



**DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS & TOURISM**

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Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-7777
Arkansas.com

History Commission
501-682-6900 (TDD)
Ark-ives.com

Keep Arkansas
Beautiful Division
501-682-3507 (TDD)
KeepArkansasBeautiful.com

Personnel Section
501-682-7742 (TDD)

State Parks Division
501-682-1191 (TDD)
ArkansasStateParks.com

Tourism Division
501-682-7777 (TDD)

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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BEAUTIFUL

**AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY/
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT
EMPLOYER**



August 9, 2010

Senator Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV
Representative Allen Maxwell
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Sirs:

Arkansas State Parks has identified two priority land acquisitions and we are seeking your favorable advice on the request. At Davidsonville Historic State Park, there is a 180 acre parcel adjacent to the park that contains the remainder of Arkansas's Territory's town that had the first post office, courthouse, and land office. Accessible by land only through the state park, acquisition of this tract will preserve Arkansas history, cultural resources within, provide expanded recreational and educational opportunities, and preserve habitats along the Black River. The property was identified for acquisition over 25 years ago, and is now on the market for sale.

The second acquisition is in the City of Smackover, where the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources is located. Our policy is to provide housing for park superintendents and other uniform park management staff, benefitting our department by having staff on site or nearby to respond 24/7 to emergencies and increase security for protection of park resources and facilities. We can purchase this house, which is on the market, for much less than we could buy land and build one.

Attached is additional information regarding our requests. In accordance with ACA 22-4-16, I am respectfully requesting your favorable advice to complete these priority acquisitions. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at 682-2535 or Greg Butts at 682-7743. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Davies, Executive Director
Department of Parks & Tourism

RWD/krs

Enclosures

cc.: Greg Butts

Stan Graves

Mitchell Johnson

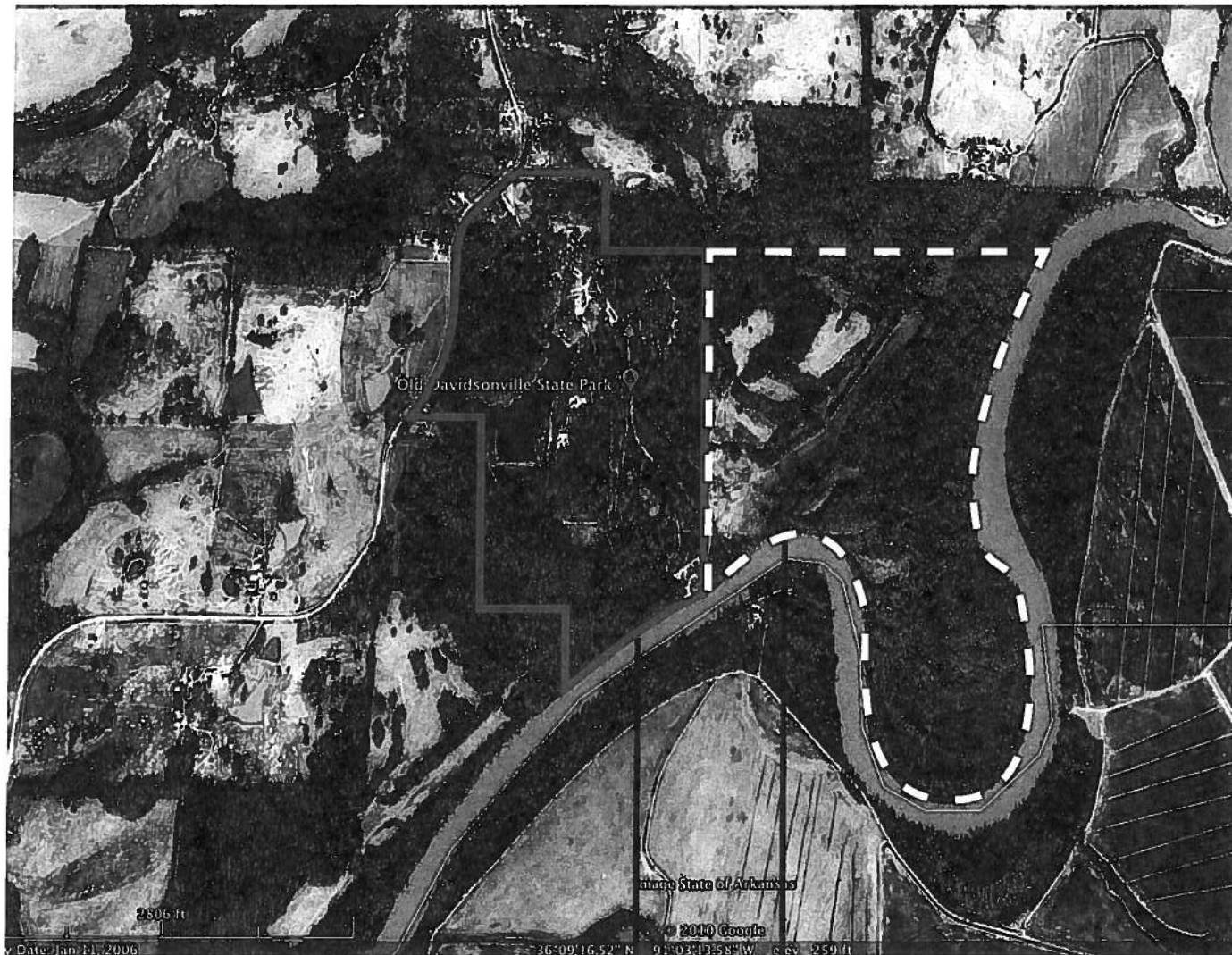
Davidsonville Historic State Park – Proposed Acquisition

Property Description: 180 acres along the Back River and adjacent to the park's last boundary. Property is "landlocked" with only access through the park.

Purpose: Proposed acquisition includes the remaining historic 1815-30's town, preserving the site of the Arkansas Territory's first post office, courthouse and land office. The property will provide additional recreational and educational opportunities (hiking trails, expanded river access, education programs, etc.).

Estimated Cost: Property has not been appraised. Based on nearby sales for land along the Black River, estimated at \$1,900 acre for total estimate of \$ 342,000.

Location Maps: See attachment



**DAVIDSONVILLE HISTORIC
STATE PARK**

CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY

PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources – Proposed Acquisition

Property Description: Modern, single family residence on two lots, Smackover, AR

Purpose: By Arkansas State Parks' policy, housing is provided to park superintendents and other uniform staff for 24/7 emergency response and to protect state parks' investment in park's natural, cultural and historic resources. The proposed acquisition is near the museum and will save funding versus acquiring additional lands and building a new residence.

Estimated Cost: Agreed to price is \$ 155,000 (see attached appraisal)

Location Maps: See attachment



PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1100 Cedar St., Smackover, AR 71762