

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STATE PARK

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

April 2022

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Located in western Taney County, on the north fringe of Branson's city limits, Shepherd of the Hills State Park encompasses dolomite glade covered knobs, savanna and woodland landscapes, springs, and streams. Native vegetation including prairie grasses, sedges, and forbs dominate the rolling landscape. Mature post oaks provide a contemporary oak savanna community, while woodlands and contemporary forests occupy the narrow sides of tributary hollows, with riverbank forests lining major creeks. Visitors to the park will experience the magnificence of the Ozarks in the dolomite glades and bald knobs ascending from the Roark Creek valley.

The property for Shepherd of the Hills State Park was purchased by the State of Missouri, acting on behalf of the public as Trustee for natural resources, in October, 2016. Natural resource damage funds, for the acquisition of the property, were the result of monetary damages recovered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR). Originally named Ozark Mountain State Park, the facility was renamed Shepherd of the Hills State Park in May of 2022, denoting the American novel's historic influence throughout the region.

Through the Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan, MoDNR seeks to implement restoration projects that directly benefit, restore and/or preserve groundwater resources through the acquisition and protection of groundwater recharge areas, including those containing direct conduits to groundwater such as those found in karst systems. Shepherd of the Hills State Park is a natural resource compensatory acquisition made through the Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan, the purpose for which is to restore, rehabilitate and preserve the 1,011-acre watershed for the benefit of surface and groundwater flow into the waters of Roark Creek.

Roark Creek is a Class "C" stream that ceases flow in dry periods and maintains permanent pools that support aquatic life. Its headwaters consolidate and fall steeply off the Springfield Plateau into Roark Creek's east and west forks, converging within Shepherd of the Hills State Park, seven stream miles above Lake Taneycomo. Over two miles of upper Roark Creek, including the lower reaches of its East and West forks, flow within Shepherd of the Hills. Their rocky channels wind far below Branson's mountainous skyline of rugged hills and grassy "bald knobs", encased within the thick dolomite bedrock that geologically distinguishes the White River region. Those same bedrock layers, spanning nearly the entire park and most of the surrounding countryside, are the reason that prairie-like glades and dry savanna-like woodlands persist as the park's dominate natural vegetation. This extent of glades across a regional landscape is unique within Missouri, and Shepherd of the Hills State Park sits at its core.

People have been drawn to the waters of Roark Creek for centuries, with human occupation of the area dating minimally to 6,000 B.C. Taney County was once settled by homesteaders that

migrated to the area from 1873 to 1910. One homesteader, Joel Garber, received a land patent in 1895 near Roark Creek. Garber, a preacher, quickly became a leader within the Roark Creek settlement. In 1895, the Garber Post Office was established with Joel Garber serving as postmaster until 1901. William Fronabarger, a homesteader, resumed the role as postmaster, operated one of the first stores in town, and donated land for the community's schoolhouse, which exists within the park's boundaries today. The school was operational in January 1903 and was recognized as the Fronabarger School District until at least 1907, after which it became known as the Garber Schoolhouse. Over the years, the town of Garber moved three times before coming to its final location in 1904, outside of the park's boundaries. In 1905, the nearby railroad was completed, leading to a slow growth in the community. Agricultural exports from the community included fruit, alfalfa, potatoes, corn, wheat, oats, timber, goats, cattle, pigs, and chickens.

The town of Garber and Roark Valley was referenced in the popular 1907 American novel "*The Shepherd of the Hills*" by Harold Bell Wright. The novel exemplified the life, culture, and landscape of the Ozark Mountains in the early 1900s. Thanks to J.K. Ross, known as "Old Matt" in *The Shepherd of the Hills*, life within the town and much of the state park boundaries were well documented between 1905 and 1919.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Shepherd of the Hills State Park is to provide natural resource stewardship that preserves and restores native glades and woodlands; protects the aquatic diversity and water quality of Roark Creek and its groundwater recharge areas; protects cultural resources; and provides outdoor recreation and interpretation opportunities that will enable the appreciation of the natural and cultural resources provided by the area.

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
STATE PARK**

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

April 2022

APPROVED BY:

David Kelly
Director, Missouri State Parks

Date

04/15/2022

Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

Date

04/19/2022

Justin Adams
Regional Director, Ozark Region

Date

4/19/2022

Carl Bonnell
Deputy Regional Director, Ozark Region

Date

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STATE PARK

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

April 2022

Location: Taney County
Established: 2016
Size: 1,011.00 Acres

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Shepherd of the Hills State Park is to provide natural resource stewardship that preserves and restores native glades and woodlands; protects the aquatic diversity and water quality of Roark Creek and its groundwater recharge areas; protects cultural resources; and provides outdoor recreation and interpretation opportunities that will enable the appreciation of the natural and cultural resources provided by the area.

INTRODUCTION

Located in western Taney County, on the north fringe of Branson’s city limits, Shepherd of the Hills State Park encompasses dolomite glade covered knobs, savanna and woodland landscapes, springs, and streams. Native vegetation including prairie grasses, sedges, and forbs dominate the rolling landscape. Mature post oaks provide a contemporary oak savanna community, while woodlands and contemporary forests occupy the narrow sides of tributary hollows, with riverbank forests lining major creeks. Visitors to the park will experience the magnificence of the Ozarks in the dolomite glades and bald knobs ascending from the Roark Creek valley.

Cultural resources extant at Shepherd of the Hills State Park include artifacts dating minimally to 6,000 B.C. In addition, evidence of homesteading from as early as the 1870s remains intact and present within the park’s boundaries, most notably the ca. 1903 Garber Schoolhouse. The long-gone community of Garber and the Roark Valley was referenced in the popular 1907 American novel “*The Shepherd of the Hills*” by Harold Bell Wright; depicting the life, culture, and landscape of the Ozark Mountains in the early 1900s.

The property for Shepherd of the Hills State Park was purchased by the State of Missouri, acting on behalf of the public as Trustee for natural resources, in October of 2016. Natural resource damage funds, for the acquisition of the property, were the result of monetary damages recovered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR). Originally named Ozark Mountain State Park, the facility was renamed Shepherd of the Hills State Park in May of 2022, denoting the American novel’s historic influence throughout the region.

SITE GOALS

- Preserve the natural and cultural resources located within the park’s boundaries;
- Provide recreational opportunities and public use facilities compatible with the park’s mission, resources, and public needs;
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience; and
- Provide administrative support facilities to ensure successful operation and maintenance of the park.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- Native landscape and wildlife of the Roark Creek valley;
- Pre-European/Native-American history and activity in the area;
- 19th/20th century homesteaders history and activity;
- Harold Bell Wright’s 1907 American novel “*The Shepherd of the Hills*”; and
- Natural features and ecosystems of the Ozark Mountains.

SITE STRUCTURES

Shepherd of the Hills State Park encompasses twenty-one structures, at least one of which may have some historical significance*. None of the structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and a fuller assessment of their potential eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP still needs to be completed.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Residence (ca. 1924) | 12. Poultry Shed |
| 2. Smoke House (ca. 1922) | 13. Small Stone Building |
| 3. Pedestrian Footbridge | 14. Work Shed |
| 4. Shelter | 15. Open-sided Shelter/Shed |
| 5. Open-sided Shelter/Shed | 16. Small Open Shed |
| 6. Shed/Barn | 17. Long Open-sided Shed |
| 7. Log Barn | 18. Large Open-sided Shed with lean-to roof |
| 8. Chicken Shed | 19. Garber School House (ca. 1903)* |
| 9. Root Cellar | 20. Log Cabin |
| 10. Equestrian Barn | 21. Outhouse |
| 11. Traditional Barn with Gambrel roof | |

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Shepherd of the Hills State Park’s development philosophy should coincide harmoniously with the restoration and preservation of the groundwater recharge areas associated with Roark Creek. Development focus should be put towards enhancing accessibility and ensuring adequate recreational opportunities, while preserving the cultural landscape. Moreover, interpretation of the Ozark Mountains in the early 1900’s should be augmented and complimented by future development.

1. South Day-Use Area

Due to limited public access, a day-use area is best suited for development west of the intersection of Noland Road and Sycamore Church Road, residing north of Noland Road. Potential area amenities include but are not limited to: parking, ADA parking, vault toilet, potable water, picnic tables, and interpretive kiosk.

2. Service Area

The service area will encompass the existing equestrian barn, which will also house the park's office.

3. North Day-Use Area

A second day-use area, accessible by foot-only, is desired west of the Garber School House where the cluster of existing farm structures reside. Potential area amenities include picnic tables and interpretive panels.

4. Basic Camping Area

A basic camping area is preferred on the knob south of Sycamore Church Road, northeast of the fen. Development in the camping area should remain minimal in nature, consisting of walk-in platform tent sites with parking near Sycamore Church Road. Amenities in the camping area may include but are not limited to: fire ring, picnic tables, potable water, and vault toilet.

5. Special-Use Camping Area

Located north of the railroad tracks and Ralstin Road, a primitive special-use camping area is to be developed in the open pasture, providing primitive camping opportunities for appropriate user groups.

6. Hiking-Only Trails

Trail-use should be limited to hiking-only, ensuring the protection and preservation of the vulnerable Roark Creek watershed and dolomite glades; eliminating the likelihood of social trails and land disturbance/erosion across the open landscape; and safeguarding trail-use compatibility with the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area. In addition, multiple backpack overnight sites (basic and/or three-sided structures) may be available for added recreational opportunity.

7. ADA Trail

To provide accessible recreation, ADA trail development should be considered extending from the south day-use area to the fen. Depending on parking location, it may be appropriate for the trail to replace a portion of the existing farm road.

8. Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area Connector Trail

A connector trail to the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area is proposed to enhance recreational opportunity, increasing available trail mileage amongst the two facilities. The Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area consists of approximately 4.5 miles of hiking-only trail, with no camping allowed. The connector trails exact location will be determined in cooperation with MDC and DNR staff.

9. Backpack Overnight Cabin

The log cabin in the northern portion of the park, near the pond, should be rehabilitated for overnight backpack reservations. Continued glade restoration will improve operational access to the structure.

10. Overlook

An overlook is to be developed atop of a bald knob, providing picturesque views of the Ozark Mountain landscape. Overlook amenities may include wayside exhibits and benches. Due to nearby burn units, an overlook platform is not recommended.

11. Footbridge Across Roark Creek

To address public access constraints from the south day-use area to the northern portion of the park, a footbridge should be constructed across Roark Creek. The location should direct the public away from the nearby low-water crossing and structures designated for operations.

12. Structures of Interest

According to a 2016 Structure Inventory and Assessment, approximately twenty one structures are present on site. The following structures should be considered for preservation and/or rehabilitated for their cultural, recreational, interpretive, and/or operational value.

1. Residence
2. Smoke House
3. Pedestrian Footbridge (relocate)
6. Shed/Barn
7. Log Barn
10. Equestrian Barn
19. Garber School House
20. Log Cabin

The remaining structures should be considered for demolition to mitigate public safety risks and operational concerns. However, cultural clearances, research/documentation, and public input will be sought before demolition determinations are confirmed.

Special Consideration

The existing low-water crossing is in serious disrepair with visible signs of scouring and should be replaced. Development will require collaboration amongst multiple stakeholders including Taney County, Missouri Department of Conservation, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

PROJECT PHASING

- Phase 1
 - South day-use area
 - Footbridge over Roark Creek
 - Hiking-only trails
 - Overlook
 - Service area
 - Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area connector trail

- Phase 2
 - North day-use area
 - Special-use camping area
 - ADA trail
 - Hiking-only trail expansion

- Phase 3
 - Basic camping area
 - Backpack overnight cabin
 - Low-water crossing replacement

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS

- Continued documentary research and exploration of cultural and natural resources.
- Completion of the General Management Plan.
- Continued planning for improved public access to northern portion of park.

ACQUISITION UNITS

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Public Input

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process:

- 1. Public Meeting #1, June 27, 2019 – 1:00 pm**
 - a. Shepherd of the Hills, equestrian barn
 - i. Comment card
- 2. Public Meeting (CDP update), October 24, 2019 – 4:00 pm**
 - a. Dewey Short Visitor Center
- 3. Public Meeting #2, November 2, 2021 – 5:30 pm**
 - a. Branson Area Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Public input received November 3, 2021 to December 2, 2021
 - i. Comment card & online survey
- 4. Public Meeting #3, May 4th, 2022 – 11:00 am**
 - a. Shepherd of the Hills, equestrian barn

CDP Team Members:

- David Kelly – Division Director
- Brian Stith – Division Deputy Director
- Laura Hendrickson – Division Deputy Director
- Justin Adams – Ozark Regional Director
- Carl Bonnell – Ozark Region Deputy Director
- Caylen Cantrell – Park Superintendent
- Ken McCarty – Natural Resource Program Director
- Chris Crabtree – Natural Resource Ecologist
- Dr. Mike Ohnersorgen – Cultural Resource Management Program Director
- Kim Dillon – Cultural Resource Management Section Chief
- Rachel Campbell – Archeologist
- Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director
- Don Stier – Design Section Chief
- Ryan Dunwoody – Planning Section Chief
- Jeremey Robinson - Planner
- Rebecca Young – Outdoor Recreation Management Section Chief
- Ben Nagy – Trail Coordinator
- Zane Price – Real Estate Manager
- Alison Dubbert – Interpretive Resource Coordinator

APPENDIX

- CDP Map
- Public Meeting #1 Survey Results
- Public Meeting #2 Survey Results

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CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

April 2022

APPROVED BY:

David Kelly
Director, Missouri State Parks

Date

04/15/2022

Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

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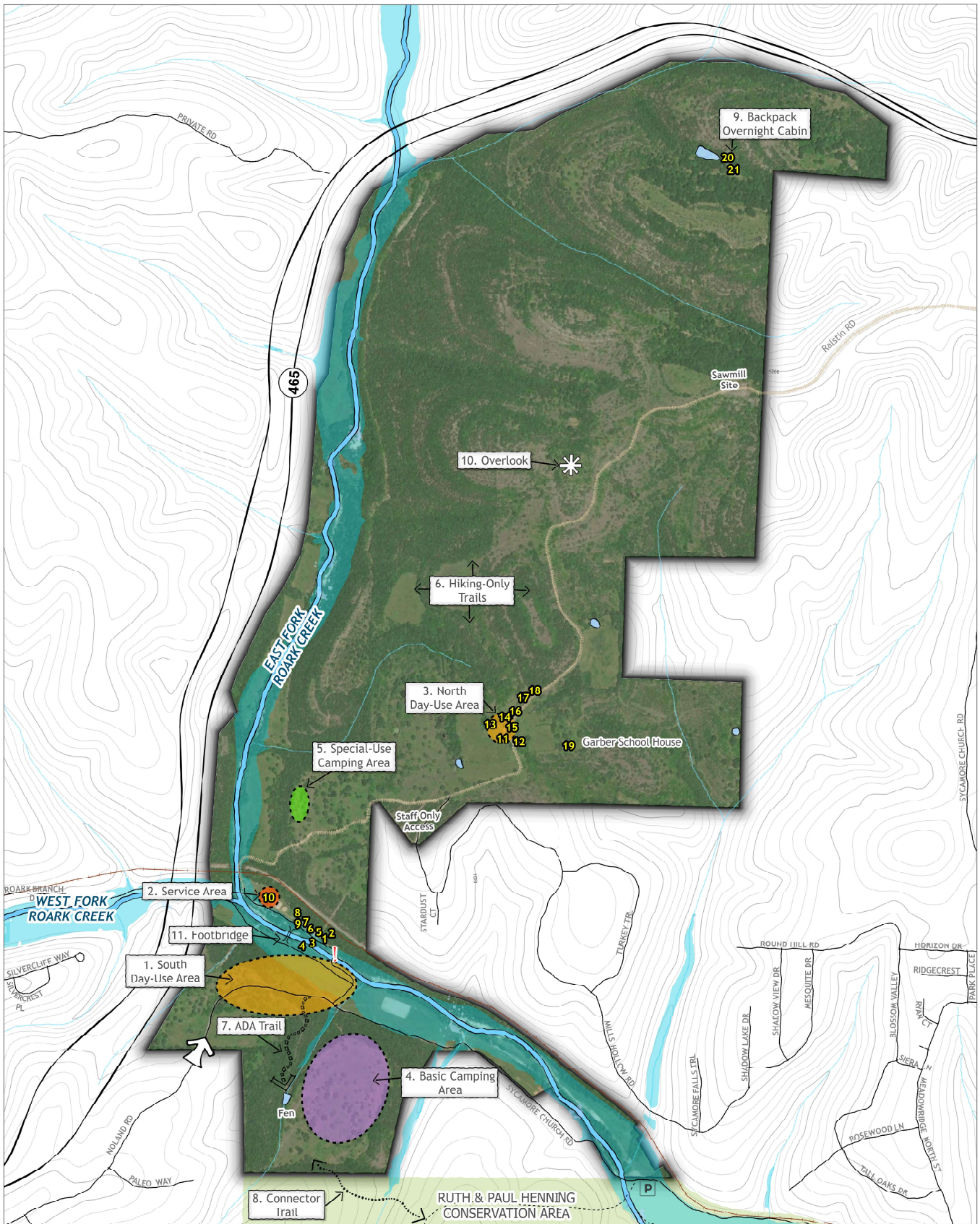
Justin Adams
Regional Director, Ozark Region

Date

4/19/2022

Carl Bonnell
Deputy Regional Director, Ozark Region

Date



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STATE PARK

Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15N
Contour Interval: 20 Feet
Absolute Scale: 1:6,800

CDP: April 2022

NORTH

<p>Use Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Use Area Basic Camping Area Service Area Special-Use Area <p>Landscape & Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roark Creek Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1% Flood Hazard MDC Land Stream Park Entrance Parking Road Ralstin RD MDC Trail Railroad 	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contour Footbridge Cverlook ADA Trail Connector Trail Development Objective Structures Special Consideration
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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

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**Ozark Mountain State Park
CDP Public Meeting #1 Comments
2019**

Comments/suggestions regarding Ozark Mountain State Park:

1. An excellent meeting. Great presentations and excellent feedback from participants.
2. Ozark Mountain State Park
 - a. Like the movement of opening in phases.
 - b. Remain true to the nature and cultural direction you are on for the park/planning.
 - c. Excellent presentation by staff. Chris was very informative.
 - d. Given the parks uniqueness, is there any strong thought to being a “research park”? Or have the strong focus on research/education with passive and limited recreational use? ... And development.
 - e. Like Ben’s example of private partnerships for infrastructure development not just this park but all parks.
3. I am in favor of proceeding with the conceptual plan and then development of plan as manpower and finances are available.
 - a. I am for proceeding with early development of a few trails for use of public as soon as possible.
 - b. Good open meeting of information and allowing Q&A.
4. We are concerned about...
 - i. Road from 76 to here
 - ii. Single cars at trestle from sycamore church to here – widen and upkeep
 - iii. Grounds keeper hired or work campers that exchange camping for work.
 - b. Wants:
 - i. RV camping with full hookups
 - ii. Horse trails
 - iii. Walking trails
 - iv. Biking trails
 - v. ATV trails?
 - c. Benefits:
 - i. Visitors get to use and stay in Missouri nature.
 - ii. Income potential to support the park is high
 - iii. The park would bring income to Branson shows and restaurants
 - iv. I know a couple high visitors and will speak to them.

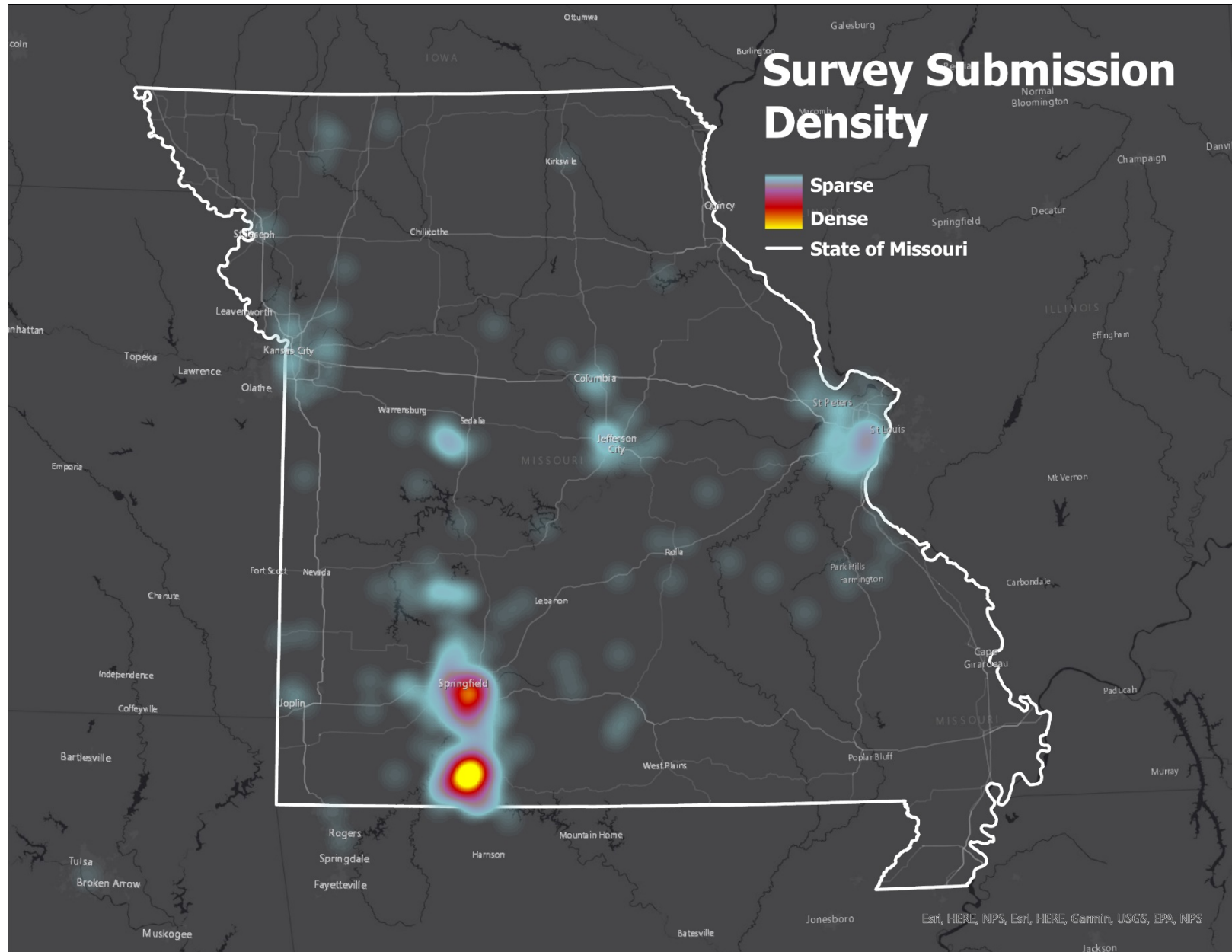


5. Given how many developed campgrounds are in the area I would like to see minimal development at this park. Maybe some primitive campsites and a vault toilet. Keep the rules the same as Henning – no mountain bikes or horses. This glad habitat is too important to protect so we shouldn't risk damaging the natural environment.
6. We would like to see cabins and campsites; horseback trails
7. A plan to burn is great, especially where the cedar is taking over.
 - a. We are hoping the names of some of the parks historical site will keep their original names, such as Willard's Cabin, Onion Gap, Jones Lookout, Garber School House, and Jones Home Site.
8. Love the partnership with the community concept.

Ozark Mountain State Park
CDP Survey #2 Results (2021)

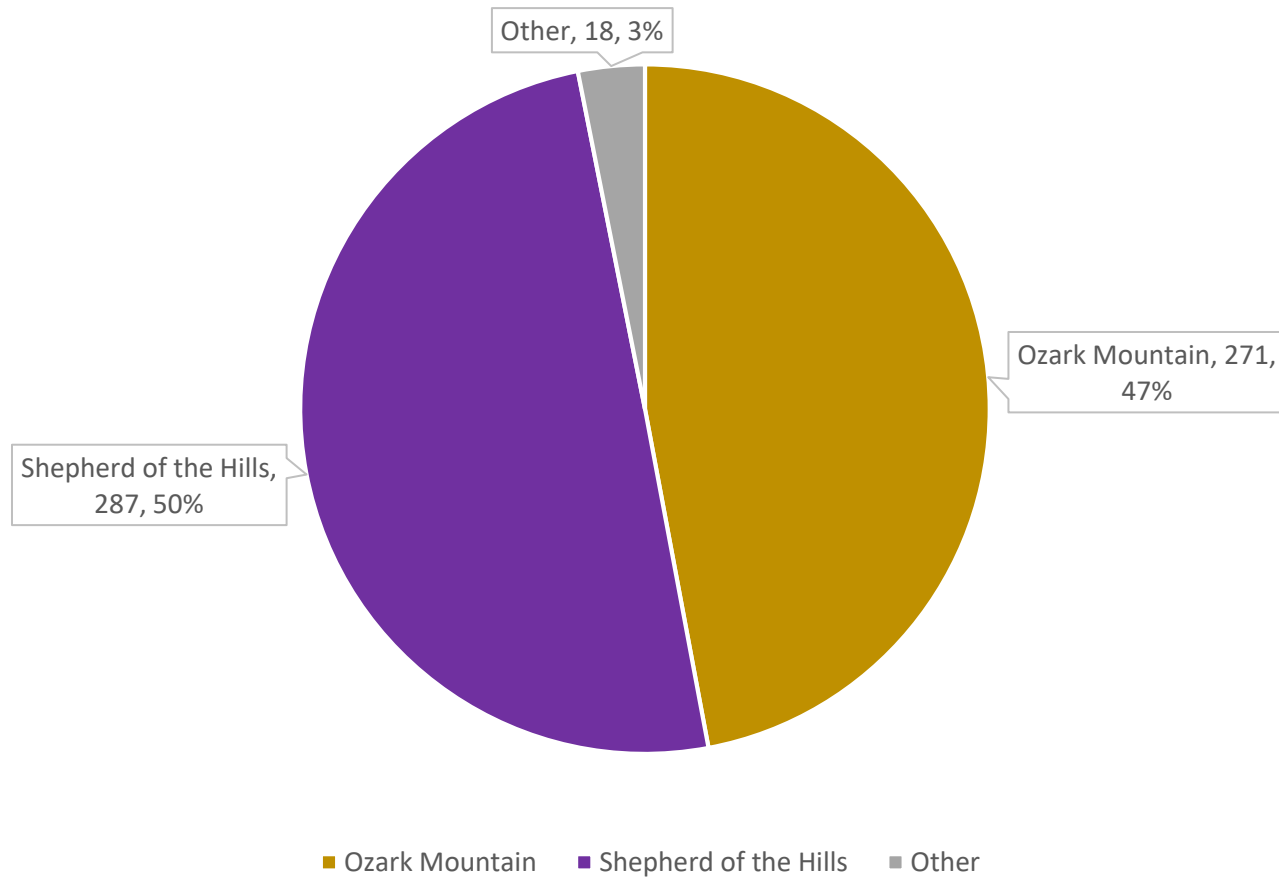


n = 585 (# of respondents)





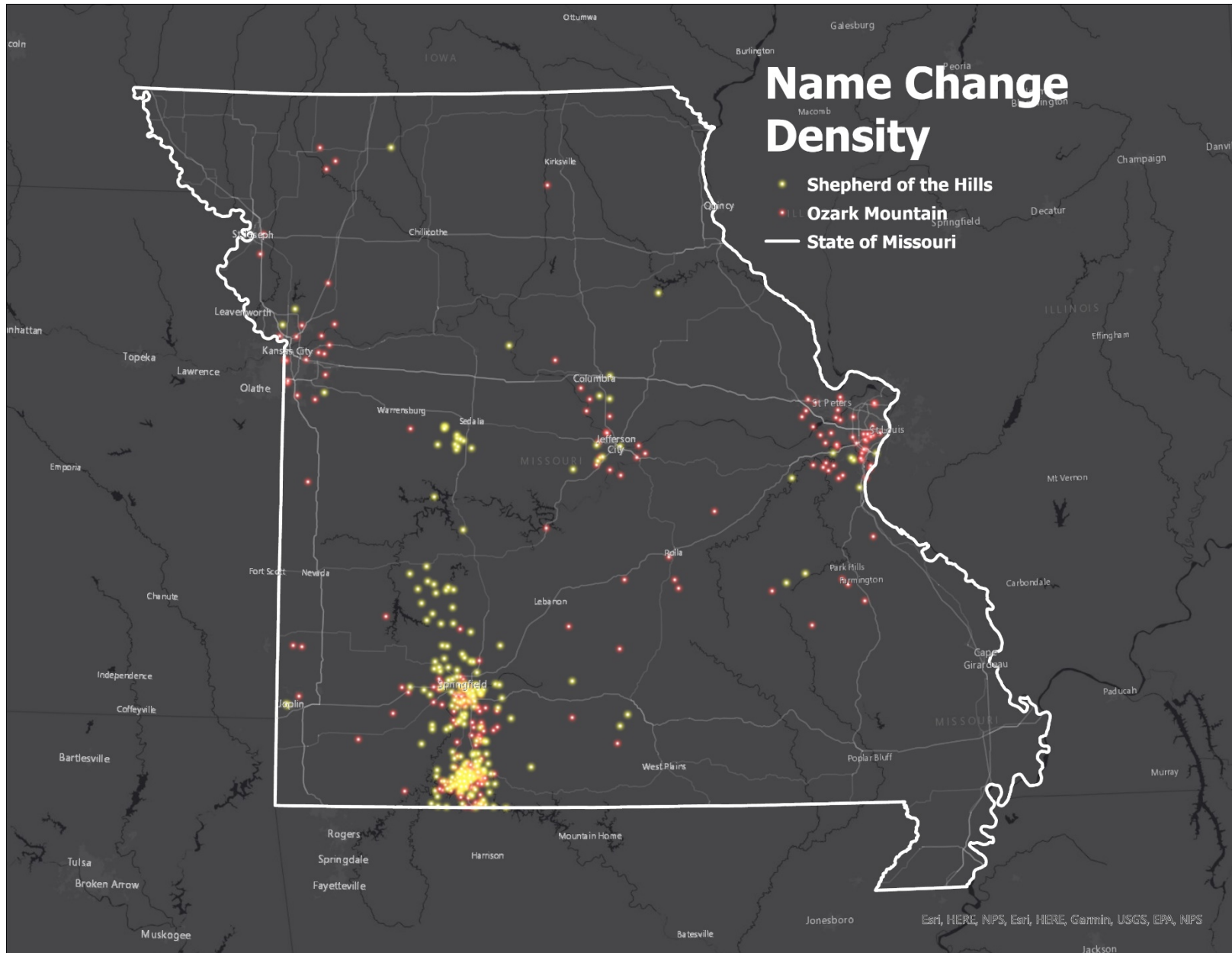
State Park Name Change Survey Results



Ozark Mountain State Park
CDP Survey #2 Results (2021)



n = 585 (# of respondents)



If Other, please enter your suggestion:

1. Garber Township State Park
2. Roark Valley State Park
3. Ozark Glade State Park
4. Roark Creek State Park, Roark Valley State Park, Garber State Park
5. Roark Creek State Park
6. Roark Creek State Park, Garber State Park, White River Hills State Park
7. Roark Creek State Park
8. I don't have a specific name in mind, but state parks could consult with tribes who used to live here.
9. Ozark Highlands State Park
10. Mahomes State Park
11. Roark Creek State Park
12. Roark Creek State Park.
13. Ozark Glades State Park
14. Roark Creek SP, Roark Glade SP, Ozark Highland SP
15. Roark Creek State Park, Garber State Park, White River Hills State Park
16. Roark Creek State Park
17. Roark Creek
18. Shooting star state park
19. Shooting star state park
20. Roark Creek
21. See comments
22. Either one

Park Name Comments:

1. Shepherd of the hills is already overly commercialized in Branson, park needs to retain Ozark Mountain name.
2. Please don't change it. Shepherd of the Hills sounds commercial
3. The name Shepherd of the Hills is a terrible idea. The Shepherd of the Hills is already a commercial venture in Branson. I believe this will cause confusion and an identity issues for both places.
4. Definitely appreciate Shepherd of the Hills name more than OMSP as its more specific to our region...but if Historical context ends up being the driving tool that moves the name change forward... to be more specific historically, Garber is the township where Shepherd of the Hills was written, it was there prior to, and the schoolhouse to be preserved is named Garber Schoolhouse... So even naming it Garber Schoolhouse State Park... All the names are going to work and nothing to get too worried about. The land resource itself is what is important and making sure it is open to many user groups. Thank you for allowing the input.

5. To many other attractions with the name of Shepard of the Hills
6. The Shepherd of the Hills State Park is more to our region, not a vast Ozark Mountain.
7. Ozark Mountains is a broad term and covers multiple states so not specific to the area. This is shepherd of the hills country.
8. I prefer to have the name of a park be a feature of the park rather than a random book/John Wayne movie title. There are already significant sites in the Branson area named after "Shepherd" including the MDC fish hatchery, a hotel, and the homestead of the family that inspired various characters of the book - now an entertainment park. Please do not change the name as proposed.
9. The name needs to include Shepherd of the hills.
10. Shepherd of the hills is a worldwide known name. Why would you name it differently?
11. Na
12. I think Shepherd of the Hill State Park represents the area more historically.
13. There is so much history behind shepherd of the hills, I know it would mean a lot to the community.
14. Due to the vast local history of Harold Bell Wright and the area in question being the backdrop of the creation of his famous novel Shepherd of the Hills, it seems most fitting for the new state park to recognize the connection in honor of both author and novel.
15. The name "Shepherd of the Hills" is very important to this area & synonymous with this area's history!
16. This is important. The Shepherd of the Hills State Park helps to preserve Ozark history!
17. Everything is named after Shepherd of the Hills in Branson, including MDC's most visited nature center at the Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery. I think we need to give that name a rest, or name it after a landmark in the book or a trail in the book or something else.
18. This is the heart of the area the story written by Harold Bell Wright encompassed. Please consider the name change to a representation of a true Branson Attraction. That is all.

19. Isn't Shepherd of the Hills a religious connotation?
20. Harold Bell Wright's contribution to the Ozarks has for too long been overlooked. This would be a great way to honor his memory and the great contribution that his writing has been for the Ozarks.
21. The about the park system mission makes this issue clear; stay focused on primary resource theme. Ozark glades are the primary feature. Nothing about this landscape has anything to do with Shepard of the Hills
22. My grandparents were WW and Irene Johnson. They, with his father WH developed Hollister. They knew Uncle Matt and Aunt Molly. They knew that whole area and they were for that state park in the 20s. Let's finish the dream they and their friends started.
23. There's enough crap named after that mediocre book.
24. There is a city named Ozark, not really connected to this park area and also the entire region is known as the Ozarks, and this small area doesn't really represent the entire region.
25. Shepherd of the Hills is currently an outdoor park already located in Branson (theshepherdofthehills.com). It feels like this proposed name change would, seemingly, signify The State's endorsement of this business or open it to potential legal troubles if the business decided that this was copyright infringement.
26. There are already several entities named SOTH, having another would just be confusing. Also we do not need to be advertising for private businesses with state park names. Anything but Shepard of the Hills.
27. Roark Creek State Park if not kept Ozark Mountain State Park would be my first choice and would identify the park with a recognizable natural feature of the area. The east and west forks comprising 2.2 miles of Roark Creek runs through the park and join together on the property. The property was purchased with natural resource damage funds for the purpose of water shed protection. If kept Ozark Mountain State Park interpretation of The Shepherd of the Hills, the effort for a national park, and state park, the town of Garber, the Garber Schoolhouse, early

- homesteaders, etc. could all be included in the interpretation of the park and area.
28. "Shepherd of the Hills" has a Christian meaning, could make non-Christian visitors feel unwelcome, and has no business being used as the name of a government facility.
29. For many years this whole Ozarks country used to be called "Shepherd of the Hills Country" & it should be again. Like the old days before man-made lakes.
30. This more accurately reflects the area designated
31. It is very fitting and a much better description.. let's celebrate our unique and attractive heritage
32. Makes sense!
33. I think the current name better fits the mission.
34. Please make the name change! It is quite reasonable for this name request. It IS indeed on Shepherd of the Hills property, this is important to those of us that live in the area, preserving our history wherever we are able.
35. Any reference to "Shepherd of the Hills" is understandable, but creates too much confusion with other attractions, landmarks, and iconic historical locations in the area.
36. Though Shepherd of the Hills is obviously a culturally significant piece of literature for the Branson area it is, at its core, a piece of fiction. It obviously has a place during the interpretation of the area, but it does not stick with the current mission of Missouri State Parks of natural resource conservation. The name of the park should reflect what the property was purchased for and what its overall purpose is. If there is a concern of the name not representing the area, then there are plenty of names such as Roark Creek State Park that provide solid reference to the area while still maintaining the general importance of the natural resources of the area. I personally think that naming the park after Shepherd of the Hills would be a mistake not only due to it being a work of fiction, it also begins to rope the park into all of the other attractions in the area that bear that name.
37. Roark Creek State Park would fit the bill of why the land was purchased in the first place. The money used for the purchase of

- the property to my understanding came from a damage fund for protecting water ways. So why not name the park after what you are trying to protect! Roark Creek or White River.
38. "Shepherd of the Hills" sounds commercialized & could be confused with Shepherd of the Hills Parkway.
39. Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Shawnee Tribe are tribes that have identified Taney County as one where they have cultural interests.
40. I believe Branson is in the heart of the Ozark Mountains so this seems like the perfect name. As you look around town right now as well you will see many things called an Ozark Mountain Christmas. Seems like a perfect fit to me. There are already two other entities named Shepherd of the Hills. One of them another state agency. You'd really confuse visitors if you changed the name I think.
41. It is much more specific to the location.
42. Not fond of the commercial aspects of Shepherd of the Hills State Park name.
43. Absolutely do not think the park should be named Shepherd of the Hills SP. There are too many other facilities named Shepherd of the Hills and it will be confusing for visitors. Prefer any name related to the natural or cultural features of the site. Roark Creek SP would be preferable to Shepherd of the Hills but not as descriptive as Ozarks Highlands
44. Too many other "shepherd of the hills"
45. I personally would rather visit a park named after the region than one named after a secular tourist attraction. Seems like a bad idea.
46. Please do not name this park after the Shepherd of the Hills.
47. Would even prefer Roark Creek SP to Shepherd of the Hills
48. Please do not rename this park!
49. Development plan: Priority is to preserve the resource, do not over develop. Allow future generations to implement development appropriately.
50. I believe it would be too confusing to call it Shepherd of the Hills State Park because we now have the Shepherd of the Hills

- Hatchery with trails and also on Rt 76 there is a commercial enterprise with the name Shepherd of the Hills.
51. Shepherd of the Hills is so specific to one book (a book not everyone agrees is worth commemorating), while Ozark Mountains is evocative of the rich history of the area overall. Please stick with Ozark Mountain SP!
52. Too many Shepard of the Hills named places in that area already. Ozark mountain State Park doesn't describe that park. The Ozark Mountains is a huge geographic area. That park is tiny.
53. Shepherd of the Hills has Christian connotations and is not inclusive.
54. Ozark Mountain is more descriptive and a more inclusive name for the park
55. I feel that this is a noble gesture, but naming the park "Shepherd of the Hills State Park" would cause confusion. There are already multiple organizations in the Branson area that use that name.
56. Ozark Mountain is too generic, and applies to too much of Missouri to make this a good name. Shepherd of the Hills has a local significance, but has been used so much,
- and has such a commercial connotation at this point, that it would be a constant struggle to educate visitors as to the distinctions between the Park and other "attractions". Roark Creek is a genuine and prominent local feature, and has natural as well as cultural significance. Also, it opens paths of interpretation into the topography, ecology, environment, local history, and popular culture of the surrounding landscape.
57. Looks like a great area!
58. There is already a Shepherd of the Hills Adventure Park and theatre. I think a state park with the same name would confuse people. I like the name Ozark Mountain State Park.
59. Finally a park that celebrates the Ozark Mountains (a very recognizable name).
60. I think Ozark Mtn State Park calls attention in its name to the collection of public lands that make up the Ozarks.
61. I think this is more descriptive.
62. I understand that Ozark Mountain is vague and doesn't say anything specific about THIS park -- but park names often don't. My suggestion at least is different, but I'm

sure there's a better one somewhere. I would rather stick with Ozark Mountain than change to Shepherd of the Hills, which is heavily overused in the area for all manner of things, many of them commercial: a fish hatchery, a play, a hotel, a zip line, a restaurant, etc., etc. Changing to that for the state park might please the Chamber of Commerce, but it is hackneyed and has nothing to do with finding a creative new name.

63. Shepherd of the Hills SP is not specific to the park so it is not an appropriate name. It would also be confusing to visitors with so many other facilities in the area containing the name Shepherd of the Hills.

64. Shepherd of the Hills is a work of fiction that though has some cultural significance to the region of Branson, it has no place as the name of a state park. The Mission of MSP is to preserve and protect natural resources, and the name of parks should reflect this mission. Shepherd of the Hills will obviously be integrated into the interpretation of the park, however it is only a small aspect of what makes this property special. Naming the park Shepherd of the Hills also brings up the issue of people associating a government agency with a for profit theater in Branson. It could also cause a high

amount of confusion for guest as there are multiple other attractions that bare this name.

65. Contains both forks of the creek and is unique to that area.

66. IMO, Ozark Mountain has a broad connotation, not a poor choice by any means, however, the name invokes the expectation of a larger park with developed/staffed services. Shepherd of the Hills already in commercial use, comes with the expectation to 'tell the story' again on this property. I would question intellectual property rights. If we are going to 'tip the hat' to area pioneers, Herschend State Park is much better.

67. I think the name it currently has is a better representation of the mindset of the people that visit and would have a more widespread appeal.

68. Name doesn't matter to me.

69. Shepherd of the Hills is already in use by a private business and by the Missouri Department of Conservation in the Branson Area. Having another location using this name will only create confusion between State Parks, MDC, and the private business.

- Ozark Mountain is now an established name of 5 or 6 years and should be maintained. If the name needs to change, it should reflect the land, water, or immediate and historic community (Garber)
70. too much named after shepherd of the hills in the Branson area
71. Why aren't we consulting with Native American tribes whose ancestral land this state park will be on? If we are going to change the name why aren't we consulting with Missouri tribes? The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe?
72. Naming things after specific people or groups can be problematic in the future. If "The Shepherd of the Hills" and what it stands for fall out of favor, it could be a liability for the park down the road.
73. Please do not change the name - there is too much Shepard of the Hills stuff down here as is.
74. There is an Ozark Mountain Park in Arkansas. I used Google and hit the wrong park.
75. Keep history intact. Include stories about the area and honor those who came before us, plus those who serve our country today.
76. The story of Shepherd of the Hills is a legacy or part of the culture down there, and it only seems appropriate to change the name. I feel like it will draw more use by this name to be honest. I feel people will be more likely to visit it just because of the name.
77. My opinion, using "Shepherd of the Hills" would further confuse the public about MDC vs. DNR state parks since MDC's hatchery is called Shepherd of the Hills
78. Keep the name please
79. May confuse people due to the nearby Shepherd of the Hills business
80. No need to market a Branson presentation.
81. I'm glad you are taking historical context into account when considering the naming of parks. I would like to see in other parks (Jay Nixon, perhaps) that we honor the Native people of the land and consider their input.

82.Keep the name Ozark Mountain, that name has bio-geographical significance. It will be good for marketing of the park to not have a similar name to several other places like fish hatchery and tourist attraction.

83.There is already an MDC Shepard of the Hills hatchery, Shepard of the Hills tourist attraction. Please stick with the name that represents the landscape.

84.The Shepherd of the Hills is a beautiful story that honors this area. It is only fitting that we conserve and treasure this piece of literature and the way it commemorates the history of this land by naming the park after it! It may also help bring more awareness to and appreciation for this story and the land!

85.Either name is fine!

86.There is already a Shepherd of the Hills Adventure Park and that may cause some confusion.

87.Changing the name would cause confusion with Missouri Department of Conservation Shepherd of the Hills fish hatchery.

88.The park needs mountain bike trails.

89.There is an existing private bike park in Ironton, MO called Shepherd Mtn Bike park. Shepherd of the Hills might be confusing.

90.There's a Shepherd Mountain Bike Park in Ironton, MO and that might get confusing.

91.Please do not use the Shepard of the Hills name.

92.Please allow mountain biking. We've coexisted with hikers forever. We also have a huge community of volunteers to help with trail maintenance. Fellows Lake north of Springfield is a good indicator of new trails and how the hikers/bikes get along.

93.Keep the current name. The history of the park is more about the homesteaders, the community of Garber, and very limited relation to Shepherd of the hills.

94.Please provide mountain bike trails has they are very popular

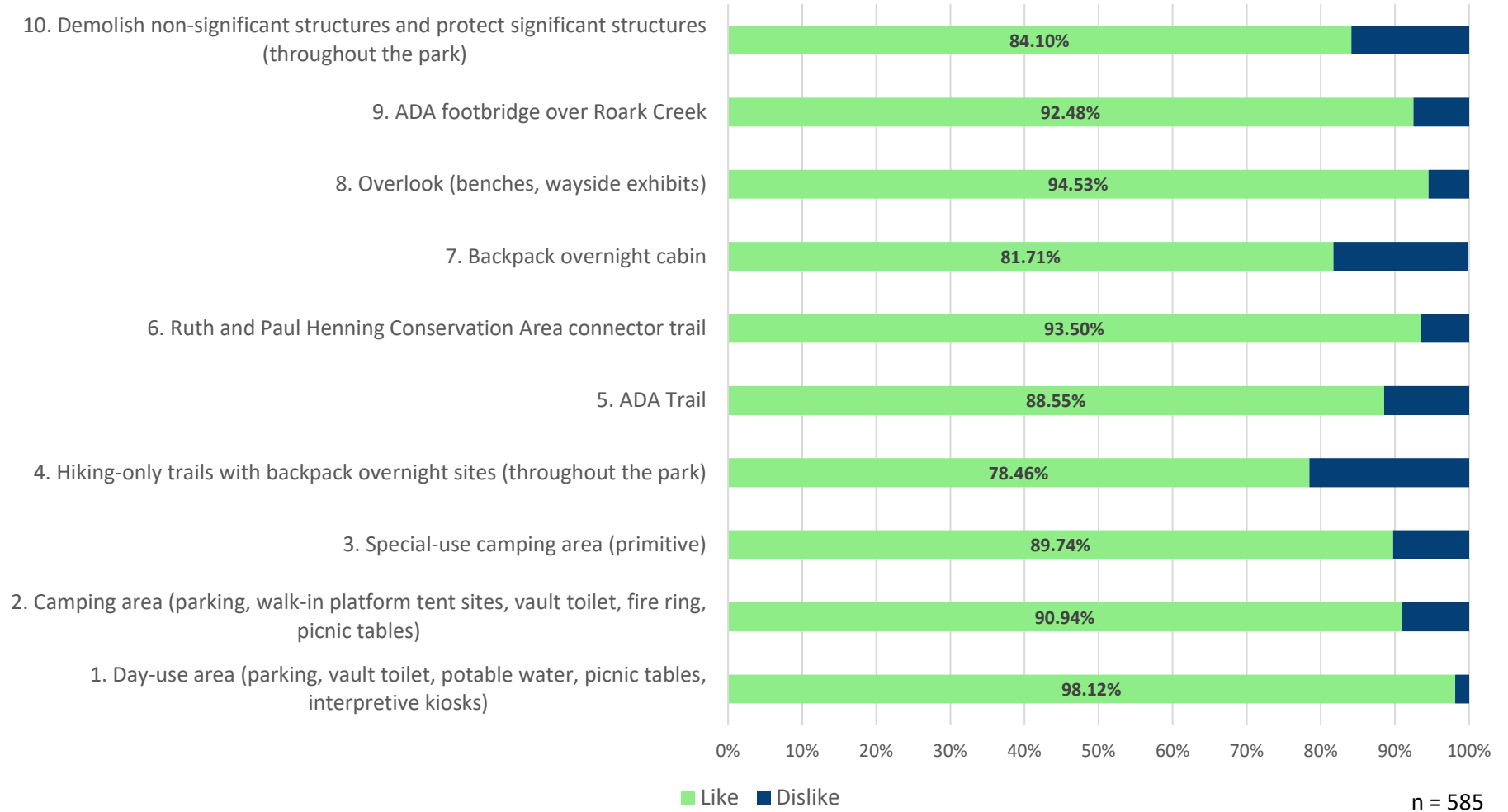
95.It would be great to include sustainable mountain bike trails. A lot of people travel through this area (to Bentonville) just to Mountain-bike. It would be nice to have a spot near table rock to spend a week(end) biking, hiking, and boating on table rock!

96. Such a perfect name please keep
97. Would love to see this be a mountain bike trail
98. I see no reason to change your name. It sets you apart
99. Can you also implement mountain bike trails?
This would gain more attraction for the park.
100. Both names are good names.
101. I don't have a strong attachment to either name, but "Ozark Mountain" doesn't conjure a specific location in my mind--it just leads me to wonder where in the broad Ozarks region it happens to be. I have a positive impression of "Shepherd of the Hills", and I intuitively know the park's

location if it were to be named such. "Shepherd of the Hills State Park" could be confused for its namesake park, so consulting with them and doing a small survey of Branson visitors to ensure there's not too much confusion might be good. I expect, though, that naming it "Shepherd of the Hills State Park" would benefit both the drama and the state park, by drawing more attention to that area of Branson.

102. Shepherd of the Hills State Park defines the park's physical location much better than the original title and should increase the number of tourists that would visit the park.
103. I definitely prefer the original/current name.

CDP Development Objective Survey Results



Development Objective Comments:

1. I'm wondering how you determine which structures are significant to save and which are non-significant to demolish?
2. I like preserving all structures if possible or leaving the ruins. They are interesting to see along the trail.
3. Mountain biking trails should be included.
4. Please retain historic structures within the park.
5. As little human impact as possible to give it a rustic yet natural appearance.
6. LOVE the trail to Henning, please keep it as natural as possible. Love the idea of the old balds. I enjoy atvs and Mtn bikes but really hope this is hike only. I live nearby and the atvs are out of control, they will ruin the park.
7. I opposed to the hiking trail linking the State park to the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation area. The design plan previewed inserts the trail too close to the established neighborhood(s).
8. #4. Dislike the concept of "hiking-only" Bike trails should be a part of this plan...the backpack overnight activity is a good idea. But as a backpacker, hiker and biker, could not see too many backpackers using this area due to its limited trail length.
9. I am very excited to have this happen.
10. Get public comment on structures to be demolished. I don't know what is there but based on the decisions to demolish all the camper cabins and other structures at Camp Zoe I would prefer to know input was sought first.
11. Not sure how you would do this
A lot of people would lose their jobs
12. Significant to who?
13. NA
14. I am concerned with lack of infrastructure for accessing the park. Noland Road does not provide the access needs for the potential volume of visitors. I fully support the mission of Missouri State Parks; however, I believe the long term park plans should consider access points from the Ozark Mountains Highroad.
15. I like this depending on what is considered a non-significant structure.

16.Horseback trails are obviously not on this survey, but should be an obvious option, especially in this area.

17.Na

18.Without better knowledge of what is considered non-significant I'm hesitant to like this.

19.Protect all structures in the park. "Insignificant" is subjective.

20.Please restore the Old Garber School house and offer interpretive demonstrations and lectures.

21.Protect ALL historic structures, regardless of importance.

22.Prefer mountain bike trails

23.Should focus on trails, interpretation, and resource management. Landscape, railroad, stream and highway make it difficult to design access past Roark Creek

24.Add signs to mark state trees along the major paths/trails. Include the pawpaws, persimmon and sassafras trees. Teach people what hill folk used to supplement their diets. Protect the plants and thereby the wildlife there.

25.Be very careful about declaring a structure non-significant.

26.Save all that is savable. What you deem NON-SIGNIFICANT might be important to a lot of others

27.CDP Plan looks fine as presented.

28.I like the re-use of the cabin for backpack camping, but am concerned that it is too remote for staff to easily monitor and maintain.

29.Please provide access and trails for mountain bikes

30.Please please please protect Garber.. it is a source of fascination in many publications and would be a great "draw" for tourists and locals alike

31.I am disappointed in the State Park Team's vision for this park. This park offers unique characteristics that are not found in other state parks; however, the current design focuses mainly on the southern end of the property. Many people will not be physically able or have time to hike to see the glades and knobs which make this property so unique.

32.Thank you I appreciate how respectful of the land and community everyone at the most recent meeting was. You are trusted stewards of our resources.

33.What is non-significant? To you or the public?

34.I don't know what ADA stands for but it didn't seem like the survey would submit leaving those blank.

35.What are the plans to police the area to prevent unwelcome clientele from taking root?

36.It is my hope that the name Shepard of the Hill State Park receives the support it needs to be accepted. Each of Missouri's State parks represent the area they are a part of. By choosing this name it would represent the rich history associated with the Sheppard of the Hills book.

37.The connection to the Henning Conservation will be a huge asset for both entities.

38.Let the SOH do what they do best, no reason to allow the state to name the area.

39.Would love a tour of the park.

40.Any plans for a campground with electric, water, sewer or any combination of the amenities?

41.The plan is excellent. I agree with keeping out any motorized ATV type vehicles.

42.Leave foundations of non-significant structures

43.You don't need potable water there unless you can connect to county water. People that hike bring their own water.
Back packing on 1,000 acres does not require a cabin. You're only going to get day hikers in that tiny acreage.

44.The Cabin would be a significant spot on the park like Granny Hendersons Cabin in the Buffalo wilderness area. I would love to have it named after my grandfather Willard Jones. It was hand built by him from wood that was sawed from the saw mill on the property. It has been a magical place for me hunting with him on the property and I hope others get to enjoy the serenity it can bring. Thanks for your consideration.

45.I believe that this new park offers a very important opportunity to protect and interpret a very attractive landscape of Missouri, one that is significantly distinct from other Ozark

landscapes, in topography, geology, ecology, and also in its local expression of Ozark cultural traditions. It presents the Park system with the challenge to tell these important stories in a context that has not been previously available. This applies to all the natural history features, of course, but it also applies to the cultural heritage of this special region of the Ozarks. There is the popular cultural phenomenon associated with the Shepherd of the Hills, and despite the commercial exploitation of that literary artifact, the story of that mass appeal and imagery is nevertheless very worthy of a thoughtful interpretation, and this State Park is situated so as to tell that story. At a deeper level, the real history of this region can be explored, as per more serious investigations such as were undertaken by researchers such as Vance Randolph, and scholars at Missouri State University. These stories can be told in a way that contrasts, in part, with the popular imagery, and also reinforces, in part, the sources of such imagery. This is an undertaking that has not been done yet in the Park system, and which this area and landscape very richly deserve.

46.I hope the park is big enough to accommodate all these activities. Thank you.

47.If the park is being modified to accommodate parking and ADA trails, would like to see the minimum amount of concrete used in the modifications and the use of permeable pavers in parking areas.
also the mature trees should not be disturbed

48.Impressive CDP. ADA accommodation particularly important; day use might want to consider a staples and souvenir shop; historical signage of culture groups inhabiting the ecosystem

49.I especially approve of connecting the park's trails to the Henning connector trail; it is always good to help us develop an awareness of how to make a hike bigger.

50.Good Plan

51.I think all structures would have some significance and would hate to see them torn down.

52.This is exciting!

53.A well thought out plan.

54.Love that there are no ATV trails.

55. Want to preserve the cabin to the fullest. And only have availability for reservation only. I propose to my wife there over 35 years ago. My name is Howard Jones. WILLARD Jones is my grandpa.

56. Depends on what non-significant structures are!

57. Trails should not be designated "hiking only". There must be mountain bike access to these trails, maximizing the park experience and drawing visitors from all across the country.

58. Allow mountain biking/trail riding

59. I love these trails for light mountain biking.

60. I would like to see mountain biking trails and access included in this park.

61. Mtn bike trails

62. No horses

63. What other uses are being considered?
Hiking and camping appear to be the only recreational options under consideration in this survey.

64. Provide sustainable amenities that are not overly impacted by vandalism.

65. Please connect to Henning trail

66. Conceptual plan looks nice.

67. Need to make entire park ADA friendly.

68. Please keep this minimally developed. I'm glad to see that no RV parking is being proposed here.

69. Beautiful area and I like the trails and ability to enjoy the areas with some designated trails.

70. My concern with the backpacker cabin is the cost and difficulty of maintenance and risk of people using for drug processing. Not worth it.

71. The history of this area, the pioneers that founded it, the people who lived through the civil war, the depression etc. and the Jones family themselves is rich. It is SO incredibly important to preserve this history and to provide ways to educate our children for generations to come on where we have come from. My husband and I are not originally from this area, but have come to learn and love the history of this area. It is so important to preserve it and share it! I grew up near Colonial Williamsburg and truthfully, I would love to see Garber be preserved and turned into an area where interpreters would be

present to share about the lifestyle of those that lived in that time period. It would be an amazing attraction for families to enjoy not only the land, but the history. It's also one of the reasons we love western Colorado so much! Driving the Alpine Loop and reading about all of the buildings that still exist, the mining history, and walking into the buildings makes another generation come to life. It is SO SO important to share where we have come from because whether you like it or not it defines who we are today!

72. Definitely keep the cabin and schoolhouse and any other historical structures. My opinion is that if an interpretive or natural reason exists to keep other buildings such as farm outbuildings, the house by Noland road, etc., keep them but if there is something that will add to historical interpretation or will help emphasize the natural beauty of the land, then demolish.
73. Would like to see Mountain Bike trails in this park. They can either be dedicated or shared with hikers.
74. I actually love the idea of backpacking overnight sites, but I disliked the question because it said hiking-only trails. Strong consideration should be taken for both hiking and mountain biking trails.
75. Mountain, gravel, road cycling greenways included
76. Better road into the park needs to be part of the plan. Current road is narrow and dangers if more traffic is placed there.
77. Keep more natural and hiking only trails to help protect the resources.
78. We need a lot more mountain biking trails in the area. It would be a substantial boost to travel and tourism in the area and would provide a diversity of outdoor experiences.
79. The trails should not be hike only. Please allow mountain bikes on these trails! This area has great terrain that makes for excellent biking. It will bring out of state visitors and revenue to MO.
80. The mountain biking community has been growing very rapidly, and Branson needs more mountain biking trail offerings. I think this park could be the idea park for making use of mountain bike trails in the area.

81.I would like to see the trails open to bikes as well

82.If historical in nature do not demolish...

83.PLEASE INCLUDE A MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL SYSTEM! I, along with a large network of friends and family continually drive down to NWA to enjoy the trails there. We really need a better system of trails (full greens, blues, blacks, and double blacks) in our greater Branson area. I know several families who have MOVED to NWA because of the trail systems there. It's a huge boon to an area to have these trails and they attract, affluent, health conscience people that typically have jobs to support their hobby. Please please please consider this!! People my age (late 20s and 30s) are looking for this. Please listen.

84.You guys have a prime opportunity to bring mountain biking trails into your community and attract a massive amount of people into the Branson area. Just look at Bentonville, AR and what we are doing in Springfield, MO at fellow's lake. If you guys could work out a way to add mountain biking trails I for one would increase my visits to the area 100X

85.I believe a kiosk would be damaged by vandals.

86.Love all the camping and would love to see more mountain bike trails.

87.Add or allow mountain bike trails

88.Consider Mountain bike trails

89.Line 4: please include mountain biking in this park not just hiking only. This is a growing sport that local schools are starting to participate and another trail for kids would benefit the area.

90.I would love to see some mountain bike trails. I'm in the area several times a year, and would be interested in spending time riding in the area.

91.Mountain bike usable

92.Please allow bicycles and class 1 ebikes on the trails!

93.Mountain biking trails and skill area

94.I would like to see mountain bike trails

95.Hiker only trails will go stagnant and get trashed. Mountain bikers are extremely dedicated to keeping trails in proper shape. We need more trails in the area.

96.Mountain bike trails would be awesome!

97. Mountain bike access.
98. More biking/ hiking trails
99. Significant historic structures always seem like a great way to feel connected to the area's history.
100. It would be great to see mountain bike trails as well. Even mountain bike only trails.
101. Add a significant amount of mountain biking trails. Great business opportunity.
102. Mountain Biking Trails
103. Allow mountain biking on hiking trails
104. Disc golf course please.
105. This would be an awesome place for a new disc golf course!
106. Mountain bike trails are needed to make this park a destination. Look at NW Arkansas and what biking has done for that community.
107. .multi use trails, including bikes
108. A bike, or multiuse trail in the plans would be greatly appreciated.
109. MTB trails would be great.
110. Develop Mountain Bike trails.
111. Love the idea of overnight backpacking opportunities!!!
112. Allow mountain biking
113. You should allow/make mountain bike trails
114. I would like to see some mountain bike only trails.
115. Allow mountain bike access and develop multi levels of mountain bike trails.
116. Make trail access for non-motorized bicycles. Mountain biking is a growing activity with limited resources in the state of Missouri.
117. Allow mountain Biking on trails
118. Mountain bike trails? Bring folks across the border from a destination town like Bentonville, AR to bring revenue to MO.
119. More mountain bike parks
120. Allow mountain bike trails!

121. Allowing for mountain bikes on trails would be a great.

122. I would like to see the addition of Mountain Bike Trail facilities be considered for this park. In northwest Arkansas, they have made a critical mass of cycling and mountain bike infrastructure which brings people and their dollars to the area. Southwest MO is beginning to have a nice collection of trail opportunities, but more is needed.

123. Disc golf course

124. protect all structures

125. I suggest mountain bike trails

126. This is a great property for a disc golf course. It brings people from far away to come use the park and enjoy the amenities, and if there are disc golf tournaments held there, it brings revenue to the surrounding businesses, as disc golf is a kinetic sport and it often is followed by eating/drinking at local businesses.

127. Biking/hiking trail disc golf course hybrid similar to two rivers in Highlandville.

128. Make this open to mountain bicycles

129. A disc golf course would be great

130. Of these proposed features, I like them all, but I do have thoughts on the backpacking cabin. The location is near Hwy 465, and looking at elevation profiles leads me to think traffic would be audible and possibly even visible from the cabin. Being near other roads also seems like it would diminish that location's apparent remoteness. When I'm backpacking, I search for more remote locations than this property, and I prefer tenting, so I'm not in a target user group for this cabin at all.

131. More MTB trails in the area would be wonderful. Tourism would be greatly impacted by the addition trails and options in addition to White River. Look at NW Arkansas for an example of the ROI on this. I'm 37 with a wife and kids living I. Springfield and would visit more frequently for sure. When we travel we eat, drink coffee, buy gas, etc...

132. Please consider building mountain bike trails

133. It would be a huge opportunity lost to not create a multi-use trail which would allow hikers as well as mountain bikers.

134. More outside spaces!

135. Need biking trails too
136. Should have trail that can be used for cycling and hiking
137. Running Shepherd of the Hills themed trails to the remaining historical homesteads would be helpful.
138. I would really like to see biking trails!! This is a rapidly growing sport that doesn't have that many "biking "trails in our area. That is such a beautiful area, to make the trails foot travel only would be a huge disservice to a rapidly growing demographic of outdoor enthusiasts!
139. Please add trails for mountain bikes!

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding Ozark Mountain State Park?

1. I suggest putting a flush toilet and shower facilities in the camping area, if possible, instead of a vault toilet.
2. Great job with restoring such a large glade community existing within the Ozarks. Human traffic via too many trails and development would destroy the scenic beauty and fragile natural communities that exist there.
3. Can't tell you how excited I am about this park. Henning is a favorite and would love to see this the same but with the natural balds
4. Mountain bike trails. Area describing the history of the site and surrounding area.
5. I do not want more traffic flying by my home on Noland Road.
6. I think you should allow horseback rides, and rv camping. There are many sites that would accommodate that. One would be the area where the old house burned down.
7. The State Parks need to conduct a neighborhood impact survey including the impact the park will have on the surrounding neighborhoods - the planned use of Noland Road as the only access to the park must include a traffic impact survey. That road is clearly insufficient to handle the increased traffic.
8. Mountain Bike Trails should be a part of the planning process to incorporate a significant section of well-designed sustainable trails for bikes, proper signage, instructional use of trails, etc.
9. I like the conceptual plan.

10. Keep the shepherd of the hills name
11. Expand upon current handicapped/disabled accessibility.
12. Mountain bike trails would be great
13. NA
14. I suggest the state review the location and entrance into the park. The current plan seems to focus activity near the Noland Road neighborhood. With 1,000 acres plus, I recommend the design team elevate how to utilize the park size to give access to individuals without disrupting the established residents. As discussed above, this would require the park to look for alternatives for access which will require infrastructure dollars; however, this seems to be a better long term plan.
15. Shepherd of the Hills state park
16. Rename the park as "Shepherd of the Hills State Park".
17. Na
18. Hopes that it focuses on preservation and nature and in no way becomes flashy or focused on heavy, casual tourist use.
19. This area is the exact location as the events in the novel, THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS.
20. Mountain biking would be an acceptable use
21. Can't wait to camp there.
22. Leave it as natural as possible. No rv campers.
23. I look forward to the park opening. Would prefer to see more lodging options.
24. Fundamentally, this state park protects a glade landscape. Stay focused on its purpose for being.
25. Can't wait for it to open. It's a wonderful alternative to the hustle and bustle of Branson. I will go many times.
26. Please no horses on the trails.
27. Keep it as a tribute to Harold Bell Wright and the Ross family, which without his book and the Ross family this area would just be an unknown area known only to the few locals that settled this area

28. There needs to be an education center there. At Watkins there are demonstrations how life was, at Roaring River and Bennett Springs there are fish hatcheries to teach about Missouri fishing. What is going to be taught at our new state park?

29. Let's go! Need to get this underway!

30. Keep natural resource management a priority

31. I would like to keep the park as hiking trails only to be compatible with Henning Conservation areas. I would have concerns of the damage to the property if mountain biking was permitted especially with the explosion in popularity of the e-bikes.

32. Please provide access and trails for mountain bikes

33. I challenge the State Park Team to determine how the park design could be altered to give visitors the ability to see the parks beautiful resources. I would recommend the park focus on developing the right plan and not simply look for the easiest way to get the park open. This property will provide opportunities for generations and we should ensure we do the right thing today for them.

34. As a priority I would love a basic hiking trail around the perimeter. This would require a basic parking lot at the location. All the rest is just icing on the already delicious park.

35. It should be named Shepherd of the Hills State Park!

36. A new entrance off of Sycamore Church road.

37. Shepherd of the hills state park

38. Should be Shepherd of the Hills.

39. Just the name change presently..and more camping areas!

40. I believe that outside of the main day use area, this park should be left as untouched as possible. This property is a part of an amazing ecosystem that once fully restored should be left untouched not only for the public to enjoy, but also of the native flora and fauna to thrive. It is imperative that this park be a beacon for the mission of the Missouri State Park of natural resource conservation and preservation.

41. There needs to be a better access down Sycamore love Church Road off on to JR

- Hopper's property only about a half mile to the park
- 42.Love the area. Would love to see it open up for public use soon.
- 43.Leave the name as is
- 44.Keep it rural and natural. No need to make it accessible to everyone.
- 45.There are a plethora of large RV campgrounds in the area. I love the idea of keeping it simple with primitive sites. The more experienced outdoors folks will now be drawn to the area with an option to stay overnight. The more diverse Branson becomes the larger of a crowd we can pull in too visit the area and stimulate the economy.
- 46.I would prefer it to preserve natural features as much as possible, unlike echo bluff which in my opinion, is not the way to design a state park
- 47.Keep it simple and rustic as to development. Protect the natural features before all other uses.
- 48.Please have on site staff
- 49.Do not rename it!
- 50.see previous comments
- 51.I would like to see electric plugin's/ 110 & 220 at trailheads so that electric cars could charge while hiking trails. Dedicated electric car charging stations would be nice but I would be concerned that they would be vandalized.
- 52.I'm excited about the opportunity for a new state park in the southwest part of Missouri!
- 53.Don't spend money on infrastructure on a small acreage
Like that. Manage it like the Henning tract for day use hiking.
- 54.Cannot wait to enjoy the park but i know it will be a process.
- 55.This specific part of the Ozarks cries out for the sort of thoughtful, compassionate interpretation that MSP can provide. This is after all, a compellingly beautiful and interesting landscape and cultural region of our state, and park visitors can leave this park with a deeper and truer understanding and appreciation for it if we do the kind of work here of which we are capable.
- 56.Is it possible to have some electric camping sites and a shower house?

57. I would like to see Ozark Mountain State Park keep this name. Shepard of the hills is 1 of many snapshot identifiers and not representative of all historical group habitation.

58. The land has varied features and I think the creek presence (2 mi) is significant.

59. Flush toilets and showers in the campground, if possible. Also, campsites with electric for small campers would be great.

60. Have never been there but will make it a point to visit the next time I am down that way.

61. Make sure you make no provision for motorized use of trails in the park. I saw no provision for them in the CDP but also no statement ruling them out in the future; such a statement might be good addendum to the CDP.

62. The only park access will be on Nolan road?

63. Want to make sure that any kin to Willard Jones have or could have priority over to park.

64. This is a great location for a park and to protect public land to avoid more development down there.

65. The park terrain at this site lends itself so well to the sport of mountain biking. Despite popular commentary, mountain biking is no more damaging to the environment than hiking, and in fact results in fewer departures from designated trail than hiking.

66. Trail cycling/mountain bike access

67. Add mountain biking trails or at least indicate "planned for the future". Bike trails are the highest demanded public improvement in the area. (or any area) Reach out to area bike clubs, these are your best advocates and supporters. If this park is going to be 'unstaffed' and lightly developed, you need some quality 'regulars' keeping an eye on the place. I would not use ecology concerns as an excuse not to install bike trails. That's hollow when Table Rock State Park has a 12' wide asphalt trail along the shoreline and miles of basic bike trails. MO Parks has the expertise to provide trails without harming the environment.

68. Please do not prohibit mountain biking on these trails, there are no other locations in Branson area that we have to do this. All of my mountain biking friends are "tread lightly" minded and do our part to clean the trails of

- garbage and debris, leaving it better than when we arrive.
- 69.Keep the Mountain Biking trails open...
- 70.Solicit national organizations, nonprofits, and companies to use for events to attract visitors to the park.
- 71.Trails should be available for other activities like mountain biking.
- 72.Mtn biking trails
- 73.Low impact, low development. Low impact trails primitive campsite is fine.
- 74.Limit bikes
- 75.I think the state should keep that park as natural and primitive as possible. If folks want more amenities they can go to Table Rock State Park instead.
- 76.Our DNR/Division of State Parks staff are doing a fantastic job of managing (in all facets of the word) all of our State Parks!
- 77.Please develop hiking and mountain biking trails! The White River trail at Table Rock State Park is the main reason we go there. We enjoy the
- greenway trail at that park too and perhaps one can be included at this park.
- 78.Include biking trails of varying intensities. Include prime "bird watching areas" along hiking/walking trails. Avoid primitive camping options.
- 79.Please provide information on the Ruth & Paul Henning Conservation Area at the park so visitors can learn and use both areas.
- 80.Don't over develop this property.
- 81.Jefferson City Trail Users appreciates the trails in the conceptual plan and would rally for more trails.
- 82.Need a target practice range. For fire arms like Arkansas does.
- 83.Please keep mountain bikes out of this critical habitat area. I'm excited to see and take part in glade restoration. Would love to see the highest level of riparian protection zones we can.
- 84.I like the trail designation of hiking only. Although I am a huge fan of mountain biking, I do not wish to see mountain biking in this area for several reasons. First, if it is allowed in the

State Park, riders will undoubtedly ride at Henning, even though it is prohibited. Secondly, there are few trails anymore that are solely for hiking. I love mountain biking, but sometimes it is nice to have a quieter stroll in the woods. Also, there is a lot of maintenance involved with mountain bike trails. Trails are frequently torn up, either out of ignorance or disrespect, by riders using muddy trails after a hard rain.

- 85. Try to keep out exotic plants and continue ecological restoration. No horses or mountain bikes. Manage with prescribed burning.
- 86. Keep up ecological restoration efforts with prescribed burns, monitoring/eliminating invasive exotics. Please no mountain bikes or equestrian use in the park.
- 87. Please do not re-name this park.
- 88. See above! Please preserve this land and its history- the buildings and the land - so that generations to come will not only appreciate the trails but the rich history of the people who pioneered this area!
- 89. My wife and I live on Sycamore Church Road near the proposed development site and I am extremely encouraged and excited by seeing the proposed plans. There is so much rich history

and natural beauty to this area. I love the suggested plan! It seems to make wise use of existing features of the land and historical buildings which will open the way for continued historical interpretation and enjoyment of the natural beauty of the area. I would love to see the other buildings from Garber rebuilt as a settlement surround the schoolhouse so that visitors can experience this piece of history more fully. I would also love to see guided historical interpretation through an audio tour and/or live guided interpretation.

- 90. Make the trails open to mountain biking.
- 91. Creating multi-use trails or mountain bike specific trails in the park.
- 92. Bike trails added
- 93. Either create bicycle trails or make hiking trail multi-purpose.
Allow managed deer hunt.
- 94. Mountain bike trails, and/or shared trails that include MTB.
- 95. Create both hiking and mountain biking accessible trails.

96. An option for mountain biking would be much appreciated. There is very little of that available in Taney County and many visitors to the area bring bikes.

97. I think the area needs more mountain bike specific trails. If you look at areas like the Bentonville/Bella Vista area of Arkansas that has an abundance of trails, you can see the amount of tourism the trails bring to the area.

98. Changing the name would cause confusion with MDC Shepherd of the Hills fish hatchery.

99. Keep the park more natural and limit the activity types (no mountain biking) to help protect the property.

100. More mountain biking trails.

101. The trails should not be hike only. Please allow mountain bikes on these trails! This area has great terrain that makes for excellent biking. It will bring out of state visitors and revenue to MO.

102. As a local, avid outdoorsman, and business owner in Branson, I would love to see this open to Mountain Biking as well.

Mountain Biking is gaining popularity not only locally, but nationally as well. Allowing mountain biking here just opens up more reasons from a growing sport to come to the area.

103. Yes, open trails for mountain bike use please.

104. Add mountain biking access!!

105. Strongly encourage multi use for trails... hiking, mountain biking, trail running. Public lands are to be for public use to enhance the parks and make accessible without discrimination. Good planning and management will result in responsible use of and care for the park resource. Many examples abound across the Country. Please make these parks be the envy of the Ozarks.

106. See above

107. There should be mountain biking allowed in the park.

108. add bike trails

109. Needs mountain bike trails

110. Would love to see more mountain biking trails. Of all skill level, family, pro's etc.

111. Mountain biking trails should be considered.
112. Allow mountain bikes. Look to springhill near fort smith for amazing multi use
113. Add or allow mountain bike trails
114. Make the park Bike friendly!
115. Please consider a system of mountain bike specific trails to be added. These would be directional, dedicated trails for bikes. It is a booming sport in our region and would attract and lot of visitors who love spending money. See northwest Arkansas, the Greater St. Louis area and Springfield, Mo for examples of recent and upcoming developments.
116. Please build mountain bike trails.
117. PLEASE make all trails to include mountain bike use. Also, make horses prohibited on all trails.
118. Please keep this name and do not use the Shepard of the Hills name.
119. Please allow mountain biking trails
120. Please allow bikers on trails.
121. Would love to see mountain biking allowed in the park!
122. It would be nice to include biking.
123. Open it to bikes! Keep the ADA trail to no bike traffic though. Easy compromise.
124. Looking forward to using this facility!
125. Make trails accessible to bicycles
126. Mountain biking!
127. Mountain biking trails
128. I would like to see more mountain bike trails. Besides from benefitting the locals I think new trails would bring in more people to the area.
129. No
130. My family loves the mountain bike parks. I think more of those would be great.
131. Keep hiking only trails. Opening the trails up to other uses will increase the number of users and impact the experience users will have. This will fall in line with the mission statement for the park.

132. More biking/hiking trails

133. It would be great to see dedicated mountain bike trails developed for this park. The Ozark Mountains have excellent topography for downhill and enduro style trails, and switch backs could be built as return trails to the top of the downhill sections. Branson has bike trails at White River near the dam, but trails designed by mountain bike trail designers specifically for cyclists seeking enduro style downhill trails would give additional variety to our mostly cross country style trails.

I am part of a group of cyclists that regularly travel up to 2hrs away to seek different trails, and that is common amongst the mountain bike community. A new set of enduro trails would be great for the locals, and would attract cyclists from other communities who are seeking variety and new trails to explore.

134. Mountain bikes have become a critical part of the regional economy. Excluding them from the current plan is a huge mistake. If you look at the areas within the region that have multiple MTB trail systems, they are not only bringing in tourists from all over the world, but, the cycling industry is moving manufacturing into those areas.

135. Keep as undeveloped as possible

136. You guessed it, more mountain biking trails please! You can't go wrong!

137. Would love to see the addition of professional built Mountain bike trails. Or multi-use trails, hiking and biking.

138. Allow mountain bikes on the trails.

139. "Single Track" for Mountain Biking

140. Mountain bike trails would be a huge benefit!

141. Mountain bike access!

142. Allow the development of mountain bike trails

143. More trails. :-). Excellent work so far. Proud to call Missouri my home with the expanding trail system.

144. Brandon would really benefit from some biking accessibility

145. I would love to see mountain bike trails installed. A disc golf course would be tremendous use of the land at a very affordable price.

146. .multi use trails, including bikes
147. It would be great to have a professional level disc golf course on the property. Partner with the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). Then, we could get tournaments that would bring professional disc golfers to Branson. Which, in turn, would bring more tourists, and thus more money for the Branson area. We have a couple of small courses, but they are not designed well. A professional level 18-hole course with multiple baskets per hole would be fantastic for the Eco Tourism industry here in Branson.
148. You should allow the trails to allow mountain bikers as well
149. Disc golf, is number 1 growing sport in America. Another championship course will be great.
150. Let's get it open! Don't wait for construction/demolition projects to be completed. Get us out there in nature with our backpacks. I would gladly be part of a trail building/maintenance crew (volunteer) out there!
151. You should allow/make mountain bike trails
152. Include a disc golf course
153. Mountain bike trails!
154. Mountain biking!
155. Disc golf course
156. Mountain bike trails needed!
157. Pleas add multi-use hiking and biking off pavement trails that include mountain bike trails. Or specific mountain bike only trails.
158. Multiple mountain bike trails.
159. Make a mountain biking trail.
160. Allow Mountain Bikes on trails.
161. Mountain bike trails? Bring folks across the border from a destination town like Bentonville, AR to bring revenue to MO.
162. Accessible trails for mountain bike use. The Ozark region is fantastic for this and the growth of this sport has exploded in Missouri. This area is perfect for contributing to further develop bike trails in the state and will undoubtedly attract more tourism to the area far and wide.

163. Consider adding mountain bike trails
164. Adding a disc golf course would be nice!
There's a very large, and growing number of disc golfers in the area. Many travel to come play near here as well. Everyone I've met wishes there were more quality courses in the area.
165. More mountain bike parks
166. It needs a world class disc golf course like Columbia MO put in at Harmony Bends. It will attract visitors all across the US and increase state revenue.
167. Mountain bike trails would be great
168. Allow mountain bike trails!
169. Mountain bike trails are a huge attraction and would likely see the some of the most use for all the features planned.
170. The site of old Garber, now a ghost town but inhabited during the time of Shepherd of the Hills, (including a standing building and many foundations) is adjacent to the park to the west. The park already contains an old Garber schoolhouse building. It is a cultural heritage preservation opportunity that would be best preserved as a part of the park system. It would bring an additional and important element of cultural history to the park.
171. Add biking trails.
Add a disc golf course.
172. A disc golf course would be perfect for this park and bring in a lot of golfers from out of town and out of state. Disc golf is the fastest growing sport in America and has been for over 20 years so let's make this happen
173. Would like to have mountain bike trails
174. More mountain biking trails
175. A disc golf course on this land would be competing for one of the top spots in Missouri
176. Biking/hiking trail disc golf course hybrid similar to two rivers in Highlandville.
177. Would love to see a disc golf course installed to have another way to experience the beauty of the land.
178. Turn it into a good disc golf course! There currently aren't any good free courses in the area.

179. Please keep your name the same.
180. A disc golf park would be great
181. I would love to see mountain biking trails included in this plan. It is my go-to recreation when we stay in Branson, and while the White River Valley trails are excellent, another trail system would be enjoyed by my family.
182. Would love to see a disc golf course go in here.
183. Please consider building mountain bike trails
184. Disc golf is a great way to get people to come out and use the park! It's a great family-friendly activity, and will also draw people from farther away than would otherwise come. I vote for an 18-hole disc golf course!
185. I would love to see mountain biking trails.
186. Please put in a disc golf course
187. Disc Golf Course
188. Would love mountain biking trails
189. Allow mountain biking
190. Allow mountain bikes on the trails
191. We need more biking locations. Easy riding as well as mountain biking would be an excellent addition to our area.
192. Allow Mountain biking!
193. Add MTB only trails and a disc golf course.
194. Biking trails and pet friendly trails and pet park
195. Disc golf course!
196. Please provide some mountain bike trails. Mountain biking is exploding in popularity. It is great exercise and a great family activity. Look at the monument trails in some of Arkansas' state parks.
197. You should have hiking and cycling trails-multi use
198. Mountain bike trail!!!! This will reach many people as if is becoming more and more popular in our area
199. You need to add a multi-use trail for hikers and bikers that runs along the parameter of the park.

200. It would be a great place for a Disc Golf Course.

201. Use the visibility of the park along the High Road to enhance travelers' curiosity and desire to spend time exploring its historical beauty. Also, we need good roads into the park. DOT and DOC (Henning) should help establish a road access from the south that could benefit all concerned and the good of the cause.

202. Add MTB trails!!

203. It would be nice to have a place to ride mountain bikes

204. Mountain bike trails please!!

205. Allow mountain biking trails

206. Let's name it shepherd of the hills state park

207. Installation of a Disc Golf course would be ideal in this area.

208. Add mountain bike trails

209. Separate trails that are primarily for mountain bike use.

210. Bringing in trail builders will help with the quality of the trails and bring in more cyclists who will be a positive impact on the community!

211. The Branson area is facing significant pressure from development so in my opinion this park is a once in a generation (or more) opportunity to protect a large area with minimal roads, no campgrounds RV hookups, museums and other types of development.

I'd like to see the focus being a limited use park primarily focused on trails - similar to White River Valley trails or nearby Henning. Not a park where large groups would go for a familiar reunion.

I would prefer that horses and associated facilities not be a part of this area. They heavily damage trails and leave behind unpleasant waste for hikers and bikers.

I would STRONGLY prefer that atvs and other motorized vehicles not be allowed on any trails. Due to 1) safety of others 2) noise and 3) heavy damage to the terrain.

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding Missouri state parks and historic sites?

1. Very thankful for all you do!
2. The Parks system should solicit grants/donations and seek alternative points of ingress/egress for the park along Highway 248 or Sycamore Church road.
3. Like the idea of maintaining as many structures as possible. To remove some that are insignificant may take away from historical context as well...provided they are not a safety hazard.
4. Love them! Take care of them!
5. Yes this is my place of employment
And many others work here
6. NA
7. Name the trails after characters in the Shepherd of the Hills book.
8. Leave it natural.
9. You do a great job managing these areas for public use. Keep up the good work you have a long tradition of doing.
- 10.Na
- 11.Like them all
- 12.We have a great state park system
- 13.Guard our precious resources because we seem to have a new generation that doesn't care, and I'm not sure it will get better
- 14.Could you PLEASE offer a state parks pass alongside your daily fees? Give us the choice of giving gifts of Missouri trips to others or having a pass to plan more frequent trips to our state parks? I love the online series that have been offered and hope you continue them.
- 15.Keep going. We need more parks in more places.
- 16.Love our parks.
- 17.We love going to any state parks when we travel.
- 18.No

19. Love to visit them
20. When will the park open to the public?
21. Proud of MO State Parks.
22. I love our Missouri State parks and that they have a place of significance as part of the state's history and culture.
23. The cabin should be called Willard's cabin or the Jones cabin because they are the people that has built a cabin and there would not have been a cabin there had not been for their hard work and their skill an Authentic log structure
24. Parks are great
25. Engage the community as a whole with specific focus on residents Full time Residents having the opportunity for input.
26. You all do a wonderful job maintaining Table Rock State Park. Since I have a platform to comment might as well express the thought that I would like to see Table Rock park have a camp store with souvenirs. Can't wait to see what you come up with for Ozark Mountain.
27. Increased funding is essential!
28. Plug-in's at trailheads and all drive in campsites.
29. I haven't been to all the state parks, but based on the ones I have visited please just keep doing what you're doing. Our state parks are beautiful.
30. I am a big fan of Missouri State Parks. Keep up the good work.
31. Please make sure all the other parks are updated. I was at Bennett and saw a lot of items that needed repair. Like bathrooms, fire pits, overhanging tree, to many tree...
32. Thanks so much for this opportunity.
Sincerely, John Karel
33. Love the inclusion of historic sites in the park!
34. I so enjoy our outdoor adventure areas. I am a social scientist by profession and appreciate as much historical group and trails stories presented to the public as is possible.
35. I am so impressed with your materials to reach out to the public. I've never received a

- video and survey package before. Good job, humans!
- 36.I strongly support financial support of Missouri State Parks including trail maintenance and outreach programs.
- 37.We have some really great parks in the park system and we can be proud of our parks.
- 38.Keep up the great work!
- 39.Want to make sure that Garber school keeps its statue.
- 40.They are wonderful but please do not develop them TOO much. Leave some sites for tents and ono-electric.
- 41.MO should consider relaxing the draconian rules banning cycling from so many state parks. With proper trail planning & development, erosion and other commonly held concerns become irrelevant. Missouri lags far behind other states on opportunities for driving tourism and creating a great natural experience through multi-use trails..
- 42.Building on what is currently available at these trails is a great future set of plans, please don't restrict the trails to walking/hiking only.
- We can share the trails and have been doing this for years without issues.
- 43.More promotion and advertising of parks and historic sites. More community events that promote and educate the public on historical sites.
- 44.More mtn biking trails
- 45.No
- 46.I state parks staff are wonderful folks to work with!
- 47.Keep up the wonderful work! Missouri State Parks are great!
- 48.I believe that if buildings are salvageable they should stay and be reused instead of torn down. If not salvageable for reuse, can you use any of the building materials from the old into the new?
- 49.Update some of the historic sites.
- 50.Jefferson City Trail Users appreciates the trails in the conceptual plan and would rally for more trails across the state. MSP does a good job with trail maintenance which we feel helps encourage people to get out and enjoy nature.

We've received feedback from members and the public about wanting more trails. Thank you.

51.A great system!

52.The "motorized creep" of e-bikes are a growing concern at MDC areas. Thank you for considering that some natural areas should be open to foot travel only, and prioritizing protecting fens and wilderness areas.

53.I absolutely love the Missouri State park system and appreciate the ability for it to be free entry. Traveling the country you spend a lot of money just to enter a park - so Yay! for Missouri keeping them free and accessible to all.

54.Same as above! We love visiting the Springfield battlefield for the beautiful hiking and the history! Thank you for preserving those buildings!

55.Creating multi-use trails or mountain bike specific trails in the park.

56.Please add more mountain biking trails!!!!

57.Multi use trails need developing in this area of the State (Table Rock and Tri-Lakes area).

White River Trails, although a wonderful resource, were not planned, designed, and given proper after development care allowing for a stellar trail system (avoid making this same mistake).. A significant number of active folks with high disposable income are looking for outdoor experience and rustic trail systems to enjoy.. NW Arkansas has set the bar high and is an area our park planners and administrators can learn from. There efforts are enhancing their park systems and quality of life for those who live and visit NW Arkansas helping to increase the health and wellness of all. The same can be done in the Branson and surrounding area with these new resource opportunities. Public park areas are to enjoyed and accessible to all. Enhancing, utilizing, and managing these resources can be down with good planning and forward thinking. Cheers to the opportunities that lie ahead.

58.No

59.Mountain biking trails should be built as the sport has grown tremendously.

60.Add or allow mountain bikes

61.Keep up the great work!

62.Allowing mountain bike trails would be popular

63. Please save or preserve any historical buildings!
64. Open. Them. Up. To. Bikes.
65. Certain parks where possible should segregate horses away from hikers and mountain bikers.
66. Make trails accessible to bicycles
67. No
68. No
69. The only option is more mountain biking trails. Enough said.
70. Would love to see the addition of more Mountain bike trails, or to be able to ride bikes on already made trails. This is a growing outdoor activity in the Midwest, and our state parks and historic sites would be a lovely addition to the city and private trails we already have!
71. They are great!
72. Disc golf course please.
73. Disc golf course and mountain bike course or to allow bikes on some of the trails.
74. multi use trails, including bikes
75. N/a
76. Thank you!
77. Open more areas to mountain biking.
78. Having accessible trails for mountain bike use
79. More mountain bike parks
80. No
81. You should really put in mountain biking trails
82. Biking/hiking trail disc golf course hybrid similar to two rivers in Highlandville.
83. Would love to see a disc golf course go in
84. Please consider building mountain bike trails
85. N/a
86. Please allow bikes on the trails in more Missouri state parks. If hikers and bikers sharing trail is a concern, then allow bikers to develop bike specific trails that are separate from hiking trails. The mountain biking community has proven that we are capable of

building and maintaining our own trails through volunteer work, so trail erosion should no longer be a concern.

87. Same as above. More bike trails. Keep us off the busy roads!

88. More, more, more!

89. More disc golf courses!

90. No

91. All that I have visited have been well maintained.

92. I love Missouri state parks. We are blessed to have such a fantastic system of well managed parks especially compared to neighboring states in this region.