



KENTUCKY STATE PARKS

“the nation’s finest”

KENTUCKY TOURISM, ARTS, AND HERITAGE CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Interim Joint Committee on State Government | Sept. 28, 2018



State Parks

- Drive tourism
- Support job creation
- Strengthen economic impact
- Preserve our history

Continued Strategy

- Partner with local governments
- Conditions/easements to protect resources, require parks operations to continue
- Develop innovative ownership/management/operational tools
- Ensure our natural & historical resources are preserved & enhanced for generations to come.



Benefits Local Communities

- Local governments – typically best suited to address deferred maintenance needs at parks, support recreation programming & events
- Local citizens should have the most input in operating their parks

Not a New Approach

- Reached similar agreements with Constitution Square State Historic Site (2012) & Ben Hawes State Park (2010)
- Also closed four golf courses: Rough River Dam (2013), KenLake (2013), Jenny Wiley (2012), Lake Cumberland (2006)

KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE RESORT PARK

- Calvert City Airport – downgraded to “airstrip” status – needed extensive repairs
- City is building hangars to accommodate 10+ private aircrafts, adding aviation fuel service
- Improvements are designed to support economic development in Western KY & re-establish the airstrip as an FAA approved airport



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SUCCESS STORIES

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME STATE PARK

- Amphitheater had history of structural, electrical issues – unsafe to occupy - closed
- Agreement between state & Nelson Co. Fiscal Court empowered local leaders to make safety/structural repairs needed
- Repairs were done by Nelson Co. for a fraction of what it would have cost the state
- The Show Went On! (Stephen Foster Story)
- State & county partnering on a complete reconstruction this off season



SUCCESS STORIES

JENNY WILEY STATE RESORT PARK

- Jenny Wiley amphitheater was closed due to electrical & structural issues
- The state leased theater to the city, which has made the necessary repairs to reopen the facility
- Idle swimming pool at Jenny Wiley - leased to the City of Prestonsburg.
- City working to make repairs for a fraction of the cost to the state – plans to reopen pool in Spring 2019



SUCCESS STORIES

LAKE MALONE STATE PARK

- A local charitable foundation paid to demolish the park's dilapidated dock - replaced it with a new one
- The dock is back in business serving boaters
- Created significant savings for local management



SUCCESS STORIES

KINCAID LAKE STATE PARK

- The state leased the park's golf course to Pendleton Co.
- County made improvements & kept the course open for public play
- Created significant savings for local management



SUCCESS STORIES

OTHER PROJECTS IN THE WORKS:



LEVI JACKSON STATE PARK

- London officials want to operate and manage the park
- State working on an agreement to transfer park to City of London

WILLIAM WHITLEY HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

- Management by Lincoln County Historical Society will increase public access to the Whitley House and provide additional funding for its continued preservation

OTHER PROJECTS :



BOONE STATION

- *(Not to be confused with Fort Boonesborough)* – 47 acres in Southeastern Fayette County
- Deeded to Dept. of Parks in 1992 by the Will of Robert Strader
- Will says that if the Dept. of Parks does not develop the property “as a historic state park” within 15 years of when the state inherited the property (1992), then ownership of Boone Station is deeded to David’s Fork Baptist Church in Lexington



BOONE STATION



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- Two old, dilapidated tobacco barns that pose a serious safety concern for visitors
- A few signs & interpretive panels – some put there by Dept. of Parks, some by KY Historical Society
- Three picnic tables, a single porta-toilet
- A marker that lists names of Daniel Boone's relatives; little evidence to suggest these relatives actually buried at this site.