

2023 Montauk State Park Public Meeting Agenda

Introductions

DNR DSP:

Kaylyn Dalbom - Park Superintendent
Pete Hovey-Assistant Superintendent
David Guthrie-Assistant Superintendent
Park Ranger-Hunter Barnes
Park Naturalist-Kristie Nelson
Administrative Support-Melinda Cramer
Maintenance Staff-Preston Willbanks, Terry Willbanks, Kristen Howell, Clint Akers
Regional Director – Justin Adams
Deputy Regional Director—Adam Enboden
Deputy Division Director – Laura Hendrickson

Other Montauk Staff:

Tom Whelan—MDC Montauk Hatchery Manager
Kyle Case—Assistant Hatchery Manager
Gregg Mendenhall—ExplorUS Director of Operations—Special Projects; Montauk Lodge ONP, LLC
Melissa Wildhaber—General Manager—Montauk Lodge ONP, LLC

Park is operated on a partnership with MDC, ExplorUS-ONP, LLC and DNR and is one of three trout parks in Missouri that is operated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Park Statistics:

Visitation – Over 570,489 people visited Montauk last year
Camping nights sold in 2022: 26,519
Lodging nights sold in 2022: 8,690

Montauk State Park is continually one of the busiest parks in the Missouri State Parks system, and the highest average occupancy rating for the campground out of all of the campgrounds in the Missouri State Parks system.

Total Park Acreage: 2,920

Total Full-Time Staff: 12

New staff members hired (within the last 7-8 months) name and title:

Hunter Barnes-Park Ranger #27
David Guthrie-Assistant Superintendent
Kristen Howell-Maintenance/Grounds Technician

Long-time staff that have left service at Montauk State Park within the year:

Nancy Garrison-Maintenance/Grounds Technician-20 years at Montauk
Charles Burkhart-Specialized Trades Worker-23 years at Montauk

SM&R Projects past year:

1. New fuel pumps were installed at the Maintenance Shop.
2. New roofing tin, flashing, vapor barrier and siding ends were replaced on the springhouse room of the Montauk Mill. A challenging project and my staff did amazingly well on this project.
3. Entire exterior of the mill was painted, and the roof was painted as well to seal it until new roofing material is installed. This was a major accomplishment and I am extremely proud of my crew for accomplishing this major project.
4. New garage door was installed in the woodworking bay at the Maintenance Shop to replace the unsecure and broken door that was on it.
5. New solar parking lot lights were installed at the Searcy Building parking lot, Montauk Lodge, and bicycle trail between the lodge and the campground to replace the aging and dated wooden nonfunctioning lights.
6. New gutters installed on Cabins 7, 8, and 16/17 and 18/19.
7. Entire new ADA compliant sidewalk poured at Montauk Lodge—Another big accomplishment of my crew and I am extremely happy with the results of this project.
8. Removal of rotten material in the wall of the mill on the north wall, 2nd floor. Ceiling joist sistered and stabilized and replaced rotten material. This will improve the overall longevity of this historic building.
9. Entire off-season was designated to preventative maintenance in all our cabins, including several needed repairs noted from our routine walk-through inspection with concession partners.
10. Installed electronic door locks on all cabins/motel rooms in conjunction with ExploreUS and Montauk Lodge, which was another major undertaking but we are very pleased with the results.
11. Several much-needed new directional, entrance, and road signs were installed throughout the park-ongoing
12. With the help of the State Construction crew and equipment, and our ongoing maintenance we have reclaimed our wastewater sprayfield and inventoried our existing spray heads and mapped it.
13. All new window treatments put in all the cabins which had dated curtains.
14. New flooring installed in several rental cabins.
15. Recently Cabin 20/21 received new roof thanks to the Regional Construction Crew.
16. Installed new grates on the grill in the new mill shelter house.
17. Montauk Mill raceway was reclaimed, and brush removed for interpretive purposes so people can better understand how the grist mill functioned.

Ongoing/Upcoming projects:

1. New guttering getting installed on upper and lower fourplex cabins.
2. New windows being installed in middle fourplex.
3. Rehab in Cabin 3 interior/exterior.
4. Update Loop 4 water lines and hydrants to replace existing aging water lines that are currently installed.
5. Exterior rehab of cabin 20/21 and repaint.
6. New roof on cabin 13/14 and exterior rehab/paint.
7. Repairs to existing lodge siding to remove decaying paneling.
8. Repairs to rotten bridge railing going to campground.
9. Repairs to porch supports on cabin 13/14.
10. Rehabbing existing lodge flower gardens until a more permanent solution is made for them.
11. Assisting concession staff when new walk-in freezer is ordered and installed.

12. Repairs to infrastructure at wastewater treatment lagoon.
13. Interior repair and rehab to Assistant Superintendent's residences.
14. Repair to the rotten flooring in the spring house of the Mill.

Upcoming in the next 1-2 years:

1. Revenue Bond Project – Construct Campground Loop 5; 32 full hookup campsites-dirt work currently ongoing.
2. Upgrade Loop 4 from 30-amp to 50-amp electrical service and address some drainage issues-Currently scheduled construction start date September 2023.
3. Electric Vehicle Charging Station installed at Montauk Lodge parking lot.

Upcoming large projects on the horizon:

1. Loop 4 Shower House replacement
2. New roof installed on Montauk Mill
3. Water and wastewater system upgrades and improvements
4. Investigating additional shower house replacement in Loop 2.
5. Renovations to cabin 7 and 8.
6. Repairs to historic CCC rock walls near historic CCC cabins.
7. Looking into the possibility of replacing/increasing our interpretive panels in various areas throughout the park.
8. Improving trails and potentially adding additional trail(s) to the park.

Natural, Cultural and Stewardship Initiatives:

1. Mill Days were brought back after about a 4-year hiatus. Over 600 people attended the event and the park promoted the event with several local businesses providing a driving tour of the Upper Current River area and the rich local history here.
2. Naturalists continued to treat and target invasive species. An AmeriCorps crew was here this summer who helped with invasive plant efforts. Our targets were mainly sericea lespedeza, multiflora rose, Autumn Olive, and invasive honeysuckles. Bush honeysuckle has almost been eradicated in the park, though sprouts come up. Efforts are ongoing.
3. Naturalists continued to offer an array of engaging nature programs, including hosting field trips for local schools, evening programs in the campground, and afternoon programs for kids and adults along with having the mill open 3 days a week. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback about having the mill open so often, very much approved by the local community.
4. This summer we also had a seasonal naturalist who is a local Licking High School teacher, Wes Holmes, who has extensive background in teaching astronomy. He provided night sky programs to several folks this summer.
5. Park Naturalists conducted official bee surveys at Montauk, which are part of a larger program partnered with MDC and the Xerces Society (a non-profit dedicated to invertebrate conservation) to track Missouri's bees, especially targeting species which have been declining. A good number of one of the target species were counted.
6. Plans to initiate a citizen science program are underway next spring by having volunteers help us track Cerulean Warblers. These are a near endangered bird species that lives in Montauk. If anyone is interested please let me know and I can set you up with the Park Naturalist, Kristie Nelson.
7. Montauk Mill is one of a select few historical park sites to be featured in the new Missouri Virtual Heritage Project. Work has already begun on this project. This will make mill tours more accessible to all people.

Other Park Goals/Upcoming Programs:

1. Park staff would like to form a Montauk State Park Friends Group if an interested individual can be found to partner with.
2. Rose Holland Trout Derby will be held October 6-8, 2023.
3. Haunting in the Mill will be held October 21, 2023.

Law Enforcement Updates—Hunter Barnes**Montauk Lodge Updates—Gregg Mendenhall****Montauk Fish Hatchery Updates—Tom Whelan****Other Topics of Discussion/Questions:**

- Customer Rewards Points