



VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

1929 GCV SUPPORTS VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

- The Garden Club of Virginia, the Virginia Academy of Science and the Izaak Walton League pass resolutions in support of State Parks.
- GCV features Natural Bridge in Historic Garden Week Guidebook

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
April 29 Through May 16, 1929
(Omitting Sunday, May 5th.)

MRS. T. S. WHEELWRIGHT MRS. WM. R. MASSIE
Chairman *Vice-Chairman*
 BUCKHEAD SPRINGS, VIRGINIA THE FRESHWOLD, RICHMOND, VA.

ONCE again the members of the Garden Club of Virginia are undertaking a work of restoration. This time it is the Garden at Kenmore, at Fredericksburg, Virginia, the home of Betty Washington Lewis, only sister of George Washington. The lovely old house is being reclaimed through the efforts of the Kenmore Association. The members of the Garden Club of Virginia are co-operating with the Kenmore Association and have taken the garden as it was in pre-Revolutionary days as their share of the work of restoration. To finance this enterprise they have obtained permission of the owners of many historic places in every section of Virginia to open them to the public for one week, beginning Monday, April 29th (omitting Sunday, May 5th), through Monday, May 10th. Admission to each garden listed, 50 cents. A book of 24 tickets for the price of \$10.00 may be bought from the committee in advance. A guide book containing a short history of each place, road maps, names of available hotels, garages and other helpful information can now be purchased from the committee. Price \$2.75.

.... LIST OF GARDENS

<i>Locality of Alexandria</i> Gannon Hall *Public Church	<i>Locality of Bedford</i> Bannon's Castle Old Fort Boykin Shoat Bay	<i>Locality of Charlottesville</i> University of Virginia Fernington Ridgeway Marven Monticello Melia Tavern Tombstone Round Top Tullwood Dunroville Maxfield
<i>Locality of Fredericksburg</i> Belmont Chatham Innocent Marion Wakefield Stratford Fall Hill	<i>Locality of Norfolk</i> Lawson Hall Parker Hall *Cape Henry *Old Dominion Church Old Lynnhaven	<i>Locality of Orange</i> Montpelier Bathoneville Horse Shoe Washberry Forest Francis
<i>Locality of Richmond</i> Ricker Hill Beverly Turkeyhoe (not open) James River Plantation Shirley Wentworth Hampstead Williamsburg Jamestown York Hall Clarendon Manor Brandon Upper Brandon Appomattox Manor	<i>Locality of Danville</i> Oak Ridge Red Hill Parsimond Oak Hill Stanton Hill Berry Hill	<i>Locality of Winchester and Clarke</i> Fairfield Carter Hall Anerfield Bakely Audley
<i>Locality of Petersburg</i> The Casey *Haxford Church *Violet Banks	<i>Locality of Lynchburg</i> Swoodesville Poplar Forest <i>Locality of Staunton and Loudoun</i> Folly *McChesell Burying Ground Virginia Military Institute Washington and Lee University Natural Bridge	<i>Locality of Fauquier and Loudoun</i> Oak Hill Outlands Merron Park Oakwood Rock Hill

*No admission fee.
 A selected number of *Madora Gardens* may be seen in the following localities:
 Lynchburg, Warrenton, Hot Springs, Charlottesville.

At Virginia House in Windsor Farms, Richmond, Virginia, from April 29th until May 27th, there will be held an exhibition of Historical Portraits under the auspices of the Virginia Historical Society.

STAUNTON AND LEXINGTON

NATURAL BRIDGE

ON JULY 5th, 1774, a grant was given by George III, King of England, conveying one hundred and seven acres of land, with the Natural Bridge, to Thomas Jefferson; by this grant the Natural Bridge passed into private ownership.

Before the property passed out of royal hands, there is on record a description of the land, mentioning marks carefully noted by the surveyor. Persistent legend tells that it was the hand of Washington who ran those lines, although there is no direct statement to that effect in old-established records. On the walls of the bridge are carved the letters G. W.

In 1802, Jefferson built a two-roomed log cabin, on the site of the present Jefferson Cottage, one room of which was to be kept for visitors. The next accommodation for visitors was another log house, part of which is still standing, and can be seen from the Valley Road, with the remains of the original Natural Bridge Road, winding up to its door. Over across from this ruin there stands on the Valley Road, which was the old wagon trail to the west, Stone Castle, an overnight stopping place in stage coach days. This house was once owned by Thomas Jefferson. Later Forest Inn was built and still later the Natural Bridge Hotel.

In his Notes on Virginia, speaking of Natural Bridge, Jefferson says, "So beautiful an arch, so elevated, so light, and springing as it were up to heaven. The rapture of the spectator is really indescribable! This bridge is in the County of Rockbridge, to which it has given name, and affords a public and commodious passage over a valley which cannot be crossed elsewhere for a considerable distance."

1936 VIRGINIA STATE PARKS OPEN

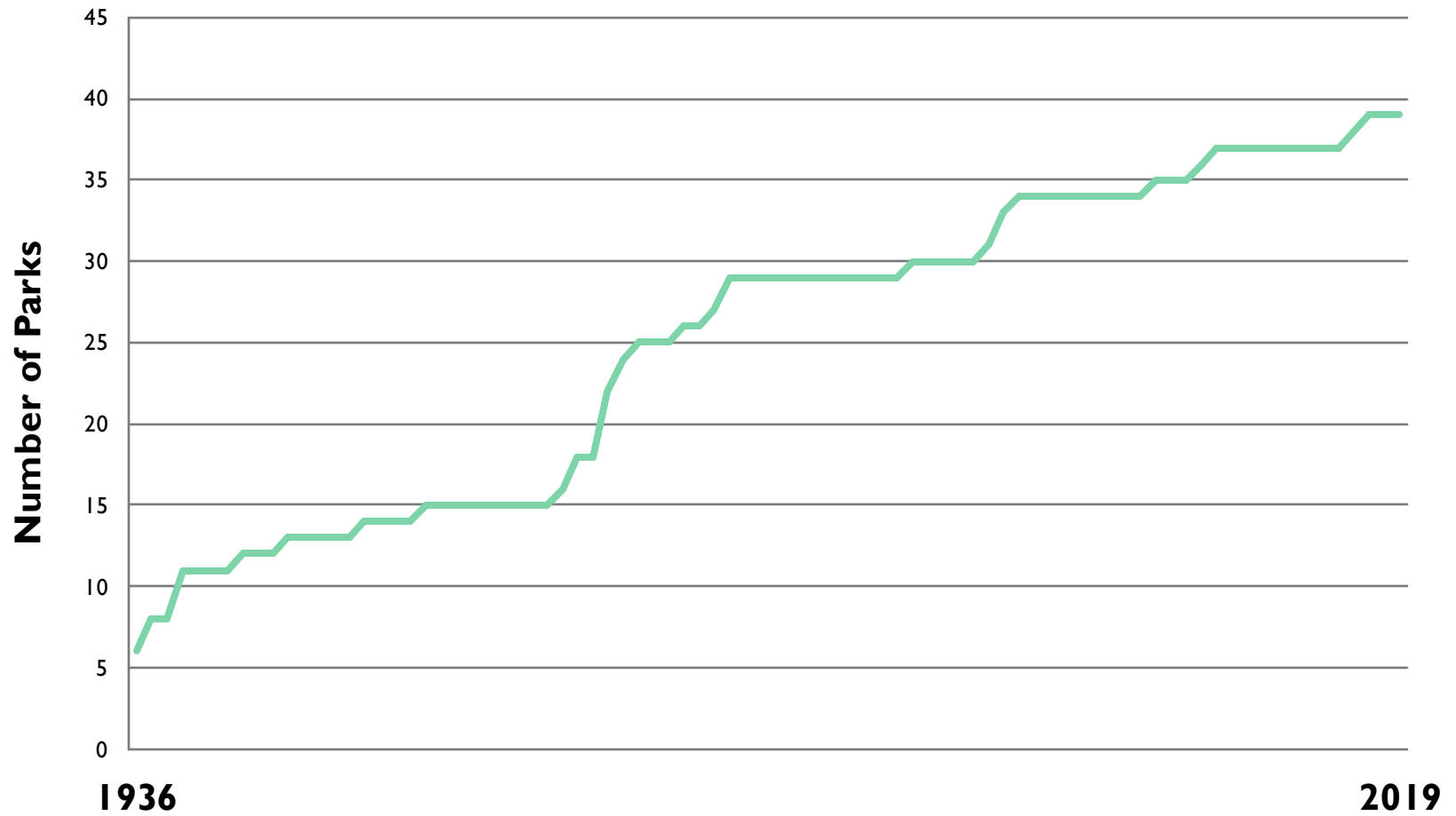


- Official opening ceremony for the Virginia State Parks System. The ceremony was held at Hungry Mother State Park. Thousands of Virginians attended the celebration, which included concerts, a water pageant and a bathing beauty contest.
- Two days later, the system's first six state parks opened to the public.
 - Seashore State Park (now First Landing)
 - Westmoreland
 - Staunton River
 - Douthat
 - Fairy Stone
 - Hungry Mother

1965 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN

- VA Outdoor Recreation Study Commission is created with GCV Honorary Member Fitzgerald Bemiss as chairman.
- The Commission establishes the Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- The plan is required for Virginia to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

VA STATE PARKS GROWTH 1936 - 2019



VA STATE PARKS ATTENDANCE 1994 - 2018



VISITOR SPENDING IN VA STATE PARKS (M)



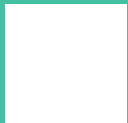
2018

\$249.1



2017

\$226.1



2016

\$224.7



\$500,000

CENTENNIAL GIFT

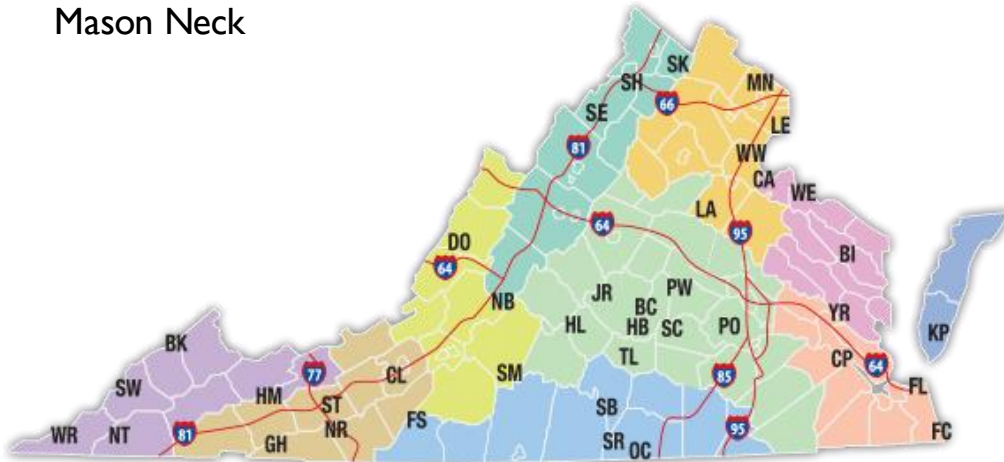
VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

21 Clubs have partnered with 23 VA State Parks to secure funding through our 2020 Centennial Project.

Bear Creek
Belle Isle
Caledon
Chippokes Plantation
Claytor Lake
Douthat
Fairy Stone
Holliday Lake
Hungry Mother
James River
Lake Anna
Leesylvania
Mason Neck

Middle Peninsula
Natural Bridge
Pocahontas
Shenandoah River
Sky Meadows
Smith Mountain Lake
Staunton River
Staunton River Battlefield
Westmoreland
York River
Youth Conservation
Corps

The Garden Club of Alexandria
The Blue Ridge Garden Club
The Garden Club of Danville
The Garden Club of Fairfax
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club
The Garden Study Club
The Garden Club of Gloucester
The Hampton Roads Garden Club
Hillside Garden Club
The Hunting Creek Garden Club
The Huntington Garden Club
The James River Garden Club
The Lynchburg Garden Club
The Martinsville Garden Club
Mill Mountain Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Rivanna Garden Club
The Roanoke Valley Garden Club
The Garden Club of Warren County
Williamsburg Garden Club





2017 VIRGINIA STATE PARKS \$129,417

1. **Belle Isle** - Improving landscaping around historic Belle Isle mansion *The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*
2. **Fairy Stone** - Pollinator waystation *The Martinsville Garden Club, The Garden Study Club, The Garden Club of Danville*
3. **Leesylvania** - Wildflower planting, reducing invasives and eliminating mowing
4. **Mason Neck** - New Visitor Center entry; hardscaping and landscaping of pollinator garden *The Hunting Creek Garden Club, The Garden Club of Fairfax, The Garden Club of Alexandria*
5. **Middle Peninsula** - Supplies for educational programming *The Garden Club of Gloucester*
6. **Natural Bridge** - Outfitting a classroom for educational programming in Visitor Center
7. **Pocahontas** - Converting a Heritage Center to a Discovery Center
8. **Sky Meadows** - Track Trails and Discovery area *Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club*
9. **Smith Mountain Lake** - Supplies for educational programming in wet lab *The Roanoke Valley Garden Club, Mill Mountain Garden Club*
10. **Staunton River State Park** – Beautification of grounds surrounding Civilian Conservation Corps guest cabins. *The Garden Club of Danville*
11. **Youth Conservation Corps** - Supplies for residential summer program in 17 parks



2018 VIRGINIA STATE PARKS \$114,145

1. **Belle Isle** – phase two of improvements to the landscape at the Belle Isle mansion and enhancing learning panels in Visitor’s Center *The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*
2. **Caledon** – drinking fountain *The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club*
3. **Holliday Lake** – underwater lighting *Hillside Garden Club and The Lynchburg Garden Club*
4. **Hungry Mother** – Children’s Discovery area
5. **James River** – native plant and pollinator garden *Rivanna Garden Club*
6. **Lake Anna** – native plant landscaping around new cabins *The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club*
7. **Natural Bridge** – continued improvements to Interactive Classroom *The Blue Ridge Garden Club*
8. **Pocahontas** – shoreline restoration *The James River Garden Club*
9. **Shenandoah River** – Pollinator Meadow with bee habitat *The Garden Club of Warren County*
10. **Sky Meadows** – Children’s Discovery area and trails *Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club*
11. **Westmoreland** – creating a Discovery center in the former Visitor’s Center *The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*
12. **York River** – landscaping improvements in three gardens *The Hampton Roads Garden Club, The Huntington Garden Club and The Williamsburg Garden Club*
13. **Youth Conservation Corps** – to help with purchase of materials

2019 GRANTS



Number of Applications Received **12**



Total Funding Requested **\$132,948**



Available funds for 2019 grants total **\$101,740**



New Applicants **5**



2019 VIRGINIA STATE PARKS \$101,091

1. **Bear Creek Lake*** - Pollinator meadow and landscaping
2. **Belle Isle** - Phase 3 Belle Isle Manor and Bel Air House landscaping *The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*
3. **Chippokes Plantation*** - Visitor Center Exhibit Updates
4. **Claytor Lake*** - Native Landscaping
5. **Douthat*** - Dark Sky Park
6. **Natural Bridge** –Visitor Center Base Camp Exhibits *The Blue Ridge Garden Club*
7. **Pocahontas** - CCC Work Cabin Week
8. **Shenandoah River** –Visitor Center Landscaping *The Garden Club of Warren County*
9. **Sky Meadow** - Phase 3 Trail System *Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club*
10. **Staunton River Battlefield*** - Mulberry Hill Interpretation
11. **York River** - Landscaping and turtle habitat *The Hampton Roads Garden Club, The Huntington Garden Club and The Williamsburg Garden Club*
12. **Youth Conservation Corps** - Supplies

* First time applicant in 2019



BEAR CREEK LAKE STATE PARK

POLLINATOR MEADOW AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS AT PARK ENTRANCE

Tree Budget: \$1000

Actual: 24 trees/shrubs for \$223.75

9 Sourwood, 2 Sweet Bay Magnolia, 2 Flowering Dogwood, 2 Eastern Redbud, 3 Strawberry Bush, 3 Red Chokecherry, 3 Black Haw

We utilized our District Resource crew to help us plant the trees and bushes.

The Sourwood and Sweet Bay Magnolia trees we put along the trail through the Archery Range that is also going to be the location of the pollinator meadow.

The Sourwood trees were a good find since they tend to bloom towards the middle of summer during the summer nectar dearth. This should provide a source of nectar during that time.

The Red Bud and Flowering Dogwood trees we put near the entrance sign and spillway view shed to help dress that area up.

The Red Chokecherry, Strawberry Bush, and Black Haw shrubs we put in the Cancer Survivor Garden area to help create a buffer between the trail, road, and outflow stream and to provide food for wildlife.

We are getting ready to spread the wildflower seeds in the pollinator meadow. We are holding off until the 50/50 frost date passes (April 21) just to make sure we get the optimal amount of germination. Once we get the seeds sewn, we will hopefully get a break in the wet weather to install the pavers and mulch around the trees and shrubs in the entrance/spillway area.

BEAR CREEK LAKE STATE PARK

POLLINATOR MEADOW AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS AT PARK ENTRANCE



BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

PECAN ALLEE, HOLLY HEDGE, FENCING



DOUTHAT STATE PARK

DARK SKY PROJECT

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

- Blue Ridge Garden Club

- Base Camp Exhibits

- Augmented Reality Sandbox
Watershed Exhibit

- Observation Bee Hive





POCAHONTAS
STATE PARK
CCC cabin fall work week

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN

TRAIL REHABILITATION



SHENANDOAH RIVER STATE PARK



THE GARDEN CLUB OF WARREN COUNTY

Visitor Center Landscape Restoration 1.4 acre pollinator meadow



YORK RIVER STATE PARK

- **Hampton Roads Garden Club**
- **Huntington Garden Club**
- **Williamsburg Garden Club**

Living Turtle Garden, Rain Basin, Native Plants



Back to Nature

Horticulture, Hiking and 61st Annual Conservation Forum

Join Us At Natural Bridge

September 24-25

Back to Nature with the **Garden Club of Virginia!** The 2-day event at Natural Bridge State Park opens Tuesday, September 24 with our popular Horticulture Show and will include guided hikes, geocaching and a tree planting to celebrate our work at Natural Bridge. Join friends for Horticulture Sip and See in late afternoon.

Wednesday, September 25 features the Garden Club of Virginia's **61st Annual Conservation Forum - Trees: Canopy of Conservation**. This popular event includes four speakers who will present a broad range of topics relating trees to the benefit of our environment.



Horticulture Show. Knowing, growing and showing Virginia Native Plants.
[Learn More...](#)



Tuesday in the Park Guided Tours, Geocaching, Self-Guided Hiking and Biking. Gather friends and enjoy nature your way!
[Learn more...](#)



Conservation Forum 61st Annual Conservation Forum - Trees: Canopy of Conservation. Four speakers, four topics.
[Learn more...](#)

NATURAL BRIDGE

SEPTEMBER 24 25