

# STONE MOUNTAIN PARK Land Management Plan

LAND MANAGEMENT AREAS  
AND NATURAL HISTORY  
INFORMATION

(Land Management policies are also included)

2012



# STONE MOUNTAIN PARK *Land Management Plan*





Larry Winslett 2012

## Land Management Plan's purpose -

“to assist and guide in the protection and enhancement of the park's natural resources.”

Stone Mountain Park has a

**VARIETY OF  
HABITATS**

**&**

**HIGH SPECIES  
DIVERSITY**



# Habitats

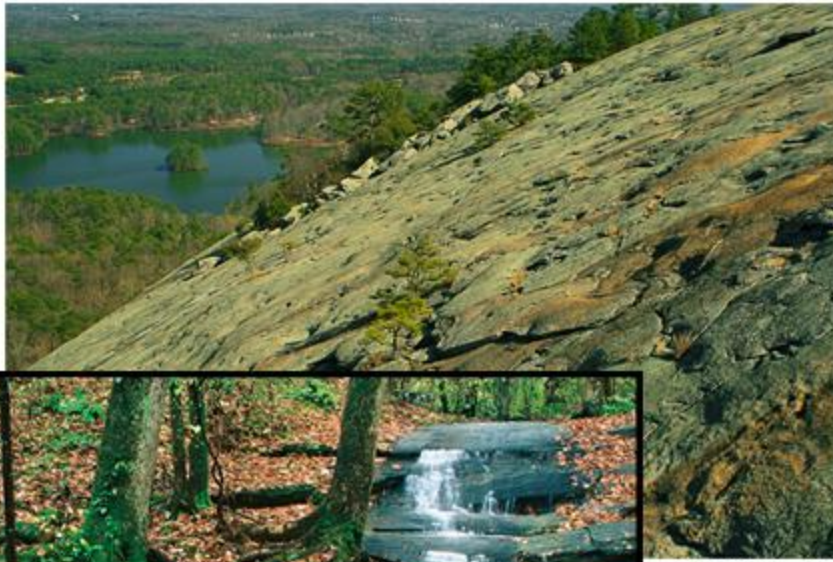
The Mountain  
Lakes

Streams

Forests

Flat Rock Outcrops

Open Fields



Larry Winslett 2011



Stone Mountain



Larry Winslett 2010





Larry Wislizenus 2010



Larry Wislizenus 2011

## Botanical Diversity

### Granite Endemics

Common  
Unusual  
Rare  
Endangered



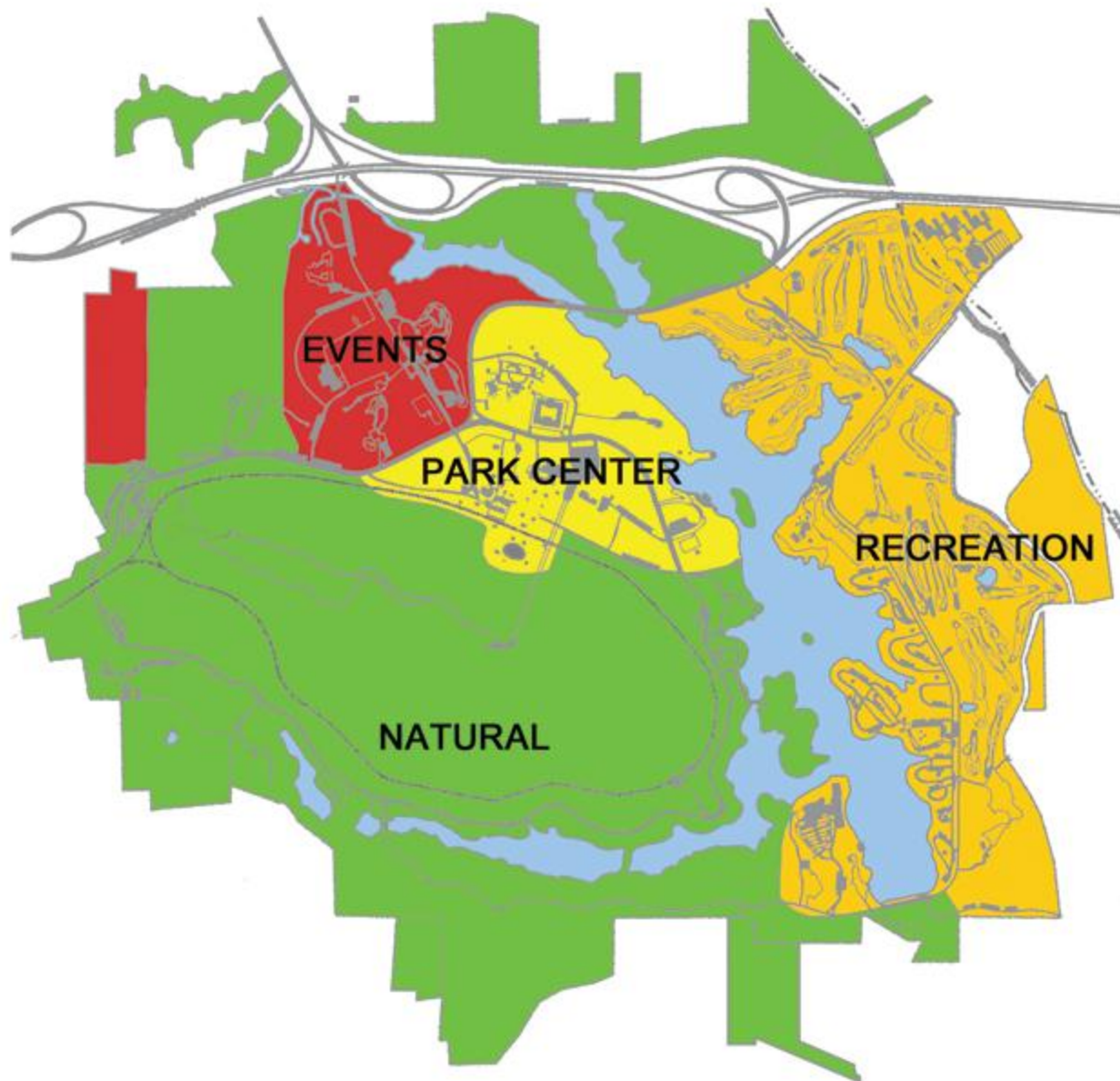
Larry Wislizenus 2011





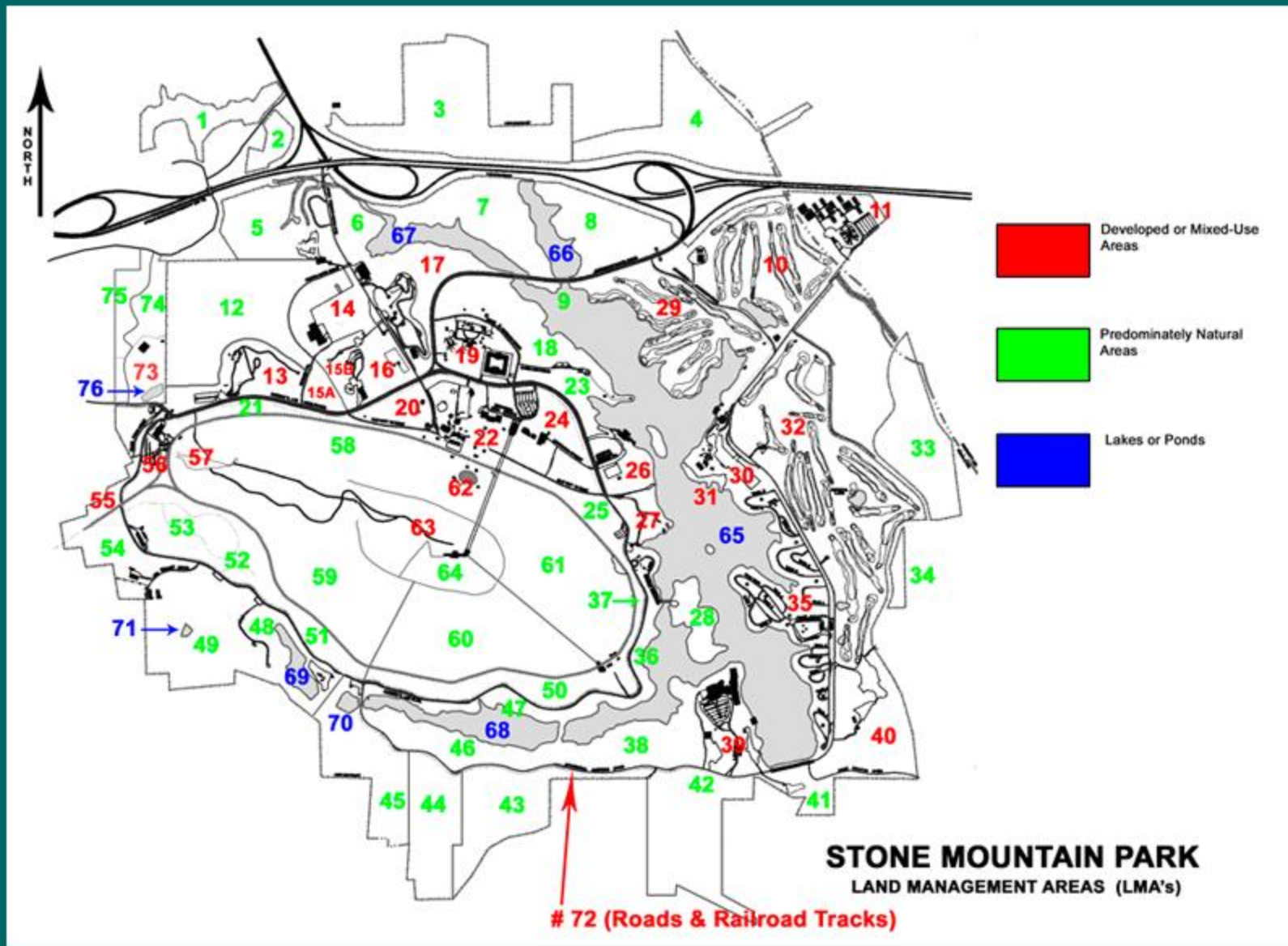
Lichens! Lots  
of Lichens





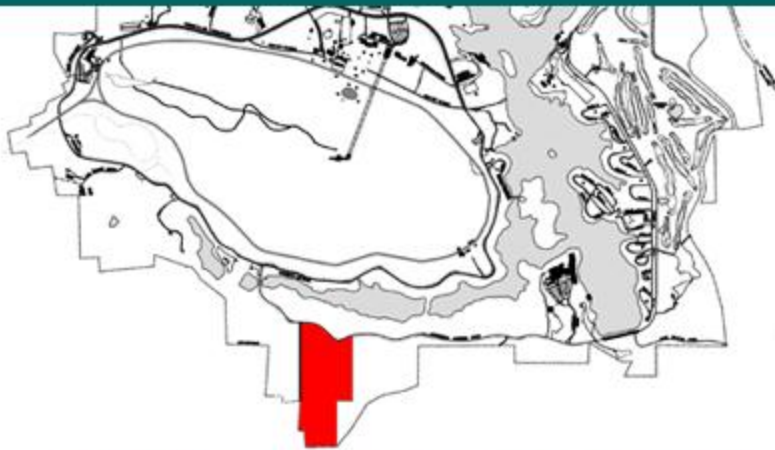
## Park Districts

In 1992, the Park was divided into four primary land use districts to function as a general zoning plan to guide future development within the Park.



**Land Management Areas** - In 2005, we further divided the Park into 76 land management areas (LMAs) to help us better manage the natural and cultural resources of the Park. Each area has a specified plan of management.






Current Bird Sanctuary  
Natural District  
Land Management Area #44

We also include a map and photo page to more easily locate the LMA within the whole land management plan.

Each LMA has its own information page where we highlight issues for the area, give a brief description, and describe a management plan for that LMA.

### Land Management Area (LMA) Information Sheet

#### LMA #44

#### Location

This LMA is located south of Stonewall Jackson Drive and north of Rockbridge road. It is bordered on the east and west by fencing. It is currently the Songbird Habitat.

#### Description

This LMA is located in the Natural District. The area is predominantly a young recovering habitat of open fields with various grasses and clovers. To the south and along the sides are some forest, mostly young pine. The area contains a small wetland in the northeast corner. A small stream borders the area on the east beyond the fence. The area has a maintained trail system. It also has an access road and a small parking area on the east side. This area was previously the site for the 1996 Olympic Cycling and Archery events. Prior to that, it had been used at various times as a dump and for dirt removal for other projects. This area has very diverse and evolving plant life. Some wildflower species like Blue Curl, Primrose-Willow, Golden Aster, Purple Gerardia, and Golden Tickseed are in few, if any, other places in the park. The area also has some young deciduous trees, such as white and red oaks, sweetgum, and poplar. In addition to a healthy and diverse bird population, the area also has many other wildlife species such as white-tail deer, bobcats, foxes, squirrels, lizards, and snakes. This area has a large collection of invasives, including privet, honeysuckle, kudzu, princess tree, mimosa, Russian olive, and English ivy. The only rare species issue known is that the Georgia Aster was described in the area along its west border (see #1 on LMA map and species map #44 for more details and GPS location). It has not been seen in several years though in that location. This area contains a picnic area opened in the spring of 2009. Pine thinning in 2010.

#### Issues

- The area contains exotic species. See Supplement #2 for more details on specific locations and issues.
- Continuing maintenance on educational kiosks and the trails. Blackberry vines that are very heavy in some areas along the trails and may need attention.
- Maintain the view from the observation platform at the north end of the area.
- This area's only erosion issue is non-point source run-off from the parking lot and road that drains to Venable Lake.
- This area possibly has security issues because of the isolated nature of its parking area. This could provide opportunity for illegal activity.

#### Management Objectives

The primary objectives for this area would be to maintain or improve its existing condition. Management plan attached. The possibility of reintroducing the Georgia Aster is being considered for this area.

### ISSUES

Endangered and/or Indicator Species	No
Invasive Species	Yes
Invasive Animals	No
Landscaping	Yes
Trails	Yes
Vandalism	No
Old-growth (mature)	No
Lakes	No
Wetlands	Yes
Erosion/Drainage	Yes
Water Quality	No
Specific Monitoring	Yes
Desired Future Cond.	Yes
Streams	Yes
Archeological Sites	No
Historic Sites	No
Scenic Views	Yes
Education	No
Traffic	No
Security	Yes
Structures	No
Roads/Sidewalks	Yes
Infrastructure	No
Trash/Litter	Yes

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## STONE MOUNTAIN PARK LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN INFORMATION BOOK

### Supplement #1

Includes supporting documents for the Land Management Plan. Articles relating to the park's wildlife, plants, waters, geology, and other important natural history information are included. Relevant lists, letters, guides, and documents relating to these issues are included. Some of these are current, some are historical, and some, such as state and federal plant and animal lists need periodic updates to stay current.

We have three additional books:  
Supplement 1 gathers past and present important natural history documents into one place.

## Stone Mountain Land Management Plan Natural History Information

This section includes documents that provide data about the Park that supports, and in some cases verifies, the information provided in the Land Management Plan. Some sections of this document need to be monitored for updates by other agencies (highlighted) such as Ga. DNR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Additional information should also be sought and added when appropriate. This is especially true of the sections relating to endangered wildlife and water quality. Maintaining this section is essential so the Park will always be insured of having the latest information on hand at all times to help guide land management decisions.

### Contents:

1. Supporting Documents — misc. letters, lists, etc.
2. Rare species classification descriptions
3. Master Plan development document — from Trees Atlanta
4. Georgia Protected Species (includes Dekalb Co. End. Species and habitats)
5. 1996 Mike Moore Plant survey
6. Fairy Shrimp conservation agreement and recommendations (1996)
7. Endangered plant recovery plan—Richards (1994)
8. Endangered Plant Recovery Plan — Allison for USFWS
9. James R. Allison park plant article, "Lair of the Snorkelwort" GaBOTSOC
10. Excerpts from Elizabeth Ford Book on Stone Mountain
11. Macro-invertebrates of Georgia Outcrops — Stanton and Zuidveen
12. Friends of Stone Mountain Bird summary and Survey (2002) — Winslett
13. Stone Mountain Lichen list — Beeching
14. Stone Mountain Archeological sites — Chase
15. Stone Mountain Geological Guide — Atkins and Joyce
16. Granite Outcrop Communities — Murdy
17. Primary Succession on Granite Outcrop Surfaces — Shure and Ragsdale
18. Granite Outcrop Communities of the Piedmont — Burbank and Platt
19. Vegetation of the Granite Flat-rocks of the Southeast US — McVaugh
20. DNR Comp. Wildlife Conservation Strategy overviews with priority species (CWCS)
21. Ga. DNR Animals of Special Concern (last updated 8/2011)
22. Ga. DNR Plants of Special Concern (last updated 8/2011)
23. Ga. DNR Plant Watch List (last updated 8/2011)
24. Ocmulgee River Basin water quality information with rare species and communities
25. Ga. Piedmont Plant Communities — Trees Atlanta
26. Tipularia article on Lichens — Sean Beeching
27. Plant Life on Granite Outcrops — New Ga. Encyclopedia, Robert Wyatt
28. A Guide to Twelve Common & Conspicuous Lichens — Bot Soc, UGA
29. Forest Health Notes 2007 (tree diseases) — Georgia Forestry Commission
30. WYATT, R. and J.R. ALLISON. 2000. "Flora and vegetation of granite outcrops in the southeastern United States."
31. Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) guidelines and check list
32. Georgia Exotic Pest Council list of non-native plants (last updated 8/20/08)
33. Federal Register Documents relating to Stone Mountain (Plants and Fairy Shrimp)
34. Five-Year Review for Granite Outcrop Plants (2008, USFWS, Isoetes & Amphianthus)
35. Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative
36. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (Golf Course)
37. Justine Lampetty Drift Fence Project 2009-2010 (reptiles & amphibians)
38. Triangle Parking Lot magazine article (Interlocking Concrete Pavement, Nov. 2008)
39. Amphibians in North Georgia — Ryan Huang 2010
40. TMDL for Total Mercury in Fish Tissue Residue — US EPA, Region 4 report, 2002

Other important sources include Georgia Environmental Policy Act Environmental Effects Reports. These have been prepared for the Tennis Facility, Events District, Top of the Mountain developments, Park Center District, the Triangle Parking Lot (in LMP map section), and the proposed "Flood" attraction. Historical documents prepared by New South Associates also contain valuable information. There are also a number of books that contain relevant natural and cultural history information.

Prepared by Larry Winslett for Stone Mountain Park, April 2006 (last updated 1/2012)





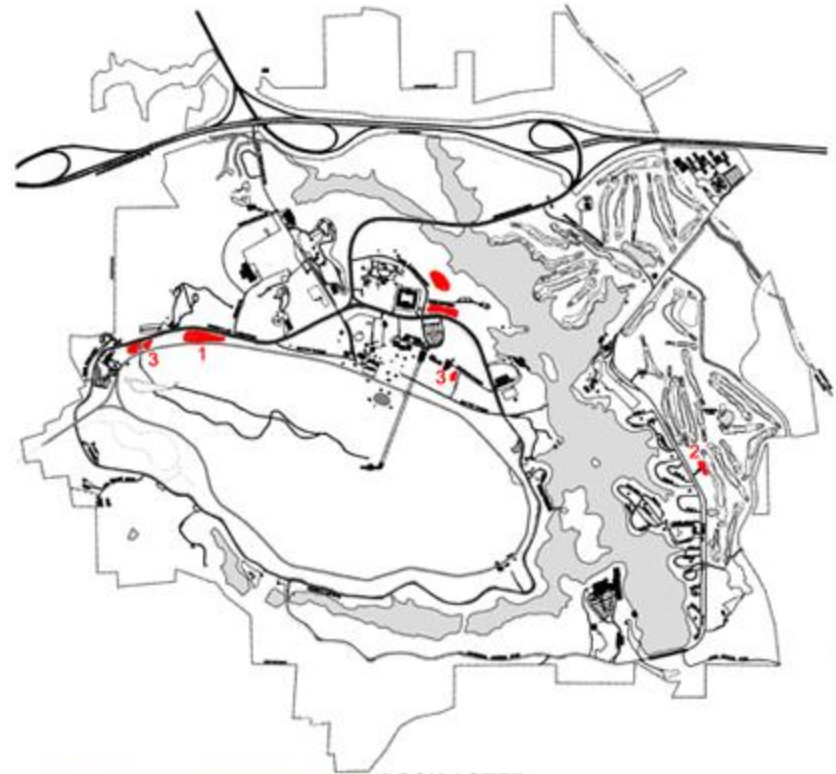
## STONE MOUNTAIN PARK LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIES BOOK

### SUPPLEMENT #2

This supplement contains individual wildlife species maps, information, and monitoring data. Wildlife inventories and other related annual monitoring data such as water quality, weather, species counts, etc. are also included.



We have three additional books:  
Supplement 2 addresses what and where  
rare or native plant species of note can  
be found in the Park.



### ROCK ASTER

*Aster avitus* (rare species, candidate for state and federal listing)

Discovered in the park by Jim Allison. Verified in recent years by Larry Winslett, Jim Allison, Mike Moore, and Alice Richards.

LMA# 18, 21, 23, 24, 32, & 56

The main threat to all sites, because of location, is foot traffic. LMA# 21 has one site (#1) with a possible Kudzu conflict. LMA# 32, the golf course site (#2) is in critical conflict with Kudzu. LMA# 21 & #24 (#3) have sites where mowing may be a concern to be watched.



photo by Larry Winslett

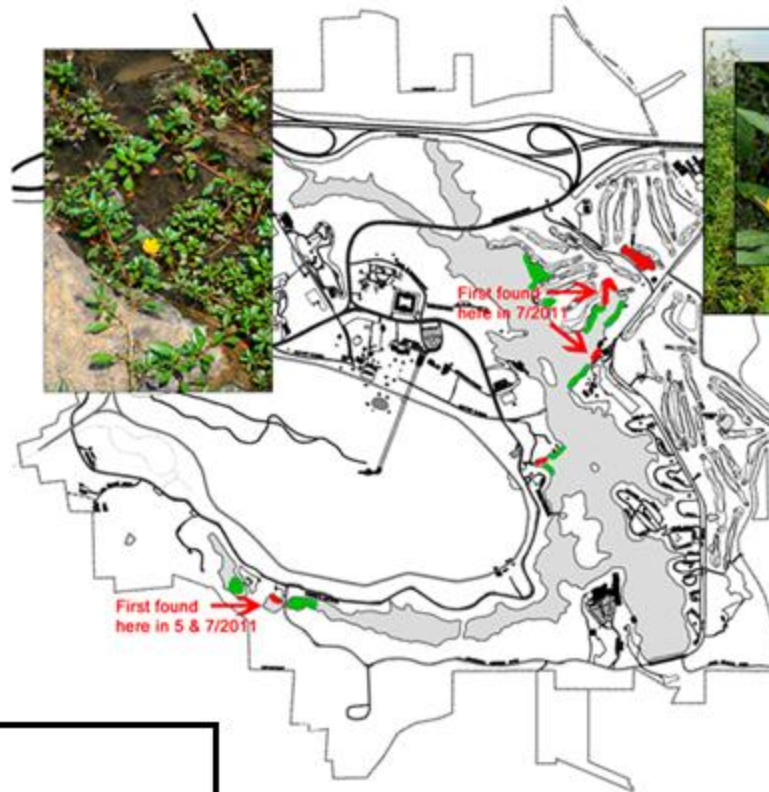
Map # 16



## STONE MOUNTAIN PARK LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS INVASIVE PLANT BOOK

### Supplement #3

This supplement contains information on exotic species in Stone Mountain Park and efforts to control them. Biological information on each species, recommendations for control, and maps showing the location of these species in the park are in this section. The maps also indicate treated areas and methods used.



### WATER PRIMROSE *Ludwigia peploides* (spp.)

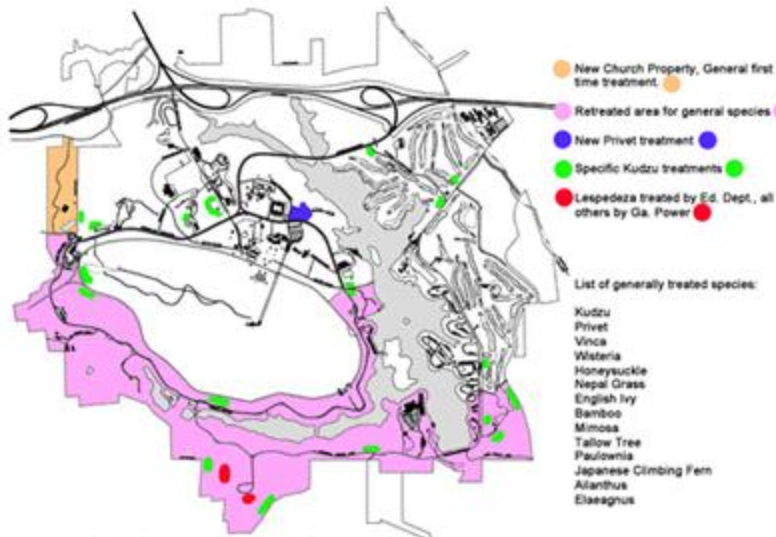
South American invasive, very aggressive. Found in Golf Course Lake in 2009 and treated by course crew. Larger lake below should be watch for appearance of this species.

New locations found in 2011. Spreads from seeds and roots. Can be controlled by pulling, make sure to get roots. Chemicals that are possibly effective, diquat, and glyphosate.

#### Watch areas

NOTE: There is possibly more than one species, some not as aggressive.

photo by Larry Winslett



2010 Invasive species treated areas  
Stone Mountain Park

We have three additional books:  
Supplement 3 highlights what invasive plant species are located in the Park and provides a map of their location.



STONE MOUNTAIN LAND MANAGEMENT AREAS (Projects & Monitoring) (updated 12/2012)				
LMA NO.	PROJECTS (Project contact noted as needed) (H) = High Priority (M) = Medium (L) = Low (ED) = Education Dept.	Area Monitor (s)	MONITORING (see general notes on last page)	REMARKS
57	Clean-up Invasive species (Flag Terrace) (H) by ED, Clean-up Christmas Bulbs (M) Road monitoring, graffiti monitoring, no more yellow lines, Police off-road use (L) Removal of metal above railings (H) Remove gravel Record historic graffiti carvings (M) (Lany to photo & locate, ongoing)	Karen (M) + Lany	Aster Avitus (Lany) Invasives below halfway house and service road erosion Christmas bulbs for clean-up	
58	Cherokee Trail monitor and clean-up Rare and protected species survey in spring (Lany & Karen) Remove gravel	Karen (M) +Lany (M)	Cherokee Trail Rare and state protected species in this area (spring) March/April rare species sweep	
59	Graffiti removal by ED (ongoing) Remove gravel	Karen (M)	Monitor gravel off road	
60	Pump Station and water line (60-61 border)	Karen (M)	Get report from Richard @ pump station and condition of water line	
61		Karen (M)	Quarry Exhibit maintenance and monitoring by ED (H) Train Service Yard Clean-up (H) Christmas bulbs for clean-up	
62	Lany to re-photo carving in fall 2012 <i>Note: Physical inspection of carving every three years (last in 2011, next in 2014). Re-photo in other years. (coordinate with Mark Lassiter)</i>	Lany (M) Bob/Frank Mark L.	Visual inspections every three years (next in 2014) in April (Mark L.) Annual photography as part of monitoring (Lany)	
63		Karen (M)	Monitor non-native sedum	
64	Continue Isoetes reintroduction project (H) return plants in 2012, take new soil, Juncus Extend Fence (L) possibly remove more pines affecting pools (H) Obtain USFWS report on Isoetes & Amphianthus Remove two dead pines at the end of observation deck. (Brian, Lany, & volunteers) New Signs	Lany (M) + Brian	Continuing monitoring of Isoetes project (H) And Amphianthus . Trash clean-up	

## Monitoring and projects

Each LMA has a monitor who walks the entire LMA twice a year to note changes, report problems, or provide additional data for a management plan.

How do we use all  
of these books,  
papers, and  
monitoring data?





English Ivy at Carillon Parking Lot 1-28-2011

Helps us make decisions  
related to tree issues





Helps us know when to repair or when to just monitor if we have shoreline issues





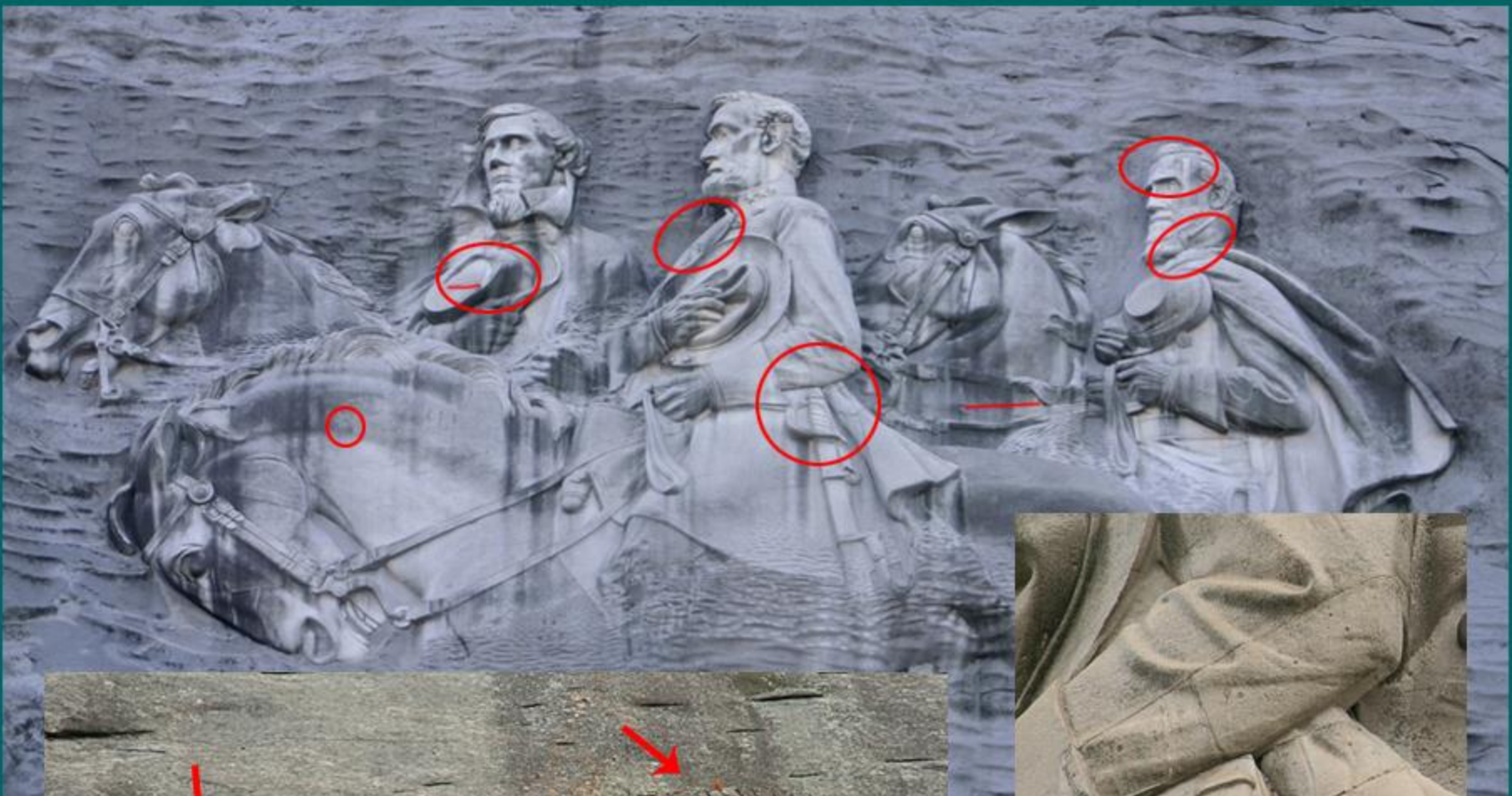
Helps us uncover  
infrastructure, storm damage,  
and trash issues





Helps us make decisions about how to recover a previously used area - do we leave it to nature or provide assistance





Helps us monitor the condition of the carving





Helps us monitor the impacts of our actions on the landscape and wildlife

(above photo shows annual mowing to allow wildflower growth)





# Invasive Species

Helps us determine  
where, when, and what  
to remove



Helps us understand  
the importance of and  
focus us on restoring  
threatened or  
endangered plants



*Isoetes* in pans 4-9-2011 (c)

*Isoetes* 7-17-09 (B)  
*Quillwort* in upper pool

# *Isoetes*

## Black-spored Quillwort



Below: Bluebird nest boxes

Right: Animal rescue (top: owlet, bottom: injured hawk)



Golf Course -  
Helps us work  
closely with all Park  
partners to use Best  
Management  
Practices within the  
Park.





Wildflower recovery areas and environmental case studies on golf course.



## Golf Course and Nature



This area has been naturalized to provide food and shelter for wildlife.



A proud member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.