



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Park and Recreation Department

May 14, 2008

Copperhead Island Operational Summary

The Copperhead Island recreation area is a 25.25 acre recreational boating and fishing access on Lake Wylie. Located at 15200 Soldier Road, Charlotte, NC 28273, the area is operated and maintained by the staff of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, and managed by the Department's Southwest Nature Preserves District.

The primary public access, approximately 11 acres, contains an entry booth, four boat launches with courtesy docks, two courtesy mooring dock, three fishing piers with a system of connecting boardwalks, a public restroom, and three parking lots. This portion of the area provides a much needed public access to Lake Wylie for individuals that do not have access to a boat or other watercraft. Nearly ½ mile of shoreline and 300 feet of accessible boardwalk are provided for the purpose of bank fishing. For the recreational boater there are four boat launches and parking to accommodate 102 truck-and-trailer vehicles.

In FY07 recreational boater attendance at Copperhead totaled 2,364 people. This count only reflects the actual numbers of customers that came through the entrance booth when it was staffed on the weekends from March to October. A car counter will be installed in FY08 to provide more accurate data on use through the year. From those paying customers \$8,375.00 in revenue was generated. The following is a break out of those fees:

County Weekend Boat Trailer Parking Fee	\$5,765
Non-County Weekend Boat Trailer Parking Fee	\$392
Season Passes Boat Trailer Parking Fee	\$2,020
Senior/Disabled Boat Trailer Parking Fee	\$198

The "island" is the 14-acre portion of the site that contains the area's reservable facilities and other recreational amenities. The island contains a picnic shelter, a public restroom, six campsites (tent, campfire ring, and picnic table), volleyball court, horseshoe pits, a fishing pier, a mooring dock, a paved trail system, and two waterfront observations decks. The island provides an additional mile of shoreline access and approximately 150' of accessible fishing pier.

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In FY 2007 the “islands” reservable facilities (picnic shelter and campsites) were booked 29 times, with a total attendance of 1,518, and generated \$5,150 in revenue.

Enclosed please find a summary of the current operational conditions at the site. The area has become know as clean, safe, and customer friendly boating and fishing access to Lake Wylie. The site has served as a home base for core recreational programs like canoeing/kayaking and teaching family camping skills. It is also a feature of nationally recognized programs and events, including Survivor Copperhead Island and the National Guard-Bass Federation (TBF) annual fishing tournament. We look forward to our continued partnership to provide area residents and visitors recreational access to Lake Wylie.

CURRENT PARK OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

hours, fees, and staffing subject to change upon agreement of Grantor (Duke Energy)
under the terms of this agreement

Hours of Operations

Monday – Sunday

- 7a.m. until dusk daily
- Gates are closed at sunset daily

Fees and Charges

Daily Boat Trailer Parking Fee (March 1 – October 31, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays)

- \$5 per boat County resident
- \$8 per boat for Non-County resident
- \$3 per boat for Senior/Disabled

Season Boat Trailer Parking Pass

- \$50 for County resident
- \$80 for Non-County resident
- \$30 for Senior/Disabled

Copperhead Island Shelter

- Monday-Thursday - \$60 County resident, \$90 Non-County resident
- Friday-Sunday - \$160 County resident, \$220 Non-County resident

Copperhead Island (Entire Island)

- Monday-Thursday - \$230 County resident, \$355 Non-County resident
- Friday-Sunday - \$290 County resident, \$435 Non-County resident

Staffing

Park and Recreation Manager (PRM)

- Reports to Division Director and is responsible for staff supervision and managing overall operation of preserves and facilities in the Southwest Nature Preserves District

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Campground Operations Staff

The following staff provides visitors to Copperhead Island with information, assistance with reservations and general customer service. In addition, this staff serves as the main point of contact for special events such as the National Guard/Bass federation (TBF) annual fishing tournament.

Recreation Coordinator Supervisor (RCS)

- Reports to PRM and is responsible for staff supervision, customer service, and programming of the preserves reservable facilities and campgrounds

Administrative Support Assistant II

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for reservations assistance, customer service and campground office administration

Recreation Assistant (full-time)

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for reservations assistance, customer service and campground office administration

Recreation Assistant (seasonal)

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for reservations assistance, customer service and campground office administration

Maintenance and Operations Assistant (seasonal)

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for reservations assistance, customer service and campground office administration

Maintenance and Operations Assistant (Entrance Booth) (seasonal)

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for fee collection and customer service at McDowell Nature Preserve and Copperhead Island from March 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008

Maintenance and Operations Assistant (Entrance Booth) (seasonal)

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for fee collection and customer service at McDowell Nature Preserve and Copperhead Island from March 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008

Maintenance and Operations Staff

The following staff provide for routine maintenance to the entire Copperhead Island site. Daily checks of all facilities, areas, shorelines and trails are performed to ensure general cleanliness and an overall manicured appearance

Maintenance Supervisor (MS)

- Reports To PRM and is responsible for staff supervision and routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and equipment

Senior Maintenance and Operations Technician

- Reports To MS and is responsible specialized and routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and equipment

Maintenance and Operations Assistant

- Reports To MS and is responsible routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and equipment

Maintenance and Operations Assistant

- Reports To MS and is responsible routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and equipment

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Maintenance and Operations Assistant

- Reports To MS and is responsible routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and equipment

Environmental Education and Outdoor Education Staff

The following staff provides a variety of programs at Copperhead Island throughout the year. Programs range from canoe kayak adventures, family camping outings, to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission sponsored Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW) program.

Nature Center Manager (NCM)

- Reports to PRM and is responsible for staff supervision, outdoor education and environmental education program delivery in the preserves

Administrative Support Assistant III

- Reports to RCS and is responsible for program reservations assistance, customer service and nature center office administration

Environmental Educator

- Reports to NCM and is responsible for program development and delivery through the preserves

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- Reports to NCM and is responsible for program development and delivery through the preserves

Outdoor Recreation Specialist

- Reports to NCM and is responsible for program development and delivery through the preserves

Park Watch Coordinators

10 Park Watch Coordinators are assigned to the South Park Region. Park Watch Coordinators perform visitor counts, boat counts, customer service and patrol the area to increase safety. They are available to answer questions regarding reservations, site amenities and rules and regulations.

CURRENT SITE AMENITIES

amenities subject to change upon agreement of Grantor (Duke Energy)
under the terms of this agreement

Boat Ramps

- two sets of two ramps
- each pair divided by a single courtesy dock

Boat Docks

- two mooring docks (one adjacent to the upper ramps and one on the island)

Fishing Piers

- four fishing piers (three adjacent to the lower boat ramps and one on the island)

Parking Spaces

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- three parking lots (two car/trailer only and one combined car/trailer and single vehicle)
- 102 car and trailer spaces (4 ADA Accessible)
- 16 single vehicle spaces

Entrance Booth

- 12X12 information building located at the main entrance

Restrooms

- two public restrooms (one in upper car and trailer lot and one on the island)

Picnic Shelters

- one 80 person shelter located on the island

Campsites

- six campsites (each contains a tent, fire ring, and picnic table)

Volleyball Court

- one sand volleyball court on the island

Horseshoe Pits

- two horseshoe pits on the island

Observation Decks

- two observation decks located on the island

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Copperhead Island recreational boating and fishing access continues to grow in popularity. The improvements we have made on the island itself, by offering campsites in a secure private setting have become a draw to area families, civic groups, and corporate entities. The program offerings by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, like canoe/kayaking, geocaching, and mobile team building, further enhances the attraction to groups looking for that type of experience. The opportunity exists to improve the offerings on the island, either through capital investment or public/private partnership. We submit for your review a list of proposed improvements to include:

- Updating the existing 6 tent campsite to support ten cabins.
- Updating the existing shelter site to house a dining hall
- A canoe storage facility and canoe launch
- Low-ropes adventure course

Enclosed please find a proposed site plan. We look forward to our continued partnership to provide area residents and guests access to this unique site and valuable resource.

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