

## **Section IX      Recommendations**

### **Section Overview**

This section provides a strategy for the County to implement the plan. Recommendations are grouped into three phases over the next ten years. The recommendations are as follows:

Phase 1 Recommendations (Years 0-3) Recommendations 1-30

Phase 2 Recommendations (Years 4-6) Recommendations 31-45

Phase 3 Recommendations (Years 7-10) Recommendations 46-47

## **IX. Recommendations**

The recommendations in the plan are summarized in this section. They have been assigned target dates for implementation and grouped according to target dates. The recommendations are grouped into the following categories. Phase 1 (Years 0-3), Phase 2 (Years 4-6) and Phase 3 (Years 7-10)

Alexander County should use this summary as a guide and planning tool to prioritize the recommendations set annual goals, prepare budgets and set specific dates. The recommendation summary can also be used as a check off list for accomplishing the recommendations.

### **Phase 1 Recommendations (Years 0-3)**

#### **Site Analysis**

1. Because of the fragile ecosystem and restrictions described above, proposed project activities on the mountain should be limited to hiking trails and education and informational signage. Rock outcrops need to be evaluated to determine if viewpoints can be achieved that will protect the fragile ecosystem and provide safety for visitors. In some cases, raised platforms with fences may be needed. **(P1)**
2. The lower lying areas near the Church and the old quarry site are more suitable for parking, picnic shelters, educational amphitheater and buildings. Because of shallow soils at the old quarry site, the property near the church may be suited for restrooms. **(P1)**
3. Off-road vehicle traffic needs to be controlled. Where this is occurring, large barriers need to be constructed along with signage. **(P1)**

#### **Program Needs**

4. Work with area rock climbing clubs and groups to allow them to use the Park for climbing and to also offer demonstrations to the public. **(P1)**
5. With the development of the quarry overlook site, an excellent area for stargazing would be established. Working with groups such as Catawba Valley Astronomy Club, classes and viewing could be made available for the public. **(P1)**

6. Strive to serve all age groups including, children, teens, adults and individuals with disabilities. **(P1)**
7. Where feasible try to find programs or activities for seniors. **(P1)**
8. Offer special events. **(P1)**

### **Facilities**

9. Develop existing trail with connectors. **(P1)**
10. Develop signage for the park. **(P1)**
11. Grading/Landscaping (Block off existing entrance). **(P1)**
12. Area adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Gravel parking for 20 cars. **(P1)**
13. Area adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Restrooms. **(P1)**
14. Area adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Construct 20' x 40' picnic shelter with 6 picnic tables, 3 outdoor grills and trash containers. **(P1)**
15. Area adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Erect an informational kiosk. **(P1)**
16. Area adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Erect fencing & gate. **(P1)**
17. Old quarry site – Erect fencing & gate. **(P1)**
18. Old quarry site – Develop quarry overlook. **(P1)**

### **Park Management**

#### Staffing

19. As demand warrants, hire seasonal part-time staff to maintain the park. Someone will need to open and close the park during operating hours and maintain facilities such as restrooms. **(P1)**

#### Rocky Face Park Committee

20. The existing Rocky Face Park Committee could provide oversight and guidance to the County during the development of Rocky Face Park. The committee's main focus should be on implementing the Rocky Face Park Master Plan. **(P1)**

## Policy and Procedures

21. Develop and adopt park rules and regulations. These policies and procedures should be posted at the park through signage and in addition to standard rules and regulations should address concerns about smoking and alcohol use in the park, fire concerns and four-wheeler damage. **(P1)**
22. Develop a working relationship with Rocky Face Baptist Church to share parking when needed. The County could also make the picnic shelter available to the church. **(P1)**

## Operation and Maintenance

23. Meet with DOT to determine how traffic on and near the park can be improved. **(P1)**
24. During the engineering/design for trail development, determine if multi-purpose trails (horse, biking) are feasible near the base of the Rocky Face Mountain. **(P1)**
25. Work with Alexander County Emergency Services to develop a procedure for emergencies at the park. **(P1)**
26. Purchase and maintain adequate and efficient maintenance equipment for the park as needed. **(P1)**

## Funding

27. Establish or seek more of a variety of funding and revenue sources for providing park services. **(P1)**
28. Seek grants that are available for park development. **(P1)**
29. The county should seek donations and volunteer assistance for the park. **(P1)**
30. Develop a program where citizens can donate for a bench or other park fixture in honor or memorial of an individual. **(P1)**

## **Phase 2 Recommendations (Years 4-6)**

### **Program Needs**

31. The County should work with CVCC, Alexander County School System and the Reese Institute at Lenoir-Rhyne University to establish environmental programs at the park. These could cover a variety of topics such as geology, wildlife and vegetation and environmental stewardship. **(P2)**

32. With the completion of the ADA trail, provide opportunities for fitness and exercise. **(P2)**
33. Work with local history groups to have programs on the history of the area. This would include programs on the railroad, the old prison camp and the operation of the quarry. **(P2)**

### **Facilities**

34. Old quarry site – Establish a wetland demonstration area. **(P2)**
35. Old quarry site – Construct a stage. **(P2)**
36. Old quarry site – Construct a trailhead to connect to existing trail. **(P2)**
37. Old quarry site – Construct 20' x 40' picnic shelter with 6 picnic tables, 3 outdoor grills and trash containers. **(P2)**
38. Old quarry site – Construct an ADA trail. **(P2)**
39. Old quarry site – Erect an informational kiosk. **(P2)**
40. Old quarry site – Erect a Rocky Face history kiosk. **(P2)**
41. Old quarry site – Gravel parking for 50 cars. **(P2)**
42. Old quarry site- Explore alternative wastewater systems for restrooms. **(P2)**
43. Old quarry site – Purchase adjacent land. **(P2)**

### **Park Management**

44. Develop a policy for use of the outdoor stage. **(P2)**
45. Identify programs where a fee could be justified. **(P2)**

## **Phase 3 Recommendations (Years 7-10)**

### **Facilities**

46. Old quarry site – Pave gravel parking lot. **(P3)**
47. Area Adjacent to Rocky Face Baptist Church – Install pervious pavers **(P3)**