

2016 Alabama State Parks Equipment Bank – Description

In 2014, Alabama State Parks celebrated their 75th anniversary. Alabama State Parks have made and experienced many changes over the past 75 years but there is one thing that has remained constant, trails. From the inception and beginning Alabama State Park have had, created and maintained one of the best trail systems in the Southeast.

Boasting over 257 miles of multi-use trails including, hikers, boardwalks, mountain bike, road bike lanes and equestrian trails, Alabama State Parks can and should be considered the anchor for trail related activities in Alabama. And there is more on the way.

Creating a new trail is worthy of consideration, and we do that on a regular basis, but we now face a challenge, sustainability. The tornadoes of April 27, 2011 brought devastation not only to facilities of Guntersville and Buck's Pocket State parks but it nearly wiped out their trail systems. Another tornado event on March 18, 2013 saw damage to facilities and trails at DeSoto State Park. Recently a winter ice storm of 2014 brought destruction to Cheaha State Park and the trails suffered. And the story of natural disaster and trails goes on and on....Providing the right tools and equipment can greatly enhanced the response to which Alabama State Parks trails can be recovered, maintained and most important sustained.

Alabama State Parks are funded through user fees. Our overnight accommodations are what keep our Alabama State Parks running. No general fund or income tax money is used. The trails are not source or revenue. The trails are considered very important recreational activities but we have to focus on repair and maintenance of our facilities that generate revenue to sustain our parks and the trails sometime are last on the list.

Recent efforts include a public campaign called "Partners Pay the Way", This is our way of making sure our many varied park users know that they are important to us and to make sure we are giving them what they want considering their visits pay the way.

One of the most obvious but overlooked partner is our volunteers, to whom without, our trails system would not prosper.

I have been told that what one of the things that separates from the other primates is our ability to use tools. With the right tools, we can live up to the distinction. Doing trail work by hand is hard and tedious at times. The right tools and equipment speeds up the process of maintaining, creating and sustaining, leaving more time to use they trails for what they were intended....recreation.

2016 Alabama State Parks Equipment Bank - Budget

Description	Cost
2 - Skid Steer w/standard bucket and dozer blade	\$46,000.00
2 - Landplane attachment for Skid Steer	\$2,000.00
K & G Metals - Storage Shed for Equipment	\$1,500.00
Various hand Tools - Mcleod Tools, Axes, Shovels, Heavy Rake	\$600.00
Amazon - Various hand tools - Trimmers, Loppers, Machete	\$400.00
Utility Dump Trailer for ATV	\$2,200.00
Utility Trailer for equipment transport	\$3,000.00
C & C Rentals - Various Stihl Gasoline Powered Equipment	\$3,500.00
Safety Equipment	\$300.00
DeSoto State Park - Labor - administration	\$500.00
Total cost	\$60,000.00

80% Match \$48,000.00

20% Share \$12,000.00

