which the parks are located. To the extent possible the Department shall enter into cooperative advertising agreements with the Virginia Tourism Authority and local entities to maximize the effectiveness of expenditures for advertising. The Department is further authorized to enter into a cooperative advertising agreement with the Virginia Association of Broadcasters.

D. All revenue from private concession operations shall be deposited to the Conservation Resources Fund. All revenues from state-operated concession operations shall be deposited into the State-Operated Concession Fund.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 10.1-202, Code of Virginia, amounts deposited to the Conservation Resources Fund may be used to extend the operating season of various state parks and to provide for an in-house reservation system for the state park system.

F. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections, shall, to the extent possible, use inmate labor for routine work projects in state parks and natural areas.

G. Out of the amount for State Park Conservation; Operations, Preservation and Maintenance is \$110,117 the first year and \$110,117 the second year from the general fund for lease payments through the Master Equipment Lease Program for vehicles and maintenance equipment.

H.1. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open-Space Lands is \$600,000 the first year and ~~\$400,000~~ \$600,000 the second year from the general fund for the operating expenses of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

2. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open-Space Lands is \$114,850 the first year and \$114,850 the second year from the general fund for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to restore Aldie Mill.

I. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 10.1-202, Code of Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation will pay from the Conservation Resources Fund \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year for debt service payments resulting from the purchase of Kiptopeke State Park authorized by Chapter 878 of the 1992 Acts of Assembly.

J.1. Out of the amount for Preservation of Open-Space Lands \$3,400,000 the first year from the general fund shall be transferred to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (§ 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia). From this deposit, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation shall make grants to private nonprofit organizations as a match for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies for acquisitions at four threatened Civil War battlefields. From the deposit to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, \$2,100,000 is for acquisitions at the Brandy Station battlefield, \$250,000 is for acquisitions at the Cedar Creek battlefield, \$350,000 is for acquisitions at the Kernstown battlefield, and \$700,000 is for acquisitions at the Third Winchester (Opequon) battlefield. The Department of Historic Resources shall work in conjunction with the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and private nonprofit organizations in securing the acquisition of the battlefields.

2. This Item includes \$6,200,000 the first year and ~~\$6,200,000~~ \$5,200,000 the second year from the general fund to carry out the purposes of Chapter 900, Acts of Assembly of 1999. These funds shall be deposited in the Virginia Land Conservation Fund pursuant to § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia.

3. The Chairman of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation shall provide a report by December 15 of each year to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees, including, but not limited to, implementation of the Foundation's strategic plan; projects under consideration for funding; and expenditures from, interest earned by, and financial obligations of the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.

K. Out of the amounts for Leisure and Recreation Services, \$75,000 the first year from the general fund shall be

paid to the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission for continuing design and construction of a greenway along the Roanoke River.

L. Pursuant to SJR 194 (2000), the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a Trevilian Station Battlefield State Park in Louisa County. The Department shall consult with the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation in conducting this study. The results of this study shall be reported to the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Finance and Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committees on Appropriations and Conservation and Natural Resources by November 1, 2000.

M. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall provide staff to assist the City of Danville in analyzing the operations and facilities of Dan Daniel Memorial Park to provide recommendations as to how the Park could better serve the citizens of that region.

N. Included in the amount for Financial Assistance for Recreational Development is \$15,000 the first year from the general fund for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

O. This Item includes \$100,000 the first year from the general fund for the Department to contract for an environmental impact statement on a proposed Horse Trail.

P. Included in the amount for Acquisition, Design and Construction of Outdoor Recreation Facilities is \$122,148 the first year from the general fund for the George Washington's Grist Mill project.

Q. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, with the cooperation of the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall determine the feasibility of converting a portion of Commonwealth-owned property adjacent to the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center to a state park or natural area preserve. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall make a report of its findings, including estimates of any costs of the conversion, to the Chairmen of the House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committees no later than October 1, 2001.

R. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation is authorized to accept on behalf of the Commonwealth a gift of the Mulberry Hill Mansion and adjacent properties to the Staunton River Battlefield State Park.

S. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation is authorized to accept on behalf of the Commonwealth a gift from the Nature Conservancy of property adjacent to the James River State Park.

T. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall continue to develop a plan in conjunction with localities comprising the Upper Valley Regional Park Authority for a possible partnership with the state, or the gradual conversion to state-ownership of Grand Caverns and Natural Chimneys Regional Parks, pursuant to the recommendations contained in Senate Document Number 23 (2000) and Senate Joint Resolution 249 (2000).

U. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall not reduce the days or hours of operations of any state park without first notifying the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. Such notification shall be in writing and shall include, but not be limited to, identifying the parks and programs to be affected; the amount of dollars and positions taken; the revised days and hours of operations; and the length of time the revised operations will be in effect.

V. Before the Department commits staff and moneys to develop a Rails to Trails project from Eagle Rock in Botetourt County to New Castle in Craig County, the Boards of Supervisors from Botetourt and Craig Counties shall formally agree to match the Commonwealth's expenditures on a dollar-for-dollar basis.