

Published Tuesday, May 17, 2011

This new park along the Chattahoochee is a big deal for Coweta

EDITORIAL

Sometime this summer a major recreation facility for Coweta County and Georgia will open on the western border of our county along the Chattahoochee River.

The contractor for phase one of the Chattahoochee Bend State Park is expected to finish work this month. Then road patching will be done and two more staff people — an assistant park manager and maintenance person — will be hired before the park opens.

While no opening date has been set, park manager Trint Wicklund has said he expects the opening will be in July.

Phase one of the long-term project features two campgrounds — one for RVs and one for tents, an Adirondack style group camp for 32 and two sets of platform camping sites along the Chattahoochee. There is a boat ramp, two picnic shelters, playground and other picnic sites with grills and an observation tower.

In addition to this phase one work, the first five miles of hiking trails has been completed by Friends of the Chattahoochee Bend Park, a volunteer group of park supporters.

Because of state budget woes, the trail work is being done by these volunteers on Saturday work days. Many more miles of trails are planned. The Friends of the Chattahoochee Bend Park always are seeking additional volunteers to help during the group's work days.

The next work day is 9 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers are asked to meet at the visitor's center on Bobwhite Way. For more information visit www.bendfriend.org.

This new park is a big deal for Coweta County and for Georgia. Even though the state budget has been limited, our local lawmakers helped secure money to make this facility along the banks of the Chattahoochee a reality. Phase one is only the beginning.

The volunteer efforts by Friends is a key to helping develop the trails. You need to plan to visit this beautiful area of our county when the park opens in July, and you need to join in with Friends of Chattahoochee Bend and help continue the trail building activity.

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