

Project Updates

by Bill Leonard, P.E.

Childs Recreation Site (Childs Park) PA

Planning is underway to rehabilitate Childs Park PA at the estimated cost of \$2,000,000. The project is needed to protect visitor safety, as infestation of wooly adelgid is causing hemlock trees to weaken, die, and fall. The area also needs improvements to toilet facilities, traffic patterns, parking, trail systems, and deteriorating boardwalks and footbridges. The project intends to preserve Civil Conservation Corps-era picnic shelters and the 19th-century mill ruin, which are eligible for the National Historic Register, as well as to increase visitor safety and manage visitor use.

New Jersey Swim Beach

Final planning and design is underway for a new swim beach at the Coppermine Inn site on Old Mine Road NJ, a project funded for \$2,400,000 in fiscal year 2006. The project will provide a 200-foot long beach, a lifeguard station, picnic area,

comfort station, entry station, and pedestrian trails between facilities. A key earth-friendly feature of the parking area will be porous pavement that allows runoff to percolate downward into the soil rather than run off directly into the river. The existing moderately-sloping field adjacent to the river would be reshaped to create a semicircular terraced beach. An environmental assessment has been finished and design is nearly complete. Construction is planned to begin in early 2007 with a target opening date of Summer 2008.

Valley View Group Campsites PA

The existing canoe campsites at Valley View PA are being improved to include five 60-ft. diameter campsites, each with a capacity of 25 persons, and picnic tables, fire rings, bear-proof trash containers, and bear-proof food-storage lockers. The access road is being upgraded and a parking area will be added. A well with

a hand pump will be installed, and also 4-stall vault *Sweet Smelling Technology (SST)* toilets. Sustainable post and rail fence, which is manufactured from recycled plastic, will be utilized at the site. Completion is planned for Fall 2006. (For group camping permits, see Page 7.)

Road Improvements for 2006

The bridge on Toms Creek Road has been repaired. Barriers have been installed along a portion of NPS 615 in Flatbrookville NJ to prevent boulders from rolling onto the roadway. A project to pave portions of deteriorated roadways in the park, to include Route 209 and River Road PA and portions of NPS 615 NJ, has been funded for this year. The 3-mile section of Old Mine Road NJ that has been closed due to flood damage will be repaved this summer. Stabilization of Johnny Bee Road leading to Dingmans Falls Visitor Center is under design; park managers expect repair of that roadway later this year. ■