Preserving Our past Preparing Our future

In 2017, Missouri State Parks commemorated the 100th anniversary of the state park system, which had its start in 1917 with the creation of a state park fund. However, the idea of a state park system for Missouri can be traced to an earlier national preservation movement that began in the late 19th century, the same movement that helped launch the National Park System. Spurred on by popular works of late 19th and early 20th century explorers and travel writers, Americans began experiencing a burgeoning interest in historic landscapes and the natural world, as well as a desire to protect these spectacular locations. As the population became increasingly mobile with the advent of the automobile and a rapidly improving highway system, individuals and families aspired to travel to see these destinations firsthand, and called on public officials to preserve them for public enjoyment.

This mindset held true for Missourians as well. The growing desire of the state's citizenry for outdoor recreation spaces was followed by a rapid expansion of the Missouri state park system in the 1920s and 30s. This led to the creation of a formal plan in 1938, which defined the role of the state park system: to "preserve Missouri's scenic and recreational resources, to provide opportunities for the people of Missouri to

visitors also to enjoy them." This definition was further refined by Chapter 253 of the of recreational value or of cultural value



enjoy them, [and] to encourage out-of-state

Missouri Revised Statutes, which describes a state park as "any land, site or object primarily



LEFT: collection of data at Prarie State Park; ABOVE: prescribed burn at Hawn State Park; RIGHT: original artifacts preserved at Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site

because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archeologic, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics or natural features."

The statute's emphasis on valuing the significant natural and cultural resources of a state park or state historic site helped to establish the mission of Missouri State Parks, which is to preserve and interpret the state's most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks, and to provide outstanding recreational opportunities compatible with those resources. This mission is what guides all stewardship and resource management activities Missouri State Parks team members employ to protect Missouri's natural and cultural estate for future generations.

Examples of management tools used to oversee the state park system's natural resources include scientific research and data collection through species inventory and monitoring, and stewardship activities, such as prescribed fire and invasive vegetation removal. To make sure special recognition and protection are afforded to the state's most noteworthy natural landscapes, Missouri State Parks preserves large wildernesslike spaces as state park wild areas, and distinguishes the most notable best-of-type native park ecosystems as Missouri natural areas or legacy landscapes. Where historic natural environments, such as tallgrass prairie, oak or shortleaf pine woodlands and Ozark glades, persist, they are protected, restored and managed to assure their scenic character, ecological values and native plants and animals may long exemplify Missouri's natural heritage.

> To protect the state's most exceptional cultural, archaeological and historic resources, team members expand their knowledge and understanding of Missouri's history through archaeological surveys and reviews of historical records. Additionally, the team actively engages





in preservation maintenance of the many historic structures within Missouri State Parks, and employs various stewardship techniques to manage the vast collection of physical artifacts within the system. This makes certain these irreplaceable objects, structures and places are kept in care for future Missourians.

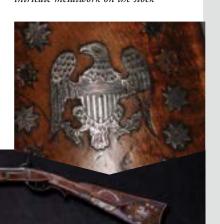
In addition to protecting the special natural and cultural resources found within Missouri's state parks and historic sites, the Missouri state park system also provides a wide range of recreational opportunities that allow visitors to experience firsthand the state's diverse natural and cultural heritage. Missouri State Parks help maintain the balance between resource protection and recreational access. Team members carefully plan and develop recreational amenities that sympathize with the natural environments and historic landscapes that serve as the backdrop for the many memories made in Missouri's state parks and historic sites. Additionally, operational procedures are in place to prevent resource damage, keeping visitors safe and providing the most enjoyable recreational experiences possible.

From its inception to present day, Missouri State Parks has a proud legacy of managing the state's natural landscapes and cultural landmarks for public enjoyment, both now and into the future. As you explore one of the 93 state parks and historic sites, consider the 100-year history that has gone into achieving the phenomenal collection of natural and cultural gems that make up the Missouri State Parks system, and the ongoing dedication that maintains it for your enjoyment.





Top: blue bells at St. Francois State Park, biking at Stockton State Park; MIDDLE: anoeing at Cuivre River State Park; BOTTOM: the rifle of Missouri's first governor, Alexander McNair; featuring ntricate metalwork on the stock





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Jefferson City MO 65102 mostateparks.com

A Message From the Governor and First Lady



As farmers, we've always appreciated the beauty of nature and what it brings to our lives. From providing food on the table to offering a peaceful respite from the busyness of life, our natural resources are a gift. And being a good steward of those resources is an awesome responsibility.

With 93 state parks and historic sites, our state park system offers you a multitude of opportunities to get outside and connect with nature and our cultural heritage. Whether you are a veteran parks visitor or a first-time tourist, we welcome you.

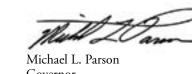
Missouri State Parks strives to preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri's natural landscapes. Throughout the state, you'll find prairies and forests, lakes and streams, mountains and canyons. Each park offers its own display of beauty, each different

If you enjoy history, Missouri state parks and historic sites will

help you travel back in time. Visit a state historic site and see how some of Missouri's finest cultural landmarks have been preserved. From touring the historic home of a past president to visiting covered bridges and historic mills, you can get a glimpse of how life used to be. Don't forget to visit Missouri's first state capitol as well as the homes of famous Missourians, such as Nathan and Olive Boone, Scott Joplin and Mark Twain.

You can also find many outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the state parks. Explore Missouri, and you'll find scenic overlooks that provide amazing views, miles of trails for hiking, biking or horseback riding, and ample places to camp, as well as numerous other outdoor activities, such as fishing, kayaking, spelunking and even playing a round of disc golf.

We encourage you to get outside and make some memories at a Missouri state park!



mostateparks.com

ABOVE: Missouri Governor Mike Parson and first lady Teresa Parson, photo courtesy of Missouri Division of Tourism **FRONT COVER:** Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Activities &

Watkins Woolen Mill SHS 816-580-3387

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GRID KEY

L = Lake

MA = Marina

SHS = State historic site = Mountain biking SP = State park MC = Museum/center MT = Motel = Available 0 = Open shelter/structure B = Swimming beach* BP = Backpacking trail OC = Outpost cabinBR = Bike rental OT = Other swimming P = PoolC = CabinPD = PondCC = Camper cabinE = Enclosed shelter/structure R = RiverEQ = Equestrian trail RA = Boat ramp GT = Guided tourS = Stream SG = Self-guided tour HS = Hard surface W = Water

WR = Watercraft rental

*Water quality tested **Retail selections vary by facility. For more information on what items are available, contact the facility. ***Self-guided tour – Tour is not led by an interpreter, but interpretive panels are provided. Guided tour - Tour is led by an interpreter, this includes both panels and verbal narrative on the specific site. ****Food Service - food service varies by location from ice cream to full meal service. +Camping improvements coming soon.

These facilities preserve a part of Missouri's history but do not offer any of the amenities listed on the grid: Gov. Daniel Dunklin's Grave, Jewell Cemetery, Locust Creek Covered Bridge Sappington African American Cemetery, Sappington Cemetery, Towosahgy and Union Covered

Memories of Adventure

You can begin creating memories as soon as you enter a Missouri state park or historic site. From hiking through ancient forests, to exploring a mysterious cave, to paddling on crystal-clear waters, to learning more about Missouri's rich and varied cultural history, we offer we offer memorable adventures.

TRAILS

There is no better way to make memories than by setting out on a new trail, and you'll find some of Missouri's very best trails in our state parks system. More than 60 of our parks and historic sites together form an extraordinary system of trails totaling more than 1,000 miles – not just for hiking, but also for walking, backpacking, bicycling, horseback riding and paddling.

HOOFING IT Walking trails provide a way for visitors of all abilities to explore state parks at their own pace, while hiking and backpacking trails take the thrill-seeking hiker into some of the state's most remote and ruggedly beautiful areas. Or saddle up a horse and experience the terrain like the explorers and pioneers.

ROLLING ALONG Twenty-seven of our facilities offer trails designed for bicycles, and four parks have bicycles for rent. Biking trail surfaces vary from hard-packed and paved to natural. Mountain bikers can choose from a range of challenging trails with all types of terrain, including the bicycle pump track at Finger Lakes State Park and the skills course at Echo Bluff State Park – both favorites of avid mountain bikers. Anyone who likes getting off-road on all-terrain vehicles can find trails made especially for them at both St. Joe and Finger Lakes state parks.

PADDLE POWER Lakes and streams might not be considered trails, but at Missouri State Parks, we think paddling along in a canoe or kayak is a great way to explore the park in a different way. Six of our parks offer water trails that visitors can use to explore what they have to offer: Finger Lakes, Ha Ha Tonka, Lake of the Ozarks, St. Joe, Stockton and Wakonda state parks.

WATER FUN

With more than 40 state parks offering access to rivers, streams or lakes, you can find endless ways to make memories on Missouri waters. We offer a range of facilities for boaters, from full-service marinas on major lakes to simple boat ramps and docks. You can also cast off from state parks to float on some of Missouri's best paddling streams. And many state parks rent canoes and kayaks. Of course, some of the best memories are made with a fishing rod in hand. From wading in a stream to testing your fly-fishing skill against elusive trout to relaxing on a lake bank with a worm and bobber, enjoy your style of fishing fun at a Missouri state park. Then, when the hot sun threatens your summer entertainment, head to one of our swimming beaches to cool off and beat the heat.

ACCESSIBILITY

E ● MC ● GT

Missouri State Parks takes pride in making our parks and historic sites accessible for all visitors. For our guests with visual impairments, we have the Braille Trail at Elephant Rocks State Parks. Our guests with mobility issues can reserve one of our track chairs to explore trails their conventional wheelchairs won't traverse. Currently, a track chair is located in each region – one at Elephant Rocks State Park, one at Bryant Creek State Park and one at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site – with more purchases planned. Those who want to partake in water activities at our beaches can reserve one of our swim chairs.

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GUIDE TO

STATE PARKS

Make Your Reservations

Most shelter reservations can be made online or by calling the park or state historic site.

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Camping Reservation Information

More than 3,500 campsites are available for reservation at 38 state park and historic site campgrounds. You can call or go online beginning 12 months in advance and up until 7 p.m. on the day of arrival.

TO MAKE A **RESERVATION**

— Call toll-free 877-ICampMO (877-422-6766) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT seven days a week.

Or visit mostateparks.com 24 hours a day.

RESERVATION FEES***

To MAKE a reservation*:

\$ 6.50 – General Camping **\$ 6.50** – Group Tent Area *Same-day reservations do not have a reservation fee.

Call Center:

\$ 8.00 – General Camping \$ 8.00 – Group Tent Area

To CHANGE a reservation: Website/Call Center:

\$ 5.25 – General Camping **\$ 10.00** – Group Tent Area **\$ 10.00** – MSP Lodging

To CANCEL a reservation: Website/Call Center:

\$ 10.00 - General Camping \$ 10.00 – Group Tent Area **\$ 20-25.00** – MSP Lodging**

**Lodging fee based on unit

applies to each site reserved for a future arrival date, whether for one or 15 days, and is nonrefundable.

When making reservations, there are various options for payment, including credit cards, debit cards, camping coupons and gift cards. Check mostateparks. com for more information



Several of the parks with backpacking trails offer STATE PARKS AND STATE HISTORIC SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE 2024 SEASON primitive camping in designated areas along the trails. Check the grid in this brochure for more information on Properties at Jay Nixon State Park remain closed and not open to the public. where these and other special camping areas are located.

SPENDING THE NIGHT

Reserve a site in advance by taking advantage of the Centralized Reservation System. All reservable campsites that are not reserved may be available by

At most state parks, single-night reservations are allowed on the weekend. Parks that

Battle of Athens

Wakonda

Reeping the

MISSOURI'S CULTURAL **RESOURCES**

History is all around you at Missouri state r each state park and state historic site has its own unique stories to tell. Visitors are encouraged to learn about the state's fascinating past as they tour the historic homes of famous Missourians explore the settlements of early French and German immigrants, wander across somber Civil War battlefields, appreciate the enduring rustic architecture of the Civilian Conservation Corps, stroll across the landscape of an American Indian village, or learn about the many contributions of Missouri's Black Americans. Missouri State Parks preserves and interprets numerous examples of the state's most outstanding cultural landmarks, including buildings, structures and archaeological sites, many of which are recognized nationally for their historical significance. The Missouri State Parks system contains close to 240 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, either listed individually or as contributing historic districts, and boasts

seven National Historic

Landmarks.

Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site

Stewardship of our cultural resources is a collaborative endeavor led by team members including archaeologists, historians and museum ollection specialists who work closely with the park team at all levels to identify, record, protect and interpret these important resources that connect us all to our past. Missouri State Parks manages hundreds of historic structures and archaeological sites, curates and manages tens of thousands of artifacts and historic objects, reviews projects to verify compliance with federal and state historic preservation laws, coordinates with external researchers, and consults with tribal partners and other stakeholders.

Visitors can help Missouri State Parks protect these invaluable cultural resources by leaving features to one of 19 NRHP-listed artifacts in place and treating historic buildings and structures with care so they can be enjoyed by visitors today and in the future.

t strong and weather tight. The yurts f electricity, heating and air to campground amenities. ck State Park offers **Bennett Spring** Dillard Mill restroom, in Stockton Battle of Pilot Knob Harry S Truman Birthplace Trail of Tears Bollinger Mill Nathan and Olive O CAPE GIRARDEAU Sam A. Baker SPRINGFIELD iger Lakes State Park **Bryant Creek Eleven Point Hunter-Dawson** of the Hills Table Rock **LEGEND** DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal KANSAS CITY REGION STATE PARK survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed STATE HISTORIC SITE LAKES REGION or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for SOUTHEAST REGION **★** BACKCOUNTRY AREA any damage or loss resulting from its use. ▲ LIMITED ACCESS CENTRAL REGION ST. LOUIS REGION NORTHEAST REGION KATY TRAIL SP O CITY ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (DEVELOPED) ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (UNDEVELOPED) So that our state parks can be used and enjoyed by everyone, we make our facilities accessible to all people, regardless of abilities. Look for this symbol to identify ••• ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (UNDEVELOPED RAIL WITH TRAIL)



MISSOURI'S NATURAL AREAS

Missouri has a wide array of natural landscapes, wildlife, native plant life and geologic story. There are tall grass prairies, deep forests, deep caves, Ozark bluffs, cypress swamps and crystalclear streams. Some natural features, such as the attractive glade-dwelling yellow coneflower, are unique to the Ozarks.

Some of our state's most special natural places have been designated as Missouri natural areas. These unique locations are home to today's most unusual natural environments, the richest native flora, strongest native fauna, most distinctive bird communities and many of our rare plants and

Explore Missouri's state parks and you'll experience the Misso some of the most spectacular natural places found anywhere. In fact, you may even feel as if you have stepped back in time and are an explorer or settl

experiencing Missouri's natural environment for

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

Missouri Mines State Historic Site

During your excursions, you can discover remnant prairies at Prairie State Park, fen wetlands at Meramec State Park, bottomland forests and marsh at Annie and Abel Van Meter State Park, a cypress swamp at Big Oak Tree State Park, flatwoods at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park, old-growth oak woodlands at Sam A. Baker State Park, and pinewoods at Hawn State Park, just to name a fe

Currently, there are 192 designated natural areas across the state, 39 of which in Missouri's state parks, offe remaining examples of our state's original natural special locations were given i natural area designation to provide g management and protection of our state's valuable natural heritage for future generations

Making Our Parks Accessible

campsites, showerhouses, picnic areas, fishing docks and other areas that are accessible. For more details about accessibility in Missouri State Parks, visit mostateparks.com\accessibility-information.