



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**

# **Rock Island State Park**

## **Business and Management Plan Public Meeting**

September 10, 2020

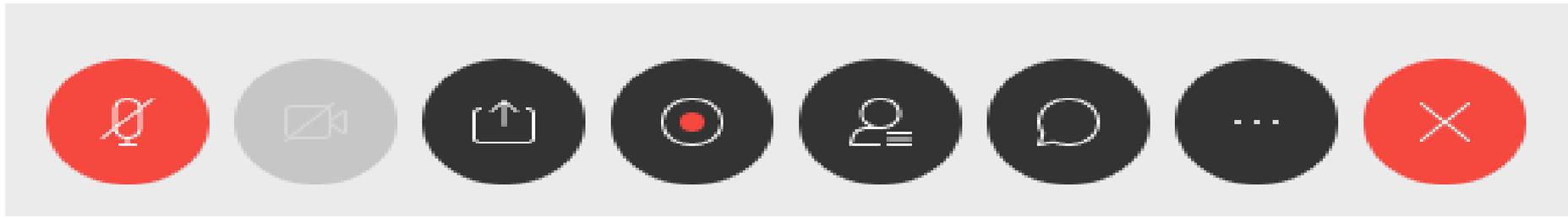
6:00 pm CDT

# How to Join Hearing

- **Join via Computer**
  - Complete Sign-in Survey
  - Connect with WebEx web link
- **Join via the Cisco WebEx Meetings App**
  - Available on iPhone and Android
- **Join via Phone (Not Recommended)**
  - +1-415-655-0003 US TOLL
  - Access code: 161 952 6154
  - If you have trouble connecting to the hearing, please call me:
    - 931-287-7995

# WebEx Options

- Below are options available to use during the WebEx.
  - Note: Some options may be disabled by the host.



Mute

Webcam

Share  
Content

Record

Participants

Chat with  
All

More  
Options

End/  
Leave

- You can control what you see during the meeting. Don't be afraid to tailor this experience to your liking.



Active  
Speaker  
Video  
View

Active  
Speaker  
Thumb-  
nail  
Video

Grid  
View

Floating  
Panel  
View

# Etiquette

- At designated times during the tonight's meeting we will stop to read and respond to participants' questions.
- **Please type all questions into the Chat Box.**
- Please stay on Mute during the meeting and turn off your video.
  - If participants are disruptive, they may be re-muted by the host, or removed from the WebEx.

 **Red microphone button means you are muted.**

 **Black microphone button means everyone can hear you.**



# Meeting Purpose & Agenda

Christina Treglia,  
Brand Promise Director

# Meeting Purpose

- To comply with state law – *TCA 11-3-120* – each park conducts period reviews of its plans which include the following components:
  - Facilities preservation, maintenance, and utilization
  - Management and personnel staffing, training, compensation, and professional development
  - Preservation, development, and expansion of existing and new park resources and facilities
  - Educational programming
  - Land acquisition

# Meeting Goals

- Inform stakeholders of some recent successes, struggles, & future park business planning goals
- Inform stakeholders about the TVA easement renewal process & provide a current status update
- Inform stakeholders about the TDOT SR287 bypass process & provide a current status update
- Receive input/feedback on these updates and address comments within 30 days.

# Agenda

## Welcome & Webex Overview

Tara Wohlgemuth, External Affairs Regional Director (Moderator)

## Meeting Purpose & Agenda

Christina Treglia, Brand Promise Director (Presenter)

## Park Overview & Updates

Damon Graham, Park Manager

## TVA Lease Renewal

Daniel Chuquin, State Parks Land Acquisition Manager

## Mill Feasibility Study

Don Alexander, Warren County Industrial Development Board

## Historic Preservation of the Old Mill

Hobart Akin, Cultural Resources & Exhibits Specialist

## Roadway Changes and Impact

TDOT & Kenneth Gragg, Parks Area 5 Manager

## Written Question & Answer Session

Christina & Tara



# Park Overview & Update

Damon Graham, Park Manager

# GENERAL PARK UPDATES

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- Background & Appreciation
- (New Normal)
- Visitation
- Incidents, Medicals/SARs, Law Enforcement
- Visitor/customer services, programs/events
- Staffing
- Park Business Operations:
  - Camping, Cabins, Shelters, etc.



# GENERAL PARK UPDATES



## 2019-2020 Highlights:

- Place of **safe** refuge in stressful times
- Safety Improvements
  - fencing
- Sustainability Gold Award--
  - (LED conversion, tankless water heaters, court lighting, etc.)
- Cabin Upgrades

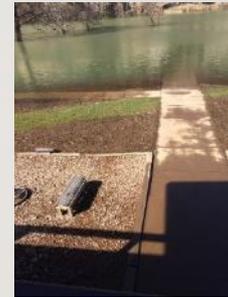


# GENERAL PARK UPDATES



## 2019-20 Highlights:

- Challenges
- Renovation/Repair Projects:
  - Flooding
  - Roofs, painting, Sandbar, erosion work, etc.
- Center Hill Lake returns to normal pool cycle
- Hazard Tree Removal Program, storm damage
- Major Blue Hole Trail Renovation project



# GENERAL PARK UPDATES



## 2019-2020 Highlights:

- Historic Spring Castle
- Historic Minnow Box Spring
- Collins River Prairie Pollinator Site



# FUTURE PARK PLANNING

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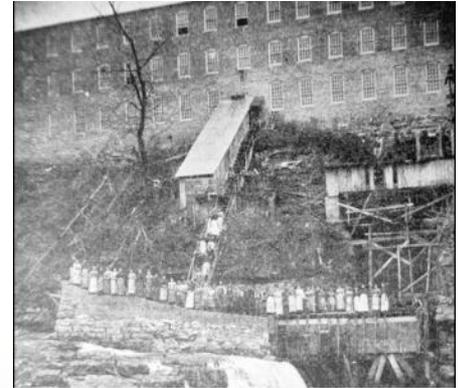
- Staffing Support
- **Connectivity:** increased foot/bike opportunities for visitors
  - Complete connectivity by foot/bike 2030)
- TVA Great Falls Dam pedestrian walkway
  - Connect White & Warren County sides of the park
- Lower Caney Fork River Gorge cable suspension bridge
  - Connect White & Warren County sides of the park
- Historic Collins River Bridge pedestrian walkway
- Interpretive historic walking trail of Collins Peninsula/Fall City Village
- Acquisition of surrounding lands for resource, aesthetic, and buffer value
- Expansion of the Bluff Trail routes. Continued improvement of trail systems
- Stabilization/Protection of the historic Mill site



# HISTORIC MILL SITE

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- 1892- completion by local entrepreneur Asa Faulkner, his son, Clay, & Jesse & H.L. Walling
- 1902- Good Friday flood ceased operations
- One of the very few remaining textile mills from that era of post civil-war industrialization boom
- 1982- Added to National Register of Historic Places
- 3 stories, 21,000 sq. ft.



# HISTORIC—CULTURAL—COMMUNITY VALUE

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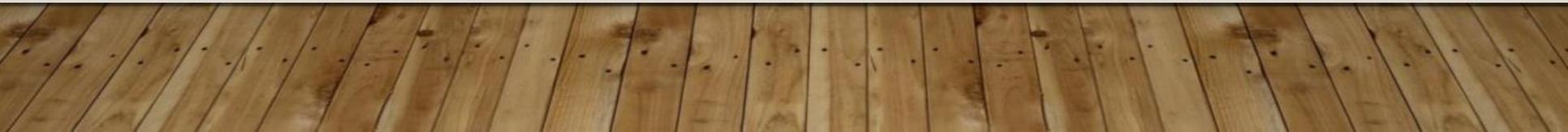
Mill girls Georgia, 1902



Falls City Workers

HOBART AKIN  
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGER  
TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

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# MILL DETERIORATION

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- 120+ years old
- Sits on rough terrain/bluff
- Moisture
- Vandalism/security
- Structural Instability/danger for repairs
- Lack of resources; staff; funding; time



# MILL DETERIORATION

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- Brick failure; structural instability; termites; water intrusion; etc.



# NEW ROOF—MILL STRUCTURE 2013

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--With support of Tennessee Historical Commission Grant



# PRESERVING THE MILL SITE

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- Park Mission: **preserve and protect natural & historical resources, interpret for future generations**
- Long Term Mill Site Goals:
  1. Stabilize/preserve the historic structure
  2. Consider avenues for a park museum & possibly a reservable meeting space for park/community/private events
- Concerns for stabilization:
  - Accelerated deterioration now
  - Funding \$
    - Continual maintenance
    - Return on investment
  - Proximity to SR287 Roadway
  - Parking plans
  - Maintaining integrity- NPS standards
  - Mechanical: sewer; hvac; electrical service; etc.

# GREAT FALLS MILL HISTORIC SITE

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**Mill will fail without efforts for preservation soon.**

West wall has severe failure now.



**Funding is not allocated for any development or preservation effort of the Mill site at this time.**



**Dedicated group of front-line staff & park supporters**



# **TVA Lease Renewal**

**Daniel Chuquin,  
Land Acquisition Manager**

(BACKGROUND INFO)

# TVA SECTIONS OF THE PARK

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- Excess of 367 acres which includes
  - Historic mill site
  - Collins peninsula/Collins loop trail
  - Twin Falls/powerhouse areas/Great Falls dam
- Has been managed through a long-term public recreation lease agreement starting in 1971 during early park development

# TVA SECTIONS OF THE PARK

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- Temporarily managed by short term recreation license agreements
- TVA requests to move back into a more long-term agreement on similar terms- 40 years
- Public recreation easement agreement
- Same agreement in place with 2 changes--
  - Allows for a bypass of the congested mill area section on state highway sr287 by tdot
  - Grants approval for the historic mill building and adjoining 5-acre site to be used commercially if TDEC chooses to do so in the future to offset costs



# Mill Feasibility Study

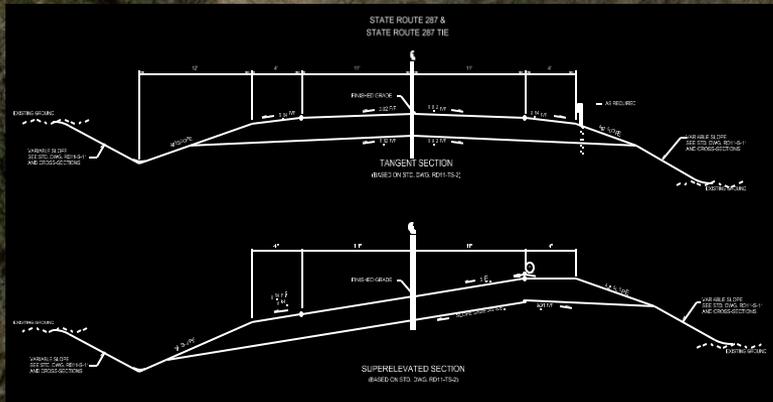
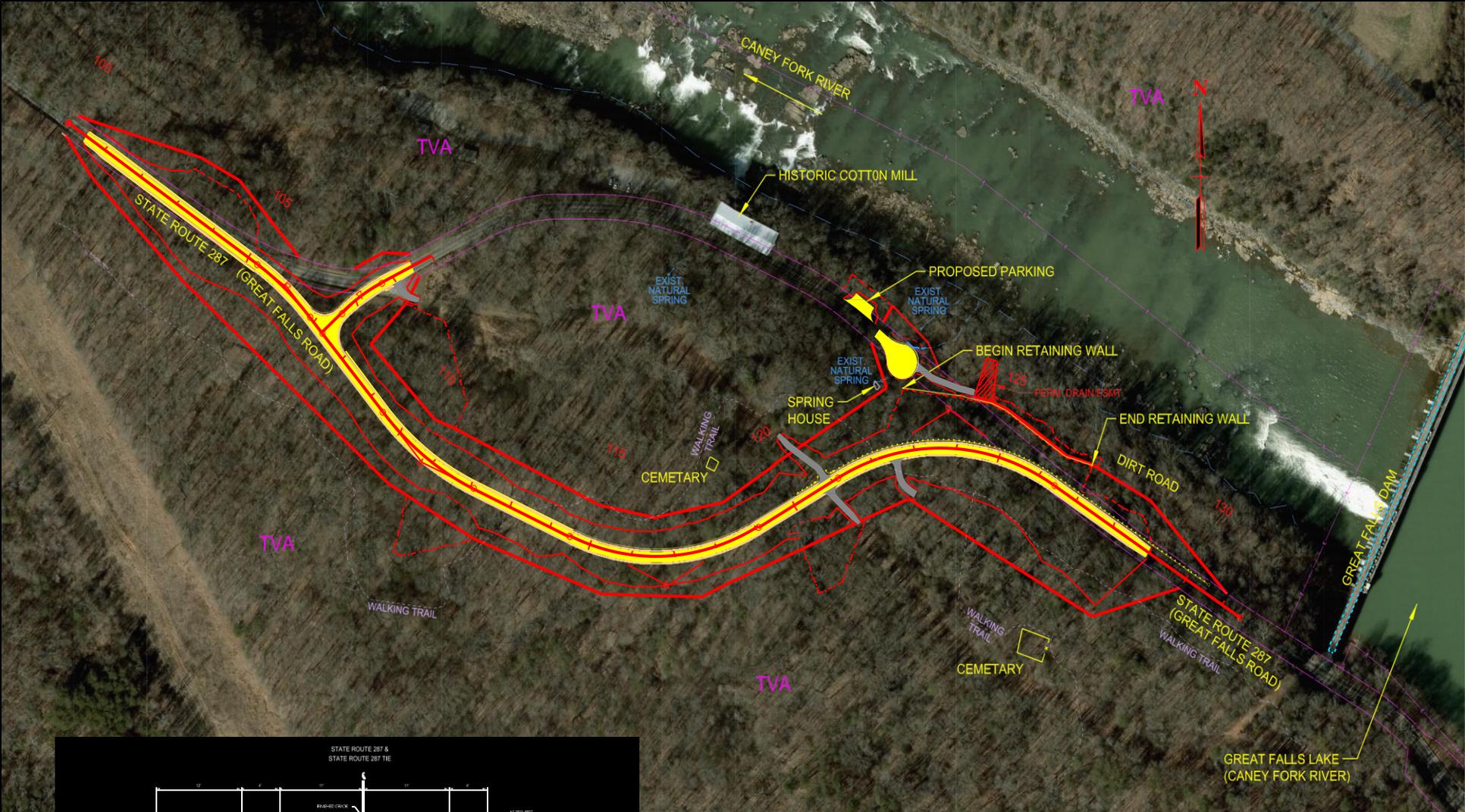
Don Alexander,

Warren County IDB Director



# Roadway Changes

Curt Duncan & Robert Rodgers,  
TDOT Project Development



WARREN COUNTY  
 SR-287 REALIGNMENT  
 FROM: EAST OF BEACH ROAD  
 TO: WEST OF GREAT FALLS  
 HYDRO STATION (ROCK ISLAND PARK)

SCALE 1" = 100'

- PROPOSED ROADWAY
- PROPOSED SHOULDER
- PROPOSED DRIVEWAYS



# Roadway Impact

Kenneth Gragg,  
Parks Area 5 Manager

# SR287 AT MILL SITE

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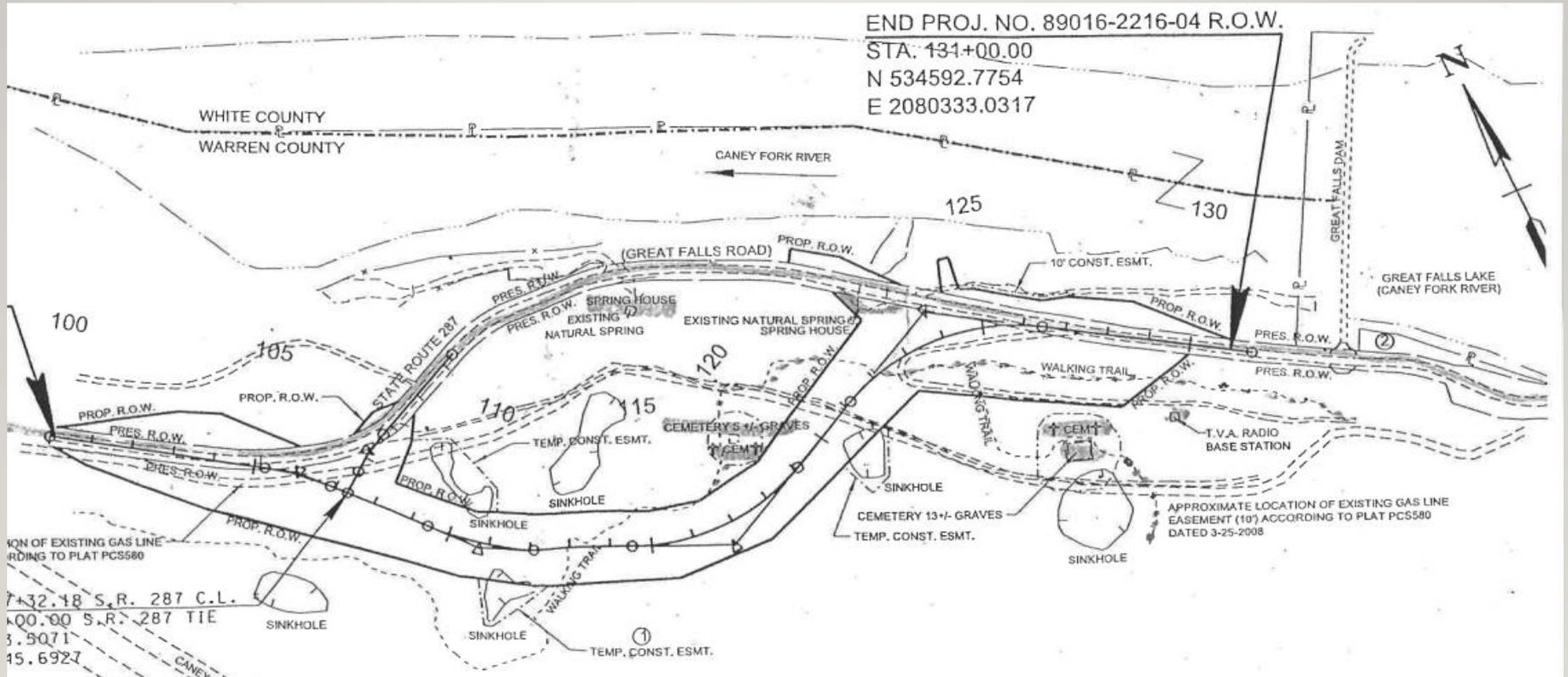


# SAFETY, CONGESTION & PARKING

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# SR287 BYPASS



# SR 287 BYPASS

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- Approx 0.40 Miles (centerline staked in blue ribbon now)
- Safety
- Congestion
- “park traffic” outlet flow
- Part of the Park Master Plan original design
- Road safety/congestion is a separate but related issue to preserving the Mill historic site.
- Mill building and surrounding 5-acre site

# SR 287 BYPASS

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- Disturbance estimated at +/- 12 acres
- Required archeological impact & environmental impact reviews nearing completion
  - Phase I & Phase II is complete; Phase III is nearing completion
  - Environmental reviews
  - Mitigation plans for disturbances
- Long term planning for connectivity of the park
  - Historical walking/biking route
  - Safety
  - Traffic Flow
- Tradeoffs



# HIKING TRAILS PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

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- Estimated to have little or no net loss of trail distance
- Reroute likely to have one crossing point of the SR287 bypass
  - Interior loop to access mill, castle, etc.
  - Outer loops remain intact for Collins trail, & Cunningham connector trail via Collins trailhead parking area





# How to Provide Input

Christina Treglia,  
Brand Promise Director

# How to Provide Input

**Any comments you would like to include in the record should be submitted by 4:30 pm CST, October 10, 2020, via our online comment card or via mail:**

- **COMMENT CARD:**

[https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/risp\\_business\\_management\\_plan\\_2020](https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/risp_business_management_plan_2020)

- Link in Chat Box and on Public Participation tab at [tn.gov/environment](http://tn.gov/environment)

- **MAIL:**

Tennessee State Parks Attn: Public Participation  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue  
2nd Floor WRS Tennessee Tower  
Nashville, TN 37243

# Questions?

Open Question and Answer Period until 7:30pm

## **CHAT BOX:**

- Type your question in the chat box and we will read it out loud
- We will attempt to answer your questions with those assembled, and we commit to responding to all questions in writing.



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**THANK YOU!**