



Castlewood State Park Annual Public Meeting

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. September 22, 2022 at Shelter #2

Park Accomplishments

- Painted interior and exterior of restrooms 2 and 3. Replaced rotten fascia boards to extend the life of the structure.
- Burned the 35 acre Mountain Ridge burn unit. This is the second prescribed burn in parks history – 3.3.2022
- Nearly completed the automated front gate project. Awaiting delivery of light pole for dusk-to-dawn lighting. This automated gate will:
 - Reduce the amount of seasonal employee funding spent on opening and closing the day-use area.
 - Improve response times for first responders arriving for after-hours emergencies.
 - Improve staff safety when arriving before or after normal operating hours.
- Created comprehensive “Event Hosting Guide” to provide event organizers needed information. This guide is available online for reference and answers most questions for first-time event organizers.
- Installed heat in the Shelter #1 restroom, allowing this restroom to be open year-round.
- Phase III of Kiefer Creek Restoration completed:
 - Multi-phase and multi-year project to restore eroded creek banks and protect the Kiefer Creek watershed.
- Completed Castlewood Conceptual Development Plan – a multi-year planning effort with public input to guide the development of the park.
 - Annual Public Meeting – August 29, 2020 – 9 a.m. Held at Shelter #2.
 - CDP Public Meeting #1 September 17, 2020 – 5:00 pm. Held at Shelter #2 & Facebook Live
 - Public input received September 17, 2020 to October 19, 2020. Comment cards & online survey.
 - CDP Public Meeting #2 July 29, 2021 – 5:30 pm. Held at Shelter #2
 - Public input received July 29, 2021 to August 30, 2021. Comment cards & online survey
 - Annual Public Meeting – September 25, 2021 – 9 a.m. Held at Shelter #2.



Upcoming Projects

- Improvement to ADA parking for River Scene Trail – This project is CDP objective #3.
 - Provide ADA parking and paved access to peninsula and lower River Scene trail.
- Repair of creek bank stabilization Kiefer Creek Stewardship and repair.
- Install 5 interpretive panels to accompany the completed creek restoration work.
 - Panel Themes:
 - Stream restoration and nature based solutions for non-point source pollution
 - Nature-based solutions for water management
 - Land management improves the Kiefer Creek watershed
 - 20th century history of Castlewood State Park – Beginning of urbanization
 - Early stewards of the land: The Osage Nation
- Develop Master Trail Plan with Trail Coordinator to guide the development, maintenance and project priorities for the trail system.
- Redirect Equestrian use trails south of Meramec – This project is CDP objective #10.
- Designation of a special events area for all large special events. This project is CDP objective #7.
 - Creating a specific place for large special events allows accommodation of special events without disrupting day-users as much.
 - Area reverts to non-vehicular day-use access when not used for special events.
- Relocate official kayak access to Glencoe along Al Foster trail – This project is CDP objective #9.
- Implement inclement weather related trail closures in 2023 – Trails to be closed to cyclists and equestrians when trail conditions are wet to prevent erosion and trail damage.
- Castlewood beginning process of achieving designation as Urban Night Sky Place.
 - This will help Castlewood prevent light pollution and serve as an example to educate land managers and home owners in St. Louis County about light pollution.
- Kaes House – 19th Century home, located on Cedar Bluff property.
 - Working with St. Louis County partners to discuss alternative uses for Kaes House.



Attendance and Overcrowding Management

- 2019
 - Total attendance – 593,212
 - Attendance from January through August – 382,555
- 2020 – Began active overcrowding management
 - Total attendance – 781,767
 - 93 temporary closures throughout entire year
 - Attendance from January through August – 491,795
 - 80 temporary closures during January through August timeframe
- 2021
 - Total attendance – 901, 523
 - 18 temporary closures throughout entire year
 - Attendance from January through August – 486,919
 - 13 temporary closures during January through August timeframe
- 2022
 - Attendance from January through August – 474,106.
 - 7 temporary closures during January through August timeframe

