

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Green Pastures Recreation AreaOther names/site number: Longdale Recreation Area; VDHR #003-5109

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: TriCounty Road/Forest Service Road 271 and Green Pasture TrailCity or town: Longdale Furnace State: VA County: AlleghanyNot For Publication: ☐ N/AVicinity: ☒ X**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Title : Director

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
District ☒
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE: Park; Forest; Natural Feature

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Waterworks; Reservoir; Dam

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE/Park

WORK IN PROGRESS

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Log, Weatherboard, Shingle;
CONCRETE; STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Green Pastures Recreation Area, also historically known as Longdale Recreation Area, is located in southeast Alleghany County less than two miles southwest of the small community of Longdale Furnace. The 133-acre park is located 6.75 miles east of the Town of Clifton Forge, Virginia, and 14.25 miles west of the City of Lexington, Virginia. The park lies entirely within the Washington and Jefferson National Forest. The nominated area includes the entirety of the park, consisting primarily of hilly, wooded areas surrounding two cleared play fields and a beach on a two-acre manmade lake, with adjoining parking areas, wooded picnic areas, a centrally located rustic picnic shelter and bathhouse, two rustic restroom facilities, improved walking paths, three stonemasonry drinking fountains, and hiking trails, all constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1938-1940, during the last few years of the Great Depression. The park is reached via the right fork of Tri County Road/ Forest Service Road 271 off of Longdale Furnace Road/ Virginia Route 269. The fork becomes Green Pastures Trail as it enters the north side of the recreation area and continues south to its terminus just outside of the park boundary, passing within a short distance of each parking lot and restroom building, and the CCC-built picnic shelter by the lake. The road also crosses two streams that feed into Simpson Creek, a tributary of the Cowpasture River: Blue Suck Branch, which feeds Green Pastures Lake (aka.

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Blue Suck Lake) further upstream, and Bob Downy Branch. The road crossing at Downy Branch is a concrete low-water, multi-culvert bridge, built circa 1968. Two other concrete bridges on Green Pastures Trail, both built when the park was constructed, cross Blue Suck Branch in the northern section of the park. To the southeast, further upstream on Downy Branch are a small concrete reservoir and two small dams built circa 1940, which, along with a chlorination station near Green Pastures Trail, allowed for greater use of water within the park. Improved footpaths, some lined and/or paved with large stones, are found throughout the Recreation Area, connecting the parking and picnic areas to other park amenities. Several different trails accessed within the park area wind their way through the surrounding hills of the Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

Narrative Description

Green Pastures Recreation Area consists of the following ca. 1938-1940 contributing resources: a two-acre artificial lake and dam with spillway, a manmade beach on the lake, a stone retaining wall between the lake and the adjacent wooded picnic area, a centrally located, substantial picnic shelter, a bathhouse, two restroom buildings, a chlorination shed, three drinking fountains, two smaller dams and a small concrete reservoir on Downy Branch, and two vehicular bridges. Two additional sites – unimproved grassy clearings originally cleared by CCC workers and maintained by the US Forest Service (USFS) to serve as campgrounds and recreational fields, and one additional structure—a c.1968 low-water bridge – are noted as contributing resources. Site layout and building design were both administered by USFS administrators in district, regional, and national offices during the 1930s. All construction was carried out by CCC enrollees dually supervised by both the USFS and CCC administrators. The site retains all of its original integrity as site design and structures have changed little since construction. The beachfront area is primarily reserved for swimming, picnicking, and sunbathing.

The bathhouse and two restroom buildings are of frame free-standing construction. The bathhouse has a stone foundation while the two bathroom buildings have poured concrete foundations. The bathhouse is rectangular with a shingled gable roof modified to accommodate skylights. It also has an open stoop entrance with four wooden posts supporting an overhanging roof. The two restroom buildings both have side entrances with no porch. All three buildings were constructed with “waney-edge” weatherboards, a form of cladding that was commonly used by the CCC, consisting of horizontally mounted overlapping rough boards cut directly from a tree.

The rustic picnic shelter, completed by 1940 along Green Pastures Trail, near the lake, is located approximately between the two bathroom buildings and the bathhouse. The shelter is a rectangular (34' by 20') open-walled structure constructed of peeled and painted logs. The shelter entrance is on the west side, towards the beach, and a large stone fireplace occupies the center of the east side. The floor is laid stone and the shingle-clad gable roof is supported by an open rafter log construction. Gable ends are filled with one-foot diameter logs with half-foot diameter

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braces.¹ The shelter was originally filled with picnic tables made by CCC enrollees but those have since been replaced by the USFS with picnic tables constructed by contractors. Designs for this building were produced and revised by USFS personnel throughout the first half of 1938. USFS personnel selected, cut, and transported logs for the shelter to the build site for use by CCC enrollees in June and July 1938.² At least some of these logs were harvested locally from chestnut trees on USFS property. CCC workers laid stone work in a deliberate way such that only weathered sides were exposed to the elements.³ Some shelter components have been replaced as they became weather worn, though the vast majority of structural logs are original. In 1961, the USFS replaced the roof as a hole had burned into the shingles.⁴ As part of a 1978 renovation, some wooden posts that had degraded were replaced and parts of the structure repainted.⁵

The small beachfront recreation area is located on the northeastern lake-shore and borders the picnicking recreation area to the east. The idea of a rock wall was brought forward late in the construction process as planners had trouble designing an effective grading system to ensure both efficient runoff and beach sand permanence. The rock wall allowed for the beach to maintain a low grade without significantly cutting into the wooded area.⁶

The historic circulation system, or the trails, footpaths and roadway, is another important CCC designed component to the area. The system of travel was thoughtfully designed for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the park. The one main road through the area, Green Pastures Trail, begins at the entrance gate off of TriCounty Road/ Forest Service Road 271 and continues southwest along Blue Suck Branch and across Downy Branch, providing access to the different visitor use areas throughout the park. The road crossing at Downy Branch is a concrete low-water, multi-culvert bridge, built circa 1968. Two other concrete bridges on Green Pastures Trail, both built when the park was constructed, cross Blue Suck Branch in the northern section of the park. The footpaths were short trails, constructed for pedestrians to get from the playfields, to the beach, to the picnic areas and the different buildings in the park. Longer hiking trails were designed and are located in hills surrounding the main recreation area. Each structure associated with the circulation system was purposely designed for minimal impact to the surrounding natural environment. Several different trails accessed within the park area wind their way through the surrounding hills of the federally-owned Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

To the southeast, further upstream on Downy Branch, are a small concrete reservoir and two small dams built circa 1940, which, along with a chlorination station near Green Pastures Trail, allowed for greater use of water within the park. The dams are within view of each other through

¹ Alison T. Otis, William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly K. Lakin, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-1942* (USDA Forest Service, 1986), 105-106.

² John McNair to Principal Foreman Jackson, 7 Jun. 1938, Green Pastures Collection, USDA Forest Service, James River District Archives, Covington, VA (hereafter referred to as USFS Collection). 7321.

³ C.W. Smith, Memorandum, 17 Jun. 1938, USFS Collection 7302..

⁴ J.N. Jefferson, Memorandum, 28 Jul. 1961, USFS Collection.

⁵ George H. Rose, Memorandum, 23 Nov. 1979, USFS Collection, 6876.

⁶ John McNair, Memorandum, 22 Aug. 1939, USFS Collection, 7136.

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the large recently-installed steel culvert that carries the road over the branch and approximately one-fifth of a mile upstream from the bridge. The reservoir lies at the foot of the bluff on the south side of Downy Branch approximately midway between the lower dam and the closest recreation area building, a women's restroom.

Integrity Statement

Green Pastures, now called Longdale Recreation Area, has changed very little since the period of significance, ending in 1968. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The extant structures and buildings enumerated below, the majority of which were under construction by 1939, as well as the park's circulation system and undisturbed natural surroundings, are easily identifiable as original features.

Alterations to contributing buildings and structures consist only of limited upgrades consisting of in-kind replacement of deteriorated materials such as weatherboards and roofing. The setting is remarkably intact with the lake, beach, and picnic shelter as the nucleus of the relatively small recreation area, surrounded by forested picnic areas, walking paths, and trails.

Inventory

Resources are keyed to the attached Sketch Map by the numerical designation at the start of each inventory entry.

1-2) Blue Suck Dam and Lake (Other DHR# 033-5108)

Contributing (2 Structures)

Near the central locus of the Green Pastures Recreation Area, the dam impounds the waters of Blue Suck Branch, a north-flowing tributary of Simpson Creek and the Cowpasture River. With a steeply sloped downstream face and an inverted curved form designed for strength, the concrete dam is anchored by the steep creek bank on its east end and a rock outcrop and steep hillside on the west end. The ca. 1939/1940 dam is located at the northern end of the lake and is constructed of stone and concrete, stands approximately 12 feet high, and measures 150 feet in length. A 2017 cultural resource survey by architectural historian J. Daniel Pezzoni describes the dam further: "At the two ends of the dam are rectangular poured concrete abutments with battered lower sections. The east abutment is capped by a wire-mesh pen designed to keep people from climbing on the abutment. As an added deterrence, ornamental thorn bushes (possibly barberry) are planted around the abutment. The west abutment, which is less accessible, has no pen. Toward the west end of the dam is a water-control mechanism of upright pipe form above a steel and wire-mesh glass platform. Below the mechanism, at the base of the dam, is a circular opening used to release water. Extending as a border from the base of the dam is a flagstone pavement and bordering it is a canted flagstone curb. The pavement and curb protect the dam from undermining and collect the water that flows over the lip of the dam and channel it toward an outflow which lines up with the water control mechanism at the west end of the dam. The water from the outflow flows into the natural course of Blue Suck Creek downstream from the dam."

Excavation for the dam began in late 1938 with soil removed to either side of Sinking Creek

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Truck Trail. Engineers estimated that approximately 4,000 bags would be used in dam construction.⁷ The dam has seen little maintenance since the 1960s. During the 1970s and early-1980s, the USFS generally inspected the dam once every few years, removed large debris, and filled cracks with sealer compounds.⁸ In 1984, the USFS made a concerted, agency-wide effort to create a better dam management program that involved more regular engineer inspections and a computer database system that is still used.⁹

Blue Suck Lake is the central feature at Green Pastures. It is fed by Blue Suck Creek, which flows north to fill the approximately two-acre lake. At the northern end of the lake is the Blue Suck Dam. The west side of the lake features a steep forested hillside with little or no access points to the water. The east side of the lake is marked by the beach area and a boat ramp.

3-4) Beach/Stone Wall

Contributing (1 Site, 1 Structure)

The beach area and associated stone wall are located along the lake's east shoreline. The stone wall extends along the south end of the beach area and stands nearly four feet at its tallest points.

5) Picnic Shelter

Contributing (1 Structure)

The ca. 1939/1940 CCC-constructed picnic shelter is located in a wooded area east and slightly north of the beach and lake area. It is a log-framed structure with a side gable, shake-shingle roof and stone floor. The shelter rests on a low stonework foundation. The structure is mostly open with eight braced, log posts, ranging from eight to twelve inches in diameter, supporting the roof. Each is positioned about five inches inside the foundation. Connecting each log post is a low railing made of two logs laid horizontally. The two open side elevations feature gable ends constructed of solid log. The exposed interior roof structure is constructed with sheathing boards, and one log ridge beam running north to south, which is supported with log rafters and log purlins. Much of the roof has been replaced using like materials by the USFS over the years, but these log beams are original. The rear wall is open except for a large stone chimney on a projecting rear gable. The area around the chimney is walled off with saddle-notched stacked horizontal logs. The chimney itself tapers toward the top and its interior is lined with brick. A large stone sits at this entryway as a step to the ten-inch-high concrete and stone foundation.

6) Bath House

Contributing (1 Building)

This ca. 1939/1940 one-story frame building rests on a low concrete foundation decorated with native stone and has a long rectangular footprint. The exterior is clad with wood waney-edge siding painted brown. The roof is shake wood shingled and has five skylights (one in front, four

⁷ R.B. Bechtel, Memorandum, 10 Dec. 1938, USFS Collection, 7213.

⁸ James D. Mattox to J.V. McNaughton, 8 Feb. 1984, USFS Collection, 7451.

⁹ J.V. McNaughton, Memorandum, 25 Jan. 1984, USFS Collection, 7453.

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in back) installed well after original construction, though an exact date is unknown. The front side has two sets of wooden doors and awning windows. Doors also have decorative metal hinges and a small window. A set of two small windows are also located between the two doors. Left and right sides of the building are identical with four wood-frame awning windows horizontally arranged under a set of two identical windows. The rear has a projecting wall with hipped roof to accommodate two skylights, though it is likely original to the building to allow for the two rear doors on each side of the projection. The rear projection has two sets of paired windows; the wall sections each have a set of five. Each door has a small decorative window and is accessed by two stone steps. The bathhouse interior is divided in half to create gendered spaces (men's on the left, women's on the right from a front perspective). The rooms contain detached benches. Walls are painted white plywood with inch-long vertical wood strips irregularly spaced. The floor is concrete and slopes toward a drain in the center. Both sides have a separate bathroom section in the center line of the building. The men's side has one toilet, one sink, and one urinal, while the women's has two toilets and one sink. There is evidence that toilets had been removed and relocated at some point. The bathrooms are each adjacent to a shower stall partitioned by three walls not reaching the ceiling and with a drain. A closet is adjacent to the shower. Both sides are similar but not identical, with the primary difference being four changing stalls on the women's side. These stalls are painted white wood planes mounted on metal poles and to the wall. The wooden frames and doors extend to about five feet high. Doors are a wooden frame with rough wooden planks similar to those for the toilets.

7-8) Restroom Buildings A & B

Contributing (2 Buildings)

The only restroom facilities in the park outside of the bathhouse, the two facilities referred to in this nomination as Restroom Buildings A and B were both built ca. 1938 and are original CCC-constructed buildings. Building A is located east of the picnic shelter, across Green Pastures Trail. Building B is located across Green Pastures Trail from the lower parking lot and adjacent wooded picnic area, south of the picnic shelter. Both buildings are easily accessible along the park's main road. They are identical one-story gable-roof frame buildings sheathed in waney-edge siding. The buildings are roofed with split wood shakes. A series of six-pane, paired and individual hopper windows set high, just under the eaves, provide light and air to the interior. Entry doors are vertical-board wooden doors with strap hinges. The interior features two rooms, one for women and one for men. Records indicate one of these buildings was significantly renovated in 1957 as an inspection report lodged a request for a new floor that included removing the existing floor and broken windows and placing reinforced concrete.¹⁰ The other restroom was likely renovated at the same time.

9-11) Water Fountains

Contributing (3 Structures)

There are three water fountains on stonemasonry pedestals throughout the park, all identically constructed as described in Albert H Good's *Park and Recreation Structures*. These structures

¹⁰ J.N. Jefferson, Memorandum, 1 Aug. 1957, USFS Collection.

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were constructed ca. 1939/1940 by the CCC. The three water fountains are made of cut stone and mortar. All of them are roughly rectangular in dimensions and stand approximately three feet in height; and all contain a large stone at their base serving as a step for children. All three of the fountains: one near the playing field, one near the lower picnic area, and one in front of the picnic shelter, presumably draw water directly from the aquifer.

12, 13) Vehicular Bridges 1 & 2

Contributing (2 Structures)

Vehicular bridge 1 is located approximately 0.1 mile from the entrance gate for the park and bridge 2 is located a little further south, approximately 0.3 mile from the entrance. Both bridges are examples of small-span, fixed-concrete-slab structures and both carry Green Pastures Trail over Blue Suck Branch. The bridges were needed to build the park and, therefore, are thought to be among the park's earliest structures, built c. 1938.

14, 15) Play Fields

Contributing (2 Sites)

The ca. 1939 play fields are located northeast of the lake area. The two grass fields, intended for team sports like softball, are the only open green spaces in the park area.

16) Chlorination Shed

Contributing (1 Building)

The chlorination shed is located just north of Restroom Building B, sited along Green Pastures Trail, the main road through the park. It is set back from the road and lightly concealed by trees and other foliage. Built for chlorination of the park's bathhouse and restroom facilities, the shed, built by around 1940, is a simple utilitarian edifice, approximately eight feet square, with walls of vertical sheet-metal panels on a concrete slab foundation, and a corrugated metal shed roof. The building features one entrance, on the west elevation, and fixed, four-light metal windows on the south and north elevations.

17) Downy Branch Reservoir

Contributing (1 Structure)

The 2017 cultural resource survey notes that "The reservoir lies at the foot of the bluff on the south side of Downy Branch approximately midway between the lower dam and the closest recreation area building [Restroom Building A]. Nearby is the chlorination shed...The reservoir, which probably dates to ca. 1940 or later in the 1940s, is a rectangular poured-concrete tank that measures 9 by 8 feet in outer dimension with 6-inch-thick walls. Its depth is unknown on account of murky water, leaves, and other debris. There are pairs of threaded rods with nuts at the two corners facing the branch; the other corners do not appear to have the rods. The rods probably served to anchor a roof or lid that kept the tank free of debris."

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18, 19) Downy Branch Upper and Lower Dams

Contributing (2 Structures)

The two small dams are well-described as follows in the 2017 cultural resource survey: “The two dams are located just upstream and downstream from the Forest Road 271 (also known as Tri-County Road) crossing of Downy Branch, within view of each other through the large recently-installed steel culvert that carries the road over the branch and approximately a fifth of a mile upstream from the bridge. The reservoir lies at the foot of the bluff on the south side of Downy Branch approximately midway between the lower dam and the closest recreation area building, a woman’s toilet.

“The two dams are similar in form and construction—small poured concrete structures that span Downy Branch from bank to bank—although they were built at different times. The smaller upper or upstream dam, built in the 1950s, has an indented lip at its center and an iron pipe at its base to which a water pipe formerly connected. Next to the pipe is a rectangular opening that is believed to be the downstream end of a tunnel intended to allow trout to move through the dam. The dam’s downstream face is slightly battered (sloped). The lower or downstream dam, which is larger than the upstream dam and probably dates to the 1940s, has two indented lips with a raised lip between, or a single long indented lip (woody debris covers the center of the dam and makes determination of the lip’s form uncertain). The lower dam may have more of a batter than the upper dam.”

The 2017 survey continued: The Downy Branch dams and reservoir are reminiscent of the Wilson Creek Dam (DHR ID# 008-5043) water-supply system constructed for the CCC camp at Lake Douthat during the 1930s. The Wilson Creek Dam upstream from Lake Douthat supplied water for a 5,000-gallon reservoir and a 1,000-gallon-capacity booster station. The Downy Branch dams are smaller than the Wilson Creek Dam and the reservoir appears to have had less capacity than the Douthat reservoir. The Downy Branch reservoir holds about 420 gallons per foot of depth and its actual capacity would be multiples of that amount (for example, approximately 2,100 gallons if its holding tank was five feet deep). Like the Wilson Creek Dam, the two dams on Downy Branch are of simple form and poured concrete construction.”

20) Circulation System

Contributing (1 Structure)

The circulation system includes roads, trails and footpaths that are located throughout the park. Most of these were designed and constructed by the CCC. One central road, Green Pastures Trail, acts as the spine of the Green Pastures Recreation Area, providing access to recreational features, the beach, the play field, and picnic areas. The road begins at the main gate and winds through a densely forested area and crosses three vehicular bridges that span Blue Suck Branch and Bob Downy Branch. The road is currently paved and provides access to several parking areas, one for the playfield and beach, one for the picnic shelter, and one for the upper or southern picnic area. The parking area for the playfield contains a low stone curb, another design element utilized by the CCC. There are several trails and footpaths located throughout the park. Footpaths allow for easy access to the beach, the playfield, picnic areas, and trails. The trails and footpaths contain typical elements of CCC design with rock-lined paths and stone steps.

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21) Downy Branch Vehicular (Low-Water) Bridge

Contributing (1 Structure)

The low-water bridge, built in or about 1968, is a third vehicular crossing located approximately 0.4 mile from the entry gate to the park. It carries Green Pastures Trail over Downy Branch. The concrete vented ford features six embedded cylindrical steel culverts allowing water to flow under the crossing. The 2017 cultural resource survey notes that during dry periods, "the water passes through the culverts and the road surface remains dry. In high water the water flows over the road surface. The downstream side of the bridge is stepped with a wide concrete step, perhaps an erosion control feature. The 1949 "Millboro, Va." USGS quadrangle map shows the entrance road crossing Downy Branch and ending (as an improved road) near the Blue Suck Dam, which suggests a ford existed before the low-water bridge. The 1969 "Longdale Furnace, Va." USGS quadrangle map shows the extension of the entrance road around the recreation area, which supports oral history information that the low-water bridge was constructed ca. 1968."

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1968

Significant Dates

1938-1940

1950

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Green Pastures Recreation Area, also known as Longdale Day Use Area, was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1938-1940 for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service as a segregated African American recreation facility. A recreation area located within the George Washington National Forest with a small lake with a sandy beach, a bathhouse, picnic shelter, toilet facilities, playing fields, hiking trails, walking paths, and parking areas all built by the CCCs during the Great Depression, Green Pastures Recreation Area was constructed during the Jim Crow segregation era, although it was officially integrated in 1950 and its name was changed to Longdale in 1964. With 21 contributing resources, the 133-acre property is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American and Entertainment/Recreation, as well as at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance spans from completion of the park's initial phase of construction in 1938 through 1968; the period of significance encompasses the construction of the Downy Branch water management resources in the 1940s and 1950s, consisting of a reservoir sited below the lower dam, as well as a low-water bridge built in 1968 on Green Pastures Trail as it enters the area where the recreational facilities are located. Green Pastures was meant to pair with the six Virginia State Parks sites opened in 1936, including nearby Douthat State Park (NRHP 1986), also built by the CCC. Though not legally mandated, the six Virginia State Parks were effectively whites-only. An NAACP-led campaign resulted in a meeting between Federal and state land-management agencies (USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Virginia State Parks, and the Virginia Department of Forestry) where the USDA Forest Service agreed to host an African American recreation area. While open, Green Pastures was certainly the first and only African American USDA Forest Service recreation site within Virginia and, quite possibly, the only of its kind nationwide. It was also one of very few outdoor recreational areas open to African Americans in the central Appalachian region during the 1930s through the 1950s.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the following individuals who provided various forms toward the nomination: Sarah Zaragosa and now-retired District Ranger Elizabeth McNichols of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests and Blake McDonald, Lena McDonald, and Quatro Hubbard of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historic Background/Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: African American and Entertainment/Recreation.

The idea of Green Pastures Recreation Area, the first and only national recreation area for African Americans in the Washington and Jefferson National Forest, developed in 1937 within USDA Forest Service (USFS) offices at the behest of the National Association for the

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Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Details of contact between the USFS and NAACP are not known, though USFS employees in the James River District understand that contact between the two took place in the mid-1930s. As the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Virginia State Parks (VSP) constructed Douthat State Park in Bath County (near the Alleghany County border), local black residents came to understand that such a park was going to be available only to white visitors. A statewide NAACP campaign to open public parks to African Americans resulted in the 1937 agreement – the USFS would facilitate construction of an African American recreation area on federally owned land. Construction began in 1938 with the support of a CCC camp made up of white enrollees (as the CCC also was segregated) and completed two years later. At the time of its construction, Green Pastures Recreation Area was the only segregated USFS recreation area for African Americans in Virginia.

Informally opened and formally dedicated in 1938 and 1940 respectively, Green Pastures was one of very few outdoor recreational areas open to African Americans in the central Appalachian region until gradual integration of state and national parks began during the 1950s and 1960s.¹¹ Virginia State Senator J.C. Carpenter believed the site was likely the only of its kind nationwide and certainly the only location in the region that offered outdoor recreation, notably swimming, for African Americans.¹² Green Pastures was the first and only African American USFS recreation area ever built within Virginia.¹³ The USFS officially integrated Green Pastures in 1950, opening it to white visitors, with no incident. In contrast, African Americans filed discrimination lawsuits against VSP after the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling in 1954. A U.S. Circuit Court found in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered state park systems to desegregate in 1955. Virginia's response was to close parks as part of Massive Resistance, a political and legislative strategy deployed by conservative Democrats to prevent integration. Virginia politicians considered selling state parks to private entities to skirt Federal rulings, though never delivered on such plans. From the moment of the court ruling through about 1964, the state limited integration by practice (except for Prince Edward State Park, the VSP's lone park built for African Americans in 1949) to whites-only access.¹⁴

Written histories of George Washington National Forest do recognize Green Pastures (or Longdale) as a formerly segregated site in listings of CCC-constructed sites, thus amplifying the importance of recognizing this site's historical significance, especially regarding African American history. The site is eligible for listing under Criterion A for its relevance as a site of African American history in Virginia and its connection to the CCC and USFS recreation development projects during the New Deal era. Green Pastures is a preserved landscape that

¹¹ R.F. Hemingway, Memorandum, 20 Jan. 1950, USFS Collection, 7048.

¹² J.C. Carpenter to A. Willis Robertson and Clarence G. Burton, 3 Jan. 1950, USFS Collection, 7058.

¹³ West Virginia established its state park system exclusively for whites in the 1930s, only developing an African American recreation area (Booker T. Washington State Park) in 1949 after a private land donation. After the *Brown v. Board* ruling in 1954, West Virginia integrated Booker T. Washington State Park but did not do the same for the rest of the park system by claiming that these sites were already fully integrated. In the following years, the state neglected the Washington State Park by not hiring any caretakers before ultimately closing the site in 1958 or 1959. O'Brien, 104-105. Ira T. Yarnall, "Negroes on Recreation Areas," Memorandum, 18 Jun. 1937, USFS Collection.

¹⁴ In 1976, Prince Edward State Park was combined with another state park, Goodwin Lake, that had been built for whites to create Twin Lakes State Park. Twin Lakes State Park was listed in the NRHP in 2012.

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documents Jim Crow segregation within both Virginia and Appalachia, but also reveals the richness of African American outdoor recreational activities during that segregated period. Few sites remain that demonstrate evidence of both stories. Original buildings and structures at the site all follow a Rustic architectural style often seen at sites built by the CCC and are an example of pre-World War II recreational design within the USFS. Together, these factors indicate the site is historically significant for the period from 1938 to 1968.

USFS Recreation Areas

The USFS is a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture with a mission to assess, manage, and utilize forests on Federal property. The USFS officially formed in 1905 out of several predecessor USDA offices and divisions with an expanded mission that further grew throughout the following decades. Initially, USFS projects focused on recreation, wildfire management, and conservation with most tourist accommodations coming in the form of printed maps and trail maintenance. By at least the 1920s, increases in American outdoor recreation culture spurred on by increased consumer vehicle accessibility meant prioritizing tourism management. Outdoor recreation agencies adjusted by constructing more infrastructure that catered to these new car tourists – roadside historic markers, parking lots, accessible roads, and perhaps most importantly, day-use recreation areas and campgrounds. The formation of the NPS in 1916 and VSP in 1936 led to higher expectations from outdoor recreationists. The days of a few managed trails and pristine nature were generally over.

By the late 1930s, the USFS managed several recreation areas throughout Washington and Jefferson National Forests, all of which were exclusively for use by white visitors. The only comparable outdoor recreation sites in Virginia for African Americans open during this time period were Prince Edward Lake Recreational Area administered by VSP and Lewis Mountain campground in Shenandoah National Park managed by the NPS. Now part of Twin Lakes State Park, Prince Edward Lake is roughly halfway between Richmond and Lynchburg and Lewis Mountain is along Skyline Drive about thirty miles due east of Harrisonburg. While accessible for many, both of these sites were too far from communities in most Appalachian counties of Virginia for a day trip.

As the USFS expanded its recreational facilities, the agency maintained a strict policy of non-discrimination including an unofficial ban on segregated facilities. USFS officials recognized the social problems caused by Jim Crow laws and hoped to avoid such strife on federally managed land. Generally though, the USFS did not challenge state or local Jim Crow laws affecting agency sites but still resisted overt segregation. As such, facilities officially segregated by USFS policy were rare, where officials only supported segregated sites if African Americans themselves made specific requests. Dewey Jones, a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Black Cabinet¹⁵, was largely responsible for this refusal to segregate the USFS. Jones in particular had significant influence over segregation policies connected to the USFS and NPS

¹⁵ The Black Cabinet was a nickname given to a group of African American advisors convened by FDR to provide advice regarding race relations.

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given his position as Special Assistant on Negro Affairs with the U.S. Department of Interior.¹⁶ USFS administrators resisted segregation in part because the NPS did the same, acting in an informal concert across Federal departments, but challenges from African Americans in Virginia forced both agencies to reconsider this policy.

Creating Green Pastures Recreation Area (1937-1945)

The motivation for the USFS to construct Green Pastures came from both external and internal forces. The NAACP protested to the NPS, USFS, and VSP that no outdoor recreation facilities existed for African Americans in Virginia, and administrations from each of these agencies recognized the truth in the NAACP's complaints.¹⁷ During 1936 and 1937, several groups of African Americans, with NAACP support, attempted to access USFS facilities, specifically Sherando Lake and Cave Mountain, throughout Virginia simply to enjoy outdoor recreational activities. No single USFS policy made these sites whites-only, but Virginia's Jim Crow laws and unwritten segregation policies meant the appearance of African Americans at the sites resulted in aggressive, outraged whites. USFS officials recognized that such an environment could lead to violence. As a result, government officials quickly met with African American visitors and, after a brief conference, the two parties agreed that African Americans would not use existing USFS sites on the promise that the Federal government would soon provide a facility exclusively for African Americans' use. As of 1937, the only African Americans-only facility in Virginia was an under-construction NPS site in Quantico. No such facility existed in Appalachian Virginia.¹⁸ USFS officials worried primarily about NAACP discrimination lawsuits that would target Cave Mountain Forest Camp, Sherando Lake Forest Camp, and other unnamed recreation sites within Jefferson, George Washington, and Monongahela National Forests, thus causing the agency significant bad press and potentially legal fees. Even though these other recreational sites were technically open to all visitors, no matter their race, both the public and USFS personnel understood these sites had been constructed within the boundaries of Jim Crow and for whites only. The problem of accommodating black Americans loomed over USFS personnel who argued they needed additional resources and proper guidance on how to remedy the situation.

At about the same time, the Federal government actively purchased large tracts of land, primarily abandoned timber and mining properties, from corporations and absentee landowners as part of New Deal forest conservation efforts. The effect of these efforts was the rapid expansion of national forest holdings on the east coast, especially within George Washington National Forest. One of these purchases came in 1936 when the USFS finalized the transfer of 19,720 acres across Alleghany, Botetourt, and Rockbridge Counties from Richard C. and Pocahontas W. Wright. The USFS's original plans were simply to maintain this land as a forest reserve with minimal public recreation sites. In other parts of Virginia though, USFS personnel reported

¹⁶ Ira T. Yarnall, "Negroes on Recreation Areas," Memorandum, 18 Jun. 1937, USFS Collection.

¹⁷ Bill Leichter, "James River Ranger District," in *George Washington National Forest: A History*, Jean L. Satterthwaite (United States Department of Agriculture, 1991): 34.

¹⁸ R.M. Evans to Wilbur C. Hall, 29 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection, 7383. C. Wendell Smith, Memorandum, 14 Feb. 1938, USFS Collection, 7391. William O'Brien, *Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2016), 78.

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conflicts between white and African-American visitors at George Washington National Forest campsites. USFS administrators stated in correspondences they believed such conflict could be alleviated by constructing separate recreational facilities for African Americans, so these same officials proposed the creation of segregated facilities for swimming, picnicking, hiking, and fishing, details to be determined in conjunction with the NPS and VSP.

Throughout the first half of 1937, the USFS, NPS, and VSP met regularly to discuss how to accommodate African American visitors to their sites. All representatives agreed that more recreation opportunities were needed for African Americans as the NPS was the only agency with any such spaces. Officials were careful to remind one another that none of the three agencies explicitly supported segregation, but agreed with the NAACP that a few African American-only sites were preferable to the current state of affairs. On February 10, 1937, the USFS district office in Harrisonburg distributed a list of potential locations for an African American recreation site. The Longdale Furnace area was not included in this particular list.¹⁹ By April, plans for the recreation site were already being developed even though a location had not been chosen. A month later, Jefferson National Forest Supervisor John McNair proposed a tract adjacent to Blue Suck Branch in the Longdale area. McNair's idea was to effectively pair the Longdale site with the under-construction Douthat State Park so as to reduce the odds of a racial conflict at Douthat once it opened. All USFS, NPS, and VSP officials involved in this project agreed to McNair's suggestion. Further memoranda pointed out that the general area served public needs as a centrally-located rural space within a day's travel of several cities, including Buena Vista, Charleston, Clifton Forge, Covington, Lexington, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Staunton, and Waynesboro. USFS officials estimated that at least 35,000 African Americans lived in a 100-mile radius. These calculations did not include other nearby counties, specifically Amherst, Bedford, and Botetourt, where at least 20 percent of the population were African American residents. A final point that sealed the location was the possibility of a dammed lake and a potable water supply with enough cover to provide for trails and secluded picnicking spots. All that was left was to build the site.²⁰

In May 1937, the USFS officially requested the CCC allocate a group of enrollees from the camps building Douthat State Park to the Longdale area to build Green Pastures.²¹ The CCC was a New Deal federal agency active from 1933 to 1942 that employed men less than 25 years of age in conservation projects primarily within forests, parks, and other government-managed land. Administered by Army officers, hundreds of companies consisting of about two hundred enrollees labored within CCC camps. Dozens of camps operated within each state with 184 camps active at some point within Virginia alone. As of 1937, four CCC camps operated within Alleghany County: Camp Dolly Ann (P-51) near Covington and a cluster of three camps officials referred to as a single entity, Camp Douthat (SP-2, SP-3, and SP-4) near the Bath County line just outside of Clifton Forge. Camp Douthat was exclusively responsible for the construction of

¹⁹ J.C. Lawrence, Memorandum, 10 Feb. 1937, USFS Collection.

²⁰ Frank Harris, Report, 31 Mar. 1937, USFS Collection. Ira T. Yarnall to John McNair, 15 Apr. 1937, USFS Collection. R. M. Evans to Clifton A. Woodrum, 14 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection 7369.

²¹ A.C. Winton, Memorandum, 5 May 1937, USFS Collection. Ira T. Yarnall to John McNair, 5 Mar. 1937, USFS Collection. Frank C. Harris, Memorandum, 1 May 1937, USFS Collection.

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Douthat State Park, as the name would suggest, while Camp Dolly Ann projects primarily consisted of fire prevention, truck and foot trail construction, and laying telephone lines within Jefferson National Forest.²² Even though the USFS requested men from Camp Douthat for their experience constructing recreational facilities, the CCC assigned Camp Dolly Ann to the Green Pastures work project without providing a specific justification. Most likely, CCC officials assigned the nearest company with forestry experience and because Douthat State Park required the labor of all three companies.²³

At the behest of USFS officials, the CCC placed the Green Pastures project on its highest priority list. By January 1938, the agency settled on the exact location of the dam and bathhouses with plans for roads and other paths decided the following month.²⁴ Federal officials hoped to begin work on the site during 1938 to “show good faith” to local African Americans and the NAACP that the USFS was moving forward with plans.²⁵ The project was also driven forward by political pressure applied by U.S. Representative A. Willis Robertson, himself a conservative Democrat, encouraging the creation of African American recreation sites.²⁶ Of utmost importance to all involved parties was the dam and lake project. Initially engineers considered an earthen dam but the sand-loam soil on site was not conducive, so a stone design was settled upon. The dam’s initial proposed size was 15 feet in height, 50 feet in length at the bottom and 110 feet in length at the top and USFS Improvements Superintendent R.B. Bechtel anticipated this would form a body of water covering 2.3 acres.²⁷ Initial plans also called for stone to be used either from a local quarry or from dismantling a derelict furnace near Roaring Run Branch. Both of these plans were abandoned, the former because of poor stone quality while the latter was evaluated to have “high recreational and historical value.”²⁸

Despite significant political support, USFS administrators struggled with how to announce Green Pastures to the public. Forest Supervisor John McNair always referred to the park explicitly as an African American space, but this received some resistance from supervisors who reminded McNair that, technically speaking, the USFS did not segregate any facilities barring this lone exception so Green Pastures should not be referred as such in official public communication. If the news of a segregated site “got out” then a “professional trouble maker” could bring negative attention to the project. McNair pushed back, pointing out that the entire purpose of the site was to provide a space for African Americans and the public deserved honesty.²⁹ Officials also considered placing a gate sign indicating Green Pastures was exclusively for African Americans,

²² Patrick King, “Camp Inspection Report: Camp F-24-Va.,” 27 May 1938, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Division of Investigations, Camp Inspection Reports, 1933-1942, Virginia, Box 221, RG 35, Entry 115, National Archives at College Park (NACP).

²³ Satterthwaite, 16.

²⁴ Ira T. Yarnall to John McNair, 28 Jan. 1938, USFS Collection 7399. John McNair, Memorandum, 5 Feb. 1938, USFS Collection, 7398. R.B. Bechtel, Memorandum, 12 Oct. 1938, USFS Collection, 7242.

²⁵ Ira T. Yarnall to John McNair, 23 Feb. 1938, USFS Collection 7387.

²⁶ A. Willis Robertson to R.M. Evans, 3 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection, 7378.

²⁷ R.B. Bechtel, Memorandum, 30 Apr. 1937.

²⁸ John McNair, Memorandum, 3 Oct. 1938, USFS Collection, 7263.

²⁹ John McNair to R.M. Evans, 27 Jul. 1938, USFS Collection, 7276. R.M. Evans to John McNair, 15 Jul. 1938, USFS Collection, 7277.

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a matter ultimately settled by regional USFS officials that a sign reading “For Use of Colored Race” was appropriate and would be attached to the standard USFS shield. This sign was designed and orders placed, but for undocumented reasons was never physically placed at the site.³⁰

Once news of the site reached the public, white locals in the Longdale area, like many other white communities throughout the nation, protested the placement of an African-American recreational facility near their homes. Some concerns were legitimate – the park would affect local water supplies and crowd roads – but most complaints were outright racist. Federal officials expected as much during the planning process, considering other similar sites nationwide had received a similar response. The USFS had not yet studied local attitudes, but protest was considered unsurprising because Longdale was “composed entirely of white residents.” Longdale once had a diverse population, including the African American community Big Hill with at least 200 residents. The closing of Longdale Iron Company two decades earlier meant that most residents who owned no land, which included nearly the entire minority population, left the area in search of new work.

Starting in June 1937, the USFS sought to counter these protests. USFS officials dispatched rangers from the local office to communicate their plans with every individual who lived within three miles of the proposed recreation area. Results surprised USFS rangers. The vast majority of local residents approved of the project with the only vocal opposition coming from a few landowners nearest the site who worried the proposed dam would impact their home’s water supply.³¹ One local landowner did express racist concerns – he retracted free right-of-way grant to the USFS once he learned the project was to construct an African American park. The USFS ultimately purchased his property at a negotiated price.

Thinking the issue resolved, government officials were surprised by a letter arriving in the USFS office on March 7, 1938. This letter, written by a Longdale-area business owner, contained a petition signed by seventy-three Longdale residents in protest of Green Pastures claiming the park would be a nuisance, “dangerous to children,” and wholly illogical as there were no African Americans living in the area. The USFS immediately postponed work and launched an investigation to discover the sudden change in local opinion.³² USFS officials discovered that many signatories lived several miles away from the site and some did not even live in Virginia, so officials felt their concerns were somewhat misplaced. Officials also met with the “primary responsible parties” and determined that protest was at least in part because of concerns related to the local water supply. Some signatories were actually in favor of the park, it was discovered, and hoped the USFS would hire them to work at the park. Their signatures only appeared out of

³⁰ Ira T. Yarnall to John McNair, 6 Aug. 1938, USFS Collection, 7274.

³¹ John W. McNair, Memorandum, 25 Jun. 1937, USFS Collection 7401. Ira T. Yarnall to John W. McNair, 3 Jul. 1937, USFS Collection, 7400.

³² R.M. Evans to Wilbur C. Hall, 29 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection 7383. R.R. Bean to R.M. Evans, 7 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection 7381.

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“coercion,” so they claimed.³³ Ultimately, USFS officials negotiated directly with the affected landowners, finding perhaps the primary cause of unrest stemmed from an inter-family conflict unrelated to the Green Pastures project. All parties came to an agreement that the project move forward with the petition retracted so long as the USFS protected local water sources.³⁴

The first work reports from Green Pastures came in June 1938. CCC enrollees began clearing brush and excavating areas for bridge abutments in the hope that some facilities, specifically toilets, a parking area, picnic tables, fire grates, trash cans, an entrance road, and an entrance sign, be installed and ready for public use by the first of August. Care was taken to minimize impact upon the environment even at this early point. For instance, foresters required exact mapping of all tree growth in the planned beach area out of concern that many older trees could be destroyed. The intent was to minimize impact upon old growth.³⁵ Despite hopes of having core structures in place by fall, camp inspection reports from this time period suggest Camp Dolly Ann simply did not have the labor force required for such a project, thus many construction projects, especially the dam, were delayed until the following year in order to find sufficient supervisory foremen.³⁶ Dam construction was thus pushed back into when the weather broke in early 1939.

Beginning in June 1939, the USFS contacted local civic leaders, both white and African American, in surrounding areas to inform them of the site’s impending opening. Local groups inquired as to the status of Green Pastures earlier as well, as evidenced by a letter dated May 23, 1939 asking for accommodations for a party of thirty for an unnamed “young men’s club” from Clifton Forge. The USFS confirmed that the site would not be completed, but any African Americans would be more than welcome to use the site.³⁷ In July, Green Pastures opened to the public as a recreational site exclusively for African Americans although the CCC had not yet completed the bathhouse, dam, or picnic shelter.³⁸ A project update in the August edition of the Camp Dolly Ann newspaper reported the dam would be completed by the end of October 1939, picnic shelter construction was “well under way,” and that a ball diamond for softball would be completed by September. CCC enrollees also worked to complete a parking lot that would hold at least two hundred vehicles. Enrollees blazed hiking trails in the surrounding area that the CCC encouraged the public to visit while other facilities were under construction.³⁹

The first confirmed and documented usage of the site by African American visitors was on Sept. 5, 1938, for a Labor Day picnic. USFS administrators reported approximately one hundred visitors arrived at the site at 11:00 A.M. and stayed through about 11:00 P.M. The district forest

³³ W. Edgar Leedy to John W. McNair, 21 Mar. 1938, USFS Collection 7361. Lewis R. Smith, Memorandum, 5 Apr. 1938 7356.

³⁴ John McNair, Memorandum, 12 Apr. 1938, USFS Collection 7346. F.C. and Leona Corn to USFS Forest Service, 9 May 1938, USFS Collection 7343. R.R. Bean to USFS Forest Service, 9 May 1938, USFS Collection 7342. Lewis R. Smith, Memorandum, 10 May 1938, USFS Collection 7340.

³⁵ John McNair, Memorandum, 30 Dec. 1938, USFS Collection, 7207.

³⁶ Ross Abare, “Camp Inspection Report: Camp F-24-Va.,” 18 & 20 Mar. 1939, NARA2.

³⁷ J.W.G. Tolivet to John McNair, 23 May 1939, USFS Collection, 7163.

³⁸ John McNair to Stokes, 11 Jul. 1939, USFS Collection.

³⁹ “Green Pastures,” *Alleghanian*, 25 Aug. 1939.

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ranger reported there were no incidents with the local community.⁴⁰ Late visitation such as this one bothered some Longdale residents, as attested by a letter arriving in the ranger's office in 1939 complaining about the excess nighttime noise. According to the letter, locals felt the park was the "rottenest deal any white people has ever had to put up with." Oral interviews suggest heavy usages of the park for a range of purposes, including parties, reunions, and small family outings. June Mansfield, in an oral history interview, recalled that as a five-year-old in 1939 her family took a cab to Green Pastures for picnics.⁴¹ Pat Davis-Ross, on the other hand, remembered her father "driving his Red International pickup truck...with just three people, and by the time we arrived at the park, it was filled with people. At the end of the day, sometimes there would be twenty-five people crammed into the truck."⁴² Multiple African American men rented trucks to bring groups, usually families and children, to Green Pastures on weekends. Some narrators recalled riding to Green Pastures on Friday evening and not leaving until Sunday, either sleeping outside in a tent or inside the bath house.⁴³

USFS officials set out in 1939 to remedy the noise complaint problems. They first interviewed several Longdale residents, ultimately concluding problems stemmed from late visitors to the camp, many of whom were most likely intoxicated and looking for a secluded party location. The solution proposed by the USFS was to build a gate and lock it every night at about the same time except when approved groups requested Green Pastures as an overnight campground.⁴⁴ Throughout 1939 and 1940, African American groups regularly requested such special usage of the site, thus proving it was a needed resource for the local African American population. For instance, in May 1940, the Colored Women Federated Improvement Club of Covington asked for use of the site for two weeks so as to host the Junior Federated Girls, all of whom would sleep in tents on the property.⁴⁵

The CCC officially completed all projects at Green Pastures in early 1940 and, despite it having been open to visitors for nearly two years, held a grand opening ceremony on June 15. The African American chapters of both the Masons and Elks also requested use of the site for a special political gathering and suggested this opening ceremony serve as the site's dedication ceremony.⁴⁶ In early June 1940, the USFS hired a site administrator and lifeguard, the latter of whom was a CCC enrollee in need of employment.⁴⁷

⁴⁰ Lewis R. Smith, Memorandum, 12 Sep. 1938, USFS Collection, 7271.

⁴¹ *What's Your Story*, 17.

⁴² *What's Your Story*, 13.

⁴³ *What's Your Story*, 23, 30-31.

⁴⁴ A.K. Nicely to Lewis Smith, 11 Aug 1939, USFS Collection. Lewis Smith, memorandum, 16 Aug 1939, USFS Collection, 7129. John W. McNair, Memorandum, 5 May 1937, USFS Collection. Lewis R. Smith, Memorandum, 19 Jun. 1937. Randolph Odell to Ira T. Yarnall, 19 May 1937, USFS Collection. Ira T. Yarnall to John W. McNair, 28 May 1937, USFS Collection 7404.

⁴⁵ Maud O. Harvey, letter, 6 May 1940, USFS Collection, 7109. John McNair to Maud O. Harvey, 13 May 1940, USFS Collection, 7107.

⁴⁶ "Open House," *Alleghanian*, 24 May 1940. John McNair to John Walker, 2 Apr. 1940, USFS Collection, 6778.

⁴⁷ J.C. to F.S. John McNair, 28 Mar. 1940.

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Sustaining Green Pastures (1946-present)

Green Pastures closed briefly during World War II, exact dates are unknown, and opened again in 1946 to great fanfare and little financial support. USFS officials surveyed agency property in April 1946 for post-war reconditioning as many sites had been neglected for the war effort. Green Pastures required significant renovation, such as repainting, replacing fixtures, and replacing water filtration systems, so much that forest rangers recommended the site only be open five days a week for the time being.⁴⁸ Despite the relative state of disrepair, visitors kept coming to Green Pastures. An example was when at least five hundred picnickers from Staunton visited the site in August 1946.⁴⁹ Throughout this first postwar season, visitors complained to the USFS of filth at the site with glass bottles littering overgrown fields. Local government agencies either could not or would not provide funds for full-time lifeguards at Green Pastures either, which had severe consequences as one person, Joseph Hatchett, a high school student, drowned at the site that year as well. The USFS recognized these obvious problems and requested help from U.S. Representative J. Lindsay Almond, who would later serve as Governor and initiate Virginia's "massive resistance" policy against Federal desegregation orders. Letters from Almond appeared on the desks of both the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture inviting them to tour Green Pastures in the hopes the government would contribute more funds and create similar new projects. Almond did not receive a response immediately, but he would in time.⁵⁰

Before the site reopened in 1947, yet another petition arrived in the USFS district office, only this time it was signed by both white and black local residents in support of the site and officially requesting a full-time caretaker and lifeguards for Green Pastures. Petitioners suggested the caretaker could live on site and white signatories, who just a few years earlier protested the park, explicitly stated they would welcome a seasonal African American caretaker. The African American signatories also expressed a desire for Green Pastures to eventually become a National Park with electric lighting, overnight cabins, and concessions. Both local members of the General Assembly, Senator Carpenter and Delegate R.C. Stokes, opposed the National Park idea, but generally supported increasing financial support to the site.⁵¹ Representative Almond wrote the USFS at about the same time requesting better financial support for Green Pastures staffing – especially considering the 1946 drowning – and the creation of new African American facilities throughout the National Forest.⁵² USFS officials met with State Senator Carpenter and an agreement was reached that the Clifton Forge Chamber of Commerce would finance a lifeguard for the 1947 summer season on the assumption the USFS would increase maintenance funding.⁵³ This was a standard agreement according to USFS procedure. Typically, local county and city

⁴⁸ J.N. Jefferson to A.R. Cochran, 18 Apr. 1946, USFS Collection, 7094. J.N. Jefferson to A.R. Cochran, 3 Sep. 1946, USFS Collection, 7092.

⁴⁹ L.R. Smith to A.R. Cochran, 21 Aug. 1946, USFS Collection, 7093.

⁵⁰ J. Lindsay Almond Jr. to Julius A. Krug, 27 Aug. 1946, USFS Collection 7088. Lyle Watts to J. Lindsay Almond Jr., 19 Sep. 1946, USFS Collection 7086.

⁵¹ Smith to Evans, 27 Mar. 1947, USFS Collection, 6742. Memorandum, 2 May 1947.

⁵² J. Lindsay Almond to USFS, 27 Mar. 1947, USFS Collection.

⁵³ J.N. Jefferson to A.R. Cochran, 2 May 1947, USFS Collection, 7070.

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boards provided lifeguards during summer months while the USFS managed all other aspects of the site.⁵⁴

However, in 1948 no new agreement was made between the parties involved, Clifton Forge, Covington, and the USFS, regarding lifeguard funding. The USFS continued to fund caretakers to clean, mow grass, and ensure the lake and dam were functioning properly.⁵⁵ USFS administrators were able to convince the Covington Red Cross chapter, Covington Town Council, and Alleghany County Board of Supervisors to contribute portions of the lifeguard salary for 1948, but funding came in too late to hire someone for the 1948 season.⁵⁶ Similar problems emerged again in 1949 with USFS rangers complaining of a lack of local financial support.⁵⁷ In 1950, State Senator J.C. Carpenter, believing that the USFS provided funding for lifeguards at all white recreational areas in Virginia, requested \$500 for the funding of a lifeguard position from both Representative Clarence Burton and Senator A. Willis Robertson. USFS officials pushed back, claiming no such lifeguard provisions were made at recreation areas. Rather than a hard decline, the USFS offered to present before both houses of Congress in support of expanding the agency's budget including lifeguard funding.⁵⁸

While locals petitioned for increased funding, the USFS instituted a significant change to the site – official desegregation. The first major change to the site came in 1950 when the USFS officially desegregated the site. This date of integration seems to fly in the face of Virginia state law, which as of 1950 mandated segregation at “any place of public entertainment or public assemblage.”⁵⁹ USFS officials went forward anyway, arguing the USFS would follow the example set by the military, which had desegregated via executive order in July 1948. The agency did not keep records regarding how this change affected attendance to the site, though local memory suggests little actually changed. Considering Green Pastures never installed signage labeling the site as segregated, it is likely many residents never heard of the official change. Further, hundreds of African Americans continued to travel to Green Pastures on weekends for picnics and religious events.

With segregation in Virginia still in full effect, Green Pastures remained, for all intents and purposes, a near-exclusively African American site. White visitors patronized the park, though most instead used facilities provided by nearby Douthat State Park. Oral history interviews conducted in 2017-2018 reflect this *de facto* reality. Greg Key, a lifelong Clifton Forge resident, recalled of Green Pastures “Sure, you saw some white folks out there in the late 60’s and 70’s, but it was mostly Blacks. It was like a big family reunion out there. It was a place you could go and always see a friend. I always felt safe there.”⁶⁰ Maxine Ross Lee also remembered faculty

⁵⁴ W.S. Swingler to A. Willis Robertson, 23 Jan. 1950, USFS Collection, 7046.

⁵⁵ L.R. Smith to A.R. Cochran, 15 Apr. 1948, USFS Collection, 7067. R.F. Hemingway, Memorandum, 23 Apr. 1948, USFS Collection, 7063.

⁵⁶ R.F. Haussman, Memorandum, 1 Jul. 1948, USFS Collection, 7061.

⁵⁷ R.F. Haussman, Memorandum, 6 Jul. 1949, USFS Collection, 7059.

⁵⁸ J.C. Carpenter to A. Willis Robertson and Clarence G. Burton, 3 Jan. 1950, USFS Collection, 7058. Lyle Watts to A. Willis Robertson, 9 Jan. 1950, USFS Collection, 7055.

⁵⁹ O'Brien, 29.

⁶⁰ *What's Your Story*, 11.

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from the Jefferson School, an African American school in Charlottesville, teaching swimming lessons for children.⁶¹

Despite the minimal financial support, the site maintained popularity beyond USFS expectations. Initial planning documents estimated that Green Pastures could accommodate forty vehicles and 500 visitors at any one time. A single day in 1952 attracted approximately 1,800 visitors, forcing the USFS to shut down the lake for swimming due to public health and water flow concerns.⁶² In general, such a day was an outlier. Normal visitation from 1946 to 1954 was around one to three hundred people on Saturdays and Sundays with less than twenty people per weekday.⁶³ Finally, the USFS launched a major renovation project in late 1955 with the replacement of all beach sand with new sand purchased from Locher Silica Corporation in Goshen and the hiring of a local contractor to dredge the lake bed of debris accumulation.⁶⁴ Any long-term funding increases were proved to be fleeting. In both 1957 and 1958, locals requested the USFS supply a lifeguard for Green Pastures in addition to keeping the site open for an additional week into the fall and, yet again, the USFS explained they had no funding.⁶⁵

Another major change to Green Pastures came in 1964 when the USFS changed the park's name to Longdale Recreation Area. This name change was essentially a rebranding effort. Many white locals did not realize Green Pastures had been integrated over a decade earlier, so the site remained predominantly used by African Americans and nearby Douthat State Park predominantly by whites. At least two years earlier, USFS administrators worried that white attendance to the site was poor because of a local association of the Green Pastures name with its segregated past. Further, the Clifton Forge Chamber of Commerce, ignoring the integration of the site and state parks a decade earlier, guided white tourists to Douthat State Park and African Americans to Green Pastures. A USFS Forest Supervisor commented, "All of us on the Forest feel that the name 'Green Pastures' should be changed. The reason is mainly one of psychology. All of the local country knows the area originally was built for the negro. They still look at it in that light. The Chamber of Commerce at Clifton Forge even refer inquiries from colored people to Green Pastures to take the pressure off the local Douthat State Park." Feeling a name change to be necessary, USFS staff suggested several new names: Pocahontas, Selina Furnace, Bob Danny, Twin Forks, North Mountain, Anthony Knobs, and Rhodora. District Ranger Robert Lockhart ultimately suggested Longdale Recreation Area for its simplicity and suitability given its proximity to the local Longdale community.⁶⁶

⁶¹ *What's Your Story*, 31.

⁶² J.N. Jefferson, Memorandum, 22 Aug. 1952, USFS Collection, 7031. Ira Yarnall to Ernest Attwell, 19 Oct. 1939, USFS Collection, 7124.

⁶³ A.L. Hale to A.H. Anderson, 29 Nov. 1954, USFS Collection, 7014.

⁶⁴ J.N. Jefferson, Memorandum, 25 Oct. 1955, USFS Collection, 7006. George J. Tompkins to William F. Merrilees, 11 Jan. 1956, USFS Collection, 6997.

⁶⁵ Memorandum, 4 Jun. 1957, USFS Collection, 6996. N.F. Craft, Memorandum, 3 Apr. 1958, USFS Collection, 6989.

⁶⁶ A.H. Anderson to Richard Obyk, 6 Feb. 1963, USFS Collection, 6972. W.J. Lucas, Memorandum, 8 Feb. 1963, USFS Collection. R.E. Elliot, Memorandum, 21 Feb. 1963, USFS Collection. Robert E. Lockhart, Memorandum, 1 Mar. 1963, USFS Collection. F.S. Anderson to USFS, 15 Apr. 1963. A.H. Anderson, Memorandum, 1 Oct. 1962, USFS Collection, 6973.

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With the name change also came some reinvestment in the site during the late 1960s. To generate funding, the USFS instituted a site use fee beginning July 1, 1965. All visitors aged sixteen and older were charged 25 cents to access the site. Fees revenue went toward significant improvements of the site, such as trucking in 307 tons of sand from Norfolk, a hard surface parking lot, and general cleanup throughout the site, including the lake and dam.⁶⁷ Other major initiatives followed in 1967 when the USFS began work on a campground upstream from the Green Pastures beach area and dam. This campground proposal laid out a plan for fourteen camp sites to be built in 1968 with another sixteen being constructed over the next few years. The plan also called for the site to be closed to the public for the 1967 season due to heavy construction.⁶⁸ This closure incensed locals, many of whom believed the USFS was simply looking for an excuse to close the site permanently.⁶⁹ When the 1968 season opened, USFS administrators realized the site was about 50 percent over budget.⁷⁰ USFS District office staff diligently pressed for funding from regional and national offices, which was successful as administrators considered the campground project a high priority. Foresters also worried that unauthorized after-hours use would vandalize the site beyond recognition, a problem that would be alleviated with overnight campers and the increased revenue. USFS budgeters supplied all over-budget funds, including a USFS-funded lifeguard, though the campground plan was not included. Ironically, the USFS contacted unemployment agencies, the Red Cross, and well-connected locals and could not find a single individual willing to take the lifeguard position.⁷¹

Since the 1960s, Green Pastures has remained open to the public. During the 1970s, USFS inspections found numerous problems with the design, as was often discovered with CCC-built camps, and recommended all areas of the park be redesigned according to modern standards. However, this recommendation was not followed in consideration of the massive cost required.⁷² Adequate financial support for site maintenance continued through the 1970s and 1980s, a fact that was not lost on the local community.⁷³ The site still experienced heavy public use by African American and white visitors during this time, as was articulated in oral histories gathered by the *What's Your Story?* project in 2018-2019.⁷⁴ Since this time period, the site has remained open during daytime hours, generally, with USFS district office support.

⁶⁷ *Covington Virginian*, 29 Jul. 1965. Raymond Haymaker to Richard Poff, 4 Jun. 1965, USFS Collection, 6544. John D. Whitmore, Memorandum, 22 Jul. 1965, USFS Collection, 6537.

⁶⁸ Richard J. Obyc, Memorandum, 21 Mar. 1967, USFS Collection, 6527. Richard J. Obyc, Memorandum, 5 Apr. 1967, USFS Collection, 6525.

⁶⁹ Raymond Haymaker to James O'Keefe, 11 May 1967, USFS Collection, 6522. James O'Keefe to Raymond Haymaker, 15 May 1967, USFS Collection, 6520.

⁷⁰ Richard Obyc to Joseph Hudick, 17 Apr. 1968, USFS Collection, 6917.

⁷¹ R. Paul Bullard, Memorandum, 25 Jun. 1968, USFS Collection, 6915.

⁷² George H. Rose, Memorandum, 21 Oct. 1968, USFS Collection, 6906.

⁷³ Raymond Haymaker to Charles Von Herman, 24 Jun. 1975, USFS Collection, 6889.

⁷⁴ Interviews with Steven Nicely, Liz Higgins, and Evelyn Cooper all noted using the park extensively during the 1960's and 1970's. *What's Your Story*, 20-21, 28-29.

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Criterion C: Architectural Significance

While Green Pastures Recreation Area is highly significant for its history as a park built for African Americans during the Jim Crow era of segregation and for its association with entertainment and recreation trends of the early to mid-twentieth century, the park also is significant for its collection of buildings, sites, and structures constructed by the CCC. The CCC used standardized plans for the design of buildings and structures and to design landscapes within parks and other recreational areas like Green Pastures. The United State Forest Service (USFS), formed in 1905, would later join other land-management agencies, like the National Park Service, in adopting what was known as a “rustic” style of architecture and utilizing the CCC for construction of many of its facilities. The philosophy behind the “rustic” style stressed that any manmade element was to be constructed to blend with the surrounding natural environment. The origin of the style or the ethic behind it can be traced back to the mid-19th century and Andrew Jackson Downing’s ideas surrounding landscape design, where buildings and other structures should be constructed in harmony with or diminutive to the natural setting surrounding them.

The design ethos for parks began as early as 1864, when the Yosemite Act was established creating an area for “public use, resort, and recreation” in the Yosemite Valley of California.⁷⁵ Some of the first directives regarding how buildings, sites, and structures should be constructed to fit with nature came out of the development of Yosemite. These guiding principles of “rustic” would go on to influence other parks and recreation areas throughout the U.S. The National Park Service, established in the 1920s, sought to codify these principles of rustic design, working with noted architects and landscape architects throughout the different regions in order to achieve a consistent design based on regional cultural and architectural influences.

In the 1930s, under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal policies, several different agencies, including the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), the CCC, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), were created and worked with the National Park Service to produce a policy of consistent design principles to be carried out on lands managed by the Federal government. One of the guiding documents for construction of buildings in National Parks, State Parks and recreation areas was Albert Good’s Park and Recreation Structures, published by the National Park Service in 1938. In the foreword to his publication, Good wrote:

IN ANY AREA in which the preservation of the beauty of Nature is a primary purpose, every proposed modification of the natural landscape, whether it be by construction of a road or erection of a shelter, deserves to be most thoughtfully considered. A basic objective of those who are entrusted with development of such areas for human uses, for which they are established is, it seems to me, to hold these modifications to a minimum and so to design them that, besides being attractive to look upon, they appear to belong to and be a part of their settings.

⁷⁵ America’s National Park System: The Critical Documents: The Yosemite Act, 1864.
https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/anps/anps_1a.htm

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Good's publication goes on to present plans for buildings, cabins, bathrooms, living quarters, picnic shelters, and designs for more utilitarian structures like bridges, water fountains, dams, and signs, among others, and provides examples of "Rustic design" already found in many established parks and recreation areas. Characteristics of the Rustic style, as outlined in Good's pattern book, include the use of native materials and traditional building techniques to achieve harmonization with the natural surroundings, keeping emphasis on the setting and nature rather than the built environment. For construction of foundations, chimneys, and even water fountains, the use of native stone was preferable. Large boulders were commonly used as barriers along roads and trails and in parking areas. The use of manual labor by the CCC and their use of traditional building techniques were often used in construction of the buildings to make them seem more organic to their surroundings. Park buildings, such as cabins, restrooms, and picnic shelters, were to be constructed using wood or stone. Commonly, especially in the eastern United States, these buildings would be constructed of hewn logs, like the sleeping cabins constructed at Douthat State Park (NRHP 1986; DHR# 008-0136), traditional weatherboard, board and batten siding or in some cases waney-edge siding. Wood was typically the economical choice and blended well with the natural setting.⁷⁶ In the case of buildings constructed and clad in wood, they were typically painted or stained in earthen tones, such as browns and grays. At Green Pastures, the use of stone is evidenced in the massive chimney constructed for the picnic shelter, along with the foundation of the bathhouse, and the stone retaining wall along the beach and the dam. The water fountains at Green Pastures are also constructed of stone. Most of the buildings that date to the 1930s are constructed using waney-edge siding. The one picnic shelter at Green Pastures is constructed of hand-hewn logs. All of the buildings are painted brown.

Roads and trails were also designed to seem organic, following the topography of the land rather than taking the easiest and most direct route. This approach was important to enhance the visitor's experience and made sure these manmade structures blended with the environment around them. At Green Pastures, there is one road that provides access to the main areas of the park: the dam and beach, the playfield, and the picnic grounds. The road provides a sinuous path beginning at the opening gate, winding its way along and across several creeks in a forested setting, terminating at designated parking areas for each of the visitor areas. Trails consist of those for hiking and footpaths that connect the different visitor use areas. Like the road, they were built to the contours of the land and in some instances were lined with large boulders as barriers. These footpaths were constructed so the visitor could meander along the most scenic route, aside creeks, past the most picturesque vistas or interesting natural features. On some of the hiking trails, stone steps were constructed to mark the entrance of a trail or path or to navigate steeper slopes.

Green Pastures Recreation Area and its buildings and structures are worthy of preservation and recognition under Criterion C because they exemplify the rustic style as constructed by the CCC during the late 1930s. These resources retain their historic integrity, with many of their original materials and setting intact. The CCC-constructed buildings throughout the United States in national parks, state parks, and recreation areas and the buildings at Green Pastures, stand as a

⁷⁶ Albert H. Good. *Park and Recreation Structures*. Washington, D.C: National Park Service: 1938.

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regional representation of the rustic style and the legacy of the quality craftsmanship of the labor provided by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☒ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; U.S.
Forest Service George Washington/Thomas Jefferson National Forest

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR #003-5109

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 133

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.794070 | Longitude: -79.70596 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.790950 | Longitude: -79.701500 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.786830 | Longitude: -79.697550 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.788390 | Longitude: -79.701930 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.783930 | Longitude: -79.699630 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.781780 | Longitude: -79.706130 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.784730 | Longitude: -79.706370 |
| 8. Latitude: 37.788380 | Longitude: -79.706650 |
| 9. Latitude: 37.789670 | Longitude: -79.705210 |
| 10. Latitude: 37.792070 | Longitude: -79.707080 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

Green Pastures Recreation Area

Name of Property

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☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The 133 acres of Green Pastures Recreation Area are situated in the Longdale District, Alleghany County, Virginia. Lying completely within Alleghany County, the true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached scaled Location Map and Aerial View. The historic boundary also includes a portion of Blue Suck Branch and Downy Branch, both tributaries of Simpson Creek. The historic boundary is coterminous with the boundary of federal lands included within a long-term lease by the Commonwealth of Virginia from the USDA Forest Service. The Lease Area Description is as follows: Being all that tract of land lying within the area bounded by Yaccrs Run Trail and a portion of Forest Service Road 172, Longdale (Blue Suck) Road and including an additional 10-foot buffer from the center line of Yaccrs Run trail tread, to allow for the maintenance of Yaccrs Run trail. Included with the lease area is a non-exclusive right to access the lease area along Forest Service Road 172, Longdale (Blue Suck) Road.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of Green Pastures Recreation Area, as shown on accompanying maps and site plans, encompass all of the significant features associated with the site during the period of significance as well as the historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Josh Howard (historian and private consultant) and Aubrey Von Lindern and Michael Pulice (Virginia Dept. Historic Resources)

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221

e-mail: michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov

telephone: 540-387-5443

date: October 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Green Pastures Recreation Area

City or Vicinity: Longdale Furnace

County: Alleghany

State: VA

Photographers: Michael Pulice & Aubrey Von Lindern, DHR architectural historians; except where noted.

Date Photographed: Spring 2020 except where noted.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake, looking south.
- 2) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake beach stone wall, looking southeast.
- 3) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake, looking north.
- 4) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake Dam, looking south.
- 5) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake Dam, looking south-southwest.
- 6) Green Pastures (Blue Suck) Lake Dam, looking southwest.
- 7) Bath house, looking northeast.
- 8) Bath house, west elevation, looking north-northeast.
- 9) Bath house, east elevation, looking south-southwest.

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- 10) Picnic shelter and drinking fountain #1, looking east.
- 11) Picnic shelter, looking west.
- 12) Picnic shelter, looking north.
- 13) Picnic shelter, fireplace.
- 14) Picnic shelter, roof interior detail.
- 15) Restroom Building A, looking southeast.
- 16) North Restroom Building A, looking southwest.
- 17) South Restroom Building B, looking east.
- 18) South Restroom Building B, looking southwest.
- 19) Chlorination shed and Restroom Building B, looking southeast.
- 20) Drinking fountain #2, looking south.
- 21) Drinking fountain #3 and picnic area, looking southeast.
- 22) Playing field #1 looking north.
- 23) Playing field #2 looking north-northwest.
- 24) Parking area, looking west-southwest.
- 25) Stone-lined walking path, looking west.
- 26) Stone steps, looking east.
- 27) Foot path, looking south.
- 28) Other foot path, looking east-northeast.
- 29) Downy Branch reservoir, looking northeast, 2017. Credit: J. Daniel Pezzoni.
- 30) Downy Branch upper dam, looking east.
- 31) Downy Branch lower dam, looking southeast.
- 32) Downy Branch low-water bridge, looking southeast.
- 33) Forest Service Longdale Recreation Area sign (outside of NR boundary)
- 34) Green Pastures Trail north bridge, looking north-northwest.
- 35) Green Pastures Trail south bridge, looking southeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

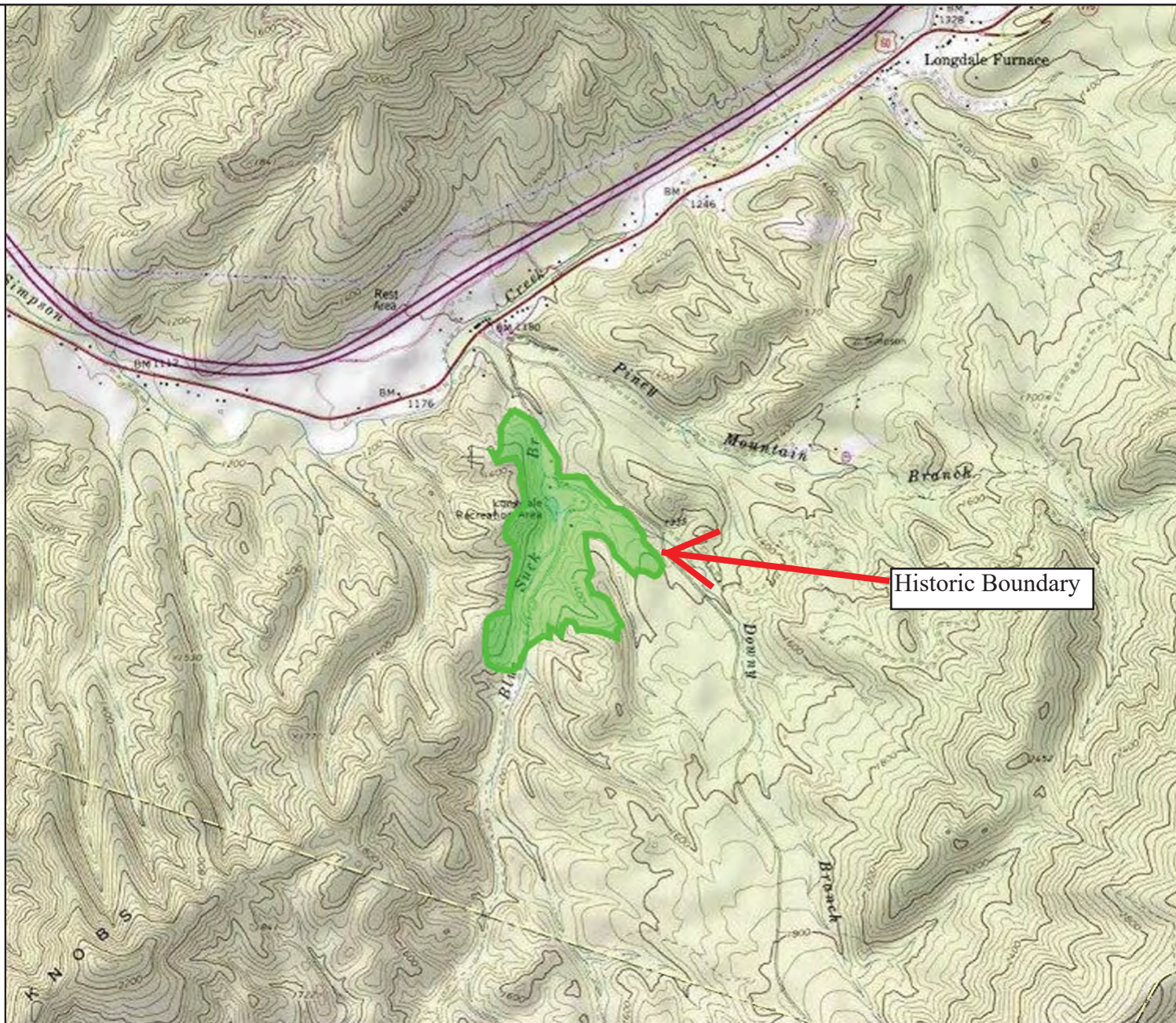


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Green Pastures Recreation Area

Alleghany County, VA

DHR No. 003-5109



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/17/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

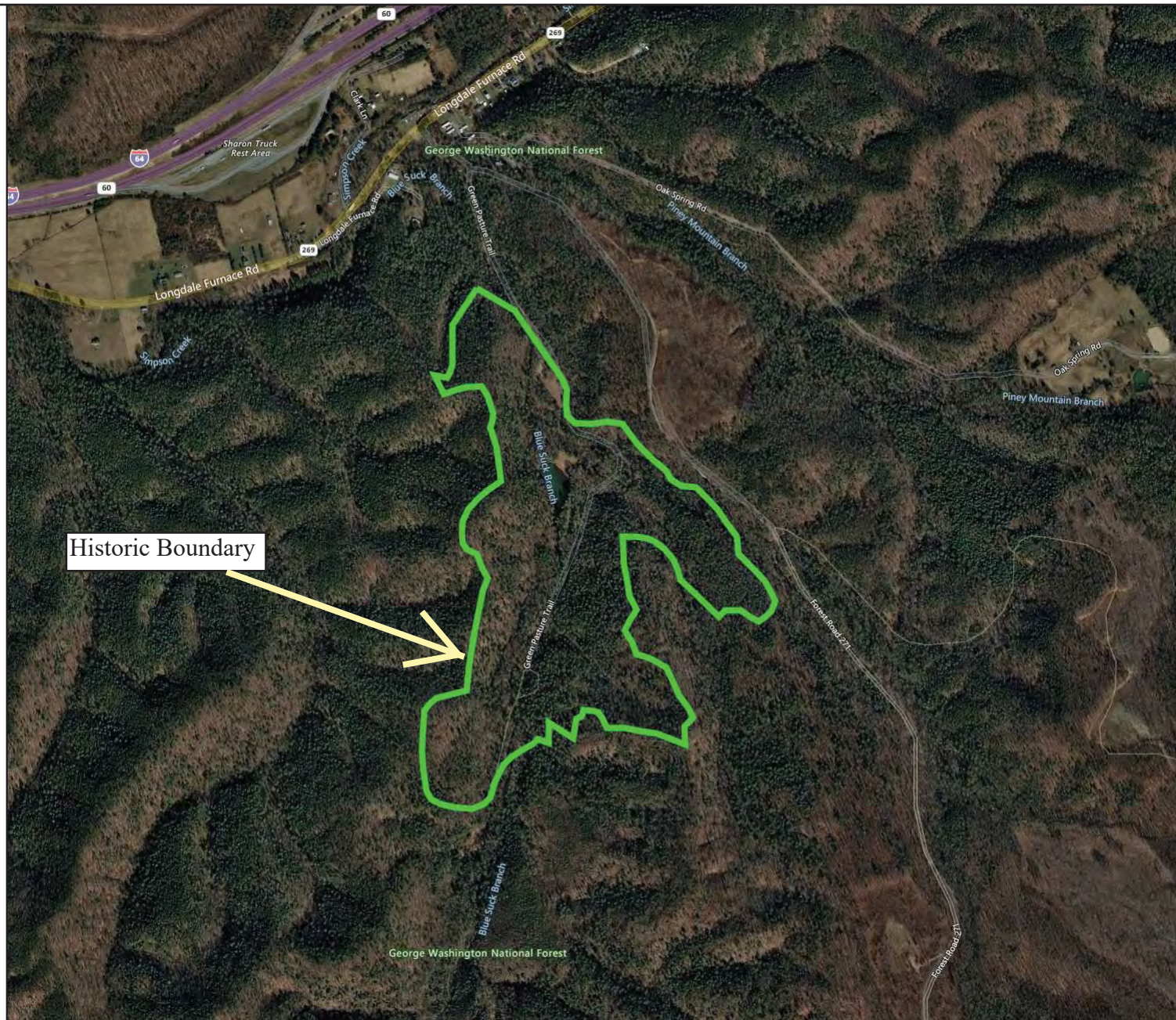


AERIAL VIEW

Green Pastures Recreation Area

Alleghany County, VA

DHR No. 003-5109



Historic Boundary



Feet

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1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/17/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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LOCATION MAP

Green Pastures Recreation Area

Alleghany County, VA

DHR #003-5109

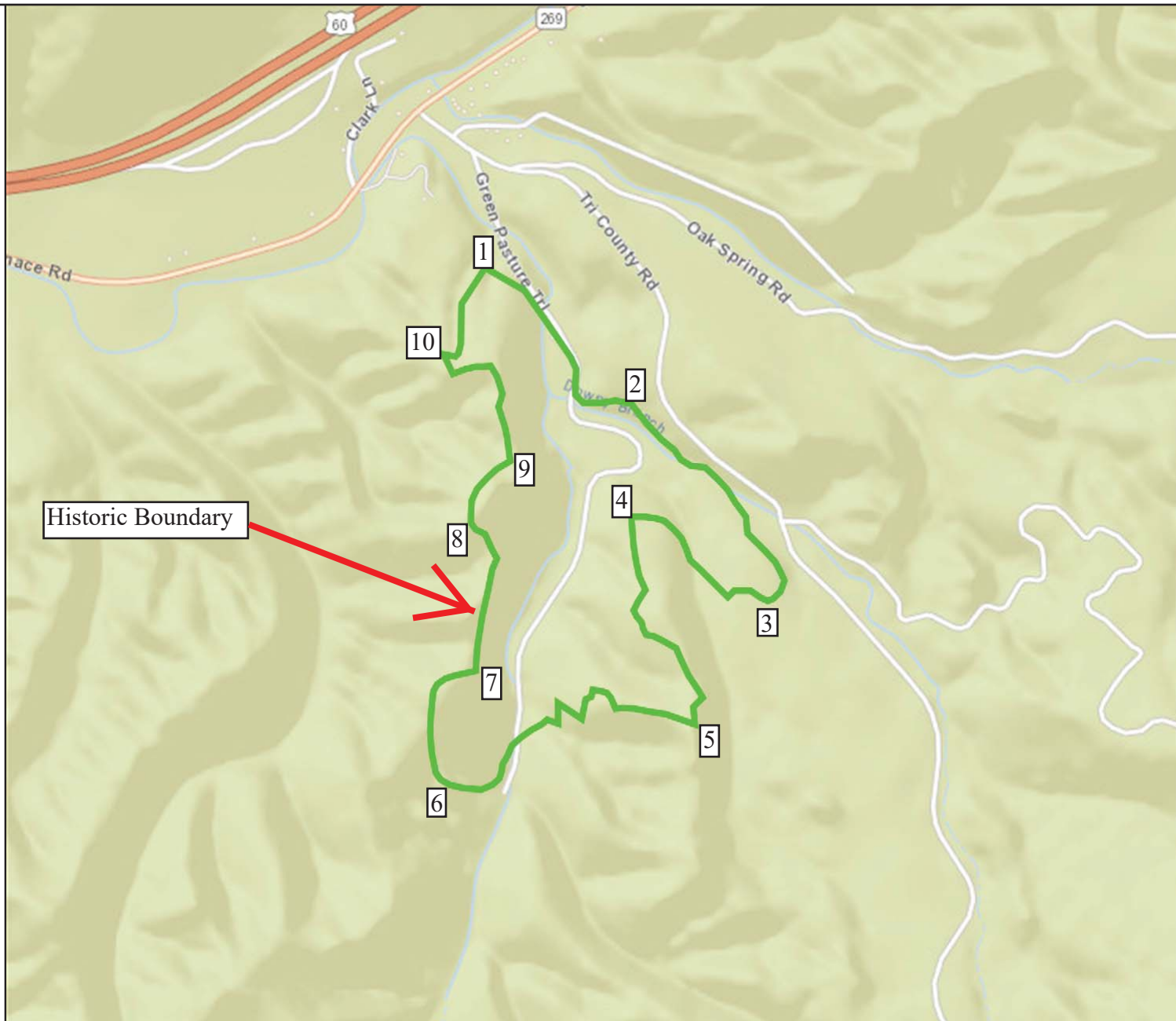
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Longitude: -79.70596
2. Latitude: 37.790950
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4. Latitude: 37.788390
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5. Latitude: 37.783930
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6. Latitude: 37.781780
Longitude: -79.706130
7. Latitude: 37.784730
Longitude: -79.706370
8. Latitude: 37.788380
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10. Latitude: 37.792070
Longitude: -79.707080



Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000
1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet



Title:

Date: 9/17/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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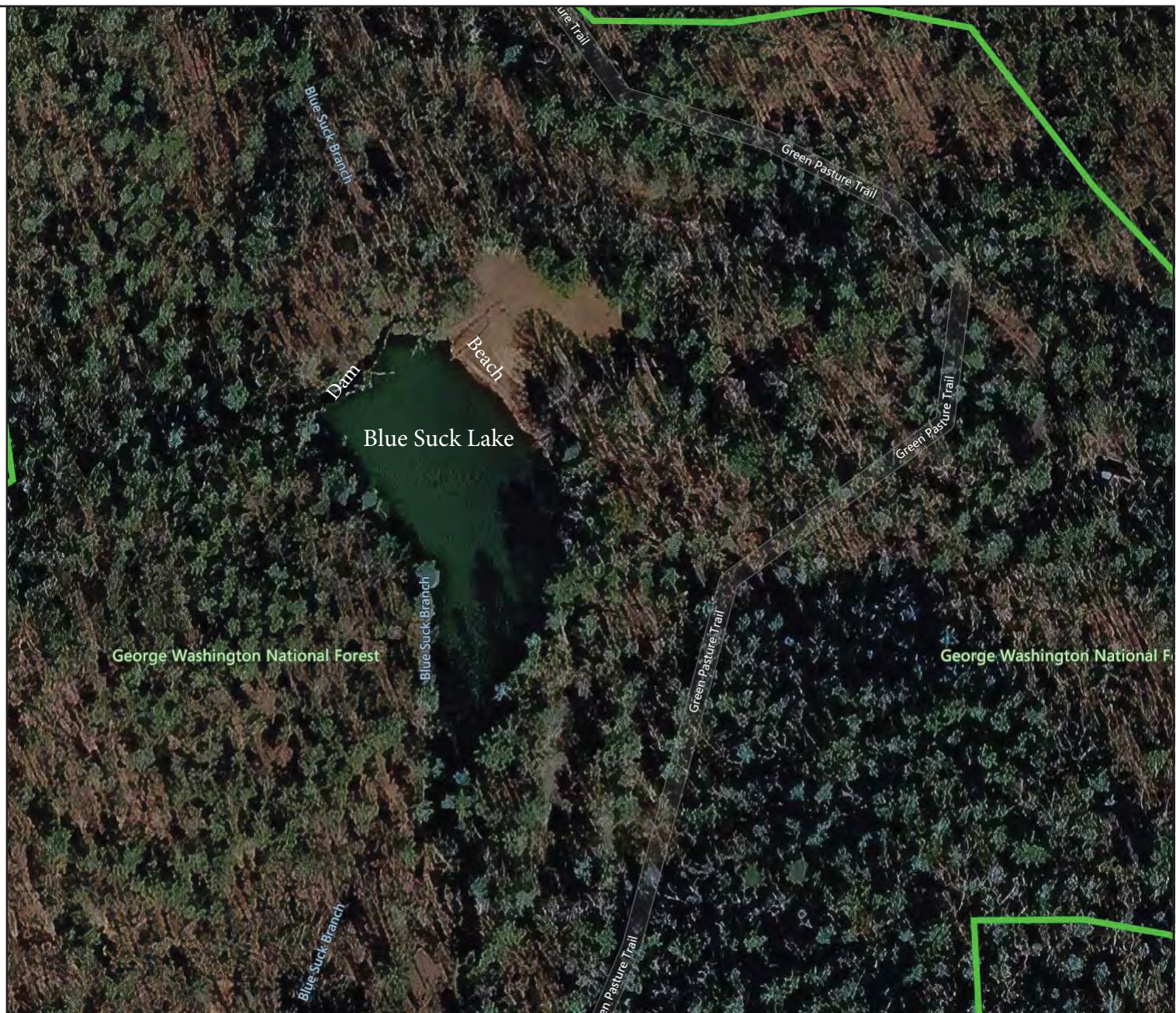


AERIAL VIEW - Blue Suck Lake Area

Green Pastures Recreation Area

Alleghany County, VA

DHR No. 003-5109



Feet

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1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/17/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

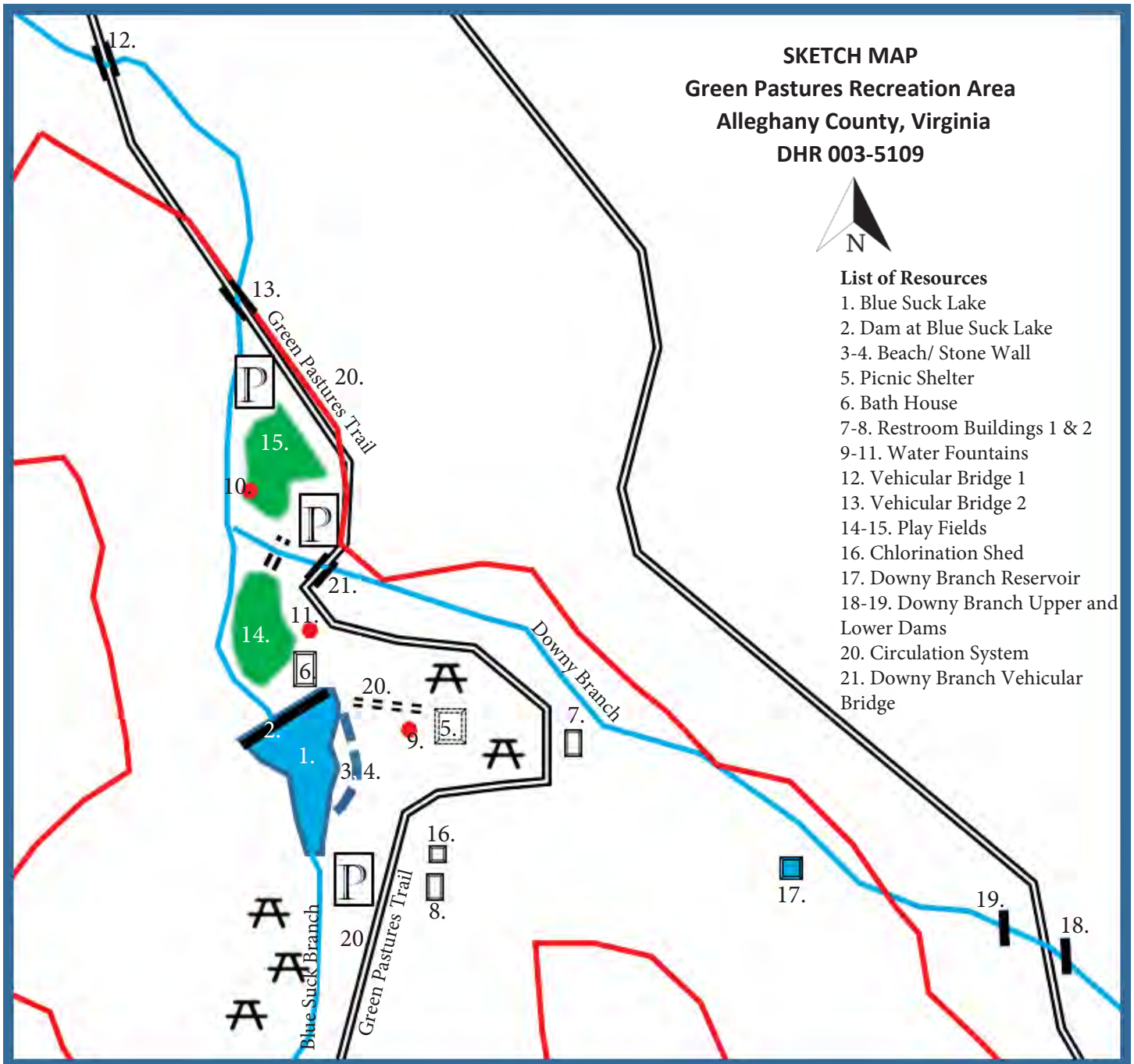
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

SKETCH MAP
Green Pastures Recreation Area
Alleghany County, Virginia
DHR 003-5109



List of Resources

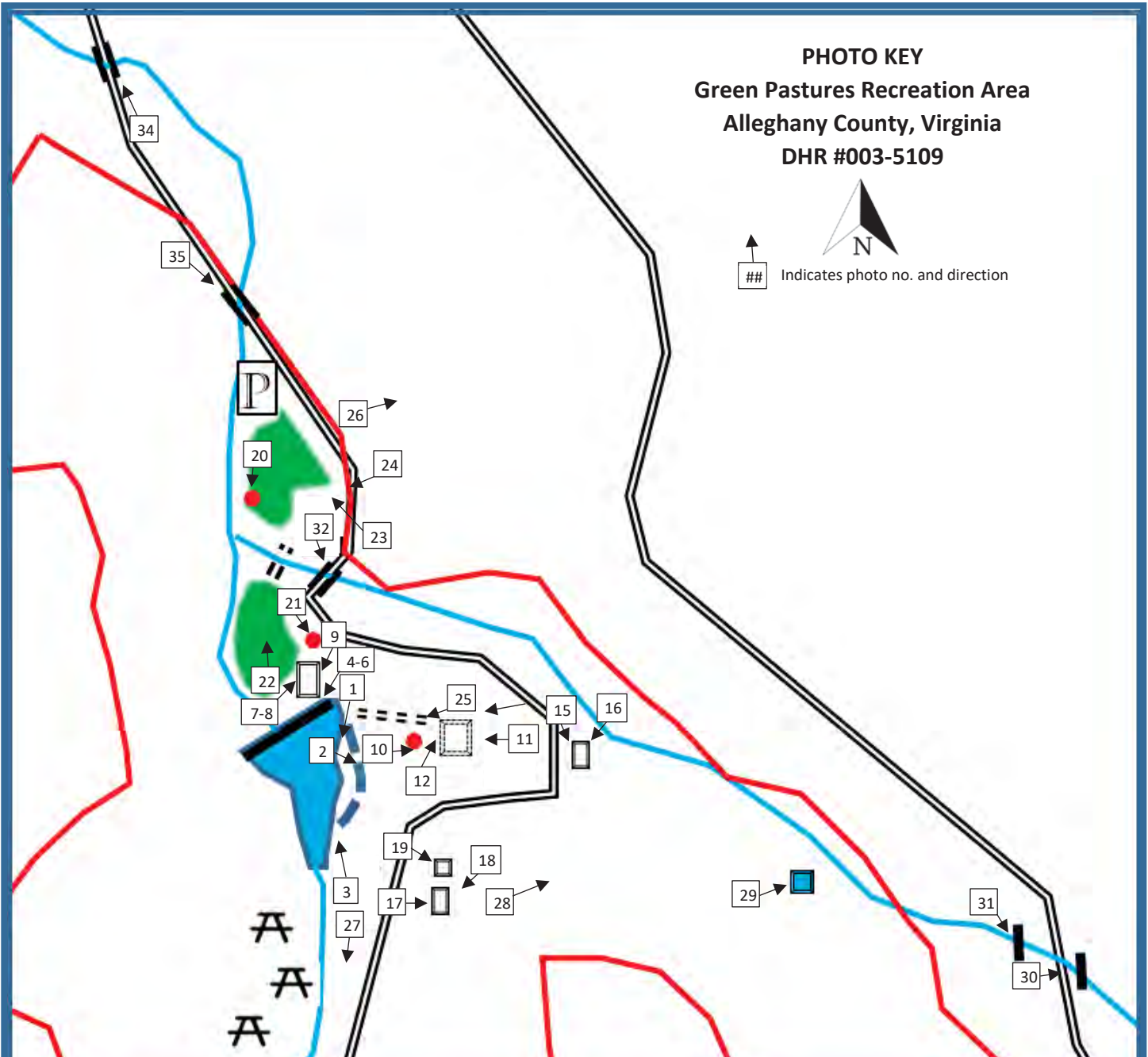
1. Blue Suck Lake
2. Dam at Blue Suck Lake
- 3-4. Beach/ Stone Wall
5. Picnic Shelter
6. Bath House
- 7-8. Restroom Buildings 1 & 2
- 9-11. Water Fountains
12. Vehicular Bridge 1
13. Vehicular Bridge 2
- 14-15. Play Fields
16. Chlorination Shed
17. Downy Branch Reservoir
- 18-19. Downy Branch Upper and Lower Dams
20. Circulation System
21. Downy Branch Vehicular Bridge



LEGEND

	Foot Bridge Remains		Bath House		Beach/Stone Wall		Lake/Stream
	Picnic Shelter		Play Fields		Bridge		Picnic Area
	Drinking Fountain		Reservoir		Bathrooms		Road
	Dam		Parking		Improved Path		Chlorination Building

PHOTO KEY
Green Pastures Recreation Area
Alleghany County, Virginia
DHR #003-5109



LEGEND

	Foot Bridge Remains		Bath House		Beach/Stone Wall		Lake/Stream
	Picnic Shelter		Play Fields		Bridge		Picnic Area
	Drinking Fountain		Reservoir		Bathrooms		Road
	Dam		Parking		Improved Path		Chlorination Building