# South Carolina State Parks



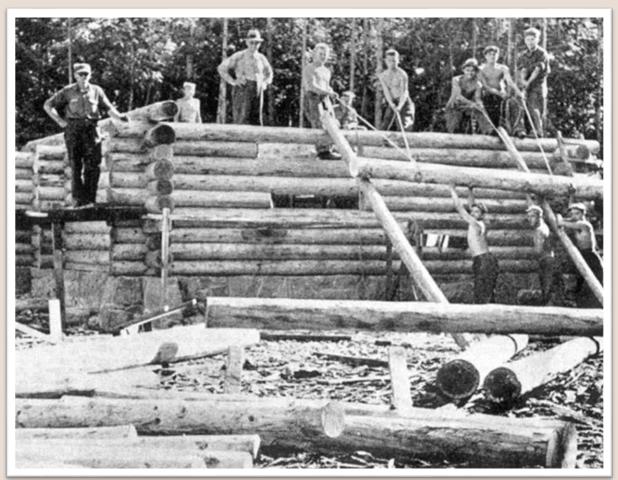
# Phil Gaines State Parks Director

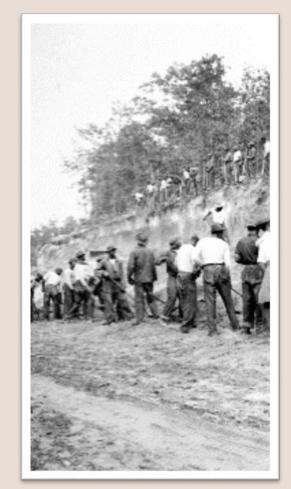
House Legislative Oversight Committee Executive Subcommittee Meeting May 8, 2018

















## **State Parks Service Mission**

To encourage people to discover South Carolina's State Parks by providing resourced-based recreational and educational opportunities that emphasize the conservation, protection and interpretation of the state's natural and cultural resources





## **47 State Parks**

90,000 acres

3,000 campsites

142 cabins

80 hotel rooms

Two 18-hole golf courses

300+ miles of trails





































# State Parks Goals, Strategies & Objectives

## **Goal 1 – Stewardship of Agency Resources**

Strategy 1.1 – Effectively Operate State Parks with Standard Business Management Practices (Budget FY 18: \$26,410,054; Responsible Employee: Phil Gaines, State Parks Director)

Strategy 1.2 — Protect and Preserve Natural and Cultural Resources in South Carolina State Parks (Budget FY 18: \$465,000; Responsible Employee: Terry Hurley, Chief of Resource Management)

## **Goal 2 – Encourage Business Development and Economic Growth**

Strategy 2.2 – Enhance the State Park Product to Encourage Visitation (Budget FY 18: \$20,248,106; Responsible Employee: Phil Gaines, State Parks Director)



## State Parks Deliverable 1: Admissions

Deliverable Required by S.C. Code §51 - 1 - 60(b). Powers and duties of department.

Allowed to Charge: S.C. Code §51 - 1 - 40. Admission and other fees; gift and souvenir shop revenues.

#### **Additional laws Governing State Parks Admissions Charges**

S.C. Code Ann. §51-3-60 Use of facilities free of charge by aged, blind or disabled; disabled veterans; reduced rates for campsites.

S.C. Code Ann. §51-3-65 Fee structure adjustments to maintain fiscal soundness and continued maintenance of system.



# State Parks Deliverable 1: Admissions

#### **State Parks Total Visitation - Estimated**

FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
7,291,493	7,193,773	6,933,908	7,730,666	8,096,331	8,597,083	8,086,531

#### **State Parks Admissions Revenue\***

 FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015		FY 2016		FY 2017	
\$ 3,760,184.71	\$ 4,036,933.24	\$ 4,139,416.84	\$ 4,711,243.88	\$ 5,225,486.88	\$	5,725,666.53	\$	6,041,160.67	

\*Performance Measure



# State Parks Deliverable 2: Overnight Accommodations

Deliverable Allowed by S.C. Code Ann. §51 - 1 - 40. Admission and other fees; gift and souvenir shop revenues.

### **Additional laws Governing State Parks Overnight Accommodations**

S.C. Code Ann. §51-3-60 Use of facilities free of charge by aged, blind or disabled; disabled veterans; reduced rates for campsites.

S.C. Code Ann. §51-3-65 Fee structure adjustments to maintain fiscal soundness and continued maintenance of system.



# State Parks Deliverable 2: Overnight Accommodations

#### **Number of Customers Served\***

	F	FY 2011 FY 2012		F	FY 2013 FY 2014		FY 2015		FY 2016		FY 2017			
	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %	Nights	Occupancy %
Cabins	30,269	57.59%	31,249	59.45%	30,174	66.26%	29,011	64.24%	28,813	60.26%	29,597	61.74%	28,668	52.68%
<b>Lodge Rooms</b>	9,674	34.42%	8,995	32.00%	9,286	36.24%	8,714	34.01%	8,424	30.52%	8,108	29.74%	8,977	31.94%
Campsites	357,063	34.56%	361,211	34.96%	350,328	33.90%	364,745	35.30%	374,388	36.23%	384,978	37.26%	352,417	34.11%

### **Overnight Accommodations Revenue**

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Rental-Cabins & Lodges	\$ 3,487,028.41	\$ 3,573,358.61	\$ 3,654,077.60	\$ 3,760,774.38	\$ 4,082,746.67	\$ 4,182,675.54	\$ 4,257,787.90
Rental-Camping	\$ 7,445,084.33	\$ 7,830,529.92	\$ 8,286,581.78	\$ 8,758,426.41	\$ 10,333,779.55	\$ 10,468,429.10	\$ 9,220,196.53

\*Performance Measures



## State Parks Deliverable 3: State Parks Retail

Deliverable not specifically mentioned in law, but provided to achieve the requirements of the applicable law

#### **Additional laws Governing State Parks Retail**

S.C. Code Ann. §51 - 1 - 40. Admission and other fees; gift and souvenir shop revenues.

S.C. Code Ann. §51-3-65 Fee structure adjustments to maintain fiscal soundness and continued maintenance of system.



## State Parks Deliverable 3: State Parks Retail

#### **State Parks Retail Sales Revenue**

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Retail Sales	\$ 3,166,343.28	\$ 3,694,781.47	\$ 3,838,116.65	\$ 4,139,412.02	\$ 4,418,803.38	\$ 4,617,423.53	\$ 4,662,560.23

# **Top Retail Sales Categories** (2017)

- Apparel \$948,592.24
- Park Passports \$865,323.89
- Edibles \$727,464.47
- Prepared Food \$634,651.52
- Novelties \$345,506.79















# State Parks Total Revenues/Operating Expenses

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$19,992,503	\$21,228,140	\$22,332,204	\$24,039,397	\$26,906,654	\$28,053,715	\$27,168,601
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$24,102,182	\$25,333,470	\$26,094,760	\$27,727,683	\$28,567,177	\$29,298,442	\$30,393,216
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$(4,109,679)	\$(4,105,330)	\$(3,762,556)	\$(3,688,286)	\$(1,660,523)	\$(1,244,727)	\$(3,224,616)
% Self Supporting	82.94%	83.79%	85.58%	86.70%	94.19%	95.75%	89.39%

### **State Park Expense per Visitor**

 FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
\$3.31	\$3.52	\$3.76	\$3.59	\$3.53	\$3.41	\$3.76

#### **State Parks Volunteer Hours**

FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
101,869	102,650	97,650	98,950	110,340



# State Parks Self-Sufficiency Rankings (2016) Southeastern States

STATE	PARK GENERATED	TOTAL OPERATING	SELF	RANK
	REVENUE	EXPENSES	SUSTAINING	
South Carolina	\$28,053,715	\$29,298,442	95.75%	1
Florida	\$68,457,035	\$77,011,315	88.89%	2
Alabama	\$34,929,049	\$41,966,182	83.23%	3
Georgia	\$29,176,895	\$47,347,686	61.62%	4
Mississippi	\$8,538,405	\$15,318,575	55.74%	5
Virginia	\$21,255,694	\$41,076,994	51.75%	6
West Virginia	\$21,854,544	\$42,409,274	51.53%	7
Kentucky	\$44,001,938	\$89,893,438	48.95%	8
Tennessee	\$36,742,621	\$82,379,722	44.60%	9
Arkansas	\$25,446,749	\$61,258,224	41.54%	10
North Carolina	\$9,484,318	\$38,900,221	24.38%	11
Louisiana	\$859,768	\$27,921,384	3.08%	12
Maryland	\$0	\$40,465,271	0.00%	13

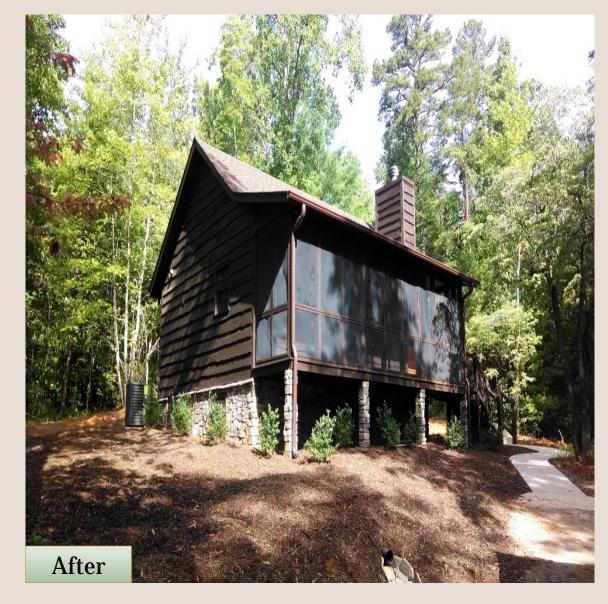


# State Parks Self-Sufficiency Rankings (2016) Total U.S.

STATE	PARK GENERATED	TOTAL OPERATING	SELF	RANK
	REVENUE	EXPENSES	SUSTAINING	
New Hampshire	\$21,077,487	\$21,077,487	100.00%	1
South Carolina	\$28,053,715	\$29,298,442	95.75%	2
Wisconsin	\$16,050,700	\$16,983,083	94.51%	3
Vermont	\$9,024,249	\$9,736,907	92.68%	4
Florida	\$68,457,035	\$77,011,315	88.89%	5
Alabama	\$34,929,049	\$41,966,182	83.23%	6
Indiana	\$47,960,513	\$58,612,941	81.83%	7
Washington	\$55,262,248	\$69,971,576	78.98%	8
Utah	\$11,422,693	\$15,623,576	73.11%	9
South Dakota	\$13,976,379	\$19,393,633	72.07%	10
Colorado	\$35,734,759	\$49,934,144	71.56%	11
Nebraska	\$17,802,181	\$24,921,950	71.43%	12
Michigan	\$45,206,200	\$63,925,600	70.72%	13
Oklahoma	\$20,351,065	\$29,210,987	69.67%	14
Kansas	\$7,851,361	\$12,159,895	64.57%	15
Georgia	\$29,176,895	\$47,347,686	61.62%	16
Deleware	\$15,649,269	\$26,450,265	59.16%	17
Arizona	\$12,250,029	\$21,337,993	57.41%	18
Mississippi	\$8,538,405	\$15,318,575	55.74%	19
Virginia	\$21,255,694	\$41,076,994	51.75%	20







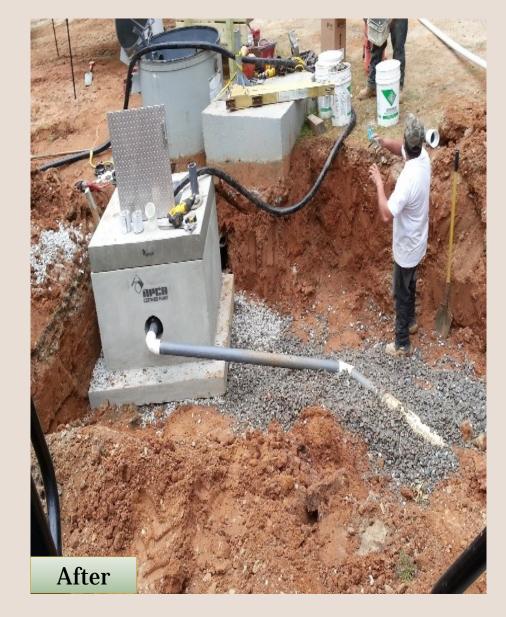




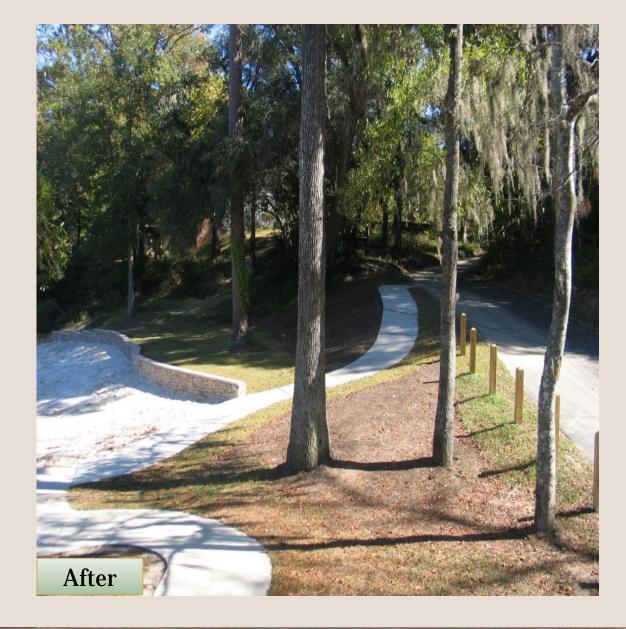


















## **State Parks Customer Satisfaction**

State Parks Customer Satisfaction is primarily evaluated through Central Reservation System surveys.\* 38,458 Survey Respondents since 2012

#### **Topline Survey Results**

#### **State Park Facilities**

Cleanliness: 62% Excellent, 31% Good, 5% Fair, 2% Poor

Physical Condition: 54% Excellent, 36% Good, 8% Fair, 2% Poor

Location: 70% Excellent, 27% Good, 2% Fair, 1% Poor

Availability: 61% Excellent, 32% Good, 5% Fair, 2% Poor

#### **State Park Staff**

Friendly/Courtesy: 80% Excellent, 16% Good, 3% Fair, 1% Poor

Helpfulness: 78% Excellent, 17% Good, 3% Fair, 2% Poor

Speed & Efficiency: 75% Excellent, 21% Good, 3% Fair, 1% Poor

Knowledge of park: 77% Excellent, 19% Good, 3% Fair, 1% Poor

#### Cabins/Villas

Price/Value: 55% Excellent, 35% Good, 9% Fair, 1% Poor

Cleanliness: 65% Excellent, 26% Good, 7% Fair, 2% Poor

Physical Condition: 57% Excellent, 33% Good, 8% Fair, 2% Poor

Location: 76% Excellent, 21% Good, 2% Fair, 1% poor

#### **Campsites**

Price/Value: 64% Excellent, 29% Good, 6% Fair, 1% Poor

Cleanliness: 67% Excellent, 27% Good, 5% Fair, 1% Poor

Physical Condition: 56% Excellent, 31% Good, 9% Fair, 4% Poor

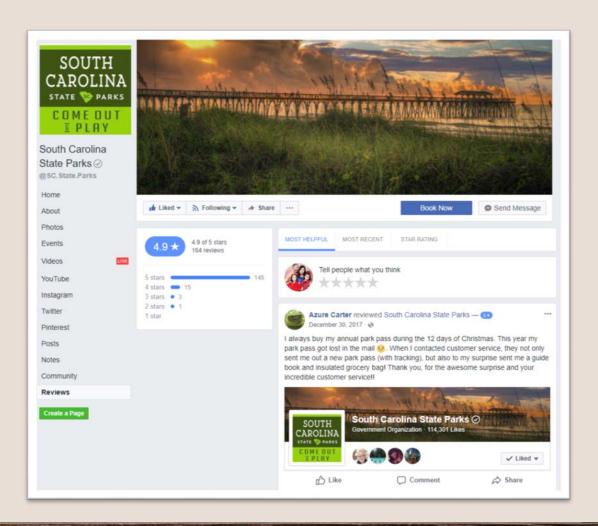
Location: 62% Excellent, 30% Good, 6% Fair, 2% Poor

\*Survey available to State Park Visitors who reserve facilities/overnight accommodations through Central Reservation System.



## **State Parks Customer Satisfaction**

State Parks Customer Satisfaction is also monitored/managed through Agency Social Media platforms.







## State Parks Revenue-Related Deliverables

## Potential Harm – Revenue Impact





## State Parks Revenue-Related Deliverables

Potential Harm – Quality of Life Impact

South Carolina's State Parks provide affordable recreational and educational opportunities for millions of South Carolina residents and visitors each year.











# State Parks Deliverable 4: Educational Programs

Deliverable Allowed by S.C. Code Ann. §51 - 1 - 60. Duties and Powers of SCPRT.

#### **Discover Carolina Program Attendance\***

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Discover Carolina Educational Programming Attendance	20,463	21,896	21,215	19,960	16,242
Discover Carolina Family Programming Attendance	555,112	522,760	595,681	657,204	495,113

\*Performance Measures



# State Parks Deliverable 4: Educational Programs

#### Discover Nature Field Trips

Hunting Island
Huntington Beach
Lee
Mountain Bridge
Myrtle Beach
Paris Mountain
Sesquicentenniel
Table Rock



#### Discover History Field Trips

Andrew Jackson
Charles Towne Landing
Colonial Dorchester
Hampton Plantation
Huntington Beach
Musgrove Mill
Oconee Station
Redcliffe Plantation
Table Rock
South Carolina State House



# State Parks Deliverable 4: Educational Programs Potential Harm – Loss of Educational Opportunities

The Discover Carolina Educational Programs provide schools and families engaging, hands-on experiences to learn about South Carolina's history and ecology.





# State Parks Deliverable 5: Resource Management

Deliverable Required by S.C. Code Ann. §51 - 1 - 60. Duties and Powers of SCPRT

#### **Additional Laws Governing Resource Management**

S.C. Code Ann. §48-49-70. Identification of protected mountain ridge crests

#### Related Deliverable: Aquatic Plant Management Council







# State Parks Deliverable 5: Resource Management

#### **Resource Management Activities/Results\***

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Number of Red Cockaded Woodpecker Clusters	11	13	12	12	14
Number of Red Cockaded Woodpecker Fledglings	11	18	19	18	27
Number of Sea Turtle Nests	290	106	274	400	285
New Forest Restoration Acreage	1026	3386	1323	2722	4425
Total Forest Restoration Acreage	5253	5461	5461	7482	9902

The State Park Service currently manages over 300 historic structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Examples of historic preservation activities include repainting Hampton Plantation's 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian Mansion; the conservation of an original window at Colonial Dorchester; and archeological mitigation at Edisto Beach State Park.

\*Performance Measures



# State Parks Deliverable 5: Resource Management Potential Harm – Loss of Natural Resources

Planned environmental management activities such as controlled burns and invasive species management ensure the continuity of natural resources for current and future generations of South Carolinians.





The recent Pinnacle
Mountain wildfire that
spread to Table Rock
State Park serves as a
critical reminder of the
importance of
controlled burning to
reduce forest
understory.



Deliverable Allowed by S.C. Code Ann. §51-7-10. Development and regulation of Hunting Island.

### **Additional laws Governing Development of Hunting Island**

S.C. Code Ann. §51-7-20. Leases of residential areas; covenants in leases.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-30. Streets and roads; water supply system.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-40. Recreation centers; camping areas.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-50. Issuance of revenue obligations.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-60. Terms of revenue obligations.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-70. Payment of revenue obligations.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-80. Additional rights of holders of revenue obligations.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-90. Revenue obligations exempt from taxes.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-100. Revenue obligations shall not be debts of State.

S.C. Code Ann. § 51-7-110. Rates, charges and rentals; use of surplus.



### **Hunting Island State Park Visitation Estimates**

FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1,242,095	1,285,690	1,215,635	1,124,780	1,538,540	1,534,355	1,118,705	1,969,660	1,019,220	1,053,410	1,075,180	1,352,620	1,084,820	1,035,935













### **Hunting Island State Park Cabin/Campsite Revenue History**

	Fiscal Year 2003 – 2004 12 Cabins 215 Campsites	Fiscal Year 2004 - 2005				Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009		2010 – 2011 1 Cabin	Fiscal Year			Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 1 Cabin 100 Campsites
Rental-Cabins	\$413,782.64	\$395,692.25	\$ 511,166.75	\$513,538.80	\$ 445,568.64	\$299,143.60	\$214,194.88	\$ 57,546.71	\$45,901.13	\$ 51,837.89	\$ 62,142.38	\$85,188.85	\$ 51,450.05	\$ 46,631.20
Rental-Camping	\$955,835.47	\$1,009,815.09	\$1,020,324.69	\$1,258,378.59	\$1,308,255.65	\$1,212,973.24	\$1,217,314.41	\$1,253,577.40	\$1,346,300.55	\$1,478,791.05	\$1,563,166.85	\$1,849,686.08	\$1,415,065.28	\$(40,562.99)



#### **Hunting Island State Park Hurricane Matthew Impact**







Hunting Island State Park experienced approximately \$5.5 million in physical and debris damages during Hurricane Matthew.



# State Parks Deliverable 6: Hunting Island State Park Potential Harm – Loss of Revenue/Recreational Opportunities

Hunting Island State Park has provided recreational opportunities for millions of South Carolina residents and out-of-state visitors. The park also serves as the only publicly accessible beach for Beaufort County. The loss of recreational and tourism opportunities provided by Hunting Island would be detrimental to the quality of life for state and local residents and have a negative impact on many local businesses in the area.

Due to its high visitation levels and popularity, Hunting Island State Park has traditionally provided substantial revenue generation that helps to support the entire State Parks System.





# State Parks Partnering Organizations

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Forestry Commission
US Army Corps of Engineers
National Park Service
Public Utility Companies (Duke Energy, SCANA)
Conservation Organizations (The Nature Conservancy, Upstate Forever)
State Parks Friends Groups
South Carolina Colleges & Universities
K-12 Public Schools
Regional/Local Tourism Marketing Organizations
Reserve America/Itinio





South Carolina State Parks works closely with SCDNR and the SC Forestry Commission for Resource Management; however, in regard to the Visitor Experiences focus, South Carolina State Parks finds significant benefit from its location within the state's tourism agency - SCPRT.



## State Parks Deliverable 7: Myrtle Beach State Park Golf Cart Path

Deliverable Required by State Proviso 49.16 (Statewide Revenue) 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, Part 1B

Project Status: Under Construction (as of 05/02/2018)

**Related Agency Challenge: State Parks Capacity** 

### State Parks Deliverable 8: Fort Watson Memorial

Deliverable Required by S.C. Code Ann. §51-9-30 Improvement, protection and maintenance.

**Agency Recommending Law Change - Elimination** 



# State Parks – Law Change Recommendations

Agency Recommendation: Eliminate § § 51-9-10 — 51-9-30

SCPRT fulfilled this obligation. Lease expired and was not renewed. Property is deeded to Santee Cooper.



# State Parks – Law Change Recommendations

## **Agency Recommendations:**

- Modify 51-3-10 to exclude language prohibiting swimming and rental or use of cabins.
- Eliminate 51-3-20 through 51-3-40. Since these laws are overridden by Section 51-3-50 they are no longer necessary.
- Modify 51-3-50 to reflect elimination of Sections 51-2-30 through 51-3-40.

Agency Recommended Language: Next Slide



SECTION 51-3-10. Control and maintenance of State parks. ; swimming and rental or use of cabins prohibited.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism may control, supervise, maintain and, wherever practicable, improve all parks belonging to the State, for general recreational, educational and forestry purposes. <del>provided, however, that swimming and rental or use of park cabins shall not be allowed.</del>

HISTORY: 1962 Code Sections 51-1, 51-2.1; 1952 Code Section 51-1; 1942 Code Section 3284-2; 1934 (38) 1542; 1956 (49) 1841; 1964 (53) 2391.

SECTION 51-3-20. Facilities limited to camping; buildings closed to public; permits for use of facilities; changing permitted activities in seacoast parks.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall operate the parks without facilities or publicly conducted activities, exclusive of camping facilities, and all publicly owned buildings and structures within the parks shall be closed to entry by the general public. Provided, however, that organized groups may use the pavilions, picnic areas, and meeting places within the parks, upon filing with the Park Superintendent of the park involved an application to be allowed to use the particular park facilities at least forty-eight hours in advance of the proposed use, and securing permission for such use from the Superintendent, who shall not give such permission to any two or more groups for use of the same area and buildings at the same time. Those buildings and structures necessary for the operation, maintenance and upkeep of the park by employees of the Department not being open to the public, shall not be affected hereby. Provided, that any museum or relic room located in any park shall remain open. Provided, that where a park is located on any seacoast in this State, a request to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism from a majority of the legislative delegation, including the Senator, of the particular county concerned to permit additional activities and the use of additional facilities or to eliminate camping in a park located in the county, shall be granted.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 51-2.2; 1956 (49) 1841; 1964 (53) 2391.

SECTION 51-3-30. Penalties for violating Sections 51-3-10 or 51-3-20.

Anyone using the park cabins or swimming in violation of the terms of Sections 51-3-10 or 51-3-20, or any person which uses the pavilion or meeting place, or picnic area without a permit, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 51-2.3; 1956 (49) 1841; 1964 (53) 2391.

SECTION 51-3-40. Edisto Beach State Park closed; Santee Park only open for certain purposes.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Edisto Beach State Park shall remain closed until further action by the General Assembly; and Santee Park in Orangeburg County shall be open only as a nature trail or a place to be visited and for fishing and for no other purpose.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 51-2.4; 1956 (49) 1841; 1964 (53) 2391.

SECTION 51-3-50. Power to open parks to normal public use.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 51-3-10 through 51-3-40, the The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall open any State Park to public use for such normal recreational, educational and forestry purposes and uses, and for such hours of operation as it shall deem advisable.



# State Parks – Internal Change Recommendations

The acquisition of St. Phillips Island allows South Carolina State Parks a unique opportunity to enhance the visitor experience at Hunting Island State Park and provide public access to an island that has been in private ownership since 1979.

SCPRT is currently developing an internal staffing/management plan and operational strategies for St. Phillips Island, which will become part of the Hunting Island State Park visitor experience.











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