

# York River State Park Master Plan Update

Public Information Meeting

**May 19, 2026**



# Meeting Agenda



- Introductions
- Intro to Virginia State Parks
- York River State Park:
  - Welcome and Background
- What is a Master Plan?
- Resources Review
- Why does DCR Plan?
- **Public Input Tabletop Exercise**
- Opportunities for Public Comment
- Q&A Session

# VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

## HEART OF APPALACHIA

- BK** - Breaks Interstate Park
- CR** - Clinch River State Park
- NT** - Natural Tunnel State Park
- SW** - Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park
- WR** - Wilderness Road State Park

## BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS

- CL** - Claytor Lake State Park
- GH** - Grayson Highlands State Park
- HM** - Hungry Mother State Park
- NR** - New River Trail State Park
- ST** - Shot Tower Historical State Park

## SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

- FS** - Fairy Stone State Park
- MR** - Mayo River State Park \*
- OC** - Occoneechee State Park
- SB** - Staunton River Battlefield Historical State Park
- SR** - Staunton River State Park

## VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS

- DO** - Douthat State Park
- HF** - Hayfields State Park \*
- SM** - Smith Mountain Lake State Park

## SHENANDOAH VALLEY

- NB** - Natural Bridge State Park
- SE** - Seven Bends State Park
- SH** - Shenandoah River State Park
- SK** - Sky Meadows State Park

\* Under development

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

- BC** - Bear Creek Lake State Park
- HB** - High Bridge Trail State Park
- HL** - Holliday Lake State Park
- JR** - James River State Park
- PO** - Pocahontas State Park
- PW** - Powhatan State Park
- SC** - Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park
- TL** - Twin Lakes State Park

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- CB** - Culpeper Battlefields Historical State Park
- LA** - Lake Anna State Park
- LE** - Leesylvania State Park
- MN** - Mason Neck State Park
- SN** - Sweet Run State Park
- WW** - Widewater State Park

## CHESAPEAKE BAY

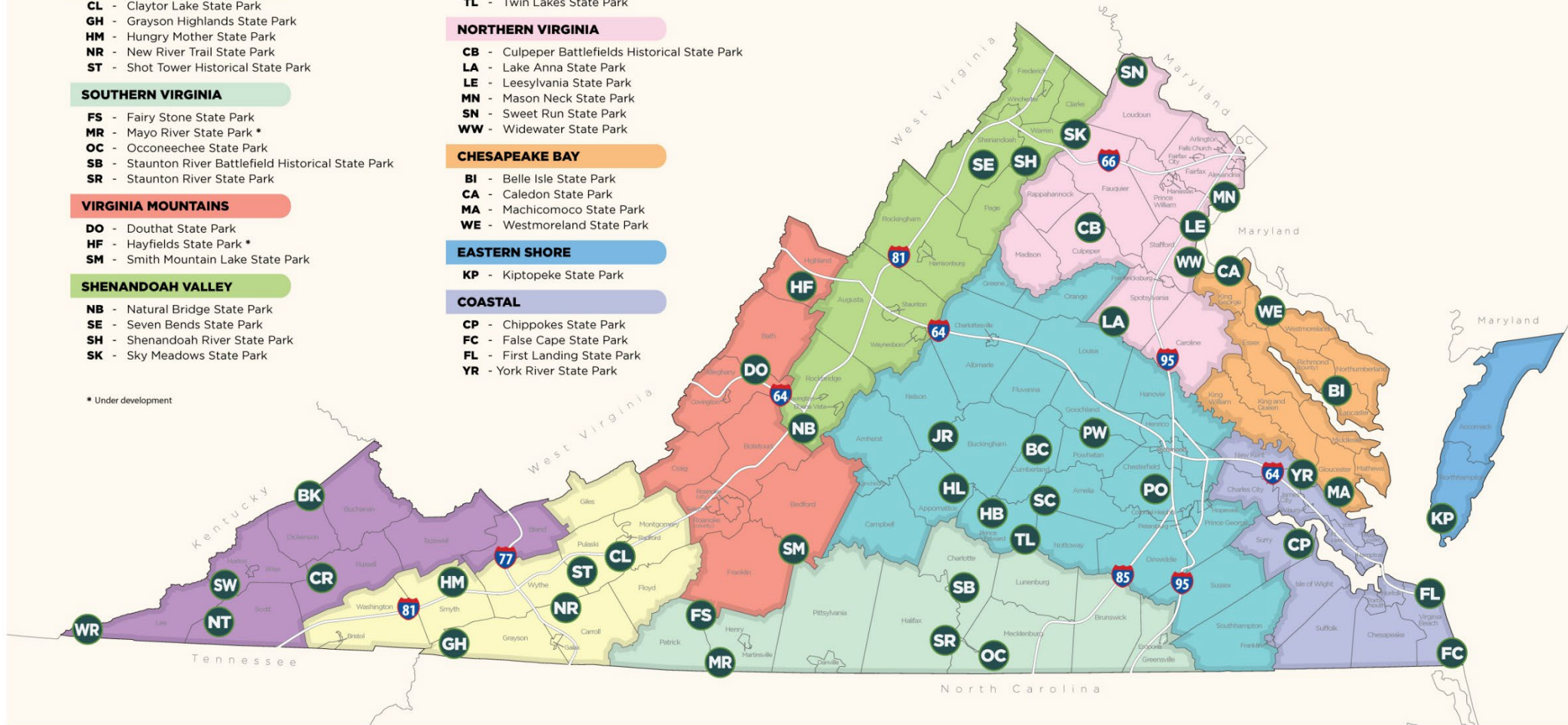
- BI** - Belle Isle State Park
- CA** - Caledon State Park
- MA** - Machicomoco State Park
- WE** - Westmoreland State Park

## EASTERN SHORE

- KP** - Kiptopeke State Park

## COASTAL

- CP** - Chippokes State Park
- FC** - False Cape State Park
- FL** - First Landing State Park
- YR** - York River State Park

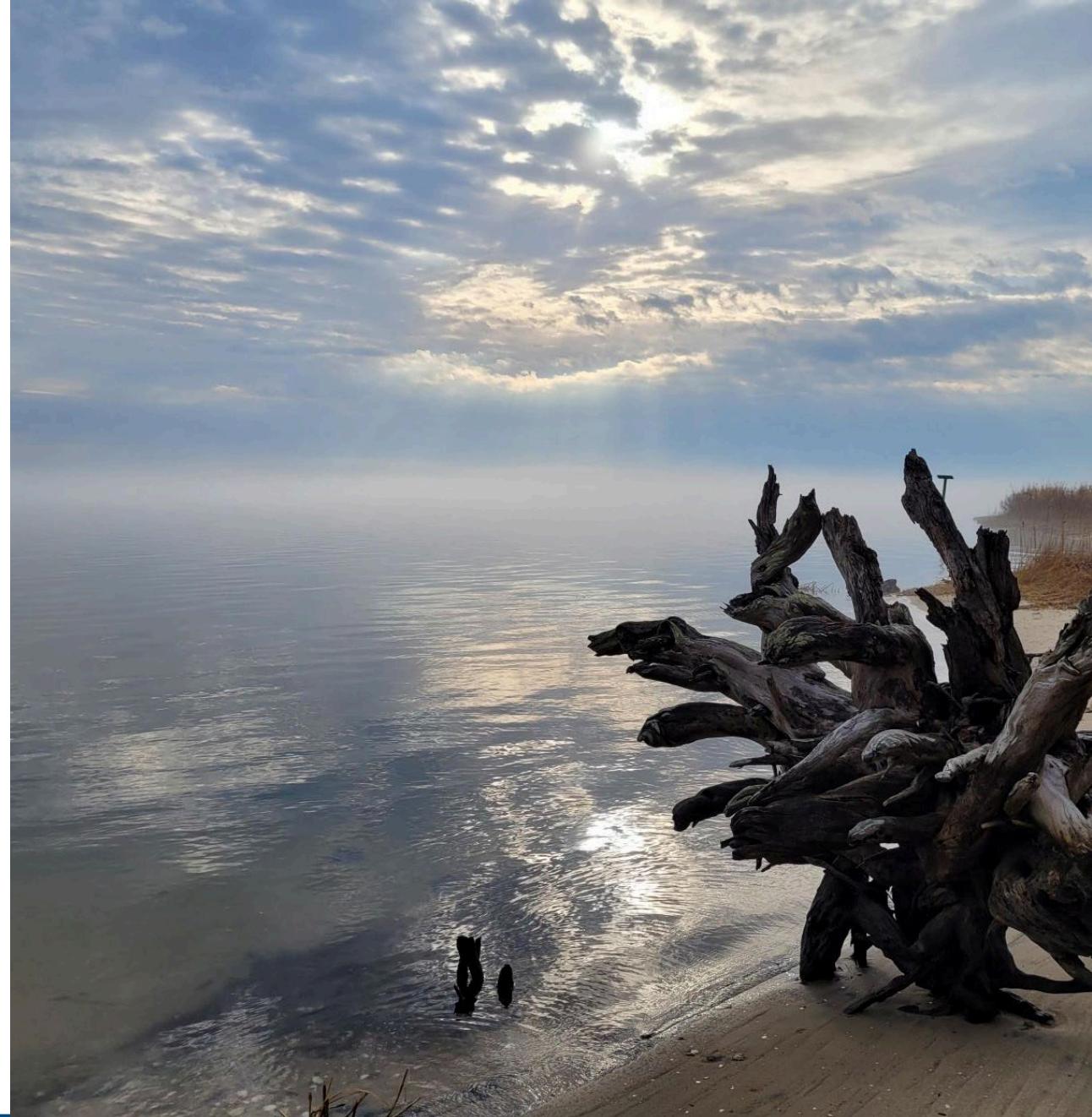


# York River State Park: Welcome and Background



# What is a Master Plan?

- Comprehensive planning document for the development of a Virginia State Park over a 30 years time frame.
- Identifies key natural, cultural, and physical resources to be conserved, protected, and interpreted.
- Sets the park mission statement, interpretive themes and essential experiences.
- Outlines the capital development and staff necessary to complete the park's mission and goals.



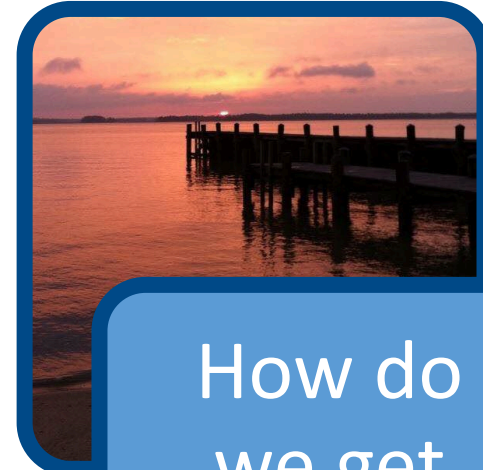
# Master Planning Vision



What does  
the park  
have?

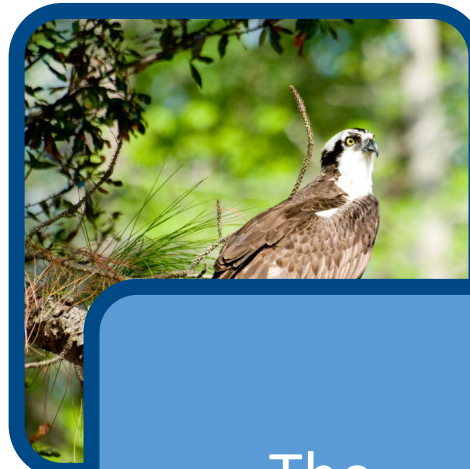


What do  
visitors  
need?



How do  
we get  
there  
together?

# Master Planning Vision



The  
Resources



The Visitor  
Experience



Capital  
Development  
and Staffing

# Planning Context





# Natural Resources



# Natural Resources



# Cultural Resources





# Cultural Resources



Photo Credits: NPS



# Cultural Resources

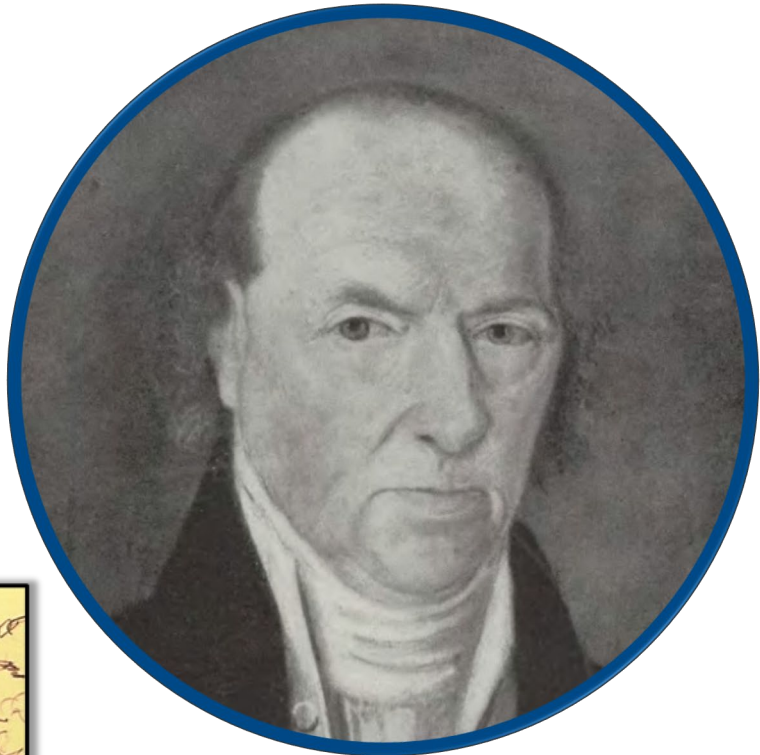


Photo Credits: Center – Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Right – Corcoran Gallery of Art



# Physical Resources





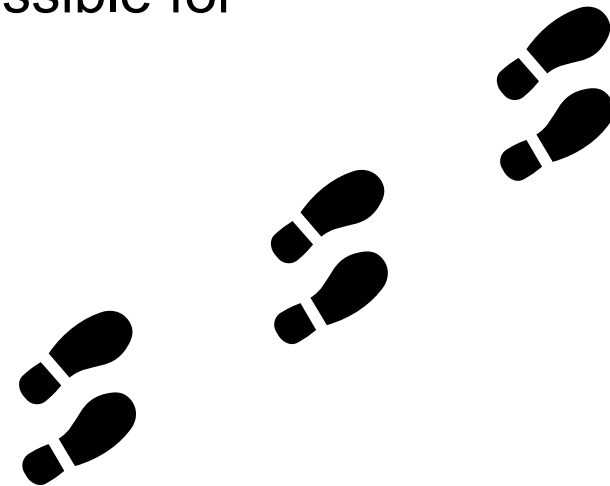
# Trails



# Trails Summary



- Over 40 total miles
- Combination of single-use and multi-use trails
- Over 32 miles accessible for biking
- Over 19 miles accessible for hiking
- Over 13 miles accessible for equestrian



# Planning Process





# Why Do We Plan?

## DCR Periodically Updates Master Plans Because:

- **York River State Park opened in 1980, the last plan was in 2015, and things change:**
  - Trends in the Park System
  - Trends in the Outdoor Recreation Economy
  - Trends in Community Needs

# Why Does DCR Plan?

## DCR Periodically Updates Master Plans Because:

- **Visitors Know The Park:**

- User Satisfaction
- Safety
- Convenience
- Demand for Current Offerings
- Requests for Future Offerings



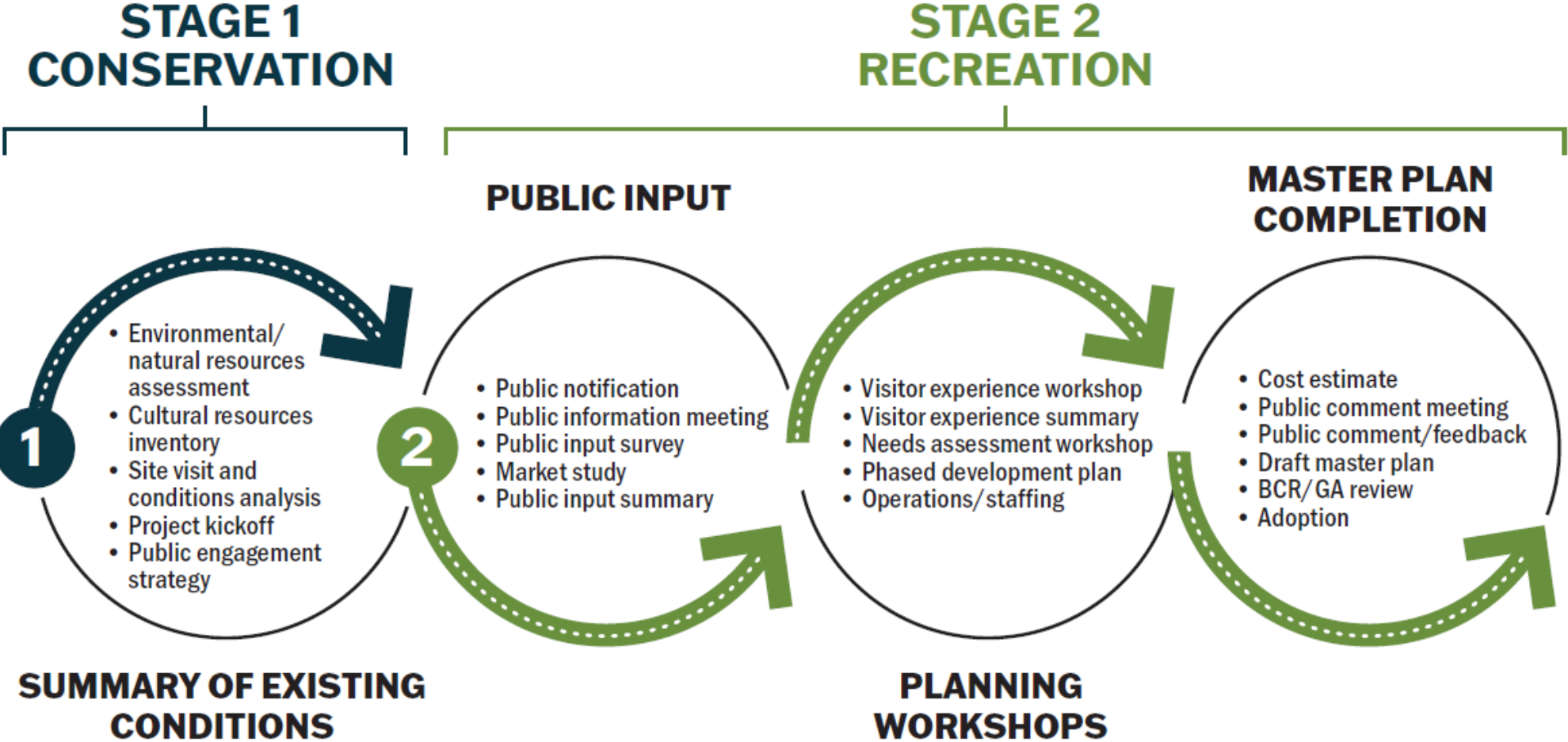
# Why Does DCR Plan?

## DCR Periodically Updates Master Plans Because:

- **Location, Location, Location:**
  - Always learning about park resources (e.g., natural, cultural)
  - New facilities need to be sited intelligently based on:
    - Resource inventories
    - Preferred visitor experience
    - The functional interrelatedness and compatibility among amenities and resources



# Planning Process



# Tentative Timeline for Next Steps

- **Tonight:** Public Information Meeting followed by a 30-day comment period.
- **Summer 2026 through Early 2027:** Internal resource inventories, park visitor experience and needs assessment workshops, and associated meetings.
- **Early 2027:** Public Comment Meeting for community review of the draft Phased Development Plan, followed by a 30-day comment period.
- **Spring and Summer 2027:** Writing and review of the new York River State Park Master Plan.
- **Fall 2027:** Review by the Board of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia General Assembly, and adoption by the DCR Director.

# Public Input

We want to hear from you!

- Public comment period for 30 days (June 18, 2026)
- Your comments count survey  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/other/your-comments-count>



- Email [PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov) with “York River SP Master Plan” in the subject line.



# Public Input Tabletop Exercise



## 1. What audience/user group are you a part of?

- What activities do you regularly engage in?
- Assign each participant to a user group

## 2. Discuss among your group:

- Identify 3 things about the park that should stay the same
- Identify 3 things that should be added/improved
- Identify any issues or challenges to the above
- Write them down; locate on the map (optional)
- **Red = STOP**...this is great/perfect as it is!
- **Green = GO**...add/improve this at the park
- **Yellow = CAUTION**...this is an issue/challenge we identified

# Thank You for Attending!

Please submit any additional comments to  
[PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov)  
by **June 18, 2026**

## Questions?

Please contact Josh Bateman,  
Environmental Program Planner, at the  
email noted above!

All emails and questions will be taken under  
consideration and responses provided.



Visit us on the web for project updates and  
presentation materials!

[https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-  
planning/yr-masterplan](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/yr-masterplan)