Public Meeting
10/09/2022
Missouri State Park Mission

• To preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri’s natural landscapes;
• To preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri’s cultural landmarks;
• To provide healthy and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities for all Missourians and visitors to Missouri
Missouri State Park Funding

• Approximately three quarters of Division of State Parks funding comes from a half of dedicated 1/10\textsuperscript{th} of 1% sales tax.

• The other quarter comes from State Parks revenue (i.e camping) and some grants.

• We are all very fortunate to have this dedicated voter approved funding and strive to be good stewards of taxpayers funds.
Park Mission Statement

– Preserve the parks mesic old growth forest
– Preserve the parks historic CCC/WPA resources
– Provide recreational opportunities consistent with the parks character
Babler Quick Facts

- Dedicated October 10, 1938
- 2441 acres of Ozark-border Missouri River Hills Landscape
- Average 375,000 park visitors each year (581,480 in 2021)
- Average 33,000 of overnight guests each year
- 7 Full-time, year round salary staff
- 5-10 temporary seasonal workers
Significance of Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park

The CCC

Native Missouri river hills landscape and green space
A Small City Itself

- Successful operation of Babler State Park is much like the operation of a city. The park is responsible for:
  - Water System
  - Wastewater System
  - Overnight Guests
  - Daytime Guests
  - Cooperative Partnerships
  - Education/Interpretation
  - Road Systems/Trail Systems
  - Building/Facility Maintenance
Overnight Guests

The park offers overnight guests safety, security, and excellent customer service for:

- 75 campsites
- 30 person capacity special use area
- Jacob L. Babler Outdoor Education Center

The park receives

- Over 30,000 campers/year in campground & special use area
- 10,000 campers at the outdoor education center
- 12,253 camping nights sold - 2021
Daytime Guests

The park provides opportunities for outdoor recreation & picnicking:

– River Hills Visitor Center
– 16 miles of trails for hiking and equestrian use
– 3 picnic shelters and 1 enclosed shelter
– Numerous picnic sites throughout park
Building Maintenance

• Park staff are responsible for maintenance, upkeep, and restoration of all park buildings
  
  — Newer Construction
  • Includes the Visitor Center and Outdoor Education Center complex
  
  — Park’s Historic District
  • 22 buildings dating from the 1930’s
  • Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Project Administration
Unique Cooperative Partnerships

Babler State Park has partnered with the Parkway-Rockwood Community Ed in the operation of:

- Jacob L. Babler Outdoor Education Center
  - Staffing and operation by Parkway-Rockwood Community Education
  - School year used for school camps
  - Summer and weekends used by groups such as scouts and organizational camps and retreats

- Historic Riding Stables/The Outpost
  - Babler Wild Summer Camp ran by Parkway-Rockwood Community Education
Interpretative Programs & Outreach

- Interpretive staff provide programs year round for a variety of groups:
  - Campers
  - Visitors
  - Youth Groups
  - Schools

- Babler Outdoor Adventures Program
- Outreach events
Visitor Center Operations and Resale Area

- Focal point for information about the park
  - Maps
  - Reservations

- Resale of park focused merchandise
2022 Challenges

- Ending of Covid restrictions
- Working with an increase of park usage and camping.
- Removal of diseased trees (Emerald ash borer) especially in campground. Will continue into winter 22-23.
Project Updates

- New tractor purchased to replace aging one
- New HVAC system for OEC Dining Hall
Project Updates

• Capitol Improvement Projects
  - Repainting of parks drinking water tower
  - Repairing exposed sewer and water line along Bates Road
Project Updates

- Capitol Improvement Projects
  - Paved Bicycle Trail construction spring 2023
Natural Resource Opportunities

• Managed Deer Hunt 11/5-11/6 and 12/3-12/4
• Stewardship Initiatives-prescribed burn, invasive species removal
• Volunteer opportunities
On the Horizon Projects

• Old pool complex removal and redevelopment of area.
• Equestrian Lot improvements and or relocation
• Proposed mountain bike trail
On the Horizon Projects
Revenue Bonds

• Babler Lodge Project
On the Horizon Projects
Revenue Bonds

- Campground Improvements
On the Horizon Projects
American Rescue Plan Act

- Connecting park to municipal water.
- Rehabilitation of wastewater lagoons.
On the Horizon Projects

- New Playground at Guy Park Trailhead
Questions?