

# Management Direction Statement

July 2004

for Bledsoe Creek  
State Park

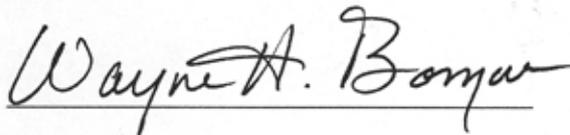


## Management Direction Statement

### Bledsoe Creek State Park

July 2004

Approved by:



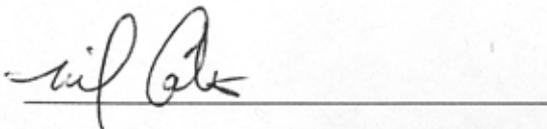
Wayne Bomar  
Park Manager  
Tennessee State Parks  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Date: 7-17-04



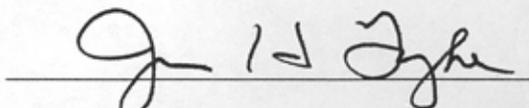
Steve Pardue  
Area Manager  
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Date: 7-29-04



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## **Introduction**

### **Purpose of Management Direction Statement**

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all state parks that do not have an updated full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and directional statements from other planning processes.

### **Setting and Context**

Bledsoe Creek State Park consists of 164 acres situated on the waters of Bledsoe Creek, a tributary of the Cumberland River, Old Hickory Lock and Dam Project (Old Hickory Lake), County of Sumner, State of Tennessee (lat/long 36.377/86.359). The Bledsoe Creek embayment of Old Hickory Lake is approximately halfway between Gallatin (population ~23,000) and Hartsville, (population ~2,300). The park is approximately 36 miles northeast of Nashville, TN (Proximity Map).

The area is predominately wooded and the topography is rolling to hilly. Initial development was done by the Corps of Engineers, and in turn, the State of Tennessee, by lease accepted responsibility to operate and maintain the area. The park, was originally leased from the Corps of Engineers in 1972 on a 30-year lease agreement, and began operation in 1973. The lease was renewed for another 30 years in 2003. It provides access to fishing and boating opportunities, as well as, camping for local residents and destination travelers. Bledsoe Creek is the only Tennessee State Park located on Old Hickory Lake.

### **Park Mission**

Bledsoe Creek State Park was originally designed as a camping park and today continues with camping as its primary theme. Secondary uses include boating access, picnicking, wildlife viewing, nature education and recreational day-use.

The mission of Bledsoe Creek State Park is:

To protect and preserve examples of natural and scenic beauty throughout the park and provide a quality camping and day-use recreation and interpretive experience.

## **Protected Area Attributes**

### **Conservation**

- small protected forest ecosystem adjacent to agricultural lands
- habitat for wildlife, including white-tailed deer, beaver, fox, muskrat, bobcat and turkey
- moist mud flats during the fall and winter months when the lake level is lowered
- abundant waterfowl habitat
- migratory birds
- bald and golden eagle sightings in winter
- 68% forested woodlands, 10% open fields, 10% improved grounds, and 12% aquatic
- common bird and flora inventories complete, fauna inventory pending
- several Iris Fund native re-vegetation planting projects underway
- no known rare or endangered species

### **Recreation and Tourism**

- destination camping with access to angling and boating opportunities
- nature trails
- wildlife viewing opportunities
- day-use recreation

### **Cultural Heritage**

- no known significant cultural features on the park
- park located within 10 miles of two National Historic Register sites, Cragfont State Historic Area (built circa 1798) and Wynnewood State Historic Area (built circa 1828)

### **Significance in the Tennessee State Park System**

- provides outstanding angling and boating opportunities for local residents and destination travelers
- only Tennessee State Park located on Old Hickory Lake
- based on the criteria described in the Tennessee State Parks Use Classification System, Bledsoe Creek State Park is designated a Recreation Area -- Class II, Traditional Park

## **Land Uses, Leases and Interests**

### **Access**

- Ziegler Fort Road (paved) provides excellent access to the park from Tennessee State Highway 25.

### **Leases**

- 2003, leased from the Corps of Engineers on a 30-year lease agreement

### **Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities**

- 6 miles of roadway
- 27 campsites with water and electricity
- 6 campsites primitive
- 1 restroom/shower buildings
- 1 dump station
- 4 playgrounds
- open playfield
- 2 picnic shelters
- picnic areas
- 2 boat launches
- 2 boat courtesy docks
- fishing dock
- 6 miles of interpretive hiking trail including 1 mile paved trail
- park office/visitor center
- maintenance area and waste water treatment facility
- ranger residence

### **Adjacent Patterns of Land Use**

- Old Hickory Lake forms the southern, southeast and southwestern boundary
- Ziegler's Fort Rd. forms the western boundary
- private property (~ 90 acres east of Ziegler Fort Road) forms the northern boundary of the park and is in agricultural use (fence along this property is in need of repair)
- private property (~ 15 acres undeveloped) forms the southern boundary, adjacent to the boat launch, east of Ziegler's Fort Road
- Tennessee State Parks survey crew last surveyed the park boundaries in 2001, boundary lines marked and intact
- no known boundary encroachment problems or conflicting land uses surrounding the park

### **Related Agency Interests**

- U.S. Corps of Engineers has an interest in any changes in land use or development on the park
- U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service has an interest as it relates to federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expenditures. Currently, there are no LWCF funds spent on Bledsoe Creek State Park but it is anticipated that there will be in the near future.
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has an interest in water quality on Old Hickory Lake
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has an interest in boating and fishing activities on Bledsoe Creek and Old Hickory Lake

- Sumner County Convention and Visitors Bureau has an interest in regional tourism
- Sumner County Sheriff's Department and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has an interest in law enforcement related issues on the park

#### **Private and Public Stakeholder Interest**

- recreational users: campers, anglers, boaters, picnickers, day-use recreators
- local residents: Sumner County, Gallatin and Hartsville communities
- naturalists
- park volunteers, including campground host
- Old Hickory Lake fishing tournament providers and participants
- Sumner County Master Gardeners Association
- Vol State Community College
- Scout groups

#### **Role of Bledsoe Creek State Park**

Bledsoe Creek State Park plays a limited role in the provision of camping, lake access and interpretive services within the Tennessee State Park System. The park offers camping and access to angling and boating opportunities on Old Hickory Lake in the area immediately northeast of Nashville where there are no state parks. Picnicking and day-use recreation are secondary activities.

Bledsoe Creek State Park serves a minor conservation role. The park protects limited forest values. The relatively small size of the park limits its conservation role.

The Tennessee State Parks Use-Classification System designates Bledsoe Creek State Park as a Recreation Area – Class II, Traditional Park. These areas are less developed than Resort or Class I, Traditional Parks and are managed based on a policy of maintaining the character of the original park development with an emphasis on rustic style and comfortable, but not luxurious, facilities oriented toward family use.

## Management Commitments and Issues

### Direction from Previous Planning

Bledsoe Creek State Park has been managed as a Recreation Area since 1973. A Strategic Management Plan (developed by Tennessee State Parks) was completed in 1989. The park is also referenced in several Corps of Engineers plans prepared for Old Hickory Lake, including a Master Plan and Operational Management Plan developed in 1987.

### Management Issues

Theme	Issue
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poorly functioning wastewater treatment facility</li> <li>• unused buildings and campsites in need of demolition</li> <li>• insufficient parking</li> <li>• limited carrying capacity</li> <li>• reduced ranger staffing</li> <li>• inadequate lighting at boat launches</li> </ul>
Protecting Ecological Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iris Fund project incomplete</li> <li>• reptile/amphibian inventory incomplete</li> <li>• not currently involved in the All Taxa biodiversity inventory</li> <li>• exotic invasive plant species in need of management</li> <li>• fence along northern boundary in poor condition</li> <li>• borrow pit needs remediation</li> <li>• drainage problems</li> <li>• development exceeds parking in some areas</li> </ul>
Protecting Recreational Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• park office in poor condition</li> <li>• campground restroom and bathhouse in poor condition</li> <li>• all campsites in poor condition</li> <li>• limited number of lakefront campsites</li> <li>• courtesy dock at public boat launch destroyed in tornado</li> <li>• trail head needs native planting and signage</li> <li>• shoreline trail poorly located and designed</li> <li>• need walkway to fishing dock</li> </ul>
Protecting Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cultural value is unknown</li> </ul>

Park Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor signage</li> <li>• low campground occupancy rates</li> <li>• nearby camping opportunities in better condition and with swimming and other amenities</li> <li>• costly waste removal contract</li> <li>• water lines in poor condition</li> <li>• no clerical assistance</li> </ul>
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## Management Strategy

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Ensure Bledsoe Creek State Park is safe for public use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• investigate possibilities to improve functioning of wastewater treatment facility</li> <li>• demolish and re-vegetate unused campsites</li> <li>• demolish old bathhouse and restroom (area #3)</li> <li>• demolish old ranger residence</li> <li>• investigate options to expand parking or limit usage capacity</li> <li>• request additional ranger staff</li> <li>• provide lighting at boat launches</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Protect the park's ecological values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete Iris Fund projects</li> <li>• replace old boundary markers with new</li> <li>• complete reptile/amphibian inventory</li> <li>• institute All Taxa biodiversity inventory</li> <li>• develop and implement exotic invasive plant species management plan</li> <li>• follow up on replacement of fence along northern boundary</li> <li>• remedy borrow pit</li> <li>• correct drainage problems throughout the park, particularly at shelter #1</li> <li>• develop strategy to protect and expand native habitat (plant natives) and reduce mowing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Protect the park's recreational values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• replace park office/nature center</li> <li>• replace campground bathhouse in area #3</li> <li>• request funding to add lakefront campsites</li> <li>• replace restroom in area #1</li> <li>• replace courtesy dock at public boat launch</li> <li>• complete trail head improvement for birdsong trail including kiosk and native</li> </ul>

	<p>planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• re-route shoreline trail and add connector to high ridge trail</li><li>• complete sidewalk to fishing dock</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect the park's cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no known strategies</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• complete signage projects</li><li>• replace entrance sign</li><li>• investigate opportunities to increase camping occupancy</li><li>• complete current campground improvement project</li><li>• request funding for additional campground renovation</li><li>• maintain good relationships with local communities and law enforcement agencies to increase community and surrounding area visitation</li><li>• continue recycling program and investigate going "trash free"</li><li>• investigate opportunities to improve energy efficiency</li><li>• correct waterline and electrical issues</li><li>• request clerical staff</li></ul>

## **Preliminary Zoning**

The developed portion of the park is designated as D zone. The remainder is zoned T for transitional. (see Zoning Map).

### **Park Development Zone: D Zone**

The D Zone is the area of land within each park that will be managed to provide and maintain facilities serving visitors and park managers and staff. The areas that it encompasses will include those where park development or intensive use may alter the natural environment or the setting for culturally significant resources. This zone will be restricted to the smallest possible area to accommodate existing facilities and activities, support systems, and the future growth or expansion of facilities. Impacts associated with developments in this zone will be mitigated to the greatest possible extent. All facilities and alterations within this zone should blend in with the surrounding landscape and facilities to the greatest possible extent.

### **Transition Zone: T Zone**

The T Zone is the area of land between the D zones and the other zones. Development within this zone is limited to foot, horse and bicycle trails as well as trail support facilities such as primitive campsites, shelters, and parking areas at trail heads. The T zone allows visitors the opportunity to view or directly access the park's resources by means of these trails. Visitor use is concentrated mainly to this zone as well as the D zone. These areas are typified as forested, open lands or rivers, lakes, streams or wetlands that surround the more developed areas of the park in the D Zone.

**Activity/Use Matrix for Bledsoe Creek State Park**

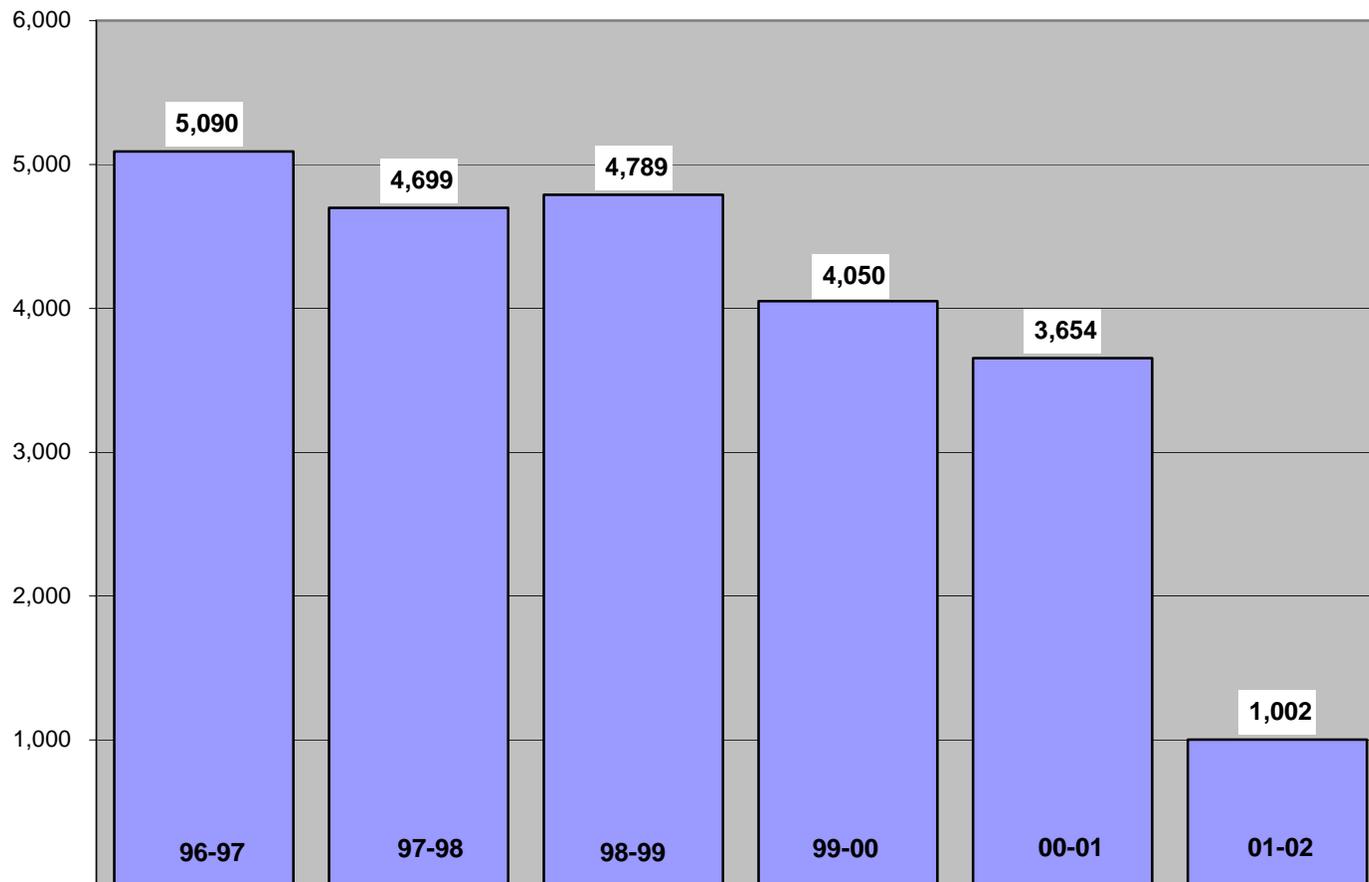
<b>Activity/Use/Facility</b>	<b>Acceptable Uses</b>
visitor/interpretive center	Y
cabins	N1
group camp	M
group lodge	N1
swimming beach	M
swimming pool	N1
recreation building	N1
marina	N
boat rentals	N1
archery	M
trails -- ATV	N
trails – mountain bike	N
trails -- equestrian	N
wrangler camp	N
hunting	N
fishing	Y
boating -- motorized	Y
boating – non-motorized	Y
geo-caching/orienteering	Y
mushroom/berry hunting	Y
exotic plant control	Y
scientific research (specimen collection)	Y
scientific research (manipulative activities)	Y
general recreation (bring your own equipment)	Y
organized recreation (developed athletic fields)	N
special events (large, commercial)	N
special events (small, non-commercial)	Y

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan  
 M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives  
 N = not allowed  
 N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only  
 N2 = present and allowed to continue, but not normally allow

Figure 1

**Bledsoe Creek State Park Revenue and Expenditure Trend**

Fiscal Year	Total Visitation	Visitor Change from Previous Year	Percent Change from Previous Year	Average Visitors Per Day	Revenue Collected	Operating Costs	Net Profit	Revenue Collected Per visitor	Operating Cost Per visitor	Profit Per visitor	Percent Self Sufficient
FY92-93	190,440			522	\$33,034.00	\$172,284.00	-\$139,250.00	\$0.17	\$0.90	-\$0.73	19.17%
FY93-94	206,387	15,947	8.37%	565	\$35,115.00	\$193,305.00	-\$158,190.00	\$0.17	\$0.94	-\$0.77	18.17%
FY94-95	222,658	16,271	7.88%	610	\$40,129.00	\$206,161.00	-\$166,032.00	\$0.18	\$0.93	-\$0.75	19.46%
FY95-96	309,407	86,749	38.96%	848	\$40,948.00	\$223,846.00	-\$182,898.00	\$0.13	\$0.72	-\$0.59	18.29%
FY96-97	372,761	63,354	20.48%	1021	\$55,309.00	\$217,652.00	-\$162,343.00	\$0.15	\$0.58	-\$0.44	25.41%
FY97-98	400,567	27,806	7.46%	1097	\$52,794.00	\$254,056.00	-\$201,262.00	\$0.13	\$0.63	-\$0.50	20.78%
FY98-99	160,257	-240,310	-59.99%	439	\$52,800.00	\$243,000.00	-\$190,200.00	\$0.33	\$1.52	-\$1.19	21.73%
FY99-00	366,057	205,800	128.42%	1003	\$49,600.00	\$220,800.00	-\$171,200.00	\$0.14	\$0.60	-\$0.47	22.46%
FY00-01	301,348	-64,709	-17.68%	826	\$51,090.00	\$203,953.00	-\$152,863.00	\$0.17	\$0.68	-\$0.51	25.05%
FY01-02	84,120	-217,228	-72.09%	230	\$12,924.00	\$135,325.00	-\$122,401.00	\$0.15	\$1.61	-\$1.46	9.55%



**Bledsoe Creek State Park Annual Campers**  
**Figure 2**

Figure 3 – Park Map

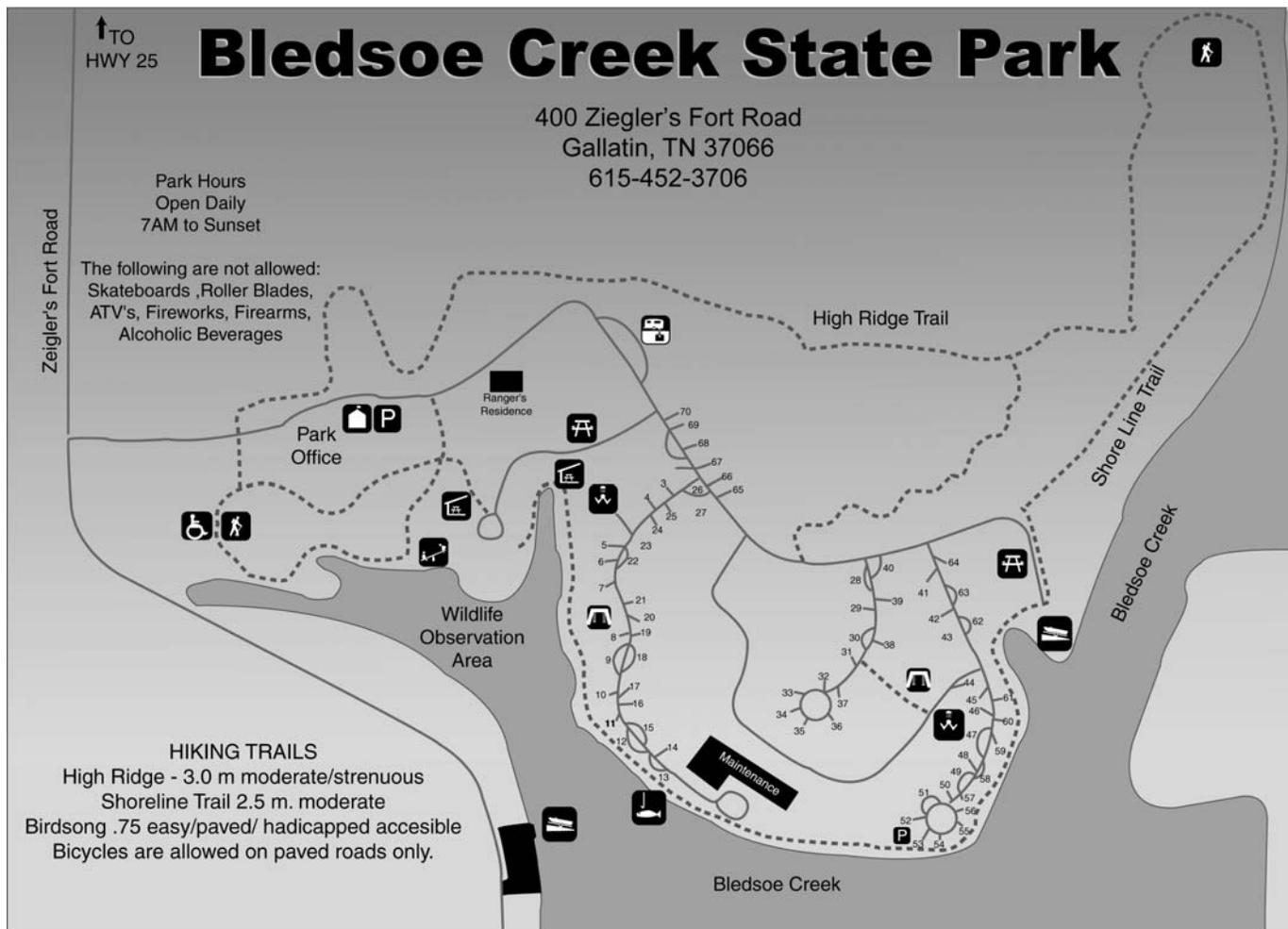


Figure 4 – Aerial Photo

# Bledsoe Creek State Park



# Proximity Map

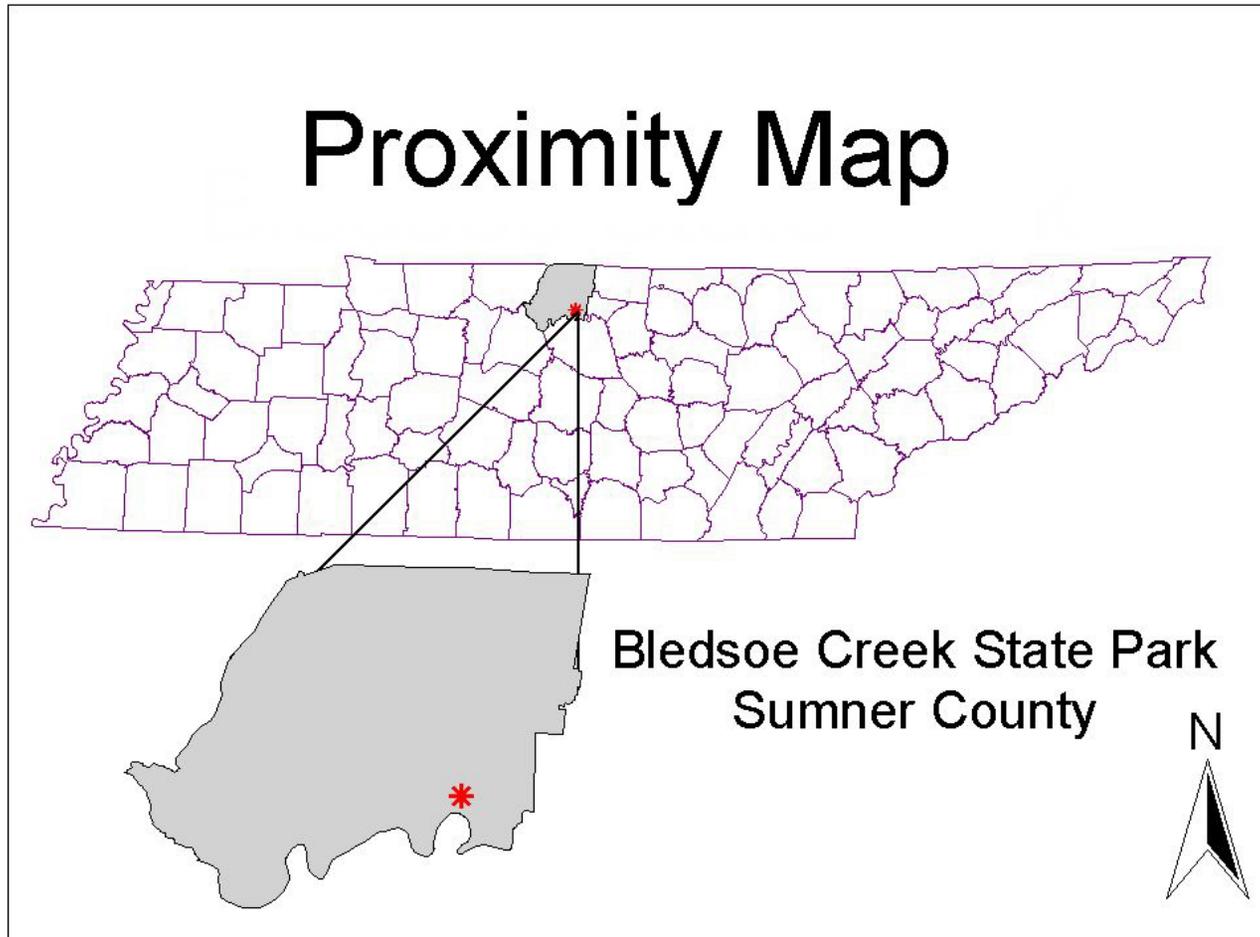


Figure 5 -- Proximity

# Bledsoe Creek State Park Zoning

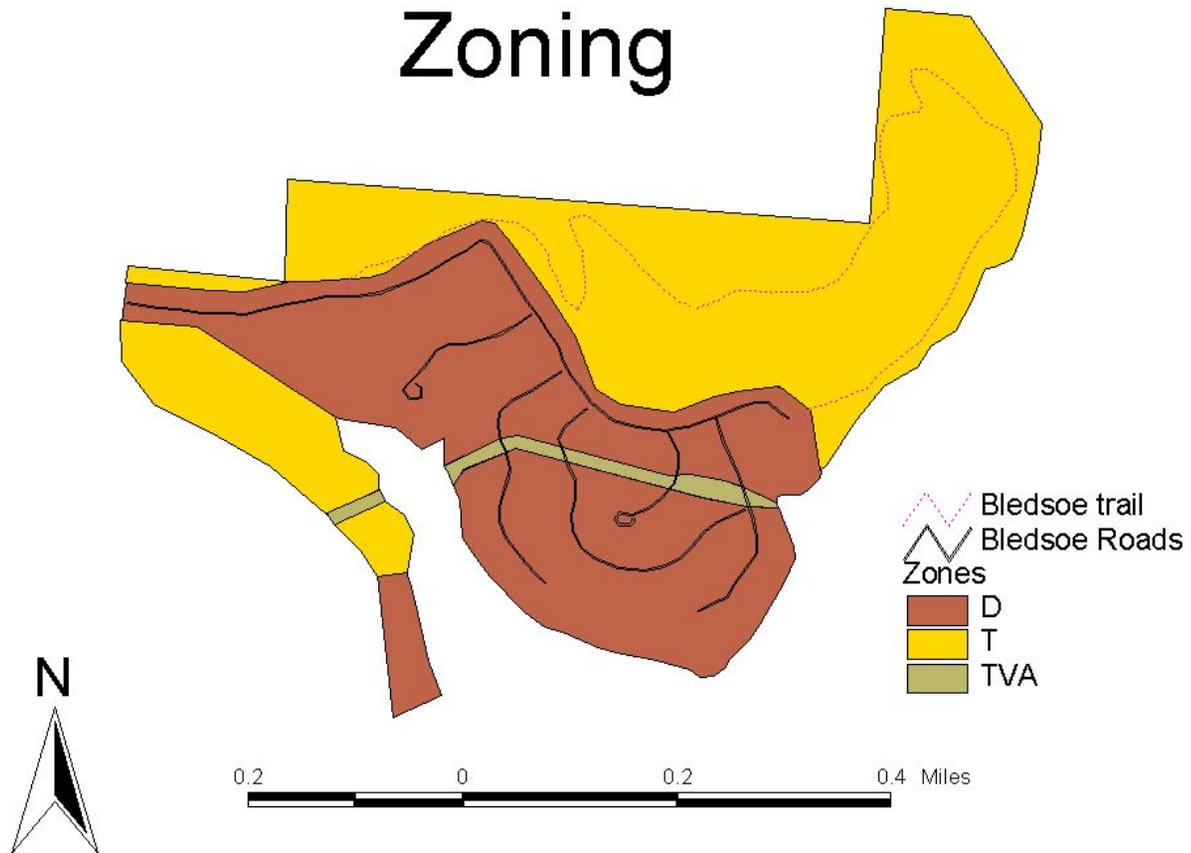


Figure 6 -- Zoning



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