

# **Feasibility of Establishing a Bill Monroe State Park (SCR 157)**



**Research Report No. 320**

**Legislative Research Commission**  
Frankfort, Kentucky

June 2004



# **Feasibility of Establishing a Bill Monroe State Park (SCR 157)**

**Prepared by**  
Karen Armstrong-Cummings  
Anita Taylor

**Research Report No. 320**

**Legislative Research Commission**  
Frankfort, Kentucky  
[www.lrc.state.ky.us](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us)

June 2004

Paid for with state funds. Available in alternative form by request.



## Foreword

The 2002 General Assembly directed the Legislative Research Commission staff to study the feasibility of constructing a state park at the birthplace of Bill Monroe in Rosine, Kentucky. The legislature directed staff to include input from interested parties such as the Tourism Development Cabinet, the Bill Monroe Foundation, and the community of Rosine. This report presents the results of the study.

This report is the result of the dedicated effort of LRC staff. The assistance of the many people from the public and private sector who supplied information, insight, and data is gratefully acknowledged.

Robert Sherman  
Director

Frankfort, Kentucky  
June 2004



## Contents

Foreword.....	i
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	5
Feasibility.....	17
Findings and Recommendations.....	23
Works Cited.....	27
Appendix A: Kentucky State Parks Locations, Amenities, and Financial Status.....	29

### List of Tables

1	Employment Trends 1997-2002.....	6
2	Phase I Activities Memorandum of Understanding.....	11
3	Kentucky's Tourism and Travel Industry Expenditures, 2002 and 2003.....	17
4	Green River Region Revenue from Tourism 2002 and 2003.....	18



## Introduction

Kentucky has the distinction of being home to a unique genre of music—bluegrass music. Bill Monroe (1911-1996), a native of Rosine in Ohio County, is widely acknowledged to have created this blend of folk, string band, country, blues, and gospel music. The 2002 General Assembly adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 157, which directed the Legislative Research Commission to study the feasibility of constructing a state park at the birthplace of Bill Monroe. This report presents the results of that study.

The report presents information regarding bluegrass music trends and related issues to provide the General Assembly with information to determine whether previous public investments in Bill Monroe's home place should be augmented through the construction of a state park. This assessment was accomplished by reviewing state statutes; by reviewing current planning and priorities for the state park system; by examining cultural, educational, historic, and financial goals associated with plans for developing Bill Monroe's home and farm into a tourist attraction; by reviewing the actions of the Bill Monroe Foundation and other local authorities responsible for investing a previous appropriation of \$800,000 toward the Monroe project; and by examining the current financial status of Kentucky's existing state parks and the issues associated with investing in an additional park.

The report includes the following components:

- A summary of the research strategy used, including surveys, interviews, literature reviews, and Internet searches;
- Background on Bill Monroe, Ohio County, bluegrass music, festivals and associations, and related trends in tourism;
- A discussion of previous investments in Monroe's home place (known as the Rosine Project), related bluegrass music facilities, and opportunities and challenges associated with expanding the Monroe home place into a state park;
- A review of fundraising efforts in support of the project;
- A review of the financial status of each of Kentucky's state parks and historic sites;
- A brief overview of pending litigation arising from the Rosine Project; and
- Findings and recommendations as to the feasibility of establishing a state park at the site of the Monroe home place in Rosine.

The overall conclusion of the study is that, at this time, conditions do not appear favorable for a significant investment of state funds to develop a state park at Bill Monroe's home place. The major reasons for this conclusion are outlined below.

- Local officials have not been in agreement that the project is their highest priority for state funding.
- Officials of the Commerce Cabinet and members of the Capital Planning Advisory Board indicate that the top priority for spending in the state park system is for critically needed maintenance to preserve existing investments. For fiscal year 2002-

03, the only state park that operated at a profit was Cumberland Falls. The total loss for the state park system was nearly \$16 million. To invest more state dollars in an enterprise that has experienced serious impediments when parks that offer very desirable amenities are facing financial difficulties would be questionable.

- Published documents of the Monroe Foundation—the major entity seeking the park—indicate that the ultimate goal is to develop a 1,000-acre working farm and living history museum that is under the management of the foundation. This design is inconsistent with stated interests of bluegrass music fans most likely to visit the home place and with standard statutory, regulatory, and financial considerations that govern the management of state parks.
- To date, efforts to develop Monroe's home place as a tourist attraction have been hampered by contention, litigation, and poorly documented use of funds previously appropriated by the General Assembly. Significant questions exist as to the accountability for previous expenditures related to the project, including a lack of invoices, quarterly reports, and other documentation. Therefore, it is reasonable to question whether sufficient planning and financial controls exist on the local level to ensure a responsible investment of additional state dollars at this time.

### **Research Methods**

In order to fulfill the directives of SCR 157, staff conducted the following research activities:

- Interviewed Tourism Cabinet officials (and Commerce Cabinet officials after state government reorganization) and reviewed documentation from previous state grants awarded to preserve the Bill Monroe home place;
- Reviewed the statutory authority of the Kentucky Department of Parks for establishing state parks and reviewed the General Assembly's 2002-2008 Statewide Capital Improvements Plan;
- Interviewed the Bill Monroe Foundation Executive Director, Board of Directors, and Board of Advisors and other individuals recommended by the Monroe Foundation;
- Interviewed Ohio County officials, Rosine community leaders, state legislators representing the area, and others recommended by these officials;
- Reviewed state and regional economic development plans for the Green River Area, which includes Ohio County; and interviewed officials with the Green River Area Development District and the West Kentucky Corporation;
- Collected and reviewed print and electronic media publications on the status of the bluegrass music industry and related topics;
- Reviewed the experiences of regional bluegrass-related tourist destinations;
- Interviewed representatives of bluegrass music associations regarding their interest in visiting a restored Bill Monroe home place and living history center; and
- Maintained a database of 120 Internet sites related to bluegrass music and monitored these for a six-month survey period.

Staff conducted further research on music, history, and cultural organizations and associations both in the United States and around the world. Staff interviewed representatives of the International Bluegrass Music Association and the International Bluegrass Museum in Owensboro. Court records were obtained from the Davidson County, Tennessee, Court of Chancery related to the litigation surrounding the unsuccessful purchase of Bill Monroe's mandolin by the Bill Monroe Foundation. Also, court documents were obtained from the Ohio County Circuit Court in connection with three pending lawsuits related to the Rosine Project.

Several individuals recognized as traditional music authorities in Kentucky and Tennessee provided materials. Finally, information was also obtained from the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



## Background

In 2002 the Kentucky General Assembly adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 157 directing Legislative Research Commission (LRC) staff to study the feasibility of constructing a Bill Monroe state park. The resolution required the study to focus on Monroe's birthplace, the Ohio County community of Rosine, as the park's location. This report builds on previous LRC research, including the 1988 "Bill Monroe Bluegrass Music Museum Feasibility Study," Research Report No. 239.

### Bill Monroe

Through his compositions, Monroe memorialized his family members, his upbringing, his community, and his state. His Kentucky roots provided the basis for the name of the musical genre he is credited with creating (Erlewine).

Monroe had a prolific recording and performance career. And, although he died in 1996, remastered Monroe songs are still being produced. In September 2003 distributors marketed 39 books specifically about bluegrass, its derivations, the bluegrass music industry, and its people. Six of these, along with two films, focused on Bill Monroe. Monroe's contributions to the music industry also garnered awards and recognition.

- Country Music Hall of Fame, 1970
- Nashville Songwriters Association, International Hall of Fame, 1971
- National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award, 1982
- The first Grammy Award presented for Best Bluegrass Recording (vocal or instrumental), 1988
- Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc., 1993
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 1997
- Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association, 1986
- National Medal of Arts from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1995

### Ohio County

Ohio County is located in Kentucky's western coal field region. The county seat is Hartford with a population of around 2,500; Beaver Dam is the largest city with a population of approximately 3,000. Other cities include Fordsville with 500; Rockport with 300; Centertown with 400; and McHenry with 400 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, "States"). The unincorporated community of Rosine has a population of approximately 53 (Kentucky State Data Center).

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census ("Population"), Ohio County's population of just over 22,000, is projected to increase to just over 24,000 by 2010. Those in the 20-64 age bracket make up 55 percent of the county's population, while those 19 and younger account for another 29 percent.

Ohio County's geophysical resources have greatly affected its economic character. The county was heavily dependent on coal mining and agriculture until the 1980s when the demand for its high-sulfur coal decreased (Ohio County). Over the past 25 years, changes in Ohio County's economy have largely reflected changes in both the Kentucky and United States economies in terms of employment (Table 1). Since 1977 there has been a sharp decline in mining employment in the county. These losses have been tempered, however, by robust growth in the manufacturing sector where employment has grown nearly 85 percent in the last 25 years. Additionally, the Ohio County economy has experienced more than a 100 percent increase in the number of service sector jobs as well as more than 55 percent growth in the number of retail trade jobs. The only striking difference between the county, state, and national economies is the divergence in importance of the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing employment has been slowly declining in the U.S. economy but has increased in relative importance in both the Kentucky and Ohio County economies during the past 25 years (Woods).

Total employment in Ohio County declined 7 percent from 1977 to 2002, while total employment increased by 51 percent in all of Kentucky and by 68 percent in the United States. After reaching a high of nearly 12 percent in 1991, the county's unemployment rate declined to 6.3 percent in 2000. However, steady increases have occurred since then. In 2003 the annual unemployment rate was just over 9 percent (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Ohio County's officials reported that they conducted planning sessions to address the area's economic future and emphasized the need for the economic opportunities that a state park, and the spin-off tourism-related businesses, might provide. It was also reported that Ohio County's farmers are interested in the income potential associated with tourism (Ohio County).

**Table 1**  
**Employment Trends 1997-2002**

	Ohio County		Kentucky	United States
	Number Employed 1977	Number Employed 2002	Percent Change 1997-2002	Percent Change 1997-2002
<b>Farm Employment</b>	1,359	1,194	-12	-19
<b>Mining Employment</b>	2,725	302	-89	-18
<b>Manufacturing Employment</b>	1,040	1,921	85	-5
<b>Retail Trade Employment</b>	896	1,403	57	70
<b>Services Employment</b>	716	1,461	104	153
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>68%</b>

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, "2003 Kentucky State Profile"

Ohio County is a part of the 45 western counties making up the West Kentucky Corporation, which was established to build a more competitive regional economy. Ohio County officials discussed the need to work across county lines to better develop economic opportunities, including those related to tourism. The Bluegrass Crossing

Business Centre is an example of regional cooperation. Located in Ohio County, the industrial park opened in 2001 through the partnership of Ohio, Daviess, Hancock, McLean, and Muhlenberg Counties. Two companies, Ritatsu Manufacturing Inc. and Daicel Safety Systems America LLC, are the first tenants of the park's 1,000 acres located at the junction of the Natcher and Western Kentucky Parkways (Bluegrass Crossings).

### **Bluegrass Music**

While the popularity of bluegrass music has increased during the past several years, marketing has posed particular challenges for the genre. Major record labels contract primarily with those bands predicted to be top-selling. Particularly after the 1950s, those companies that focused on country music at all promoted more commercial country bands. Consequently, bluegrass performers marketed their music through alternative methods such as festivals, fairs, and church events. This marketing approach appears to remain a primary promotional tool today.

The International Bluegrass Music Association reported the results of a survey by Simmons Market Research that indicated that the number of consumers 18 and older who purchased bluegrass music nearly doubled from 2000 to 2003: from about 4 million in 2000 to nearly 8 million in 2003 (International, "2003 Survey"). The absence of bluegrass music from traditional music marketing channels challenged the industry to meet consumer demands in what is now called the "O Brother Phenomenon." In 2000 the Hollywood-based Coen Brothers produced "O Brother Where Art Thou?" a film with a soundtrack that incorporated elements of bluegrass music with a traditional Americana music base. Moviegoers bought the soundtrack, particularly since it was not played on radio.

The "O Brother" soundtrack produced impressively high sales. With almost no radio airplay, the album quickly sold 3 million copies, making it the best-selling soundtrack of 2001. For several months, it was the world's top-selling album and has sold more than 6 million copies (Country Music). While there had been some degree of speculation that the "O Brother" phenomenon would create a groundswell of new bluegrass listeners, that enthusiasm has been tempered by the fact that the soundtrack has only limited resemblance to the Monroe style of traditional bluegrass music.

Tim O'Brien, award-winning musician and president of the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) board of directors, said, "The phenomenon of O Brother is indicative of the hidden potential for the music in the marketplace" (International Bluegrass, "Tim"). A 2002 article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette quoted Skip Ogden, editor of the "iBluegrass" online magazine. "Clearly there's a ripple effect going on in relation to O Brother. ...Artists who were on the soundtrack are selling more of their own records. But judging from record sales, it doesn't seem like people are exploring the music beyond that." Ogden noted that the "O Brother" phenomenon is based more on contemporary bluegrass rather than on the traditional sound created by Bill Monroe.

Overall, although the numbers of listeners and the numbers of recordings sold have increased in the past few years, bluegrass remains a niche market accounting for only 3 to 5 percent of American recording sales, according to information on the International Bluegrass Music Museum Web site.

### **Bluegrass Festivals**

Beginning as grassroots marketing efforts and a chance to network with other musicians and fans, bluegrass festivals now have become business operations. These festivals, whether conducted annually or more frequently, provide a mechanism for increasing the public's access to bluegrass music. Many bluegrass festivals operate as nonprofit events, raising funds for a community project or group. Some have faded away after only a few years, while others, such as North Carolina's MerleFest, have flourished by effective marketing strategies and aggressive management.

MerleFest, named in memory of acoustic guitar player Merle Watson, operates in conjunction with western North Carolina's Wilkes Community College to raise funds for educational programs. The "MerleFest 2003: Economic Impact Report" estimated the festival's total regional economic impact at more than \$12 million, with a direct economic impact on Wilkes County's estimated at \$6.5 million. Overall festival participation totaled 77,359 for the four-day music event.

Internationally as well, bluegrass festivals provide avenues for music sales and promotion. For 31 years, Takarazuka, Japan, has held a four-day festival featuring approximately 100 Japanese bluegrass bands (Center for Appalachian Studies).

LRC staff identified more than 500 annual bluegrass festivals, some dating back 30 years. LRC research identified 53 annual Kentucky bluegrass festivals held in 2003. In addition, there are bluegrass performances at 22 Kentucky venues such as the

- Kentucky Opry at Prestonsburg's Mountain Arts Center;
- Kentucky Friends of Bluegrass Music Club weekly shows, fall through spring, in Clay City;
- WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour broadcasts recorded live in Lexington for national syndication;
- Sipp Theatre in Paintsville;
- Appalshop, Whitesburg's internationally recognized Appalachian media center focusing on bluegrass in theater, film, and radio;
- Renfro Valley Entertainment Center; and
- Rosine Barn Jamboree, held every Friday evening.

### **Bluegrass Music Associations**

Because traditional commercial radio stations, even country music stations, have not typically featured bluegrass music, many bands and their fans have organized local associations to promote performances. In 2000 the IBMA listed 167 active bluegrass associations internationally. Additionally, since 1995, the European Bluegrass Music Association has used Internet marketing to promote May as International Bluegrass

Month, culminating with the European World of Bluegrass Festival (International Bluegrass, “Industry”).

Bluegrass associations—originating as clubs for entertainment and education—at best provide an inconsistent marketing network. These organizations, mostly all volunteer, consume resources. Many associations operate for a few years and fade away, creating an uncertain support base for those relying on the groups' promotional work. The associations do not appear to have a formal nationwide network for communicating with each other, other than participation in the IBMA’s annual meeting. While the associations could potentially create a network for promoting a Bill Monroe state park, their current structure does not offer a reliable, formal mechanism for promotions without extensive attention and investment.

### **Previous State Investments in Bill Monroe Projects**

The 2002 General Assembly's resolution directing a Monroe state park feasibility study followed previous legislative actions recognizing the contributions of bluegrass music to Kentucky. These included published studies, commemorative actions, and funding measures. These actions have primarily resulted from local initiatives seeking specific project funds, rather than any statewide strategic proposals from the executive branch.

In 1988 LRC published the “Bill Monroe Bluegrass Music Museum Feasibility Study,” Research Report No. 239, though no funding allocations resulted for a museum. The study stated that in 1982 a consultant had determined that a bluegrass museum in Ohio County was not economically feasible without external funding. In 1988, although various Ohio County civic leaders asked the General Assembly to support development of a Bill Monroe Bluegrass Music Museum, they presented no formal plan for the project. For the 1988 study, LRC staff developed three hypothetical proposals for various types of a park ranging from relocation and renovation of the Bill Monroe home to a 10,000-square-foot fully staffed museum. Estimated start-up and annual costs ranged from \$200,000 to \$2.3 million. The study determined that the projects would operate with a loss of between \$42,000 and \$112,000 annually. The report noted that some parks in the state system operated at a loss and that the Department of Parks indicated it had no plans to acquire new parks. The study suggested that tourism to Ohio County could be increased by such a museum and by the addition of the International Bluegrass Music Association headquarters in neighboring Owensboro. The association has since moved to Nashville.

The 1988 General Assembly designated Monroe’s “Blue Moon of Kentucky” as the state’s official bluegrass song and officially recognized Kentucky’s Country Music Hall of Fame in Renfro Valley. In 1998 legislation was introduced directing the Kentucky Tourism Cabinet to study methods for promoting bluegrass music, although this bill did not pass. That same year, the legislature named a portion of U.S. 62 in western Kentucky in Monroe's honor.

In 1998 the General Assembly provided funding from coal severance taxes for various local projects. The General Assembly included specific new language in the Executive

Branch Budget allowing certain county fiscal courts to allocate coal severance tax resources from their portion of the Local Government Economic Development Fund. The General Assembly required that these projects address economic, community development, and infrastructure needs. The Bill Monroe Memorial Park, Phase I, was included in that spending plan with an appropriation of \$800,000.

The 1998-2000 Executive Budget Surplus Expenditure Plan enacted by the General Assembly included the following language:

**Ohio County**

**Bill Monroe Museum**

**\$800,000**

This project supports acquisition of a 20-acre site in Ohio County, at the birthplace of Bill Monroe, the father of Bluegrass Music. The fiscal court has already optioned and secured the land. Phase I would complete land acquisition, renovate the homestead, and build an amphitheater. Phase II would construct a museum, erect a bronze statue of Monroe, and establish a walking tour through the park to the gravesite where a monument commissioned by Monroe's son stands 20 feet tall. These funds contribute toward Phase I.

Once the General Assembly allocated the \$800,000 for Phase I, the executive branch assigned the funding management to the Tourism Cabinet. Since the legislature established these projects through the Local Government Economic Development Fund, Ohio County's fiscal court was the entity responsible for local project management. In February 1999 Ohio County proposed to the Tourism Cabinet an allocation of funds for the project that ranged from a total of \$925,000 to \$1,145,000 (Cooper). A Memorandum of Agreement was issued by the Tourism Cabinet that did not specify the various elements to be included in the project. The Tourism Cabinet then executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ohio County's fiscal court to carry out the Phase I activities as proposed, at a cost of \$800,000 with construction to begin no later than June 30, 2000 (Table 2). Ohio County's fiscal court contracted with the Ohio County Industrial Development Foundation to implement the agreement.

The agreement required that the county submit quarterly progress reports to the Tourism Cabinet by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar quarter. According to Tourism Development Cabinet records, the Ohio County Fiscal Court did not file any quarterly reports, although requests for drawdowns were occasionally accompanied by an invoice or statement as to the expenditures to be made from the funds.

<b>Table 2: Phase I Activities Memorandum of Understanding</b>	
<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>\$ Allocated</b>
1. Purchase of the 20-acre site in Rosine for development of the Bill Monroe Memorial Park as the location for the Bill Monroe Museum, amphitheater, and other public park facilities	\$50,000
2. Engineer, Architect and other consulting fees	40,000
3. Acquisition by contract with James Monroe, executor and sole heir of the Bill Monroe Estate, of Bill Monroe memorabilia and contractual rights to use Bill Monroe's name in connection with the Rosine Project	250,000
4. Acquisition of up to 5 acres and the Bill Monroe home place located in Horton and the refurbishing of the Bill Monroe home place for public tours and viewing	295,000
5. Payment of the Rosine Project manager's salary and related costs and expenses for one year	65,000
6. Preparation for public use of the Rosine 20-acre site and for construction of Bill Monroe Museum and amphitheater, including clearing site, dirt movement, utilities, landscaping, security fencing, parking, and other public facilities	100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

Source: Tourism Development Cabinet, Bill Monroe Museum Memorandum of Understanding, as amended August 2001

### **Local Management of Projects and Funding**

Ohio County officials decided to staff the Rosine project on a full-time basis and began discussions with the Monroe Foundation for assistance. The Ohio County Industrial Development Foundation had organized the Monroe Foundation in 1995 to preserve the Monroe home place. In 2001 the industrial foundation contracted with Campbell Mercer as the Monroe Foundation's executive director. The Monroe Foundation then announced a \$12 million fundraising plan, later expanded to include purchasing one of Monroe's mandolins as well as the entire 1,000-acre farm. The current landowner serves on the Monroe Foundation's board as well as Ohio County's Industrial Development Foundation board and has indicated a willingness to sell the property to the state for this project. Some in the community fear that if the additional acreage is not purchased, the land could be developed for some purpose that would be inconsistent with, or detract from the Monroe home place.

The Monroe Foundation's organizational structure includes both an executive board and an advisory board. Executive board members, primarily Ohio County residents, volunteer their services. The advisory board includes several major names in bluegrass music,

including Ralph Stanley, James Monroe, and former "Blue Grass Boys" band member Doug Hutchens.

The Monroe Foundation describes the entire renovation and restoration of Monroe's home place and other aspects of developing a park at this location as the "Rosine Project." After the industrial foundation hired Mercer as executive director of the Monroe Foundation, Ohio County officials and the Monroe Foundation continued work to implement the Phase I plans, as outlined in the agreement. However, in 2001 the state Tourism Cabinet and Ohio County officials amended their legal agreement to stipulate that \$65,000 of the \$800,000 would be spent for the executive director and related expenses (Tourism, "Memorandum"). Mercer officially served as executive director until his termination in March 2003.

**Expansion Plan for the Home Place and Farm.** Restoration of the Monroe home place was completed as part of Phase I, and local officials conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 23, 2001. Former Monroe band members, major bluegrass performers, and Governor Paul Patton participated. The Monroe Foundation estimated that a crowd of approximately 5,000 attended the ceremony (Bill Monroe Foundation).

In early 2001 the foundation announced plans to expand the project scope from the approved 20-acre park to a 1,000-acre living history farm. The announcement drew mixed reactions. An editorial in the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer on April 17, 2001, said, "the latest plans that have mushroomed make us question whether the wisest use of state tax dollars are being sought." The piece continued that, with the existing bluegrass Museum in Owensboro, "spending millions of tax dollars on two bluegrass-related projects 45 minutes apart seems unwise." The editorial stressed that "the goal should be to make this region a stopping point for bluegrass tourists, not to overlap what already exists."

Over time, the foundation expanded the plans for the Rosine Project to include a living history farm and museum that would offer the following attractions:

- Walking tours of the farm;
- Wagon rides for access to the properties and for guided educational programs;
- Restoring the home of Monroe's brother Charlie as a visitor information center;
- On-farm production of feed crops, poultry, livestock, and heirloom fruits and vegetables such as those produced during Monroe's youth on the farm;
- A restaurant offering meals such as those produced by farms in the 1930s;
- Restoring an abandoned rail line as an alternative transportation opportunity to the park, with emphasis on the role of the train in early 1900s;
- A small on-site coal operation, demonstrating the role of coal both for residential fuel source and for income in the county; and
- A music hall and amphitheater for entertainment events, educational programs, musical demonstrations and training, and other activities.

Requests by LRC staff to Campbell Mercer and the Bill Monroe Foundation produced no details as to the cost estimates for each phase of the expanded project. The Monroe Foundation's expanded plan for a 1,000-acre living history farm and purchase of the Monroe mandolin also does not provide details on projected annual operating costs or revenues, raising questions about the adequacy of long-range financial planning for a viable tourist attraction.

### **Litigation Surrounding the Rosine Project**

One issue that raises questions regarding the effort to restore the Monroe home place and to develop the site into a state park is that of legal action surrounding the project. The Monroe Foundation has been or is currently involved in lawsuits. In addition, Mercer has filed suit against the industrial foundation for breach of contract.

### **Bill Monroe's Mandolin**

A focal point of the Monroe Foundation's fundraising projects and tourist attraction development is the acquisition of one of Monroe's mandolins. On April 25, 2001, the Bill Monroe/Bluegrass Music Foundation of Kentucky, Inc. entered into a contract with Monroe's son, James Monroe, to purchase Monroe's Gibson F-5 mandolin. The agreed price of \$1,125,000 was to be paid as follows: 10 percent down upon execution of the contract, with the balance due one year later, on April 25, 2002. According to the agreement, the purchaser assumed a provisional title with the down payment.

On April 25, 2002, the foundation deposited \$112,500 but was unable to meet the terms of the contract because it had been unsuccessful in raising the balance due. Under the terms of the agreement, the foundation had the option of extending the deadline by six months upon payment of \$50,000 before the end of the one-year period. The foundation exercised that option, and the time was extended to October 25, 2002. When the extended deadline of October 26, 2002, arrived, the foundation still could not make the final payment of \$962,500.

However, on October 31, 2002, the foundation corresponded with the Monroe estate claiming that the foundation claimed legal title to the mandolin because it had paid 10 percent down. On November 20, 2002, after several deadline extensions by the estate, the foundation was given written notice that the estate was holding the foundation in breach of the contract and voiding the agreement.

The foundation claims that title to the mandolin passed to it upon payment of the initial downpayment of \$112,500. On December 17, 2002, the Monroe estate filed suit in the Chancery Court for Davidson County, Tennessee, requesting that the contract be voided and title to the mandolin be cleared in the name of James Monroe as sole heir and executor of the Bill Monroe estate.

An original trial date was set for June 7, 2004, in Davidson County, Tennessee, Court of Chancery. On May 24, 2004, the defendant's motion to dismiss was denied and the trial was rescheduled for July 2004 (Monroe v. Bill Monroe).

### **Other Litigation**

In addition to the mandolin lawsuit, three actions involving the Rosine Project have been filed in Ohio Circuit Court.

- 1) In an action filed on November 7, 2002, Ron's Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance, Inc. claimed that the Bill Monroe/Bluegrass Foundation of Kentucky, Inc. failed to pay \$14,148 of a total bill for \$23,962.29 for work completed at the Monroe home place. In its answer and counterclaim, the foundation asserted that under the terms of an oral agreement between Ron's Landscaping and Leatherwood, Inc. (the company hired to restore the Monroe home place), Ron's Landscaping would do additional landscaping including hauling dirt and stones at an estimated cost of \$8,000-\$10,000. This suit was settled by an agreed judgment entered on August 19, 2003, for the amount of \$9,354.65 plus 12 percent interest (Ron's).
- 2) Leatherwood, Inc. filed a complaint against the foundation on January 9, 2003, for breach of contract. The complaint alleges that the foundation entered into an agreement with Leatherwood, Inc. to renovate the Monroe boyhood home and claims that the work was completed per the terms of the agreement. In the complaint, Leatherwood, Inc. alleges that during the time of the renovation, its crew was pulled from the job because the foundation incurred delays in drawing down funds through the state grant process resulting in additional costs of \$6,000. Leatherwood also alleges that changes in the design, materials, and electrical and water systems resulted in nearly \$88,000 in additional costs. As of March 2, 2004, the case was still in litigation (Leatherwood).
- 3) Mercer filed suit against the Ohio County Industrial Development Foundation and others alleging breach of contract after he was terminated as executive director of the Monroe Foundation. Mercer alleges that the industrial foundation hired him on January 1, 2001, to serve as executive director of the Monroe Foundation for a period of three years at a base salary of \$45,000, with an annual review on or before January 1 of each year and a potential bonus on or before December 1 of each year, if appropriate. Mercer also asserted he was entitled to reimbursement for business expenses and participation in the industrial foundation's medical, dental, life and disability insurance, and a retirement plan. Mercer also alleges that the industrial foundation agreed to become a national sponsor at the rate of \$60,000 annually to be paid in monthly installments of \$5,000 for his "Cumberland Highlanders" television show, which then aired nationally on the Outdoor Channel. Mercer alleges that the industrial foundation did not meet the terms of the agreement and that he used his personal funds in excess of \$116,000 to finance the work of the Monroe Foundation.

The industrial foundation terminated Mercer's employment on March 7, 2003, through a letter stating various reasons for his dismissal. The industrial foundation's

counterclaim states the specifics for terminating Mercer's employment for cause (Mercer v. Ohio County).

### **Fundraising Efforts**

The Bill Monroe Foundation has encountered considerable difficulty in generating financial support for the Rosine Project. Once the \$800,000 appropriated by the General Assembly for the original, smaller-scale project was exhausted, the foundation and its director, Campbell Mercer, were left to their own devices to perpetuate both interest and fundraising efforts for the expanded project and the purchase of the Monroe mandolin.

Overall fundraising efforts have consisted of selling charter memberships in the foundation, making appeals to potential major donors, and selling \$25 shares in the mandolin. Those efforts did not result in securing the needed funds to complete the major goal of purchasing the mandolin.



## Feasibility

### Trends in Tourism Development

Tourism has traditionally provided a source of significant revenue for the Commonwealth, with thousands of visitors from outside the state, as well as Kentuckians, enjoying the natural beauty and historic and recreational offerings of the state. According to statistics released by the Tourism Development Cabinet on May 5, 2003, the economic impact of the state's tourism industry exceeded \$9.1 billion in 2002, with expenditures exceeding the previous year by \$452 million, a 5.2 percent increase.

According to then-secretary Ann Latta, "The 2002 numbers are particularly significant in light of a soft economy and the national downturn in tourism in general during the past two years. Tourism remains Kentucky's third-largest revenue-producing industry with a bright future."

While some individual counties experienced a decline in tourism dollars, in 2002 each of the state's nine tourism regions exhibited gains, including the Green River area where the tourism industry generated \$245.2 million in 2002, up some \$4.1 million from the previous year (Tourism Development Cabinet, "2002").

Newly released figures from the Tourism Development Cabinet indicate a continued increase in tourism dollars in 2003, as indicated in Table 3, which shows the economic impact of tourism in the Commonwealth in 2002 and 2003. Table 4 provides data for the Green River Tourism Region, which includes Ohio County.

**Table 3**  
**Kentucky's Tourism and Travel Industry**  
**Expenditures, 2002 and 2003**

	<u>2002 (Revised)</u> (millions)	<u>2003</u> (millions)
<b>Total Expenditures in Kentucky</b>	<b>\$9,093</b>	<b>\$9,273</b>
<b>Direct Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,565</b>	<b>\$5,675</b>
<b>Indirect Expenditures<sup>1</sup></b> (2003 multiplier - 1.634) (2002 multiplier 1.634) (2001 multiplier 1.634)	<b>\$3,528</b>	<b>\$3,598</b>
<b>Change between 2001 and 2002</b>		<b>5.2%</b>
<b>Change between 2002 and 2003</b> (direct expenditures only)		<b>2.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on analysis using economic models updated to 1996 and described in Benjamin H. Stevens, George I. Treys, David J. Ehrlich, and James R. Bower, State Input-Output Models for Transportation Impact Analysis (Hightstown, New Jersey: Regional Science Research Institute, 1981) Discussion Paper Series No. 128.

Source: Tourism Development Cabinet, "Kentucky's Tourism and Travel Expenditures"

**Table 4**  
**Green River Region**  
**Revenue from Tourism 2002 and 2003**

<u>County</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>(2002 Revised)</u> <u>(millions)</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>(2003)</u> <u>(millions)</u>	<u>2003</u> <u>Employment</u>
Daviess	\$120.6	\$118.7	2,008
Hancock	4.2	4.1	69
Henderson	48.4	47.2	955
Hopkins	35.3	32.7	635
McLean	0.2	0.3	5
Muhlenberg	21.3	22.8	456
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>234</b>
Union	3.2	3.2	55
Webster	0.5	0.5	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$246.7</b>	<b>\$241.3</b>	<b>4,426</b>

Source: Tourism Development Cabinet, "2002"

Unfortunately, this success did not carry over to the state park system. In the fiscal year ending June 20, 2003, only Cumberland Falls showed a profit. Overall the state parks lost nearly \$16 million when comparing net sales against expenses. Appendix A provides a breakdown of the financial status of each of Kentucky's state parks and historic sites and a brief description of the location and amenities available at each park. Currently, the Rosine location offers only rough camping. The Ohio County Park and Camp Ground, north of Hartford off the Natcher Parkway, includes 50 campsites for RVs and tents; multi-purpose music and exhibit buildings; a large amphitheater; livestock barn; biking, walking, and nature trails; tennis, basketball and volleyball courts; ball fields; picnic shelters; playgrounds; rifle, shotgun, and archery ranges; miniature golf; and putting green and driving range. Throughout the county, there are less than 100 lodging rooms in hotel, motel and bed and breakfast establishments (Kentucky Travel Guide).

#### **Tourist Interest, Infrastructure Needs, and Local Priorities**

In addressing the feasibility of expanding the current Rosine Project into a state park, it is critical to consider the basic elements that currently exist or would be needed to support park viability: a significant level of interest among bluegrass fans in a state park as opposed to purely a bluegrass music facility; and consideration of the project by local officials as a high priority for the use of any state funds that may be available to them. If the Monroe project were to be expanded to become an element of the state park system, a significant investment would be required. Other infrastructure projects such as water and sewer lines, other economic development projects, and construction of school and university projects would be competing for the limited dollars that might be available.

## **Tourist Interest**

In June and July 2003 LRC staff e-mailed questionnaires to those bluegrass music associations in the U.S. that have Web sites and sent letters and e-mails to the 22 groups of the European Bluegrass Association to obtain information about the level of interest in a Bill Monroe state park. Associations in the District of Columbia, California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas responded. Two European groups supplied responses.

Several American bluegrass music association officers commented that their organizational structures were not such that the officers could speak for the entire group without the opportunity to discuss and vote on the questions. Others knowledgeable of the international bluegrass groups indicated that the low response rate was based on timing. Conducting the survey during the summer conflicted with schedules already filled with festivals and other events. In addition, the correspondence, written in English, may have complicated communication with international organizations.

Also, the West Kentucky Corporation, in cooperation with the Ohio County Tourism Commission, supplied three types of survey information.

- A summary of visitor registration from the Rosine Barn Festival, held each Friday evening;
- Results from surveys conducted of visitors traveling through Ohio County and stopping at the West Kentucky Parkway Visitor's Center near Beaver Dam; and
- Results from surveys conducted of participants at the second Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival, organized in 2003 by the Bill Monroe Foundation and held at the Monroe home place in Rosine.

Nine bluegrass music associations, out of 35 contacted by e-mail, responded to questions about interest in the home place and its preservation as a living history farm. Association members were asked these questions:

1. Has your organization visited the Bill Monroe home place in Rosine, Kentucky since it has been restored?
2. Would your organization visit the Bill Monroe home place in Rosine, Kentucky if it were established as part of Kentucky's state park system?
3. Would you or your organization be interested in visiting the Bill Monroe home place if the farm (1,000-acre land base) were preserved and promoted as a living history farm, depicting the life and times when the Monroe family lived there?

Of the nine responding associations, officers or members from approximately half had visited the Rosine site. Those who responded expressed enthusiasm for restoring the home place and establishing it as a state park. However, the majority of the responding associations emphasized that the major attraction should be bluegrass music. Two groups said that their members would be attracted to a festival or a museum at the location rather than the proposed historic farming operations.

In addition, bluegrass fans surveyed by the West Kentucky Corporation indicated that regardless of whether such a facility is part of the state park or historic site system, the attraction should provide at least these basic amenities to attract visitors:

- Good access roads from major highways to the park since most fans drive to festivals and safe on-site roads since many campers travel with children as well as older and disabled family members;
- Well-operated camping facilities in or near the park because jam sessions with other musicians is a time-honored bluegrass music tradition; and
- On-site amenities including lighting, clean restroom facilities, food vendors within waling distance and other facilities required to provide an adequate utilities infrastructure.

### **Infrastructure Needs**

Local leaders emphasize the economic development need for tourism dollars, but they do not appear unified as to whether a Bill Monroe State Park would be the highest priority investment. For example, in February 2000 Ohio County officials used the county's coal severance funds for a water main project in Fordsville rather than expansion of the Rosine Project.

Ohio County is located at the crossroads of the Western Kentucky Parkway and the William Natcher Parkway. From Rosine, both the Western Kentucky and Natcher Parkway are about 13 miles away. Interstate 64 is 98 miles away; Interstate 65 is 60 miles away, and Interstate 24 is some 85 miles away. Nashville is approximately 160 miles from the Rosine site. Community leaders who were interviewed emphasized the critical need for improved access roads and parking. Tourism visits have increased since the restoration of the Monroe home place, and, according to local leaders, the increased traffic, which sometimes includes larger vehicles and school buses, causes parking and safety problems that the small community is not equipped to address (Autry).

There are other historic and cultural tourism attractions in Ohio County that local officials believe could be packaged with promotions for a Monroe state park.

- Fordsville's Depot Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, located 15 miles from Rosine.
- Antique shopping in McHenry, located 12 miles from Rosine.
- Two historic districts in Hartford, some 11 miles from Rosine; homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and historical markers located at the Ohio County Museum; the community park; and the courthouse.
- Rosine's Barn Jamboree and the Bill Monroe home place.

### **Local Priorities**

Local leaders emphasize the economic development need for tourism dollars, but they seem to disagree as to whether a Bill Monroe State Park would be the highest priority

investment. While they generally agree that the cultural contributions of Bill Monroe are important to the community's heritage, other basic needs such as water service have taken precedence over funding and development of the Monroe park.

Local leaders have explored other options aside from converting the land to a state park. In July 2003, with assistance from Western Kentucky University, the Bill Monroe home place was nominated for and approved to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places through the National Parks Service. Having such a designation may make the site eligible for marketing opportunities from the Park Service such as outreach with students and teachers through the Historic Preservation Planning Program, technical preservation services, historic landscaping, and tax incentives (U.S. National Park).

Several of those interviewed noted potential opportunities for bluegrass festivals and events at the site. Sam Jackson, a member of the Monroe Foundation Advisory Board, works with approximately 30 bluegrass festivals a year and said there is revenue potential from well-organized and effectively promoted festivals. He noted the financially successful festivals need basic amenities for growing the customer base including good campgrounds with water, electricity, and facilities for both tent and RV camping. Jackson, a performer and broadcast professional, also noted the positive educational and promotional benefits that Kentucky Educational Television provides to the state's musicians. KET covers many festivals, interviews many performers, and could provide a valuable marketing opportunity for a project such as the Monroe initiative. Others recognized that successfully establishing and promoting a bluegrass festival at the Monroe home place may be possible without the site entering into the state park system. However, a Monroe festival project could benefit from closer coordination with the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet's advertising and travel development programs.

Many Monroe Foundation board members and local leaders suggested that an incremental approach is needed to protect the Monroe home place and promote Ohio County's connection to bluegrass music. They advocated starting with the acquisition of the additional 1,000 acres of the original family farm and extending the development phase for a longer term.

Ohio County officials, Rosine Association, and Monroe Foundation directors and advisory board members were united in their support for the more expanded park and living history farm. Monroe Foundation board members reported their support for establishing the home as a state park, with the emphasis that the park's management should implement the mission as a living history farm. Some stressed the importance of marketing the facility to bluegrass customers as an opportunity to experience the land, farm, and community as Monroe had.

The Monroe Foundation's directors expressed concerns that the state park system's management approach could be inconsistent with the foundation's goal of an authentic living history farm. According to Mercer, the foundation initially supported the effort to seek designation as a state park as a means of acquiring increased funding, but did not

want the nature of the project to be changed from the original concept and did not want to relinquish control of the project to the state.

## Findings and Recommendations

### Findings

Based on the information obtained through this study, it does not appear that it is feasible at this time to invest in a Bill Monroe state park at the Rosine site. The primary obstacles involved are as follows:

- Ohio County officials do not appear unified in the opinion that the construction of a state park at the Rosine site is the county's highest economic development priority. Other infrastructure projects appear to have a higher priority, as evidenced by the use of the county's 2000 coal severance tax dollars for a water project in Fordsville rather than further development of the Rosine Project.
- If the Rosine Project were to be expanded, state funds would be required not just for the project, but for infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate additional traffic and visitors in the area.
- The proposed expansion of the site into a 1,000-acre working farm under local management appears to be inconsistent with the interests of those bluegrass music fans who would be most likely to visit the site. This concept is also inconsistent with standard statutory, regulatory, and financial considerations that govern the management of state parks.
- Kentucky's state parks and historic sites are struggling financially, with only Cumberland Falls showing a profit for fiscal year 2002-03. State officials have indicated the top priority for available funds is for the maintenance and necessary upgrades to preserve investments in existing parks. It appears unwise to invest more state dollars in a project that has already experienced difficulty when established parks that offer more desirable amenities are losing money.
- The development of the Rosine Project to date has been hampered by contention on the local level, lack of accountability for expenditures of the \$800,000 previously allocated to the project, and litigation that is ongoing. It appears that the lack of clearly defined objectives and unity of the parties involved have posed serious problems in the development of the Rosine Project.

## Recommendations

**Local officials need to present a unified effort to develop the Rosine Project, with consistent, common goals, financial accountability, and clear lines of authority and communication. State officials should exercise fully their oversight responsibilities to ensure the degree of accountability required by statute and administrative regulations.**

Based on the findings of this study, it appears that the Rosine Project was hampered by multiple entities working without a consistent plan of action and without clearly defined lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability. The litigation resulting from Phase I of the project is indicative of a lack of clear communication and documentation, as vendors were sometimes employed outside the proper procurement requirements set by statute and administrative regulation. In addition, project goals were revised on the local level and became inconsistent with the original proposal. Further, the state agency responsible for the disposition of funds appears to have released funds upon request, despite the fact that quarterly reports required by the Memorandum of Agreement were not filed.

If there is a continued desire to develop the Rosine Project into a state park or some other type of attraction such as a working farm, leaders on the local level need to act in unity with clearly defined goals and business plans, specific lines of authority, and cooperation with officials on the state level. At the same time, state officials have a clear responsibility to require the degree of accountability expressed by statute in any agreement that may be executed by the parties in the future.

**Local officials should come to a unified, formal decision regarding the vision of an expanded Rosine Project. In that process, local officials should decide whether that vision can be consistent with the guidelines of Kentucky's state park system and its form of management. In addition, state officials should weigh the benefits of devoting a portion of limited funds to further development of this project against the benefits of improving the financial performance of existing state parks.**

Local officials need to determine if their vision of a Bill Monroe state park is consistent with the management system required of a Kentucky state park facility. Some local officials have exhibited a reluctance to relinquish such control to the state because of the fear that state control would be inconsistent with local goals.

On the financial side, data in Appendix A indicate that Kentucky's state parks have shown considerable financial losses in recent years. State officials have expressed interest in mounting a concerted effort to improve the parks' financial picture, which will likely involve a substantial investment for preservation and enhancement of existing park facilities. Given the Commonwealth's current budget constraints, the Department of Parks will need to weigh the benefits of revitalizing existing parks against using limited available funding for a new project that has encountered significant obstacles. In addition

to capital investment, engaging in a viable effort to develop the Rosine Project into a state park facility also will require a concerted effort by state and local authorities to market the Monroe home place as an attractive tourist destination.

**The Commerce Cabinet should develop a statewide plan for drawing on Kentucky's rich musical heritage to guide future investments designed to spur music-related tourism.**

Figures obtained from the Commerce Cabinet indicate that the tourism industry is thriving in Kentucky. In addition to the natural beauty and recreational facilities available, the Commonwealth enjoys a rich musical heritage, not just in bluegrass music, but in other genres as well. State officials should consider utilizing that musical heritage as a tool to enhance tourist interests across the state. Given the interest in bluegrass and other music festivals, one option could be to incorporate such events into the programming offerings at state parks. The benefits of this could be two-fold: to enhance tourist exposure to the state parks, thereby increasing revenues; and to provide expanded opportunities for music fans to engage in traditional music-related activities, thereby preserving Kentucky's musical heritage.



## Works Cited

Autry, Kenneth. Personal interview by telephone. July 22, 2003.

Bill Monroe Foundation. <[www.billmonroefoundation.com](http://www.billmonroefoundation.com)>.

Bluegrass Crossings Business Centre. Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation. <<http://www.owensboro.com/bluegrasscrossings>> (accessed March 22, 2004).

Center for Appalachian Studies and Services. East Tennessee State University. "Concert to benefit ETSU Bluegrass Band tour of Japan." April 23, 2001. <[www.etsu.edu/news/20010119.htm](http://www.etsu.edu/news/20010119.htm)> (accessed June 4, 2004).

Cooper, Dudley. Correspondence to David Lovelace. Feb. 11, 1999.

Country Music Television, Inc. "Nashville Skyline: Can Bluegrass Turn Green? (Greenbacks, That Is)." Chet Flippo. July 20, 2002. <<http://www.cmt.com/artists/news>> (accessed March 13, 2004).

Erlewine, Michael, ed., Vladimir Bogdanov, Chris Woodstraw, and Stephen Thomas Erlewine. *All Music Guide to Country*. San Francisco: Miller Freeman Books, 1997.

International Bluegrass Music Association. "Industry Information." <<http://ibma.org/about.bluegrass/industry.info/index.asp>> (accessed Feb. 20, 2004).

---. "Tim O'Brien Appointed IBMA President." Jan/Feb 2003. <[www.ibma.org/about.ibma/archive](http://www.ibma.org/about.ibma/archive)> (accessed March 13, 2004).

---. "2003 Survey Shows Rise in Bluegrass Popularity." Jan/Feb 2004. <<http://ibma.org/about.ibma/current.articles/survey.asp>> (accessed Feb. 20, 2004).

International Bluegrass Music Museum. "'O Brother' soundtrack helped put bluegrass on center stage." Roger McBain. Courier & Press. April 7, 2002. <<http://www.bluegrass-museum.org/newsarchives/obrothersoundtrack.html>> (accessed June 4, 2004).

Jackson, Sam. Personal interview by telephone. July 22, 2003.

Kentucky State Data Center. University of Louisville. Fax to author. March 15, 2004.

Kentucky Travel Guide 2004. Editorial Services Company. Louisville. <<http://www.kytravel.com/ktg15.html>> (accessed April 4, 2004).

Leatherwood, Inc. v. Bill Monroe Found., No. 03-CI-00010 (Ky. Cir. Ohio County filed Jan. 9, 2003).

Mercer v. Ohio County Indus. Found. Inc., No. 03-CI-00295 (Ky. Cir. Ohio County filed Sept. 19, 2003; answer and counterclaim filed Oct. 15, 2003).

"MerleFest 2003: Economic Impact Report." June 27, 2003. <<http://merlefest.org>> (accessed March 17, 2004).

Monroe v. Bill Monroe/Bluegrass Music Found. of Ky., Inc., No. 02-3792-1 (Tenn. Ch. Davidson County filed Dec. 17, 2002).

“Ohio County Agricultural Development Council County Comprehensive Development Plan.” University of Kentucky Agricultural Programs–Agricultural Development Councils. June 30, 2003. <<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture>> (accessed March 13, 2004).

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer. “Monroe Plan Might Be Too Bold.” Editorial. April 17, 2001.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. “Music/Cover Story: O Brother, What Now?” John Hayes. Aug. 16, 2002. <<http://www.post-gazette.com>> (accessed March 13, 2004).

Ron’s Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance, Inc. v. Bill Monroe/Bluegrass Music Found., No. 02-CI-00397 (Ky. Cir. Ohio County Aug. 19, 2003).

State of Kentucky. Department of Parks. “Net Income Summary for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2003.”

---. Legislative Research Commission. “Bill Monroe Bluegrass Music Museum Feasibility Study.” Research Report No. 239. LRC: 1988.

---. Tourism Development Cabinet. “Bill Monroe Museum Memorandum of Understanding.” Aug. 18, 1999; and as amended Aug, 2001.

---. ---. “2002 State Tourism Economy Tops \$9.1 billion.” News release. Somerset, KY. May 5, 2003.

---. ---. “Kentucky’s Tourism and Travel Industry Expenditures, 2001 and 2002” and “2002 and 2003”; and “Tax Revenue and Wages Generated by Kentucky’s Tourism and Travel Industry, 2001 and 2002” and “2002 and 2003”.

United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program. <<http://bls.gov/lau/home.htm>> (accessed Feb. 24, 2004).

---. Bureau of the Census. “State and County QuickFacts.” <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21/21183.html>> (accessed Feb. 18, 2004).

---. ---. “Population Estimates Program. Feb. 23, 2004. <<http://eire.census.gov.popest/estimates.php>> (accessed Feb. 24, 2004).

---. National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places. <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr.index.htm>> (accessed June 6, 2004).

Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. “2003 Kentucky State Profile.” Washington, DC: January 2003.

**Appendix A**  
**Kentucky State Parks**  
**Locations, Amenities, and Financial Status**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>John James Audubon State Park</b>	Located on U.S. Highway 41 North outside of Henderson	Museum and nature center, meeting facilities, six cottages, 69-site campground, nine-hole golf course, 28-acre lake, five miles of hiking trails, four picnic shelters	(\$610,464)
<b>Barren River Lake State Resort Park</b>	10,000-acre lake located near the Mammoth Cave National Park area	Lodge with 51 rooms, 22 cottages, 99-site campground with utilities, 146-seat dining room, marina, fishing, pool, public beach, 18-hole golf course, nature trails, horse stables, athletic recreation areas, picnic areas, playgrounds	(\$566,459)
<b>Ben Hawes State Park</b>	300-acre park located four miles west of Owensboro off U.S. 60; 26 miles west of John James Audubon	Golf, hiking, archery range, softball and basketball, picnic shelter and playground	(\$248,528)
<b>Big Bone Lick State Park</b>	Over 100 acres located 22 miles southwest of Covington on KY 338; 40 miles northeast of General Butler State Park on U.S. 42	Museum; buffalo herd; 62 campsites with utility hookups and grills; swimming; 7.5-acre fishing lake; 3.5 miles of hiking trails; miniature golf; tennis; volleyball; basketball; horseshoes; 40 acres of picnic grounds with tables, grills, playground, and shelters	(\$314,818)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park</b>	Located 48 miles northeast of Lexington on U.S. 68 near Mount Olivet	Lodge with 32 rooms, 130-seat dining room, 122-seat dining room, cottages, 51-site campground with utilities, museum, gift shop, pool, nature preserve and trails, miniature golf, picnic facilities	(\$462,939)
<b>Boone Station Historic Site</b>	46 acres located off I-75 at exit 104 south of Lexington	Not staffed, picnic areas, established by Daniel Boone and burial site of Boone's brother Samuel	(\$12,226)
<b>Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park</b>	Located minutes from the Daniel Boone Parkway in the Daniel Boone National Forest	Lodge with 36 rooms, cottages, 210-seat dining room, marina, fishing, pool, public beach, athletic facilities, miniature golf, hiking trails	(\$790,882)
<b>Carr Creek State Park</b>	Located 15 miles southeast of Hazard on KY 15	39-site campground with utility hookups, full-service marina, snack bar, boat rentals, 750-acre lake	(\$152,994)
<b>Carter Caves State Resort Park</b>	Located near Olive Hill in Carter County	More than 20 caves for exploration, lodge with 28 rooms cottages, 89-site campsite with utilities, 96-seat dining room, cave tours, 9-hole golf course, miniature golf, 45-acre Smokey Valley Lake, boating, fishing, pool, horse stable, tennis courts, picnic and playground facilities, horse trail	(\$802,012)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Columbus-Belmont State Park</b>	156-acre site located 36 miles southwest of Paducah on KY 58 and KY 123/80: Kenlake is 63 miles east; Ky. Dam Village is 62 miles northeast	Significant site in Civil War: meeting facilities, 38 camp sites with utility hookups and grills, miniature golf, Civil War exhibits	(\$210,719)
<b>Constitution Square State Historic Site</b>	Located in Danville, 35 miles southwest of Lexington	Site of Kentucky's first seat of government, replica of the courthouse that was the site of 10 constitutional conventions that led to statehood: picnic grounds	(\$124,564)
<b>Cumberland Falls State Resort Park</b>	Located 20 miles southwest of Corbin	60-foot waterfall, lodge with 52 rooms, cottages, 50 campsites with utilities, 300-seat dining room, gift shop, snack shop, visitor's center, museum, 17 miles of hiking trails, fishing, recreation area, swimming, white water rafting, horse stables, picnic areas	<b><i>\$102,463</i></b>
<b>Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park</b>	28,000-acre lake at the edge of 3,400 acres of wilderness near Burkesville	Lodge with 60 rooms, 144-site campground with utilities, pool, 150-seat dining room, conference center, 18-hole golf course, marina, fishing, scuba diving, 15 miles of nature trails, picnic and playground facilities	(\$814,688)
<b>Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site</b>	12-acre site located five miles southwest of Barbourville on KY 459	Walker preceded Daniel Boone's expedition by 17 years: staffed tours of house and grounds; miniature golf; basketball; two picnic shelters, one containing restroom facilities	(\$105,544)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park</b>	369-acre site on the outskirts of Louisville	Activities center, swimming pool and bathhouse, fitness and nature trails, soccer and softball fields, tennis courts, BMX track, picnic area, shelter, playgrounds	(\$471,928)
<b>Fort Boonesborough State Park</b>	Located near Richmond: White Hall State Historic Site is 6 miles northwest; Natural Bridge State Resort Park is 48 miles southwest	A reconstructed working fort: 167-site campground with utilities, primitive campsites, meeting rooms, fishing on the Kentucky River, miniature golf, pool, three picnic shelters	(\$403,773)
<b>General Burnside Island State Park</b>	430-acre island surrounded by 50,250-acre Lake Cumberland, in Burnside, 8 miles south of Somerset on U.S. 27: Cumberland Falls State Resort Park is 26 miles southeast; Lake Cumberland State Park is 62 miles west	94-site campground with utility hookups, two central service buildings, 18-hole golf course, boating and fishing, pool, picnic facilities	(\$199,493)
<b>General Butler State Resort Park</b>	144 acres located 44 miles northeast of Louisville	Lodge with 53 rooms, 24 cottages, 111 campsites with utilities, 176-seat dining room, conference center, Butler-Turpin Historic House, 9-hole golf course, water sports, 30-acre Butler Lake, swimming pool, nature trails, athletic recreation areas, picnic and playground facilities	(\$478,269)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Grayson Lake State Park</b>	1,512-acre lake located Carter County: Carter Caves State Resort Park is 28 miles northwest; Greenbo Lake is 29 miles northeast	71-site campground with utility hookups, two central service buildings, 18-hole championship golf course, boating, public beach, hiking trail, picnic area, summer drama production	(\$411,599)
<b>Green River Lake State Resort Park</b>	8,200-acre lake located south of Campbellsville on KY 55: Lake Cumberland State Resort Park in Jamestown is 43 miles southeast; Dale Hollow Lake is 57 miles south	156-site campground, two central service buildings, boating, fishing, swimming 20-mile hiking trail, miniature golf, basketball and volleyball, picnic facilities, playgrounds	(\$77,066)
<b>Greenbo Lake State Resort Park</b>	225-acre lake located in Greenup County	Lodge with 36 rooms, gift shop, 63-site campground with utilities, swimming, 232-seat dining room, meeting rooms, boating, fishing, 25 miles of hiking trails, miniature golf, athletic facilities, bicycle rentals, picnic and playground areas	(\$897,358)
<b>Jefferson Davis Monument State Historic Site</b>	19-acre park located 9 miles east of Hopkinsville on U.S. 68: Pennyriple Forest State Resort Park is 34 miles northwest; Lake Barkley is 39 miles west	Memorial monument, visitors center, picnic facilities, playground	(\$106,516)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Jenny Wiley State Resort Park</b>	Mountain resort with 1,100-acre Dewey Lake located in Prestonsburg	49-room lodge, gift shop, cottages, 117-site campground with utilities, 224-seat dining room, meeting facilities, conference center, summer musicals, boating, fishing, swimming, 9-hole golf course, 10 miles of hiking trails, picnic and playground facilities	(\$761,071)
<b>Kenlake State Resort Park</b>	170,000-acre resort located on the midwest shore of Kentucky Lake 40 miles southeast of Paducah	48-room hotel, cottages, 90-site campground with utilities, 182-seat dining room, meeting facilities, marina, fishing, swimming, 9-hole golf course, tennis center, two nature trails, picnic and playground facilities	(\$837,227)
<b>Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park</b>	Located 21 miles southeast of Paducah	72-room lodge, 14-room inn, 68 cottages, 221-site campground (paved) with utilities, 346-seat dining room, convention center, meeting rooms, marina, fishing, swimming, 18-hole golf course, horseback riding, tennis, picnic and playground facilities	(\$19,338)
<b>Kincaid Lake State Park</b>	183-acre lake located 48 miles southeast of Covington; Blue Licks Battlefield is 45 miles southeast; Waveland State Historic Site is 61 miles southwest	300-seat amphitheater, 84-site campground with utility hookups, multi-purpose building, boating, fishing, miniature golf, pool, hiking trails, athletic courts complex, picnic facilities, playground area	(\$220,532)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Kingdom Come State Park</b>	1,283-acre park located 65 miles northeast of Middlesboro: Carr Creek State Park is 45 miles northeast; Pine Mountain is 60 miles southwest	14 hiking trails, 38-mile trail, amphitheater, primitive camping, fishing in a 3.5-acre mountain lake, boating, picnic shelters	(\$251,709)
<b>Lake Barkley State Resort Park</b>	57,920-acre lake located in Cadiz, 29 miles west of Hopkinsville	Lodge with 120 rooms and four suites, 10-room lodge with 1 suite, 9 cottages, 78-site campground with utilities, 331-seat dining room, convention center and meeting rooms, fitness center, boating, fishing, swimming, 18-hole golf course, tennis, trap range, hiking	(\$385,648)
<b>Lake Cumberland State Resort Park</b>	63,000-acre lake with 1,255 miles of wooded shoreline located 45 miles west of Somerset	Lodge with 63 rooms, lodge with 10 rooms and 3 suites, cottages, 147-site campground with utilities, meeting facilities, marina, fishing, boating, pools, nine-hole par-three golf course, miniature golf, hiking trails, riding stables, athletic recreation areas	(\$79,849)
<b>Lake Malone State Park</b>	338-acres located 22 miles south of Central City in Muhlenberg County	788-acre lake offers boating, fishing, more than 100 primitive camp sites, 20 sites equipped with utilities, central service building, hiking, picnic facilities, playground	(\$245,071)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park</b>	800-acre site located south of London, off I-75 at exit 38, on U.S. 25 South: Cumberland Falls is 35 miles southwest; Walker State Historic Site is 41 miles southeast	Defeated Camp Pioneer Burial Ground, McHargue's Mill, museum, 146-site campground with utility hookups, three central service buildings, swimming, hiking, miniature golf, amphitheater, athletic recreation areas, picnic facilities	(\$276,619)
<b>Lincoln Homestead State Park</b>	Located 5 miles north of Springfield; acreage not available	Site of several historic cabins replicated from those once homes to Lincoln family members: 18-hole golf course, gift shop, picnic shelter, playground	(\$41,842)
<b>Mineral Mound State Park</b>	541-acre site located on the shores of Lake Barkley	Once the home of Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald's grandfather: picnic area, boating and fishing, hiking, 18-hole golf course	(\$156,466)
<b>My Old Kentucky Home State Park</b>	285-acre site located in Bardstown on U.S. 150	Site of the Federal Hill Mansion that inspired Stephen Foster to write "My Old Kentucky Home": visitor's center, 39-site campground with utility hookups, golf course, picnic areas, production in outdoor theater "Stephen Foster: The Musical"	(\$73,438)
<b>Natural Bridge State Resort Park</b>	Located in the Daniel Boone National Forest near the Red River Gorge geological area in Slade	35-room lodge, gift shop, cottages, 82-site campground with utilities, 12 primitive campsites, 175-seat dining room, meeting facilities, pools, sky lift, trails, naturalist programs, pedal boats and hydrobikes, miniature golf, picnic and playground facilities	(\$667,248)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Nolin Lake State Park</b>	333-acre park adjoins 5,795-acre Nolin Lake near the northern edge of Mammoth Cave National Park	32 campsites with utilities, 20 primitive sites, central restroom, shower, laundry facilities, beach, picnic areas, fishing	(\$90,768)
<b>Old Fort Harrod State Park</b>	32 miles southwest of Lexington on U.S. 68 in Harrodsburg	Replica of original fort: living history exhibits, mansion museum, pioneer cemetery, Lincoln marriage temple, federal monument museum store, picnic area, playground	(\$203,375)
<b>Old Mulkey Meeting House State Historic Site</b>	60-acre site 25 miles south of the Edmonton Exit on the Cumberland Parkway in Tompkinsville	The oldest log meeting house in Kentucky: gift shop, picnic area	(\$81,502)
<b>Paintsville Lake State Park</b>	1,140-acre lake located in Staffordsville; Jenny Wiley State Park is less than 15 miles away	Full-service marina, skiing, fishing, 32-site RV campground with utilities, 10 primitive campsites, playgrounds, sports facilities	(\$87,028)
<b>Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park</b>	Located 20 miles northwest of Hopkinsville on KY 109	24-room lodge, 68-site campground with utilities, meeting facilities, 18-hole golf course, miniature golf, boating, fishing, swimming, nature trails, athletic courts	(\$931,209)
<b>Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site</b>	Located 45 miles southwest of Lexington on U.S. 150	Significant site in Civil War: gift shop, monuments honoring both Union and Confederate soldiers, walking tours, picnic shelter, playground	(\$209,223)
<b>Pine Mountain State Resort Park</b>	Located one mile south of Pineville on U.S. 25E	30-room lodge, gift shop, cottages, 216-seat dining room, meeting facilities, Ray Harm collection, golf course, miniature golf, hiking trails, swimming, naturalist programs, picnic areas	(\$706,070)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size and Location</b>	<b>Amenities (All employ staff unless otherwise indicated.)</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Income Or (Loss)</b>
<b>Rough River Dam State Resort Park</b>	Resort overlooking a 4,860-acre lake located at Falls of Rough	40-room lodge, gift shop, cottages, 66-site campground, 167-seat dining room, meeting facilities, marina, fishing, swimming, golf course, miniature golf, nature trails, recreation courts, picnic and playground facilities	(\$606,880)
<b>Taylorsville Lake State Park</b>	3,030-acre lake with 1,200 acres of trails located on KY 44 in Taylorsville	45-site RV campground, 10 sites set up for horse camping, 16-mile trail system, boating, fishing	(\$168,635)
<b>Waveland State Historic Site</b>	Located 6 miles south of Main Street in Lexington	Tours of Greek Revival mansion and outbuildings, picnic tables, playground	(\$176,349)
<b>White Hall State Historic Site</b>	Located in Richmond off I-75 at exit 95: Fort Boonesborough is 6 miles east; Waveland is 38 miles northwest	Tours of the home of Cassius Clay, gift shop, ghost walks in October	(\$193,062)
<b>William Whitley House State Historic Shrine</b>	Located 10 miles south of Stanford	First brick house in Kentucky and nation's first circular racetrack: house tours, gift shop, picnic areas	(\$110,062)
<b>Yatesville Lake State Park</b>	2,300-acre mountain reservoir located near Louisa	Marina, fishing, hiking trails, 18-hole golf course, 47-site campground, public beach, picnic facilities	(\$203,477)
<b>TOTAL PROFIT / (LOSS)</b>			<b>(\$15,944,074)</b>

Source: LRC staff analysis of information obtained from Department of Parks.