

Happy New Year

I can't believe it is already 2012. I have been practicing my response to the #1 question—"When will Staunton be open?" The answer is no longer "sometime next year" it is "sometime THIS year" and the To Do list keeps getting longer. Here's what's happening currently:

I received notification this week that the long anticipated forestry project inside the park below Conifer Mountain neighborhood will begin in the next 2-3 weeks. We are just waiting for the contract to be approved. The project has a completion date of March 31. Thank you to all the neighbors who assisted with gaining access to this hard-to-reach area. We could not have accomplished this without your assistance.

Staunton's full time Ranger staff will double in size soon. Colin Chisholm will be transferring from Chatfield State Park to Staunton in late February. Colin has been with State Parks for over 5 years. He brings tremendous experience, knowledge and skills to Staunton. I am excited about the addition.

We continue to finalize Phase I construction details. Discussions are getting down to details such as the number of parking spaces, how many signs are needed and where they should be placed. The construction projects should be ready to go out for bid in February.

Trail construction has been put on hold due to the snow conditions. We really hoped for dryer conditions but are so thankful for the moisture. The contractors will be back to work late winter/early spring. We are very pleased with the initial work they completed and look forward to the continuation and completion of the project.

Partnerships were identified in the Staunton Master Plan as vital to the success of the Park. In March and April, Staunton will be hosting two Partner Open Houses. This will be the opportunity to discover how you can become a partner in the success of Staunton State Park by becoming a Volunteer, Friend, Contributor or Stakeholder. Watch your inbox for additional information.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Transition Team has developed a draft of the Merger Implementation Plan and asks for your input. A copy of the Plan is available at: www.dnr.state.co.us/DPW/Pages/PublicInput.aspx. After you access the site, follow the link to the Draft Merger Implementation Plan at the bottom of the page. On this page is also a link to an online survey to provide feedback. In order to have feedback considered, all survey responses or other written correspondence must be received no later than January 16th.

Thank you for your continued support of Staunton State Park and Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any specific questions or comments.

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