

BULL RUN REG LIB: Leesylvania

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Opens in June

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By DIANE HARTSON
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RICHMOND - Leesylvania State Park in eastern Prince William is slated to open on June 17, it was announced here Tuesday.

The 508-acre park, birthplace of "Lighthorse" Harry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee and a Revolutionary hero in his own right, will open on a limited, weekends and holidays basis on that date, said Del. David Brickley, D-Prince William. Brickley introduced legislation to

make the site a state park in 1978.

"Its colonial theme will make it unlike any other park we have," Brickley said at a press conference in the Capitol Tuesday.

In keeping with its historic significance, buildings at the park will feature colonial-style architecture, "not the standard, state park drab designs," Brickley said. State Secretary of Natural Resources John Daniel also spoke on the park's unique features. When fully completed, it will offer a Potomac River marina, amphitheater, nature trails, scenic overlooks, swimming beach and picnic areas.

But with a number of archeological digs, ruins of Lee and Fairfax family homes and Confederate batteries along Frestone Point, "schools can use it as an outdoor laboratory," Daniel said. "People will flock to it. It will have the most year-round type of facilities of any state park."

The park will open on a part-time basis until next spring while construction continues on the marina, visitor's center and other future amenities.

About four miles of nature trails will be open, as well as the historic sites. Beaches will not be open for swimming, but fishing will be allowed off of the banks, according to Daniel. Portable restrooms will be available.

Funding of \$4 million in lottery revenues has been approved during this session of the General Assembly for construction of the marina, a concession stand and comfort stations, a picnic shelter, the amphitheater and parking lots.

Calling it "Northern Virginia's state park," Brickley said, "I think Leesylvania has the potential to be one of the finest state parks in the nation. It will certainly be one of the busiest."

Leesylvania is located about three miles north of Dumfries and is bordered by water on three sides — the Potomac River, Neabsco and Powell creeks. Land grants for the site date back to 1698. It was donated to the state in 1978 by Daniel Ludwig, owner of American-Hawaiian Steamship Co.

HISTORIC SITE FILE: LEESYLVANIA
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
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Map of State Park

Studying the map of Leesylvania State Park are (from left) State Secretary of Natural Resources John Daniel,

Del. David Brickley, D-Prince William, and Ron Sutton, commissioner for the Division of State Parks.

Diane Hartson—The Journal Messenger