



GOAL 1: CLINCH RIVER STATE PARK

The goal of the Clinch River State Park action group is to create a state park sited within Russell, Wise, and/or Scott County in order to provide for public recreation and education along the Clinch River while protecting its sensitive and internationally significant biological diversity.

Given the enormous potential for the region to become an attractive eco-tourism destination, the Clinch River State Park action group is seeking to build and support a tourism infrastructure by establishing a new state park along the Clinch River.

Establishing a new state park will require several actions, including identifying funding sources as well as conducting a feasibility study and economic benefit analysis. Based on input from localities and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, plans for a state park will include at least one large park property on the Clinch River managed by DCR State Parks complemented by multiple public river access points upstream and downstream of the hub property managed by other partners.

ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIONS

- A. Site Selection: Reach out to local delegates, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and local property owners to find suitable sites. Conduct a suitability analysis to select the sites.
- B. Funding: Receive funding to purchase the property. Revise funding strategy.
- C. Create a Clinch River State Park

COMPLETED ACTIONS AND RECENT SUCCESSES

- *Spring 2014:* Though appropriations were passed in the House, funding was not passed by the General Assembly in final budget.
- *Spring 2013:* Presented Economic Analysis to State representatives to gain support for funding in the Governor's outgoing budget.
- *Jan. 2013:* The economic impact analysis was completed by Chmura Consulting. The analysis shows that a park will attract over 100,000 visitors by its 3rd year and it will have an on-going annual impact of \$2.53 million.
- *Dec. 2012:* Drafted and received over 30 signed Resolutions of Support from local governments, organizations, and businesses.



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Action Group

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