### STAKEHOLDER PUBLIC MEETING 2013



Defining a Sustainable and Responsible Future

# Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites



46 state parks
3 state historic parks
15 state historic sites
85,647 acres
8 golf courses
382 cottages
55 group shelters
41 campgrounds/2,400+ sites
14 group camps/lodges
5 lodges/conference centers
530 miles of hiking, biking, nature, canoeing/kayaking & equestrian trails

## Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites



**VISION**: Using our system's diversity and a commitment to excellence as our strengths, we will be a national model for quality service, resource protection, recreational opportunities, ecosystem management, and interpretation of our natural resources and heritage.

- Protect our state's important natural and cultural resources
- <u>Engage</u> millions of people in outdoor recreation, historic interpretation, nature appreciation and conservation
- <u>Perform</u> as one of Georgia's strongest tourism generators with important economic relationships with our host communities

# Mandate to Reposition



State appropriations for division operations reduced by half since FY 2009; directive to seek greater self-sufficiency.

<u>Division Response</u>: Responsibly pursue a strategy of selfsufficiency while honoring our mission to protect Georgia's natural and cultural resources and provide opportunities for public enjoyment and education.

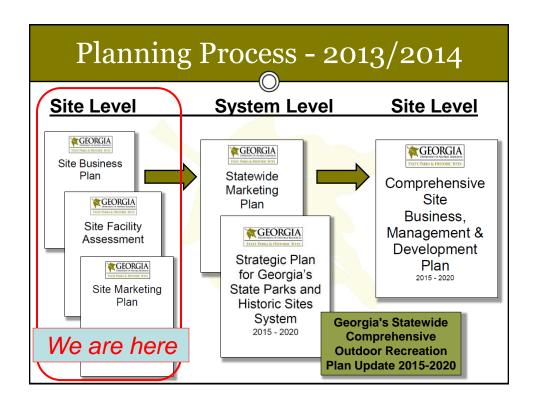
"Direction 2015" (D15) initiated to chart a path toward a sustainable state parks system that strikes the proper balance between state funds and self-sufficiency, and between stewardship and revenue generation.



## "Direction 2015" Goals



- <u>Define and prioritize costs</u> of resource protection and public engagement for each state park and historic site.
- <u>Develop responsible self-sustainability targets</u> and site business plans for state each park & historic site.
- Engage staff, stakeholders and host communities in development and support of site business plans and system direction.
- Compile findings and recommendations into a new strategic system plan for Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites.
- <u>Direct investment</u> of operating funds, capital funds and partnerships to protect core resources and maximize site and system sustainability.



## Site Business Plans



Every state park and historic site has developed an <u>initial Site</u> Business Plan (SBP) that outlines:

- Site and Operations Assessment
  - Site Inventory and Facility Assessment
  - Financial Performance Assessment
- Business and Management Opportunities
  - Business Goals
  - Core/Important/Visitor-Supported Service Designations
  - Marketing and Sales Plan
  - Partnership Development Plan
  - Revenue Generation Plan
  - Expense Management Plan
  - Financial Pro Forma through FY 2015

## SBP: Site & Operations Assessment



### Facility Assessment / Needs

- Natural resources
- Cultural resources
- Infrastructure and buildings
- Revenue generating opportunities
- Capital investment priorities

#### Financial Performance Assessment / Needs

- Operating budget, staffing structure, revenues, cost recovery, visitation, occupancy
- Primary service markets, leading opportunities for improved site performance

### SBP Service Level Definitions



#### Core/Essential Services [Must provide]

 Mission and statutory obligations that, if not provided, would result in significant negative consequences for the public and the resources under protection (<u>largely tax-funds</u>).

#### Important Services [Should provide]

 Programs, services and facilities that serve the public and expands or enhances our ability to provide and sustain core services (<u>balance of tax-funds and earned revenue</u>).

#### Visitor Supported Services [May provide]

 Discretionary services that provide a meaningful return on investment and expands or enhances our ability to provide and sustain core services (<u>largely earned revenue</u>).

## SBP: Business Goals & Support Opportunities



### **Business and Management Goals**

- Enhanced cost recovery
- Enhanced revenue generation strategies
- Expanded special events
- Customer satisfaction
- Diverse program offerings
- Site marketing strategies

### Opportunities for Support and Engagement

- Partnerships
- Visitor services
- Co-branding

- Concessionaires
- Marketing
- Fundraising