

# MISSOURI STATE PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029



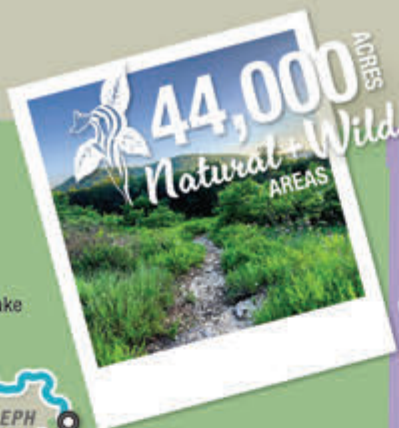
## PURPOSE FOR THE PLAN

Missouri State Parks aspires to the following:

*Missouri's outstanding resources and  
unique heritage will be cherished,  
preserved for and proudly supported  
by current and future generations.*







**Missouri State Parks** is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Established in 1917, Missouri State Parks includes 93 state parks and historic sites. Each year millions of visitors explore the more than 162,000 acres to hike, camp and fish, and explore nature. Visitors also experience the past and learn about the cultural history of the state.

The mission of Missouri State Parks 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. All three parts are of equal importance.

## Funding the State Park System

Thanks to the citizens of Missouri, the division of state parks is supported by half of one-tenth of 1% of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax. This sales tax allows free access to Missouri's 93 state parks and historic sites.

This tax was first approved by voters in 1984. It has since been reapproved by voters four times, in 1988, 1996, 2006 and 2016. At least two-thirds of voters approved the tax the last four times. The tax will be on the ballot for reapproval in 2026.



[mostateparks.com](http://mostateparks.com)



State Historic  
Preservation Office



Grant  
Opportunities



ADA Information



Park and Site  
Status Map



3,772  
CAMPSITES

2,000  
STRUCTURES

# 93

## STATE PARKS AND STATE HISTORIC SITES

### 3 GRANTS

The division administers three federally funded grant programs and one state funded grant program. These grants provide financial assistance for outdoor recreation. Individuals, groups and public entities can apply for the grant programs. Missouri has a diverse range of historical, architectural and archaeological resources. The division also works with citizens and groups to identify, evaluate and protect these historic resources.



**\$20,526,262**

IN FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS  
(1969-2024)

**\$37,773,422**

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)  
FUNDS AWARDED (1996-2024)

**\$109,342,821**

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND  
(LWCF) FUNDS AWARDED (1965-2023)

1,110  
MILES OF TRAILS

364  
LODGING  
UNITS

20+  
Million  
VISITORS ANNUALLY



#### LEGEND

- KANSAS CITY REGION
- LAKES REGION
- SOUTHEAST REGION
- CENTRAL REGION
- ST. LOUIS REGION
- NORTHEAST REGION
- CITY
- STATE PARK
- STATE HISTORIC SITE
- ★ BACKCOUNTRY AREA
- ▲ UNOPENED PROPERTY / LIMITED ACCESS

- KATY TRAIL SP
- ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (DEVELOPED)
- - ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (UNDEVELOPED)
- ... ROCK ISLAND TRAIL SP (UNDEVELOPED RAIL WITH TRAIL)



Facts and  
Figures

# MISSOURI STATE PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029



## A Five Year PLAN

This strategic plan, in addition to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources placement, will provide direction to the Division of State Parks for the years of 2025-2029.

- Provide guidance for the future.
- Enable team members to work in a coordinated manner towards common goals.
- Foster innovation through collaboration and communication amongst team members, stakeholders and the public.
- Improve efficiency and use of division resources.
- Empower effective decision making.

This five-year strategic plan assists the Division of State Parks in accomplishing its mission. The plan will supplement the division's long-term strategic goals and policies. This strategic plan is not intended to list all the potential initiatives the division may undertake over the next five years. Instead, it identifies high-impact initiatives the Missouri State Parks team aspires to accomplish. This strategic plan is intended to support and strengthen the division. It will be reviewed on an annual basis to keep Missouri State Parks adaptable. Each year shifting

priorities will be noted to keep Missouri State Parks agile and relevant.



## THE FRAMEWORK

Missouri State Parks molded this strategic plan using the following framework, which parallels the Department's placemat.



**ASPIRATION:** Missouri's outstanding resources and unique heritage will be cherished, preserved for and proudly supported by current and future generations.



**THEME:** Strategic pillars that uphold the division's aspiration.



**INITIATIVE:** High impact initiatives the division aspires to accomplish over the next five years.



**MEASURE:** Indicators to assess progress for each initiative.



**MEASURE OWNER:** Teams responsible for reporting progress in the future.

## PLANNING METHODOLOGY

### Strategic planning goals, approach and timeline were presented to the division's leadership team.

Nineteen teams were established, comprised of every program and sub-region. Each team was tasked to develop three high-impact initiatives to achieve in support of the division's aspiration over the next five years. Teams also suggested how to measure the progress of each initiative and assign who will be responsible for reporting progress in the future.

### Team deliverables were collected, organized and analyzed.

- Forty-one initiatives were categorized under six themes.
- To narrow focus, team members and concessionaires were surveyed and tasked with selecting a defined number of preferred initiatives under each theme.

### Survey results, providing essential insights, were presented to the division's leadership team.

Leadership reflected on the survey results, engaged in productive dialog, and collaborated to solidify the division's strategic initiatives.

FLIP FOR INITIATIVES





MISSOURI STATE PARKS  
**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
2025-2029

The division aspires to accomplish these high impact initiatives over the next five years.

THEME	DESIGNATION*	INITIATIVE	MEASURE	OWNER**
MISSION	A	Gain ground against the most resource-threatening and ecologically damaging invasive species at each facility, by updating the invasive species action plans annually and devoting staff hours to control projects.	Hours of invasive species control projects logged annually.	NRMP/ REG
	B	Complete 10,000–15,000 acres of natural resource-purposed prescribed burns each annual fire season, sustaining the 3–5-year rotation standard for the state park system's 44,000 designated prescribed burn acres.	Total acres of prescribed burns accomplished annually.	NRMP/ REG
	C	Enhance camping experiences by expanding the number of campsites offered, replacing trees lost to natural causes and upgrading publicly available technology such as Wi-Fi.	Number of campground related enhancements completed (new sites offered, trees planted and technology upgrades).	P&D/ REG/ DO
	D	Evaluate historic and CCC structures or sites to develop standard maintenance and preservation procedures to better plan for maintenance and repair.	Percent of standard maintenance and preservation procedures developed.	CRMP/ REG
	E	Create adaptive recreation and interpretive programming to meet the needs of participants with physical limitations.	Number of adaptive recreation and interpretive programming events offered.	GRIP
CUSTOMER	F	Increase brand recognition of Missouri state parks and historic sites through <a href="https://mostateparks.com">mostateparks.com</a> improvements.	Percent completion of <a href="https://mostateparks.com">mostateparks.com</a> improvements.	VSP
	G	Increase accessibility through technology to better serve all Missourians (MO Virtual Heritage Project, Track Chairs, etc.).	Number of accessibility experiences offered and/or projects completed.	GRIP/ REG/ DO
INTERNAL OPERATIONS	H	Develop and update facility Operation Plans to become current, relevant and usable.	Percent of Operation Plan updates completed.	REG
	I	Complete Cultural Resource Management Plans for each facility (includes collection plan).	Percent of Cultural Resource Management Plan updates completed.	REG/ CRMP
	J	Evaluate the condition of Organized Group Camps and develop strategies for future use.	Number of Organized Group Camp use strategies developed.	P&D/ REG
	K	Plan and implement \$250 million in Capital Improvement, Revenue Bond and American Rescue Plan Act projects across the state park system.	Sum of completed projects.	P&D
FINANCIAL	L	Continue to advocate for increased appropriation authority to address team member compensation challenges.	Number of compensation challenges addressed.	DO/ BSP
LEARNING AND GROWTH	M	Collaborate and provide job-specific training opportunities that are relevant and hands-on.	Hours of job specific training opportunities provided per year.	DIV
	N	Educate team members on safety hazards, mitigation efforts and workplace wellness.	Percent reduction in workers comp related injuries.	S&W
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	O	Implement a maintenance management software pilot to track and forecast budgetary maintenance and replacement needs.	Implementation of maintenance management software pilot.	REG/ DO
	P	Implement a simplified reporting framework with integrated interactive dashboard (attendance, RS2, resource trackers, etc.)	Percent of reporting framework with integrated interactive dashboard implemented.	BSP/ DO
	Q	Convert PastPerfect to a cloud-based, collection management software system.	Conversion of PastPerfect to a cloud-based system.	CRMP

\*DESIGNATION: Each initiative has been identified for easier reference; the letter assignment does not indicate a higher level of importance or priority.

\*\*MEASURE OWNER: BSP = Business Services Program; CRMP = Cultural Resource Management Program; DIV = Division; GRIP = Grants, Recreation and Interpretation Program; NRMP = Natural Resource Management Program; P&D = Planning and Development Program; REG = Region; S&W = Safety and Wellness Program; SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office; VSP = Visitor Services Program

# Thank You!

*to all who participated in the planning process.  
Your feedback was instrumental in the development of this plan.*

Missouri State Parks works closely with organizations across the state and the business owners that operate concessions at these state parks.

*Sam A. Baker State Park*

*Bennett Spring State Park*

*Echo Bluff State Park*

*Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park*

*Lake of the Ozarks State Park  
(Marina, Pin Oak)*

*Lake Wappapello State Park*

*Meramec State Park*

*Montauk State Park*

*Pomme de Terre State Park*

*Roaring River State Park*

*Stockton State Park*

*Table Rock State Park*

*Thousand Hills State Park*

*Harry S Truman State Park*

*Washington State Park*



*Almost every photo in this document  
was taken by visitors who participated  
in the Rural Missouri photo contest.*



**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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