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Federal Money for Parks Will Go Begging in N. C.

By ROY PARKER JR.

Chief Capitol Correspondent

The federal government has significantly boosted matching money for state parks, but North Carolina won't be able to take full advantage of the Washington largess.

North Carolina has been allocated \$4.8 million from the federal Land and Water

Conservation Fund for the 1971-72 fiscal year, an increase of \$2.7 million over the previous fiscal year, the Interior Department announced.

As much as \$2.9 million of that would be available for 50-50 matching with the state government for acquiring parklands and developing new parks.

But North Carolina has only \$300,000 available for the next two years.

"That kind of locks us in," said State Parks Superintendent Tom Ellis.

The tight money situation is an old story with Ellis. The state, he pointed out, spent as much in 1949 for parkland acquisition as it will spend in the 1971-73 government biennium.

In the meantime, the environmental revolution has erupted and a study commission has laid out a park expansion program for the state that would add nearly 60,000 acres to the existing 32,000 in parks operated by the State Parks Division of the new Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

To begin the program, the agency sought \$12 million from the 1971 General Assembly.

But the figure was shaved to \$1 million, of which \$200,000 was earmarked for state aid in acquiring parkland in the Great Dismal Swamp, a project just getting underway.

Ellis said that the parks division was generally following the outline of the 1969 study, "North Carolina State Parks for the Future," which called for 10 new parks and estimated current land costs at \$30 million.

By 1979, the study estimated, the same amount of park land would cost over \$52 million.

Most of the \$300,000 appropriated for 1971-73 is being spent for improvements at existing parks and limited land acquisition at two new areas — Pilot Mountain in Surry County and Raven Rock in Harnett.

The News and Observer, Tuesday, June 15, 1971

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Photo by Roy Hardee

rded autos lining
portant part of a
y the beach's only

permanent residents, Sally and Les Moore. The Moores' idea is that the cars will catch windswept sand and pile it into a dune to slow beach erosion.

The News and Observer, Friday, February 12, 1971

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Tar Heel Beaches Hold 'Riches' of Golden Sand