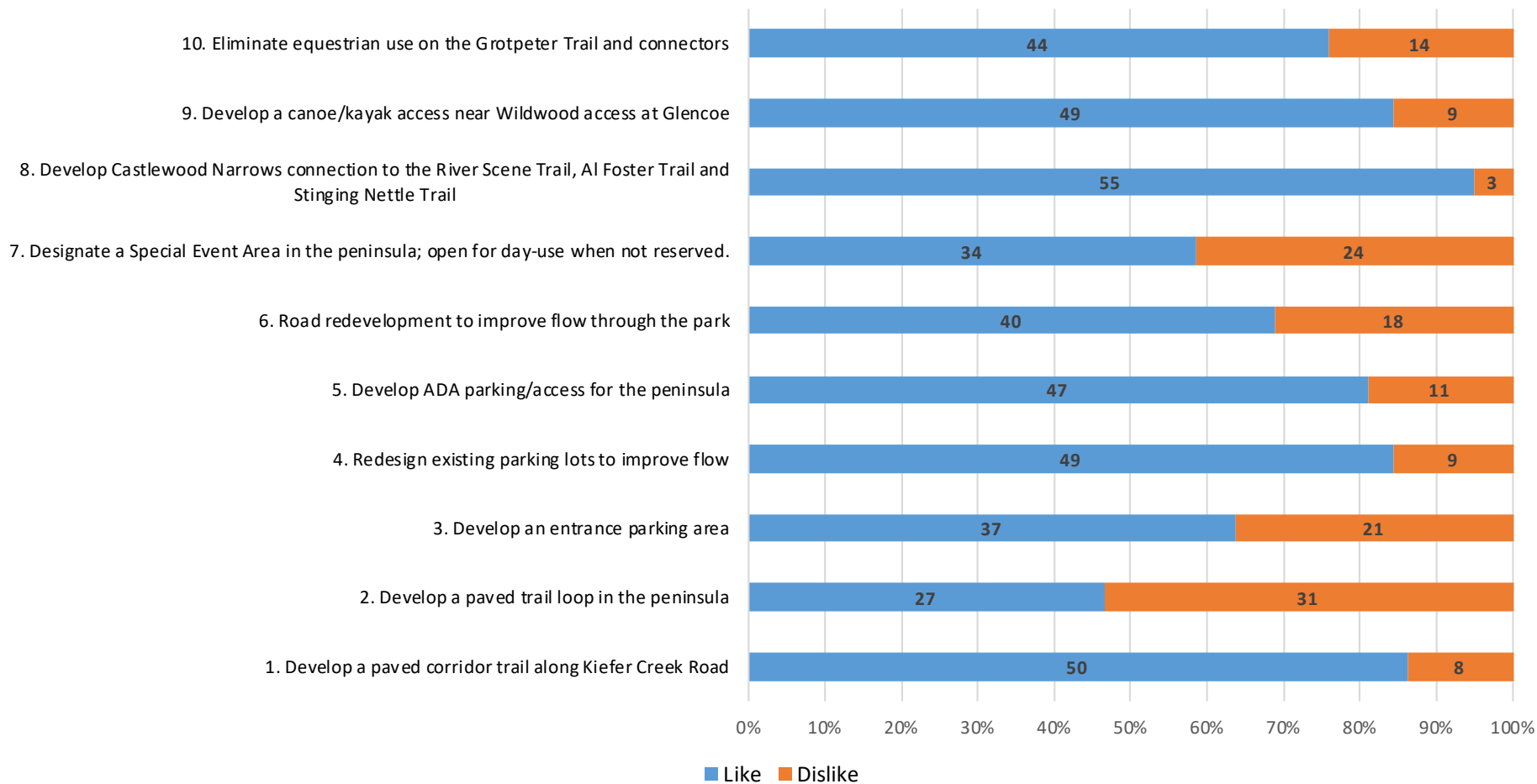




### Public Input on CDP Alternatives





**CDP Alternative Comments:**

1. Developing the narrows is, without a doubt, the best alternative because it will greatly improve access to the other trails. Improving the flow of traffic is a close second given the volume of traffic.
2. It looks like you have come up with many good ideas.
3. Event space does not fit the site's missions to be a uniquely undeveloped setting.
4. People need the GRG greenway trail connection!!!
5. Make sure trail in floodplain along banks are secure making sure to contract a highly qualified geomorphological engineer to stabilize the slopes. This is the most important decision you'll make to ensure a sustainable project.
6. Fixing the narrows connection would be my highest priority. Currently there are too many disjointed park sections and this would allow a seamless connection to all areas on the north side of the Meramec. MO state parks are a tremendous asset for the residents of and visitors to our state. I never cease to be amazed at how many wonderful and varied hiking/biking trails there are within 45 minutes of the city. Thank you to all who keep the parks safe and well maintained!
7. A special use area near the river would bring many in experienced swimmers and children near an attractive hazard also frequent floods would limit options for sustainable development.
8. Add connector to access the chubb trail.
9. Fixing the Castlewood narrows is much needed to fix the dangerous situation of folks using the RR property to connect to the two trails.
10. Invest in more trails and making the current trails more sustainable. They are very eroded and nothing has been done recently to improve and maintain them. Fix the narrows connector.
11. #8 - Castlewood Narrows connection to the River Scene Trail, Al Foster Trail and Stinging Nettle Trail should be highest priority.
12. I suggest opening the Cedar Bluff Trail to equestrian use. It appears to be used by equestrians already. I think the data shows it is used very little by bikers and hikers. It would balance multi-use with the closing of equestrian use on the Grotpeter and connectors.  
  
The trails in the northeast part of Castlewood are used quite heavily and have been for years. There are areas on these trails that need fill and rearranging. There are a group of volunteers who would help to maintain and improve trails but the park would need additional equipment and appropriate vehicles and



tools to support trail maintenance activity. Could this be included in the CDP?

13. I like a soft dirt trail and the "wilder" look of the peninsula, thus my "dislike" on #2. However, if the intention behind a paved trail is to offer ADA access, then I support the plan.

I think adding parking at the entrance will bring more people into the park, and there are more than enough people now even with the parking past the railroad closed!

The peninsula is quite peaceful and I'm not eager to see the additional traffic a Special Event Area would bring.

I can't tell for sure from the map where the proposed canoe/kayak access is. If it's in a separate area of the park, I fully support it. I'd like to see access to the river from the main area of the park blocked as much as possible to try to prevent drownings.

14. Connection to Al Foster and Stinging Nettle is the most important thing that can be done.

15. 1 - Corridor trail needed to keep people safe and off the busy roadway.  
2 - Paved loop could be great for ADA accessibility.  
3 - The park is too already too busy to add any more parking! The park is so loud when it is full, and it takes away from my enjoyment. Why would anyone want to add more people into the mix?  
4 - The current design of the parking lots is terrible. They get so congested, and it takes forever for people to get in and out of them.

5 - It's a good idea to add ADA parking.

6 - Road design in the park needs to be some kind of loop. It would help traffic flow and be a lot more fun to cruise through.

7 - Great idea! Always hated it when you get to the park and some running event has taken over the whole park. How is that even allowed? Sometimes they use all of the trails and take up most of the parking. Might as well not let normal people in for the day if they can't park anywhere and can't use any of the trails.

8 - This needs to be done. I hope to be able to ride my bike from Eureka to Valley Park someday.

9 - Sure.

10 - It's not a good idea to have large animals in the park with so many people and dogs. Plus they poop everywhere and cause tons of trail damage.

16. I love visiting Castlewood! The problem is that the park is being loved to death and nobody seems to care. It is so busy there that it can make it hard to enjoy. I like the ideas to improve the roads and existing parking lots but please don't add more parking.

17. I think the narrows connection is the best part of the plan. Please open that connection with a permanent bridge or armored trail. Also, the parking improvement should be focused further into the park and not right at the entrance. More parking at the entrance means more cars and more congestion for everyone to drive past.

18. I like the idea of adding trail/walking access, but not additional parking — let people hike/walk-in from nearby neighborhoods (they already do anyways and it causes major safety/traffic

**Castlewood State Park  
CDP Survey #2 Results (2021)**



**n = 58 (# of respondents)**

issues on the roadways). This park is so overcrowded, and things seem better now that some parking is reduced. Traffic on the roads is still dense and on the trails there are so many people — please find a way to reduce this so this park can actually be enjoyable with peace and quiet! It's obvious based on trail conditions/traffic that there are too many hikers/bikers! Adding more parking for more cars is not the solution.

19. Check river bank on west side of peninsula for erosion; stake and monitor.

**Comments or suggestions regarding Castlewood State Park:**

1. I think parking issues and traffic flow should be primary focuses. More parking would be great.
2. #8, #10 need to be priority 1 and 2 for safety reasons. Both will improve safety for all park users as Castlewood has become a major use area for mountain bikers and pedestrians (especially families).
3. Really need to fix connection between CW and Al Foster. Such a great corridor.
4. Love the trails and am a very frequent user but believe trail maintenance could be improved. Either by the park staff or in partnership with GORC. Also, I suggest keeping the peninsula closed to vehicular traffic bc it's much safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Suggest adding signs regarding trail etiquette (i.e., "help care for the trails by avoiding using them in wet conditions").

5. We love this park for the natural setting and for its capacity to allow so many people to be out on trails at the same time, experiencing nature and getting some good outdoor adventure/activity
6. Please work to build GRG's greenway connection ASAP to link Castlewood and make it more accessible.
7. It is definitely an asset to the whole state that needs HELP with parking on site or nearby with trail connections to the park.
8. Getting road and road corridor for separated pedestrians and car use will fix many capacity issues. Moving hiking trail 2-3ft uphill from rs trail head to underpass would move reeling out from under power line to reduce Bird introduced vegetation, ex soaring road surface could be milled to save trucking on gravel for improvements and reduce truck emissions hauling rap off. Park has a long haul distance from quarry's due to river and road paths
9. Add connector to access the chubb trail.
10. Improvements to the park are greatly needed and would further improve this important and popular State Park in the St. Louis region.
11. I have mountain biked the trails at castlewood for 25 years. Unfortunately, a majority of the trails damage I have personally seen was caused by horses on wet trails. Some mountain bikers also ride the trails when too wet, which also upsets me, but

Castlewood State Park  
CDP Survey #2 Results (2021)



n = 58 (# of respondents)

typically the damage is not as great. Also, I have seen way too many cases of trail users cutting new trail around obstacles which needs to be curbed. I would support roping off to block rotearounds.

Additionally, I think it would be great if St. Louis County and Missouri State Parks would start and enforce a Rain out Line/WebsiteApp for all trails. St. Charles County had this, and it removes personal opinions (many poor ones) on the trails conditions.

12. Please add more trails for mountain biking. Connecting the closed narrows section would be fantastic. Bathroom facilities could be improved.
13. There needs to be more parking available up from away from the river.
14. Please consider work to improve the hiking/biking and running trails in the park. I love the park and the trails but some need a little attention
15. The park is well-managed and the staff are highly visible and clearly trying to improve the experience for park patrons. Thanks to all the staff for their professionalism and hard work.
16. Please try to do more to prevent people from swimming and wading in the river. I know you have done a lot to prevent drownings, and I'm not sure what else can be done to make

wading and swimming less attractive--maybe trying to block more of the accesses and having patrols in the area? I don't like the idea of a canoe/kayak access in the main area of the park. What you have right now is confusing--it looks like a place for people to walk down to the river as well as put in watercraft.

Some of the white numbered trail connectors need to be marked and mapped better. I used the Grotpetter Trail for the first time recently and all of the connectors were confusing as heck. It looks like some of them might offer some good hiking and it would be helpful to see them on a map before trying them.

Just wanted to say this is one of my favorite parks--thank you!

17. This heavily used park provides an excellent opportunity to provide public outreach programs. I encourage DNR to consider staffing this park with a dedicated naturalist to develop this opportunity.
18. Access to park by sidewalks or bike trails. Now if you want to enter the park, it must be by car. You should be able to walk or ride your bike.
19. Please fix the connection to the back part of the stinging nettle trail.
20. Would love a bathroom somewhere along the longer part of the trail maybe down by water.

Castlewood State Park  
CDP Survey #2 Results (2021)



n = 58 (# of respondents)

21. Love that they closed the area past the train tracks! It is nice and quiet down there. Now they just need a sidewalk around the gates, or a better gate system at the tracks.

Replace the old bathrooms.

22. Replace those old bathrooms. It is time to modernize.

They should close trails after it rains like they do in St. Charles county parks to keep the trails in good shape.

23. I love the park and most people treat it well. I would like to see more rangers and enforcement of park rules. People with unleashed dogs are the biggest offenders here, and this is not safe on trails or anywhere else in the park. Unsafe for the dogs, and especially unsafe for mountain bikers.

24. Changes due to COVID have really been beneficial, making the park an actually enjoyable place to visit. Just having fewer cars in has been really nice. I like that fewer events have happened because of COVID because the park is actually a quiet nature area that can be enjoyed instead of some event space that creates huge crowds/makes it difficult to use trails.

**Comments or suggestions regarding Missouri state parks and historic sites:**

1. Missouri has a wonderful state park system.
2. Push back against railroads that get in the way of the public using its parks.

3. Stream water quality is always a concern after rain events at the Meramec tributaries through the park my kids have played in many times. Always nervous about that.

4. Add connector to access the chubb trail.

5. Love the parks, much needed for Missourians and visitors to get outside and explore our beautiful state!

6. I think it would be great if St. Louis County and Missouri State Parks would start and enforce a Rain out Line/WebsiteApp for all trails. St. Charles County had this, and it removes personal opinions (many poor ones) on the trails conditions.

7. Establish rain out line and rope off to officially close trails on rainy days.

8. I like the greenway!

9. I don't know enough about the peninsula to really dislike the ideas but I was feeling that more people by the river might mean more swimmers getting pulled out in the strong current.

10. More connectedness. Castlewood should be connected to trails like Meramac Greenway and other biking/hiking corridors.

11. I'm very impressed with the planning efforts for improving our great state parks. Thanks for sharing this info.