

MSP Disclaimer on Ozark Mountain State Park Comments

These comments do not reflect the opinion of the State of Missouri or the Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks, nor are these entities responsible for the content or the factual accuracy of the comments. The responses have not been edited or otherwise altered, except to remove names and other identifying statements, profanity and violent language.

Ozark Mountain State Park
Comments received online Dec. 5, 2017 – Jan. 6, 2018

Zip Code: 63049

1. Keep the Park 2. To keep expenses down, set up the program with the Missouri College System. The State Parks would benefit with the help and the Missouri College System would benefit by keeping enrollment high. No money involved, just credits that benefits the State of Missouri. The program would be run like the CCC from the 1930's. The youth would commit to a 4 month period of work for the Missouri State Parks and be paid in credits. For 4 months of work equals tuition paid for 1 year at any Missouri College System Universities.

Zip Code: 63122

I live in saint Louis county and have been camping for most of my life, largely in Missouri, both state and national forest locations. I strongly support opening all of the parks at issue, even if only open for limited use due to financial restrictions.

Zip Code:

Mo state parks are a asset to our state, I want this state park to re open as soon as possible.

Zip Code: 65804

This property in at Bryant Creek is critically important in my view because so little old growth forest remains and the new pine growth could show Missourians and tourists what the state looked like as a pine forest, before the trees were cut and the hardwoods took over. Plus BEARS!! This one really sounds like a keeper to me. Please don't sell off this land and please DO keep the property, let it remain as undeveloped if needed, until the budgets are under control and the state has breathing room to do improvements. Missouri tourism will benefit from retaining this property.

Zip Code: 64086

Save our State Parks for future generations. Selling off these lands is short sighted and deplorable.

Zip Code: 63129

I would like to see this retained as a state park.

Zip Code: 63011

Please do not sell this park. HOLD on to and develop this property for future generations. Park land is one of the few assets that all Missourians can access.

Zip Code: 63011

Please do not sell the public's land. Parks are a priority to Missourians, as evidenced by the recent 80% + support for the recent park sales tax vote. I strongly oppose selling public lands to private interests

Zip Code: 63021

This river and land are close to my heart and have been for many years. I stil bring new people down to this area to float and camp and they always come back. Please do not destroy the land or close the park! If anything, continue to plan and build for an park opening sooner than later. Thank you!! [REDACTED] age 36

Zip Code: 63139

Please support our parks and keep them open and pristine

Zip Code: 63146

Please keep the possibility of this becoming a future State Park open. With the success of the State Park passport program that had Park users go to our State Parks to get a stamp to show they were there I'm sure this will become another destination Park. It would be nice to keep some undeveloped land near Branson. The Bald Knobs in Missouri are getting harder to find over time and with this property having some it would be nice to preserve them for future generations.

Zip Code: 63034

I am one of the many that voted overwhelmingly continue to keep our state's parks running with our tax dollars. I was thrilled when Eleven Point State Park, Ozark Mountain State Park, Bryant Creek State Park and Jay Nixon State Park were created & how the new parks could benefit the local economies. Our state is blessed with these scenic areas, Missourians support our state parks, politicians listen to your constituents & reopen and develop these newest parks

Zip Code: 63301

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we created, but by what we refuse to destroy" John Sawhill, President of the Nature Conservancy The State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources in my option has been given the responsibility and our taxes to protect Missouri's natural resources for current and future citizens of our state as well as visitors to appreciate and enjoy. I fully support the purchase and forthcoming stewardship of Ozark Mountain State Park .

Zip Code: 63501

Please preserve the three Mo State Parks being reviewed

. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Kirkville, MO 63501

Zip Code: 64118

I think it should be kept and saved. Just take our time and save the land. Conservation is a big deal in Missouri and with its location so close to branson tourism will be up because of this. Also we never seem to be able to get reervations or camp at table rock because it is in such high demand . This could add another location in the high tourist branson for people to camp and enjoy especially for those of us who prefer state parks. Just work one park at a time and do what is possible with finances till it is complete then move on to creating the next new park. There is no excuse why our state cant save these parks and make them eventually for public use. Jeff City wasn't built in a day and we can't expect the parks to be either. Just work and build as finances become available

Zip Code: 63124

State parks are very important to Missouri residents, and continuing to add facilities to the park system is very important. Any threat to liquidate a park is a major cause for concern because of how such action diminishes the opportunities Missourians have to spend time in the natural world. Our State parks are natural resources that belong to all Missourians and should be held "in trust" for them, not treated as property that can be disposed of on a whim. Wilderness areas can't be easily replaced when they are lost and the land sold off. The beauty of Missouri's wilderness resides in our State park system. I am totally against removing this park from the State Park System or selling off its land. I want this area to be maintained as a park for now and the future.

Zip Code: 89124

Eric Geitens is a monster that can not be allowed to shutter and sell our precious parks. People need access to connect with wild lands now more than ever. Think of the future, not the profits.

Zip Code: 65681

I am totally supportive of retaining the Ozark Mountain State Park as a minimally developed property, with natural surface trails, and limited infrastructure. From a cost standpoint, referring to your published "Factors Under Consideration", the first, most costly item listed, "1 mile gravel road" is the less necessary, making the "low-impact development" approach extremely inexpensive. While there are many valuable esthetic reasons for retaining this property, the economic impact

is also an important aspect, as a result of it's immediate proximity to Branson. As a resident of neighboring Stone County, I am very proud of our many attractions, including Table Rock Lake, Silver Dollar City, and the many diverse attractions in Branson. Unfortunately, most of those activities are quite expensive, especially for younger families. What our area lacks is cheap or free activities that can offer families, as well as baby-boomers, opportunities to enjoy a chance to enjoy our abundant natural resources, in addition to our other major attractions. The Ozark Mountain State Park would be a highly marketable treasure that would strengthen the economy of the Branson area, and the State of Missouri as well.

Zip Code: 65466

I make the recommendation that support groups consisting of local residents from within the park areas be put in place to assist State Park officials in fundraising, providing volunteer support, enhancing political assistance, etc.

Zip Code: 63026

Please do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. The people of Missouri have an obligation to protect and preserve the outdoors for future generations.

Zip Code: 63341

I am in favor of reopening all closed state parks for the residents of Missouri and out of state visitors alike to enjoy and explore. Not only do these green spaces provide education and recreation, but contribute to the health and betterment of Missouri's environment. My hope is that funding is increased to maintain and grow these state treasures.

Zip Code: 65109

Missouri State Parks should retain the park to preserve habitat for the plant and animal species unique to the glade habitat and to preserve the watershed protection benefits the property offers.

Zip Code: 63017

Please keep Ozark Mountain State Park in the state park system. It's been said that we can't afford to maintain the new parks. Why develop this park. Just set it aside in its natural state, or perhaps let a volunteer organization plan and maintain the park. Once pristine land is developed, it's ruined forever. Remember that Missourians in every single county voted nearly 80% in favor of continuing the Parks, Soils, Water Sales Tax. Adding state parks to the system is a bipartisan tradition

in our state that should continue for today and future generations.

Zip Code: 63119

I appreciate that Missouri State Parks has purchased this unique property in order to preserve it and provide an opportunity for the public to access and enjoy Ozark Mountain SP and the Roark Creek watershed and glades. There should be no rush to develop the new park, historically MSP has developed many parks in stages allowing for assessment and planning. The public should be allowed access as soon as possible for those activities that can be supported by the natural environment. It gives me comfort to know that plants and wildlife unique to glades and the region will be protected in a natural area in close proximity to a growing urban area and existing conservation and recreational lake areas. Protecting the watersheds that provide water to rural and urban residents is important for us and our children. In addition, the possibility of historical (cultural and geological) education opportunities are present at OMSP (Garber, a school house, a former saw mill, former ranch, and other structures as well as glades and a creek providing glimpses into geologic history of the area). I think minimal development would be needed and my preference would be for a gravel parking area, use of existing roads and trails for walking, hiking and viewing signage about natural resources, cultural resources, and to spotlight birds, plants and animals that might be encountered. Primitive camping might be allowed; and the former ranch fields evaluated for a small campground in the future. I realize that there must be a priority for deferred maintenance spending at the existing state parks; however, this park property is worth keeping for future enjoyment of all Missouri citizens and to provide public access to an important natural area in the southwest portion of the state.

Zip Code:

I think DNR should begin managing Bryant Creek SP as a nature area using the funding provided in the original award, and begin developing hiking trails. As funding becomes available, more amenities can be added in the future including pavilions, campgrounds, and paved roads. However, none of those amenities are necessary to begin habitat management and trail building. This area can be opened to the public within the next year or two as a low-development natural area, and then developed with more amenities as funding becomes available. The original funding awarded for purchasing this park included over \$190,000 to fund 10 years of stewardship and natural resource management. That money should be used for its intended purpose. In order to save costs, perhaps this park could share staff with

either Roaring River SP or the new Bryant Creek SP. Do not sell this area. Thank you.

Zip Code: 64110

What a gem!! The pictures and map show an obvious and perfect place for a state park that saves this beautiful property for the public. I have hiked the Henning Conservation Area and seen Roark Creek and it was such an oasis away from the over-developed, man-made theme park of the Branson area. The fact that these two abut each other makes it even better. I hope planning for this park can begin immediately and I will definitely come from KC to visit!

Zip Code: 63028

Keep this land open as a park.

Zip Code: 65203

This is a rare opportunity that should not be passed up. We have raised our children to be fine citizens, and no small part of the credit goes to Missouri State Parks and Missouri's Rivers. The opportunity of hiking, floating and enjoying nature in Missouri's Parks adds enormously to the attractiveness of Missouri for its residents and visitors. To have the opportunity to eventually develop this area into a state park of all Missourians is wonderful. Opportunities can come at inappropriate times for one reason or another, and the fact that funds may not be available now or may not even be on the horizon is no reason not to take advantage of the opportunity presented by this land. It like all land is unique, but it has special value in that there is such a scarcity of similar land anywhere. I have always believed that government should always act in the long term interests of all of its citizens and it seems clear to me that keeping open the opportunity to develop Ozark Mountain State Park as opposed to losing that opportunity is in the best interests of Missouri citizens and is the responsible thing to do.

Zip Code:

Missouri has a lot to offer to its residents. We visited all the state parks and historical sites and marvel at the beauty of our state. We have places for families to go to hike, swim, ride bikes, horses, enjoy mother nature at her best. To take away these parks for commercial reasons is WRONG!!!! Since they are always talking about global warming and you take away the trees that provide shade, help stop erosion during heavy rains, provide habitat to the wildlife that live there. Do you ever stop and wonder why Kansas is boring to travel through? They cut down their trees to make more farm land, which they may of thought it was a good thing. They found out later that with out the trees to draw rain

to the area and to hold back the erosion when it floods, they had a problem on their hands because of greedy people. Please do not destroy our beautiful state by selling these parks off for commercial use and cause more problems down the road. Remember Mother Nature will take back what was hers with a vengeance. Flood of 93, 2016, 2017 etc.

Zip Code: 63131

I would like to see the parks stay open as they were purchased or given to the people of Missouri.

Zip Code: 63123

I love all the Missouri State Parks! We completed the 100 year visitation of all the sites last October but were very disappointed we could not visit the 4 new parks. This is a golden opportunity for all citizens now and in the future to have these beautiful lands for us to enjoy, visit, hike, and other possibilities there are. We passed the tax, we want these parks! They should not be sold! We should enjoy them! It would be criminal for our elected people to destroy them. They should be a lawsuit filed against them and be jailed for treason to the inth degree!

Zip Code: 63130

Below is the text of Sierra Club's comment letter regarding Ozark Mountain State Park. The format provided for commenting does not allow for the inclusion of the letter's numerous footnotes and drops the formatting. Therefore, we are also e-mailing a copy of the full letter, with footnotes and formatting, to State Parks Director Ben Ellis. January 6, 2018 Missouri Department of Natural Resources Ben Ellis, Director, Division of State Parks Submitted via Missouri State Parks website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FJ9JXNL> and via email to ben.ellis@dnr.mo.gov Re: Comments on the Future of Ozark Mountain State Park Dear Director Ellis: On behalf of Sierra Club, we submit these comments on the future of Ozark Mountain State Park in Taney County, Missouri. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club has been an advocate for public lands and has worked to protect and increase access to them for well over a century. In furtherance of its mission to promote recreation, education, and conservation, Sierra Club organizes thousands of trips, outings, and hikes every year, including hundreds across the state of Missouri, to engage people in the outdoors and promote appreciation and protection of the natural environment. As such, the future of Ozark Mountain State Park is of critical interest to Sierra Club and its approximately 10,300 members in Missouri. Sierra Club recommends the following with regard to Ozark Mountain State Park: • Preserve the 1,011 acres in perpetuity for use and public access as a

state park, the purpose to which the property was expressly dedicated when the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquired it. Do not sell the park. • Implement the restoration plan described in the Roark Creek Tract Project Proposal. Re-forest the park's open fields and pastures, preserve its existing native oak woodland, and restore and maintain its natural glades. • Open the park for public use and access, but leave it undeveloped with the exception of trails, parking, and vault toilets to preserve its natural character while minimizing development and operation and maintenance costs. I. DNR Should Not Try To Sell The Park. Missouri's state parks are immensely popular, and Missourians willingly show their support for them with both their feet and their wallets. The number of people visiting the parks each year has increased by more than 5 million over the past decade and topped 21 million in 2016, an all-time high. Missourians voted overwhelmingly in 2016 to reauthorize the one-tenth-of-one percent parks, soils, and water sales tax, which provides the bulk of the park system's operating funds; 80 percent of voters statewide supported reauthorizing the tax, it passed in every single county, and 81.6 percent of voters in Taney County voted to reauthorize the parks tax. Missourians also benefit economically from state parks. According to the State Parks Division: The Missouri state park system ... has a positive economic impact on the state and local communities. ... Results of an economic impact study released in 2012 estimate that total annual expenditures of state park visitors in 2011 were approximately \$778 million. The overall economic impact of these expenditures is estimated at \$1.02 billion in sales, \$307 million in payroll and related income, and \$123 million in federal, state and local taxes. Also, visitors' expenditures support 14,535 jobs. For every dollar spent by Missouri State Parks to operate the state park system, Missouri's economy saw a \$26 return on investment. These impacts show that Missouri state parks enhance our state's economy as well as improve visitor's health and well-being. Adjusting for the increase in attendance since 2011, park visitors would have spent approximately \$946 million in 2016 (the latest year for which attendance information is currently available), resulting in a total economic benefits of more than \$1.7 billion. Given the popularity of Missouri's state parks and their economic and other benefits, it would be contrary to the interests of Missouri residents, including Taney County residents who showed their strong support for the parks by voting four-to-one in favor of reauthorizing the parks, soils, and water sales tax in 2016, for DNR to try to sell Ozark Mountain State Park. As set forth below, such a move would be both unwise and unlawful. II. Ozark Mountain State Park Is a Long-Sought Addition To The State Park System. DNR has been seeking to add Ozark Mountain to the

state park system since 1992, when the Ashcroft Administration published the Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan (1992 State Park Expansion Plan or Plan). The Plan's release followed a five-year process involving research, public meetings, and input from elected officials. The 1992 State Park Expansion Plan identified recreation, natural history, and cultural/historic resource gaps in the state park system and recommended specific sites for inclusion in the system to address those gaps. To this day, DNR continues to embrace the 1992 State Park Expansion Plan: "This document still provides the fundamental basics for evaluating suggested additions to Missouri's state park system." The 1992 State Park Expansion Plan stated that the state park system should include representation of as many major natural history themes as possible in each major natural division and section in the state, and identified the White River Glades as a significant theme lacking representation in the White River Section in southwest Missouri: A unique landscape region distinguished for its glades and associated biota. Valued scientifically at a national scale, this scenic area attracts millions of tourists annually to area lakes and recreational developments. The acquisition of Ozark Mountain State Park therefore fulfilled DNR's decades-long determination to fill a natural history gap in the state park system by adding a park in southwest Missouri that preserves hundreds of acres of the White River Section's distinctive dolomite glades.

III. The Park Was Purchased Primarily With Funds Dedicated To Natural Resource Preservation, Which May Not Be Used For Other Purposes. DNR acquired Ozark Mountain State Park primarily with funds obtained under the federal Superfund law. Kerr-McGee and related companies caused significant contamination resulting from chemical, mining, and oil and gas activities in Missouri and several other states. The federal government, numerous states including Missouri, and the Navajo Nation sought clean-up costs and compensation for natural resources damages under Superfund, which makes parties responsible for contamination liable to clean it up (or pay for others to do so) and also to reimburse federal, state, and tribal trustees of public resources for natural resource damages. In a series of lawsuits and settlements over several years, the companies ultimately agreed in 2015 to a record \$5.15 billion settlement to cover cleanup costs and natural resources damages. Due to the contamination of sites in Springfield and Kansas City, Missouri, the state received nearly \$48 million for site cleanup costs and nearly \$6 million for natural resource damages. Both the Superfund law and Missouri state law expressly limit the use of natural resource damage recoveries "only to restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of such natural resources by the state." In accordance with Superfund practice and regulations,

DNR prepared a Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan to evaluate options for redressing the natural resources damages covered by the Kerr-McGee related settlements. Missouri State Parks then prepared a specific project proposal explaining why the acquisition of the property that became Ozark Mountain State Park would fulfill the goals of the restoration plan. Roark Creek is a 1,011-acre tract of natural glades and woodlands, traversed by 2.2 miles of Roark Creek including half of the East Fork Roark Creek's 3-mile length. ... Water quality and aquatic habitat in Roark Creek and its tributaries support recreation (wading, swimming, seasonal canoeing and kayaking), livestock and wildlife watering and protecting aquatic life; and contribute to the water quality and aquatic values of Lake Taneycomo. The woodlands and glades alongside Roark Creek and East Fork Roark Creek contribute to that water quality and aquatic habitat by providing shade, surface and groundwater inputs, and watershed protection. The purpose of this project is to restore and preserve 1,011 acres of native glades and woodlands; and protect the aquatic diversity and water quality along the 2.2 miles of Roark Creek and East Fork Roark Creek within its boundaries. In its capacity as natural resources trustee for the state, DNR approved the project proposal. State Parks used \$1,703,900 of the Superfund natural resource damages settlement funds, together with \$1,102,537 from the State Parks capital improvements budget, to acquire Ozark Mountain State Park. Thus, 61% of the acquisition costs came from the Superfund settlement's natural resource damage funds. The recorded deed states that the property is "dedicated to public use" and conveyed to DNR "only for the following purposes and none other: for public use as a state park, and for natural resource restoration and preservation." Because State Parks acquired Ozark Mountain State Park largely with settlement funds that may only be used – under both federal and state law – to "restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of such natural resources" damaged by the Kerr-McGee related activities, those funds could not have been used for other, pre-existing parks. Moreover, apart from DNR's lack of legal authority to sell the Park (see below), any attempt to sell Ozark Mountain State Park would require that the proceeds be used solely to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources damaged at the contaminated sites. The funds could not be used for State Parks operations at pre-existing parks and could not be directed to other state programs. In addition, if the sale proceeds did not equal or exceed the acquisition cost, DNR would also be in violation of CERCLA and state law by wasting natural resource damage funds.

IV. DNR Does Not Have Legal Authority To Sell The Park. While DNR has both constitutional and statutory authority to acquire and maintain state parks, it lacks authority to sell state parks. DNR is only

authorized to dispose of park property if it consists of five acres or less, is being sold for the specific purpose of resolving a park boundary conflict with adjacent property owners, and DNR receives land in exchange that is of equal or greater value. In light of the state's constitutionally-grounded commitment to expand, develop, and maintain the state park system, and DNR's narrowly-circumscribed authority to trade – but not sell – park property, any effort by DNR to sell Ozark Mountain State Park or portions thereof would be unlawful. Sierra Club urges DNR to dispel the cloud that it has cast upon the future of Ozark Mountain State Park and the three other closed parks, and to open the Park for public access. Respectfully submitted, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic Washington University School of Law Maxine I. Lipeles, J.D., Director Ken Miller, P.G., Clinic Scientist One Brookings Drive – CB 1120 St. Louis, MO 63130 314-935-5837 (o); 314-935-5171 (fax) milipele@wustl.edu On behalf of Sierra Club

Zip Code: 64081

Missouri's parks are a big draw to the state. We get visitors in the state because the nation is running out of green spaces. Closing, or worse, liquidating these resources will hurt the state in the future. Missouri does not have necessarily great weather, beaches, or other attractions. We have trees and wildlife. Please look towards our future. Even if the development is postponed a few years.

Zip Code: 65708

Please do not sell the new Ozark Mountain State park. We really look forward to exploring the new addition when they finally open to the public. Finding good local areas to relax and explore are becoming harder to find and we are saddened to hear about the potential sale of this new park.

Zip Code:

Leave our parks alone.

Zip Code: 63104

Keep this area in the park system. This is a great opportunity to preserve the unique natural beauty it contains. What better way to increase tourism and the economy to our state.

Zip Code: 63122

Protect Ozark Mountain!!

Zip Code:

All of the State Parks are precious. Please do not sell any of them to private concerns. Once they are gone . . . there is no turning back. Tell Governor Greitins and his fellow republicans, "Hands OFF". Thank you very much.

Zip Code: 63563

Zip Code: 65084

We have been Missouri residents for many years-growing up in the state since childhood. We moved to Florida to start and run a family business in 2005. We have made many trips back, we have family still in Missouri. And now we are preparing to retire this year. We will reside in the Lake of the Ozarks area. What a beautiful area this is ! We are strong supporters of MoRit or the Rock Island Trail being completed also. Be smart about using this available property as a state park! The land is perfect for Branson area to benefit from, as well as local communities. Missouri has a unique central location for becoming a vacation & recreation area! If you build it, **THEY WILL COME!** Please support opening this land as a park now.

Zip Code: 63020

Please do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. No development is necessary. Just by keeping it as public land it will be available for potential access and use by our children and grandchildren. Missourians love and support our wild spaces. Please keep it that way.

Zip Code: 63118

I will keep it simple. Open the Parks!! Closing them is not preservation nor a sound idea when land gets eaten up for greedy big business. Let the Public enjoy more public land. You can never protect enough land for the future.

Zip Code:

This property should be restored to a natural landscape and preserved as a State Park. By bordering a conservation area, it provides the benefit of extending an area of undisturbed land for wildlife and native vegetation. Perhaps the development could be phased out to dilute the cost over many years, but it would be a good investment for the community and an additional tourist attraction for tourists already coming to the area. Creating more jobs in Missouri is always good, right?!?! Also, with many universities in the state, and nearby, offering Natural Resource programs and degrees, it would be easy to recruit students for internships and

graduates for professional positions. And, hire locals for additional maintenance and tech positions.

Zip Code:

How small and miserly is this body of legislatures that they would take away public lands for all to enjoy the beautiful and unique geography of the beautiful state of Missouri. I implore you to leave these parks as they are - available to all to see and access.

Zip Code: 63955

This little piece of heaven needs to be preserved for ALL Missourians young and old, for generations to come! I personally am not a fan of commercialized Branson so THIS beauty would be a TREASURE to explore with my family. PLEASE SAVE THIS PARK FOR ALL OF US! Thank You

Zip Code: 63143

Please protect this state park and make it become a reality. Protecting the natural heritage of our state is important for so many reasons. Protected land provides clean air, filters water, removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provides valuable habitat for wildlife. Visiting or viewing a forest scene has been documented to have a positive effect on psychological healing and well-being in terms of recovering from stress, improving concentration and productivity, improving the psychological state, particularly for people from urban environments. As more of our land becomes developed, we must balance this by protecting whatever wild land we can. Land that can be managed for sustainable harvest of such things as lumber, fishing and possibly hunting is critically important to future generations. Local communities will benefit from the tourism dollars generated by peoples using these parks. Please protect this park!

Zip Code: 63141

The purchase of these lands was the perfect opportunity to protect these watersheds for the future. Maintain the parks at minimum as wilderness areas with limited facilities until a long term management plan can be developed.

Zip Code: 63119

Missouri parks should NOT be sold. They should be available for everyone to enjoy!

Zip Code: 65692

The need for this park needs little explanation. Branson is one of the most visited tourist towns in the United States, but has few natural areas left. I used to

frequent Branson, but now, prefer natural setting and quiet places, which happen to be less expensive. There is no way you could go wrong opening this park. Some of these bald knobs need to be set aside for tourists that want to see the natural Ozarks. There are a few good wilderness areas in the region, and a few good conservation areas, and the Henning Conservation Area, but for the mobility limited and aging a good state park is needed. One suggestion I have for this park is a wheelchair accessible path that gives the handicapped a feeling of being in nature, where they can experience glade plants and collared lizards, and enjoy the views of Branson. (Showcase the glade plants, animals, and landscape) The accessibility and contrasts would be a great experience for all users. Connect this state park by trails to Henning Conservation area. And don't forget to design the drive and parking area to accommodate a few tour buses, but don't make this place a monstrosity. It can all be tastefully blended in to the landscape. Also, solar and wind power. Get creative with a visitor center. Tax credits could be made available to a provider of alternative energy. Giving them a little bit of advertising and showing off new technologies to promote sustainable living. It would be a win-win for all, and with architectural creativity would look nice. I won't name names, but talk to some of the wealthier families in the Branson and Springfield area about financial assistance and tax incentives, some of them are very well known developers of hotels, resorts, and amusement parks, it's not hard to figure out. I'm sure solutions could be found to benefit all, and give Missouri a great new state park without dipping into the park system budget.

Zip Code: 63052

Hello there. I hope I'm not wasting your time, but being a person one with Nature here in Missouri; I'd like to know is there anything that I or other Missourians can do to help keep our Parks at top Priority for our Parks, State, Our Families, Animals, Native Plants ?! Thank You. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63069-3155

I believe this park should revert back to inclusion in Taum Sauk state park.

Zip Code: 65612

NO SELLING OF OUR STATE PARKS!

Zip Code:

For anyone in the state government I would say with great confidence it is a mistake to close or take away any state parks in Missouri. As an angler/outdoorsman and avid kayaker/floater I know public lands are critically

important given you never know how private owners will treat the land or waterways that run through them. I understand plenty of private owners are great and responsible people but if the land is already publicly owned selling it off to anyone or the highest bidder threatens the purity of the land and having access to the outdoors in general. Any sale of currently owned public land should never be considered. Also anyone in government when that land is sold will have the thousands of Missouri citizens unite to vote them out of office when the opportunity arises. Missouri is a natural state with great access to the outdoors. Any attempt to infringe on the rights to the public land we have will not be allowed by its great citizens and stewards of nature. This appears to be a shot at Democrat as well since the former governor Nixon purchased the land and established the parks. Politics is divided enough already and while I support neither party directly I will not stand for a party that makes such a blatant attack on another to not give them credit for helping our state stay natural.

Zip Code: 65109

Ozark Mountain State Park would attract many visitors because of its proximity to Branson, generating revenue to make improvements to the park. It would be a shame to sell or otherwise dispose of this picturesque property and deny Missourians and others the opportunity to enjoy this state park.

Zip Code: 63119

Please, did not sell our parks. They are precious resources for Missouri families.

Zip Code:

I don't know as much about this park as I do the other two but from looking at the map it seems like a perfect spot for some public land in the over developed Branson region.

Zip Code: 65247

I'm in favor of the park. Sharing resources with the next closest park would make more sense for the monitoring of the park. Since there's already an old road on the property, revitalizing this road vs building a new road would be more cost effective since the foundation of a road is already present. Also this would preserve the original travel route of the property. I don't think the full road could be used, but just a short portion to the parking lot. Then the remaining old road would serve as a trail (saving costs of trail construction) the old road could be lightly altered to serve as an ada compliant trail with its foundation (saving the cost of an asphalt trail) then branch other trails off of the old road.

Zip Code:

The state far overstepped its bounds in the purchase of these parks. The money was meant for other uses. After the way echo bluff land was bought in a highly suspect bidding process and then a ridiculous amount of money was spent while other state parks are in desperate need of maintenance I don't trust the process by which this land is bought and managed. I am in favor of selling the land.

Zip Code: 63123

The overwhelming voter support for the conservation tax shows that Missourians consider their parks and natural resources to have tremendous value. The availability of these lands in Missouri is limited. Only about 6% of Missouri land is publicly held, compared to 33% nationally. These lands were chosen because of their natural value and this is great opportunity to retain their natural state. If sold, the changes made to the land would be irreversible. The economic benefits to the state, if sold, would be short lived, where the benefits as a state park would last for generations; benefits such as the money spent locally by visitors and the state and full-time and part-time employment at the park and local businesses. Amenities such as parking, picnic and toilet facilities, and hiking trails can be constructed at a relatively low cost. More elaborate facilities could be added as funds become available.

Zip Code: 63117

I support continuing operations of this park. I love visiting Missouri 's parks. It's one of the things that makes Missouri great

Zip Code: 64131

Develop the park as finances allow do not sell them off or use these public lands as a political football

Zip Code: 63122

As population grows, we will need to provide more areas for recreation and to experience nature, not less. The current administration may not agree with the citizens who voted to increase support for our state parks, but we will need this property for future expansion. If we don't keep it now, it may not be available later. If Governor Greitens doesn't want to spend anything to develop the property, then just let it wait until the next administration who will hopefully be more responsive to the will of the people than to Business.

Zip Code: 63122

I understand the backlog of projects and funding for our parks. Utilizing this area as a wilderness area with no

improvements would be a fantastic use of this park. Its a shame that politics have gotten involved in our parks. I was at Bell Mountain Wilderness a few months ago doing an overnight backpacking trip, and the lack of resources and established campsites is exactly what drew me to the area. I hope that this and the other parks can be kept in public hands. It would be a shame to lose something that would be almost impossible to replace. Thank you for listening.

Zip Code: 63141

I have hiked and floated throughout the Ozarks and am very familiar with the area. Purchasing larger tracts of land for MO Parks was an excellent idea and way to preserve the land for future use by Missourians and others. I urge the Park service to keep and manage the recently purchased areas in a natural state.

Zip Code:

Sell. Use proceeds to reinvest in existing parks that are years and years behind on maintenance.

Zip Code:

I strongly support expansion of State Parks. My wife and I are frequent visitors to state parks. When we visit, we stop at nearby restaurants, gas stations, and other local businesses. Missouri is a better place to live and visit with more parks. The associated counties should be encouraging parks so that people will visit and spend money at local businesses.

Zip Code:

Keep the park and open the park.

Zip Code: 65401

Missouri State Parks are a crown jewel of our natural resources. This park would protect an important watershed. Please do not sell off the property even if it can't be developed right away. Giving Missourians even minimal access is preferable to losing it forever. Open spaces cannot be replaced. Clean water cannot be regenerated. We have all we will ever have and need to protect it.

Zip Code: 65203

I, along with my family and friends, am a regular and enthusiastic user of Missouri State Parks. I would almost never go to southern Missouri and spend my tourist dollar if it weren't for our wonderful state parks and wild areas. I think the property should be added to the state park system for the following reasons - It connects with Henning Conservation Area near Branson in a rapidly urbanizing area (Branson West), will buffer

the White River Balds Area and the western edge of Roark Creek from development impacts. This will also help protect water quality in Table Rock Lake. It provides distinctive habitat, limestone and dolomite glades and balds, for unique plants and animals. Roadrunners! It is nearer to Branson and Reeds Spring, for their residents to enjoy primitive recreation and exploration, about 9 miles, compared to these other state parks - Roaring River State Park - 54 miles Table Rock State Park - 12 miles Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site - 67 miles. It is very important to get ahead of population growth in southwest Missouri and preserve these areas for their ecological and environmental benefits and to ensure there are a variety of recreational opportunities for citizens in this part of the state.

Zip Code:

This land is our land. If it is taken away for financial gain the money will be gone and the park and land will be gone. Nature must be preserved so mankind may be preserved. We are losing what little green space we have in cities, don't take away our chance to enjoy the nature in our parks.

Zip Code: 63104

Anyone who has ever had the chance to spend time outside knows of the value parks bring to our lives. That value cannot be quantitated. To make decisions based solely on cost undermines humanity. Nature is the one thing that unites us all, as we are part of it. It defines our existence and we should rightly have the opportunity to be able to enjoy outdoor spaces. Parks are worthy.

Zip Code: 63119

Set up an online donation site where interested parties could make donation directly to a specific state park or the state park system.

Zip Code: 63129

Why is this closure even being considered? Natural spaces which are environmentally regulated are a precious resource. Yes, they cost money. Living in civilization where people can take walks and watch birds and learn about nature and and relax is not free, and I am happy to pay for protecting and running parks. I love the trails in Missouri. They are a point of pride and I visit them throughout the state. Enough with Greiten's overreach- he clearly does not understand what the people he represents want or value. Leave this park alone. And while you're at it, give the folks who run it a raise.

Zip Code: 63775

Do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. Our state parks are precious treasures. Perhaps establish and use a private fund for the maintenance, improvement and even expansion of our state parks. Plenty of people would be more than happy to give money to directly benefit our state parks. Allow contributions to be tax deductible and even hold fundraising events, such as dinners and auctions. It takes work, but can be extremely profitable. Also, consider ways to use our parks: outdoor weddings, corporate events? We should be looking to add state parks, not sell them.

Zip Code: 63122

REOPEN OZARK MOUNTAIN, BRYANT CREEK AND JAY NIXON STATE PARKS. MISSOURIANS CLEARLY SUPPORT OUR EXCELLENT STATE PARK SYSTEM AS SHOWN BY CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE PARKS SALES TAX OVER THE DECADES. IT MUST REMAIN A PRIORITY TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THESE PUBLIC SPACES FOR RECREATION AND CONVENIENT ACCESS FOR ALL TO NATURAL SPACES SO EVERYONE CAN EXPERIENCE AND LEARN ABOUT MISSOURI'S NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL LANDS THAT SUPPORT PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE, AS WELL AS BEST PRACTICES FOR RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. THIS PARK SYSTEM WAS CREATED BY OUR FOREBEARS. VOTERS HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED THE CONTINUATION AND GROWTH OF THIS SYSTEM. IT ALSO SERVES AS PART OF THE LEGACY OF THE CURRENT GENERATIONS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MISSOURIANS AND VISITORS SO THEY MAY ALSO EXPERIENCE NATURE IN THESE RELATIVELY UNSPOILED PLACES.

Zip Code: 63017

I STRONGLY recommend you not sell or close any land that has been acquired or donated for the purpose of preservation. This land may not seem like it is necessary to certain short sighted interests of our state. But while there may not be an obvious use to some, I'm sure there likely will be in the next 50 to 200 years. And THAT is the main reason the land has been placed in your charge for us - PRESERVATION!!! In fact, I think these parks should be opened immediately any way, to hikers and people who just want to see what we as citizens own. It does not need a playground, and paved parking, a wheelchair path, signs with arrows, wood bridges or even a designated path. But the citizens of this state should be able to - and have the right to - view what they own at any time, regardless of facilities. As well, these

spaces make our state more attractive to visitors, and can add to the state's income. This is what Missouri is known for - beautiful waterways, lakes and forests to be enjoyed by all. There are only pluses to keeping this land and space. You are maintainers of property owned by the people of the state. Your job is NOT to divest itself of the very thing it is there to protect and manage. YOUR job is to preserve, protect, defend, and maintain that which has been placed in your care.

Zip Code: 63118

Please keep this park. Preserve the natural beauty of our state.

Zip Code: 63110

State parks should remain parks. I want my kids to enjoy these special spaces. Don't let greed and corruption win.

Zip Code:

Please open OUR parks and keep them open. We need more public parks not private land. We should preserve these parks for our children and grand children.

Zip Code: 63130

From the website it looks like Ozark Mountain State Park has some excellent glades and rock formations. It also provides a watershed to Lake Taneycomo. Last, from adjoining boundaries views it look like there is development close by. I think this piece of property should remain a state park for its unique natural features and to protect the watershed for Lake Taneycomo. Leave it undeveloped to keep the cost down maybe allowing a trail to be built.

Zip Code: 63376

"Do Not " sell this or any state park. We the people of Missouri need more parks and outdoor areas to enjoy.

Zip Code:

DO NOT close our state parks! My family spends large chunks of our time out in Missouri nature. Save our state parks!

Zip Code:

Keep this and all parks open and run by MO Conservation Department. They do great things for the environment and education.

Zip Code: 63303

This park should remain open with a gravel lot and 1 bathroom facility. All trails should be unpaved "natural" trails.

Zip Code: 63119

I am an avid user of Missouri State Parks and know that they are a huge asset to not only Missouri residents but to the tourism industry of Missouri and bringing in revenue to areas normally without outside revenue. This park is pristine land, that if not preserved, will never again be available. Minimum dollars will be required, and Missourians have always supported parks through our taxes and voting specifically to parks and outdoor recreation. I feel strongly that it would not be prudent, and would be extremely short sighted, not to keep this as a park and at least provide minimum access, trails, and rustic facilities. We can always upgrade later, but once this land is gone, it is gone forever. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63368

I would like to see them developed but at the very minimum they should be saved for the future. Never heard anyone say they're sorry that they have too many parks.

Zip Code: 63139

Please make these parks open to the public. I love and enjoy hiking and camping in the great parks Missouri is so fortunate to have.

Zip Code: 63122

Stand firm and DO NOT sell Missouri's most valuable resource, the LAND! We Missourians already own it. Let's share it as the State Park that it is,. There is no need for Grand development....to enjoy Nature. [REDACTED]

Zip Code:

Ozark mountain state park should remain as a valuable asset in Missouri's public land portfolio and as open to public recreational use as possible.

Zip Code:

I support the opening of Ozark Mountain State Park for the recreational activities and economic boost it would provide Missouri.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 29403

I no longer live in Missouri, but I have family there and many fond memories of visiting and camping in Missouri State Parks during my youth in Missouri. We still try to visit them when we are visiting my Mom. My dad was George Brakhage. It's my opinion that Missouri

has one of the very best state park systems in the country, and that absolutely everything possible should be done to preserve and maintain these parks and to provide access to residents even if the parks remain undeveloped. Parks are precious access points to nature, and can shape lives in ways that are immeasurably positive. That certainly happened for me.

Zip Code: 63130

Leave the parks alone, you morons!

Zip Code: 63105

Mothball any new parks, between parks and conservation departments we have enough to pay and care for. I'm a regular user of both and support Gov Greitens.

Zip Code:

Please do not sell this park!

Zip Code: 63028

I find the conservation of state land to be very important and would like to see this park developed

Zip Code: 65340

I sure would like to see the economic benefits of this great State Park come sooner than later. Please move forward in making it usable to Missourians as soon as you can afford to do so. I would suggest making it rather basic without too much infrastructure that would lessen the integrity of the natural communities there. The local economic benefits will be great in that area. Eventually, we'll need to increase funding for DNR beyond the pittance they receive now. For now, let's make sure we keep on building the legacy of protecting Missouri's natural resources for all citizens to enjoy by moving forward ASAP with sustainable and conservative development of the Park.

Zip Code: 63021

I am 61 years old and a lifelong Missouri resident. I am a university professor who has enjoyed state parks in all areas of the state all of my life. Because of the close proximity of my residence to one of our most beautiful gems, Castlewood State Park, I am a state park visitor approximately once per week. Obviously I am a huge supporter of our parks. I feel that the undeveloped parks can be kept undeveloped as long as necessary, but should never be sold.

Zip Code: 63028

Hello, My belief is that public land and parks are a beautiful thing for anyone to have access to. This is truly one of the few things that we can conserve and pass down for generations to come. If public land disappears or sold off it would be a much more difficult time to recoup this land back. I think Ozark Mountain State Park would give a good opportunity for vacationers, and visitors to get away for Branson and the Lake to get to enjoy nature. I noticed that Table Rock Lake State Park (visited summer 2017) is close by which is good for the lake visitors but crowded and busy; this would give a break to get away and enjoy some of the surrounding area. I believe that if leaving the park more of it's natural state would be a wonder. As far as funding and cost I think having marketable timber taken from the land would aid in any offset of initial development cost. As I stated earlier leaving in a natural state should also help keep cost to a minimum but still allowing visitors to enjoy the Ozarks. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65630

Our state parks need to be protected. We should never consider selling off our natural treasures at any cost. Tell the Governor no!

Zip Code: 63109

Please do not sell off our state park!!! It's so important to have these spaces to keep our ecosystem healthy!!!

Zip Code: 64078

We are adamantly opposed to the closing of any of Missouri's state parks including Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek, and Jay Nixon State Parks. The "current lack of funds for development" is not a legitimate reason for selling any of our parks since there is no need to rush into development of any of the more recently acquired parks. Development can take place over time as resources become available to do so. These recently acquired parks are sound and proven investments with the realization of a return to occur over time through the tourism industry and recreation. It is also a sound and highly important investment in the welfare of the citizens of our state as well as out of state visitors. A growing population surely doubly underscores the need to retain these park lands. It seems essential that our state provide increasing numbers of parks to ensure our citizenry has access to high quality areas to enjoy and learn from natural surroundings and to have opportunities to recreate in quality out-of-door parks. Retaining ownership of these four parks also ensures protection for some of Missouri's very special landscapes. Please make the decision for the well-being of our state and its citizens and refuse to act to sell these important parks.

Zip Code: 63118

Please do not close Ozark Mountain State Park. We need all to conserve all these spaces and once sold off, will be very difficult to replace.

Zip Code: 63122

Please keep and expand all Missouri state parks, Ozark Mountain is fantastic and should be saved for now and future generations. Thanks

Zip Code: 63118

A few hundred thousand dollars for millions in benefits? Closing this park is shortsighted, partisan silliness. Parks are one of the main reasons I live in Missouri. We lead the country in outdoor opportunities and natural resources. Lets build on that instead of selling out and becoming another Kansas,

Zip Code: 65807

The citizens of Missouri regard state parks very favorably. I want to see more state parks for future generations to enjoy and am very opposed to the concept of selling off these 4 new state park lands. These parks for the most part were purchased NOT with tax dollars but from the lead settlement and were in accordance with the terms of that settlement. The land does not have to be developed now but it should be saved for our future citizens to enjoy. My family uses our parks a LOT and I fully support our parks, jewels for outdoor recreation, and affordable for families. DO NOT SELL these park lands. Parks create jobs and economic gains for the communities they are near. I can't understand why any one would be against our parks as they contribute millions of dollars to the Missouri tourism economy per year.

Zip Code: 64658

I enjoy visiting state parks when the weather permits. In hope that u will open these parks and give the state citizens the opportunity to visit and enjoy them.

Zip Code: 65804

Thank you for this opportunity to comment: 1. State Parks are good for the local economy. That increases local jobs and raises the beneficial tourism economy. 2. Missouri State Parks do not charge an entrance fee so low and moderate income citizens have access to affordable outdoor recreation. Accessible outdoor recreation means improved health for our children and families. Being in nature is a necessity. Shinrin Yoku is the art and science of Japanese Forest Bathing which is scientifically documented by a Japanese scientist. The

initial Shinrin-Yoku plan of 30 years ago was based solely on the ingrained perception that spending time in nature, particularly on lush forest trails, would do the mind and body good changed in 1990 when Dr Yoshifumi Miyazaki of Chiba University broadcast on NHK Japan Broadcasting as he conducted a study in the Yakushima old growth forests. Dr Miyazaki reported that physical activity - 40 minutes of walking and breathing in the forests compared to the same done in a laboratory was associated with improved mood and vigor. He backed up the reports by findings of lower levels of stress hormones compared to that of the lab exercise. He has documented that substances from the forests have beneficial qualities and each one targets a health issue but the best way to improve your health is to walk, stroll and breathe in the forests and outdoor settings. Therefore, the more land that is taken away from our parks and auctioned off for development the less access and the less forested and outdoor natural areas that we have to heal and regenerate and renew our vigor for life. 3. A majority of voters in every single county of Missouri voted YES to parks on sales tax and soil conservation by an 80 percent margin. 4. State parks protect places of ecological significance so future generations can enjoy the unique Ozarks landscapes. We must have biodiversity to maintain species and life on planet Earth. State parks help us to do that. Pesticides and herbicides and genetic engineering hinder the goal of biodiversity. Therefore we must protect diversification as much as possible--not just for beauty and landscapes but also to protect life. 5. Who will benefit from the auctioning off of our public state parks? The buyer-developer will benefit virtually by stealing the land from the people and taking it out of public domain. The seller-governor will benefit because he is doing a favor for the buyer-developer. 6. I support opening State Parks and keeping them clean and accessible to all citizens to benefit for recreation and for health.

Zip Code: 63010

We visit Missouri parks on vacation every year. If we continue to close them park by park, we will then spend our vacation dollars in the surrounding states. This is a beautiful state and we fully support our parks. Please find a way to keep them open. Although we consider ourselves Republican leaning, we would support a special tax to maintain our Eco-tourism opportunities in this amazing state.

Zip Code: 63130

This park is an important asset to Missourians and should not be sold! Historically, new parks have not been immediately developed. State Parks are economic assets to the local communities, counties, and the state.

While state parks contribute greatly to Missouri's tourism economy, the increased opportunity for recreation in the local area is just as significant. Lands of the natural qualities found in these four new parks are rare. The Missouri Park System has prospered for 100 years without resorting to the sale of its lands. Sale or disposal of these lands should not be an option!

Zip Code: 62206

This Park deserves to have its access updated. With so few trail and roads the public does not get much of a chance to enjoy the diversity of trees and plant life this particular region offers.

Zip Code: 65324

Please do not sell off any of the Missouri State Parks that Gov Greitens is considering including Ozark Mountain.

Zip Code: 65063

These comments are being provided on behalf of the more than 3200 members of the Missouri Parks Association. All three park properties are being addressed in one statement. All three properties, Ozark Mt, Bryant Creek and Jay Nixon have the resources that warrant their inclusion in the state park system and will be of great benefit to the citizens of Missouri. In fact park planning documents such as Missing Masterpieces and the State Park Expansion Plan have long called for the addition of properties in the Bryant Creek and bald knob area of the Ozarks in order to fill gaps in the existing state park system. While Jay Nixon State Park is a valuable natural and recreation resource, its primary value is as an addition to the existing Taum Sauk Mt State Park, for which it was acquired, and not as a stand-alone state park. MPA believes that all these properties possess the qualities to be included in the state park system and understand that professional state park staff have assessed these properties and believe they add value to the state park system. Therefore, the lingering concern that these properties might be sold or otherwise divested needs to be resolved and a clear statement made by DNR that such sales are not being considered. The sale of any existing state park is not in the public interest and would not set a good precedent should future politicians decide they want for some reason to start selling off the public estate. MPA realizes that the new state parks cannot be developed immediately because the funds to do so do not exist. DSP must focus on the current maintenance backlog and infrastructure needs. Restoration of each of these properties, however, should begin immediately with available stewardship funds. We believe DSP should follow the established Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) process, which includes public input, for Ozark

Mt and Bryant Creek; and it should incorporate Jay Nixon into Taum Sauk Mt State Park and update the CDP. Once the CDP and the full General Management Plans have been completed, some limited access to the properties should be considered via trails or special events. The closure of new state park properties until CDPs have been completed is appropriate and assures protection of the resource as well as public safety. Since these properties were in private ownership prior to being added to the state park system there will be no loss of public use opportunities.

Zip Code: 63104

I want this beautiful park to stay as a protected park.

Zip Code: 63131

Do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. Keep it wild and a place where Missourians can experience nature in it's natural state. I am opposed to the sale of this park. It would be a disservice to the citizens of Missouri. I will not vote for anyone, in the future, that has this attitude and is involved in this sale.

Zip Code: 64093

Dear Governor, Like all of our State Parks, Ozark Mountain State Park is a treasure that should not be sold. These parks are investments in the future of our state and the health of our citizens. MO is a destination for vacationers and travelers from so many states and these parks help support all the businesses and industry's that rely on them. The selling of State public lands will not help you or your party in future elections. Thank you

Zip Code:

Keep the park in public ownership. This is state resource that should not be sold for development.

Zip Code: 64111

Protect Ozark Mountain State Park. Do not let Governor Greitens sell it off. We need to be protecting our public lands so that all Missourians can enjoy them. We should not be selling these great resources to fund projects of Missouri politicians. Thank you, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65803

I want us to keep this park. It is unusual terrain and reflects the uniqueness of the Ozarks. I am a Republican. I'm frustrated with the things our governor and some other leaders of our state are doing. My opinion on the other two parks may be different, but this land needs to stay a park.

Zip Code: 64034

NONE of our parks should ever be for sale!!! PLEASE do not sell of Missouri Parks.

Zip Code:

As a life long resident of Missouri, who also grew up in the heart of the city of St. Louis on Jefferson Ave. and involved in the Boy Scouts, I believe that even the idea, that I must write a comment on some mediocre web forum to convince a room full of bureaucrats of the importance of state parks is unbelievably preposterous. This land is owned by the public, yes that is correct, the money taken from the checks of every hard working Missouri resident who in turn generates the income to pay for the upkeep of these parks, is now being put on a chopping block where my minute ownership and the opportunity to immerse myself, and my children in nature and peace is stolen. What is also stolen in this proposed sale of state land is the opportunity of every future child of generations to find the peace, wisdom and calm contemplation that can only be found in nature, away from the violence of cities where children grow up accustomed to eating their dinner while the news broadcasts another murder. Our land is disappearing, not only in Missouri but nation wide, parts of our city are radioactive, there are soils so contaminated that it has given the residents cancer for decades, every year more raw land is bought and divided to make gated suburban neighborhoods further displacing wildlife that is already pushed to the limit, in turn further segregating the haves from the have-nots. For what I ask? What possibly could replace this public land that would deem more valuable? Would it be better to raise the hills of the Ozarks, the oldest mountain range in the world mind you, and drop a Mc Donalds on the top, a Walmart? Could we instead put a factory to generate jobs for the area, that just may well employ a small part of the locals for 20 years or so before that too is torn down and the land now is toxic from chemical pollutants. Should it be sold to the public for sprawling hill top homes and in-ground pools that will then drain their yearly chlorinated water into the nearby stream where the last song of the spring peeper is heard, or where the owl catches his dinner as it has a late night drink? Well that really seems down right idiotic. Whoever is to buy this land is not only stealing it from the public, they are stealing our heritage as Americans. These shrinking plots of land called state parks are the last refuge for the idealist frontiersman and woman to leave the rat race of the modern world and enter a paradise of raw, untouched beauty. A formation of rocks where a child can find their first fossil, a stream where you can stir up a leopard frog until it disappears in a splash, as the ripples of water bring recognition of the importance of beauty, peace and harmony in our own lives, is far more valuable than any home, commercial building or factory will ever be.

This land is your land, this land is my land. Do not steal it from us and the generations after us. Thank You

Zip Code: 63141

Please keep this park. Even if you can't afford improvements for several years, it is a treasure for the people of Missouri in terms of geology, water, plants and wildlife.

Zip Code:

State and National Parks are the jewels of our state and country. Opening these lands to all Missourians enriches the lives of all who see them. These lands and their precious resources will be preserved for future generations to see.

Zip Code: 63303

Public parks benefit our state. I would like to see the park opened to the public.

Zip Code: 63017

As a retired science educator, I can speak to the importance of science and the natural world in developing critical thinkers and life-long learners. Kids (and families) need more places to explore and enjoy nature. More state parks and conservation programming will pay for themselves in enriching the lives of our future leaders.

Zip Code: 63034

What a treasure! We need to keep this a state park for future generations to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63117

I wish to express my full support for the development and opening to the public of Ozark Mountain State Park. Missouri State Parks provide excellent return on investment in human wellbeing and conservation of our natural heritage.

Zip Code: 63021

It is so important that we set aside land for recreational use by the public. Please don't close or cut back land for any MO parks!

Zip Code: 63005

If you cant afford to bring the tract up to date, leave it primitive. Do NOT sell to a developer.

Zip Code: 63026

Don't sell the Ozark Mountain State Park property even if the MO State Parks can't develop it immediately. The Parks Dept. has had this area on its wish list for a long time.

Zip Code: 65807

To Whom it may concern, Missourians need more State and National parks. We especially need the Ozark Mountain State Park. We have a beautiful state and we need more public parks for our citizens to take advantage of the beauty of our great state. Studies show there are many health benefits to getting outdoors, from fighting our obesity epidemic to mental health benefits, state and national parks are an affordable way to help our Missourians. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65630

Missouri's State Parks As the world's population grows, life-sustaining habitats exponentially disappear. There are over a thousand native species of living things found in Missouri's state parks. This includes as many as fifty species of trees and hundreds of variations of flora and fauna. The plantae, left undisturbed in these parks, remove billions of pounds of climate-changing Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere while releasing billions of pounds of life-giving Oxygen into the atmosphere, annually. Every precious plant contributes to all life existing in Earth's thin layer of breathable atmosphere. In addition to the priceless contribution of living plants to all life on Earth, we are losing native animal species at an alarming rate due to loss of habitat. Missouri's state parks offer refuge for hundreds of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fish. Also, countless insects, (including the endangered monarch butterfly and honey bee) as well as two-hundred species of birds claim these areas as a permanent home or desperately depend on these areas to recoup along their migration paths. Opening this natural habitat to development only robs future generations the opportunity to experience nature, destroys native plants and animals which only pollutes both our air and our precious waters. Given the worldwide crisis of climate change and habitat loss, Citizens of Missouri can't afford to lose their state parks. Trees, wildlife, and clean water are not disposable assets nor are they a government waste of money. Finally, keeping Missouri's wild spaces wild, is a financial investment to the state. Missouri's scenic, natural landscape, wildlife, and clean water is an attraction for people from all generations. As more natural habitats are sold, cleared and mountains are blown up, whether it is for residential, agricultural or commercial development, our scenic state becomes less attractive and more polluted. Various tourists, including

explorers, hunters, and fishermen, who might otherwise spend money in Missouri, will find our once beautiful state, less appealing. Humans have every reason to preserve and encourage individuals to keep every possible wild space in its native state and every thing to lose destroying our most precious resources. Funding: Educate the public and vote for increased taxes (I would gladly pay more taxes) Reach out for private donations Reach out to green organizations such as Nature Conservancy Money generated from tourism We can't afford not to preserve our natural resources. 2.

Historical Landmark (Ozark Mountain State Park)

This park has many historical sites that must be preserved for education. Make limited trails and for hikers, mountain bikes, horseback riding, etc...Offer special tours by volunteers from the Ozark Historical Society. Funding: Educate the public and vote for increased taxes (I would vote yes) Reach out for private donations. Money from tourism Charge admission fees Lease to private investors Reach out to green organizations such as Nature Conservancy We can't afford not to preserve our natural resources. 3.

Recreation and Camping Open the spaces to mountain bikers, hikers, campers, horseback riding (I would love to ride my horses with friends on this land and would be happy to pay a fee.) Four wheeling would be a last resort and only on during certain times of the year and to limited locations. These vehicles are disruptive to native plants and animals. Funding: Educate the public and vote for increased taxes. Reach out for private donations. Charge admission fees Money from tourism Lease to private investors Reach out to green organizations such as Nature Conservancy We can't afford not to preserve our natural resources. 4.

Wild Horse Programs There are states that pay property owners to harbor wild horses due to overpopulation. Five hundred wild horses would pay \$250,000 per year. Wild horses also would be a tourists attraction. Wild horses are like deer. They are not seen by farriers, do not get wormed or have costly vet bills like domestic horses. One of the top five cattle ranchers in North America is making more money harboring wild horses than profits made from cattle. The horses would keep weeds and brush trimmed and would not harm the trees or water. There is enough land with all the parks at being considered disposable, to harbor many horses.

Funding: Reach out to states with wild horse programs Money from tourism Charge admission 2. Offer hunting to the public on specified areas. Funding: Educate the public and vote for increased taxes. Money from tourism Reach out for private donations. Charge admission fees Lease to private investors Reach out to green organizations such as Nature Conservancy We can't afford not to preserve our natural resources.

In closing, I can't imagine Governor Greitens wanting the closing and selling of Missouri's State Parks

to be his legacy. When driving by one of these cherished natural treasures, will he be remembered as the governor who decided to preserve the park, or the or the governor who sold it for profit? Which choice will make his children the most proud? Which choice seems more honorable to fight for? Perhaps it would help if we changed the Jay Nixon Park to the Eric Greitens Park? I know that it doesn't matter to me what the park is called or how it originally was obtained by the state. I doubt the animals will care either. [REDACTED] Science Teacher Nixa Public Schools Nixa Missouri [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63051

I am saddened that Governor Greitens has made the choice to close these state parks. The state parks provide valuable resources for the citizens and tourists of Missouri. I would like to see the resources added back to the state budget to allow these parks to re-open and in some cases complete the necessary improvements needed to fully implement these sites.

Zip Code: 63301

Please continue to hold this land in reserve for future park expansion - it is not necessary to develop park facilities or make improvements but please do not sell it. This is money in the bank for future expansion of the park system which will be needed if there is significant economic expansion or if our population grows for any reason. Selling it now will be seen as very short-sighted in the future.

Zip Code: 63118

State parks are necessary to the makeup and integrity of the state they exist in. These are spaces that conserve necessary green spaces accessible to the public. These small decisions contribute against the brutal attack our current administration is making on the types of spaces. Part of what makes me proud to live in the Midwest and Missouri specifically are the beautiful spaces that exist in our state to let people freely breathe fresh air, hike, swim, and explore. To sell these off would be to doom these spaces for future generations.

Zip Code: 63051

How can you even consider removing public land? The blatant disregard for the citizens of our state by current public officials is scandalous, we approved a sales tax to buy and maintain these lands and expect you to do likewise. If any land is taken from public use I will remember on election day.

Zip Code: 63116

I am writing in support of keeping the three new state parks. I value Missouri's State Parks as a way to conserve nature, engage the community, be engines of local economies, and a way to pass on our heritage to the next generation. MO DNR has done an excellent job as the fiduciary of the parks the residents of Missouri. Each of these parks adds different benefits to the existing park system. I implore you to keep them, and continue to expand our public use spaces. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65109

I would love to see this 1011 acres developed as a state park. I have birded Henning CA and was fortunate to see Greater Roadrunner, Painted Bunting and Collared Lizard there. This is such a unique area with the glades and other natural features. This natural area in close proximity to Branson would make that even more of a tourist destination. We are so fortunate in Missouri to have so many wonderful state parks with free access. We need to preserve these areas for our grandchildren and future generations so that they can enjoy the wonders of the natural world. Everyone needs a break from the city - it's good for the soul!

Zip Code: 63385

Can the area be turned into a conversation area to protect the area till there is money in the future to make it a state park.

Zip Code:

One of the biggest draws to Missouri to bring in money outside of the state is the potential to use the outdoors through ways such as camping, hunting, fishing, hiking. Denying access to this area is cutting the potential to draw in more funding and the potential to show someone what it's like to be able to have access to these areas that may not otherwise get the opportunity. Missouri has some of the best public land access around and should try to not only stay that way but keep improving the opportunities as well. The Ozark areas alone provide some amazing opportunities to be able to get out and see some of the best places in Missouri.

Zip Code: 65804

Our parks are one of our greatest assets. To sell them would be a disservice to the citizens of Missouri. These are one of the reasons tourists are attracted to the state. To sell them would send a terrible message to the tourist industry and the citizens of the state.

Zip Code: 63017

Please keep park and maintain it so we as Missouri citizens can enjoy it. Parks are a huge asset to our tourism industry and a state asset!

Zip Code:

Open this park for the public enjoyment and take the partisan politics out of these decisions. 6K to 25K estimated annual stewardship of a 1000 acre park is a drop in the Missouri budget. The Missouri public taxes itself for the parks through a conversation tax. This is Gov. Grietens playing politics...badly.

Zip Code: 65020

KEEP THE PARK

Zip Code:

Put it in an open sale. No insider-state favors, as happened with the seizure and disposition of Camp Zoe.

Zip Code: 65203

Ozark Mountain State Park – 1,011 acres northwest of Branson (just NW of Henning Conservation Area) I think the property should be added to the state park system for the following reasons - It connects with Henning Conservation Area near Branson in a rapidly urbanizing area (Branson West), will buffer the White River Balds Area and the western edge of Roark Creek from development impacts. This will also help protect water quality in Table Rock Lake It provides distinctive habitat, limestone and dolomite glades and balds, for unique plants and animals including roadrunners! It is nearer to Branson and Reeds Spring, for their residents to enjoy primitive recreation and exploration, about 9 miles, compared to these other state parks - Roaring River State Park - 54 miles Table Rock State Park – 12 miles Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site – 67 miles It is very important to get ahead of population growth in southwest Missouri and preserve these areas for their ecological and environmental benefits and to ensure there are a variety of recreational opportunities for citizens in this part of the state.

Zip Code: 63130

The grand total of ~\$500k to get the park up and running is a minimal investment for the future of our state. This is a no brainer. One of Missouri's biggest draws is our park system and adding new places to explore helps keep people here as we continue to lose businesses and have poor job growth.

Zip Code: 63139

This park's proximity to Branson, and the human-made attractions and facilities so abundantly located there, provides an important complement to the local economy, and to tourists from any area. The relatively low-cost, low-impact nature of Ozark Mountain State Park will yield a long-term high return on investment by giving visitors to this area an opportunity to experience and enjoy Missouri's NATURAL resources as well as the tourist and entertainment features. Our state is known - and needs to continue to be respected - for natural resources. This is a VERY important part of the state to showcase and make available the opportunity to interact with NATURE, whether folks are vacationing or live in this area. THANK YOU for moving forward with opening and operating Ozark Mountain State Park. I am confident that it will add value in many ways to our precious state park system, and our state's capacity to provide healthy connections to the natural world for all ages.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63107

the park is paid for land will not get cheaper and there will less and less of an opportunity to find tracts of land

Zip Code: 63119

Missouri State Parks should strongly consider keeping open Ozark Mountain State Park. Our state parks add an unquantifiable amount of benefits to the state and it's residents. Keeping outdoor recreation areas open to the public should be of the utmost importance, and I sincerely hope the parks department will consider the benefits having Ozark Mountain State Park open. In this day and age, more than ever, we should continue to protect natural areas within our state for young generations of Missourians.

Zip Code:

As part of the Ozarks and as land that the state owns, it should remain a park. Too much land has already been bought by the ultra rich and cannot be enjoyed by our citizens. Land is our most precious commodity and the present administration will do everything in its power to privatize what belongs to the citizens of Missouri.

Zip Code: 63125

This is a great addition to the state park system. Keep it wild.

Zip Code:

Any lands held by the state represent a significant asset to the people of Missouri, now and into the future. They are the one thing that the government gets right. We will not always have opportunities to take public land of great beauty. We should do so when we have the chance. Reopen this park. Let it live up to it's potential.

Zip Code:

DO NOT CLOSE ANY STATE PARKS.

Zip Code: 63368

I see no reason why these parks should remain closed. I would like to see them open and developed for the public's use Thanks

Zip Code: 63031

I am in favor of keeping, developing and maintaining this state park and the other two in question.

Zip Code: 63122

I would like this state park to stay open and be developed when funding becomes available. Or possibly allow collaboration with an organization that would be willing to help fund or volunteer work hours to keep it available.

Zip Code: 63034

I'm an advocate of keeping all Missouri state parks open, and if anything adding to the number and acreage of parks. I have a masters degree in Recreation, Sports, and Tourism management, and I am a supporter of public parks.

Zip Code: 65255

State parks are to be cherished and always fully funded. Only the party of the rich and corporations would consider closing them. All the representatives of this party should be run out of office immediately. If they had any honor, they would resign and beg forgiveness.

Zip Code: 63125

My vote is for the State to hold onto this property. Once it is lost to private development, it will be gone for good.

Zip Code: 63119

Once destroyed, natural wilderness is hard to recreate. So I support leaving the park the way it is unless there is some actual, unique opportunity presented otherwise. The opportunity to make a profit, to mine or log, to develop in other ways - there are other places in Missouri where companies can pursue the opportunities.

There is no compelling reason to even spend resources developing the property as a park, any more than already is. Just leave it be, for future generations to decide the needs for it.

Zip Code: 63011

I respectfully ask that the administration look past any politics associated with this issue and think long term. Missourians love to camp and be outside -- its part of our culture. Moreover, creating modern outdoor destinations (like Echo Bluff) is extremely popular with campers from not only Missouri, but throughout the US. This brings tax dollars and jobs to our economy. Finally, I like getting my kids off the couch and outside. We need to encourage our young people to get outside to fish, hunt, hike and camp. Families need parks. Keep these parks in the public domain -- the politics will subside but these special places will endure. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Zip Code: 63139

Please save this park. It seems modest in size, and the value of preserving the land far outweighs the public cost. Thank you.

Zip Code:

Reopen the parks!

Zip Code: 64772

I am requesting that you do not sell of the Ozark Mountains State Park.

Zip Code: 63122

This park should be kept and developed due to its location close to Branson. It can enhance tourism and bring more visitors to the state.

Zip Code: 63130

Branson and its surrounding region are one of the fastest growing areas in Missouri. The initial purchase of the land for Ozark Mountain State Park was a wise move to preserve nearby undeveloped natural open space for public recreation opportunities for future residents of this area. I am sure that tourists (Branson's primary economic engine) will also make use of this park once it is developed. The state parks department should move forward with planning for how to develop this community asset. At a later time when funding is available that development can take place. In the meantime, keep Ozark Mountain State Park landbanked. Under no circumstances should the state be considering selling this parcel of land back into private hands. Sincerely, John Finch

Zip Code:

Close it and sell it! Get rid of the pork!

Zip Code: 63122

Do not sell the parks. They are a treasure which must be held and embraced.

Zip Code: 63043

Please re-open the state park. These parks are owned by the people and function for the people. ■

Zip Code: 65203

The Ozark Mountain offers a beautiful place to visit and provides habitat for wildlife and vegetation native to Missouri. When we go every year to Branson to have family reunions, I always look forward to visit this park as well as the adjacent MDC Ruth and Paul Henning conservation area. Every year, there is always something new to explore and enjoy. This place should remain public because it is the home for wildlife and they cannot afford more encroachment by further development. There are plenty of areas to entertain others that don't enjoy this kind of place but for people like me, my husband and the rest of my family will be a great loss not to have the option of seeing this natural place as it is. Please leave this place alone for present and future generations to enjoy. This park as it is is priceless. There has been enough development of the area. This park is only a small percentage of what this natural area was before the lake, let it remain public and available for all.

Zip Code: 63043

Our state parks are an important resource owned by all Missourians. This park should not be sold but reopened.

Zip Code: 63131

Please do not sell our state park lands. I am disappointed that our state leadership would even consider this. These resources are not replaceable and the state already owns them. If funds are not available for maintenance, leave this land as a natural area with perhaps a few hiking trails. These parks do not need facilities for camping, etc. Let the people of Missouri and our grandkids and their future children enjoy nature and preserve our parks.

Zip Code: 63122

We love our state parks and hate to see any of them closed. We would encourage our state leaders to keep open and reopen all the wonderful state parks. We have 5 grandchildren that we hike with regularly in the winter

time and we float and fish in the summer. Our daughters both frequent the parks with the kids. The State Parks are one of Missouri's best features!

Zip Code: 63104

Please do not sell this or any state park / DNR land. The very thorough DNR analysis clearly justifies that this land comprising Ozark Mountain State Park has outstanding and unique qualities worthy of inclusion into the Missouri State Park system. For the sake of budget and for preservation of the outstanding natural qualities, I feel a minimal development plan would be fine, although I am not necessarily opposed to some amenities. Hawn State Park is a good example of this relatively minimal approach, where nature is priority. Trail development and other access and amenities, if deemed necessary, could be worked out much later in the future while this could just remain back country preserved land temporarily or permanently. Many parks have inaccessible wilderness areas, which do not have direct access, yet are still technically parks open to the public. Under no circumstances should this or any DNR land be sold off to private interests or any non-conservation entity or user. Thank you for considering my comments.

Zip Code: 65203

I am a citizen of the state of Missouri. State Parks are a vital resource to Missourians for recreation and relaxation. As a child, my family could not afford fancy vacations, but we could afford camping in Missouri state parks and I have very good memories of these times. It helped me develop an appreciation for our state. The Ozark Mountain state park does not need extensive development at this time. People who are seeking a wilderness experience can still use it and enjoy it. I believe we should keep this park in the park system and open it as a wilderness area without development.

Zip Code: 65203

I have hiked the adjacent conservation area during visits to Branson and I believe it would be a wonderful idea to retain Ozark Mountain as a public resource, especially since it would serve to enlarge the protected glade habitat that is there. The park is not only a biological and recreational resource, but provides an alternative form of recreation to Branson visitors besides the commercialized activities that don't appeal to everybody. Please keep Ozark Mountain for public use, wildlife habitat and a preserve for Missouri's beautiful glade systems.

Zip Code: 63130
Leave them alone!

Zip Code: 63110

Please take care NOT to get rid of Ozark Mountain State Park - it is a treasure and we've enjoyed going there, just to BE out of the buzz and hectic pace of nearby places. Us voters of Missouri will all be better off leaving wilderness areas alone! thank you - sending New Year blessings!

Zip Code: 63139

Growing up in southwest Missouri, I have watched Branson grow which has been incredible and exciting. One of my favorite aspects of driving down through the Ozarks is how it's natural beauty reminds me that God is in charge. I see him in the rolling hills, our bald "mountains", and the stunning lakes through the wildlife and foliage. Please don't take that away from our children. How will they learn to appreciate and physically experience God in all of the natural beauty if it is taken away by developers??

Zip Code: 63376

Afternoon Please move ahead to reopen the state parks in question. Advise the governor that we cannot afford a residence in -- INNSBROOK-- ██████████ St Peters --

Zip Code:

The people of Missouri OVERWHELMINGLY want ALL state parks open and free. THEY PROVIDE RECREATION, CONSERVATION, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, Governor Greitens, J O B SREOPEN ALL THESE PARKS.

Zip Code: 63119

I believe it is important to keep all current State Parks. The State Parks provide a wonderful haven for Missourians and those visiting our area. We need more "special getaways". I also believe that State Parks provide economic growth for the cities and counties where the parks are located. KEEP OUR PARKS. It is too hard to get them back once they are gone.

Zip Code: 63116

Please reopen Ozark Mountain State Park. Our state park system is a great treasure for Missourians--good for the critters and good for the visitors. For wildlife and the environment, our state parks are vital for the education of residents and tourists.

Zip Code: 63109

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63303

Don't sell our Missouri State Parks.

Zip Code: 65203

Keep them all open, wilderness can save your soul

Zip Code: 63130

Please keep Ozark Mountain SP open! Missourians love their parks and need to have them available for a variety of uses.

Zip Code: 64735

I just found out about our governor wanting to sell state park property, for what purpose I have no idea. That state park property belongs to all the people in Missouri, not just the governor or the legislation. **DON'T SELL OUR STATE PARK LAND**

Zip Code: 64133

As our governor, your duty is to preserve and protect the resources of our state, including land that is part of the State Park System. Once such resources are removed from state control, the citizens lose the benefit and right to such lands and those pass into private ownership. Please do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. It can NEVER be replaced in the same way, for it is unique and one of a kind. Please find it in your heart to keep this piece of our state in the hands of it's citizens--all of it's citizens!

Zip Code: 93108

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63077

Continue to preserve and maintain all of our current Missouri State Parks for everyone's use and enjoyment. PLEASE DON'T ALLOW Trumpism politicians to prevail in robbing the many to please a few elites. Let Missouri be the "Show Me State" in how we preserve and protect all of our parks. d en jo yment

Zip Code: 63146

Do not sell off this state park land. Public demand for parks is high and evidenced by the number of people I

have observed at Echo Bluffs State Park and Don Robinson State Park. Missouri residents have repeatedly demonstrated their value of public land by renewing the Park & Soil tax for the past 30 years. If we are willing to tax ourselves for public lands, we definitely don't want our public lands sold off. If there are insufficient funds to develop the park, hold the land until there are funds. Robertsville State Park is an example of a state park where the land was acquired and then later developed.

Zip Code: 65616

I was at the meeting in December and was well informed on the property and various options. Ultimately I would suggest keeping the property vs. getting rid of it. While considering the necessary funding I would suggest at least maintaining it as a primitive park. Then in the future depending on funding it could be added to and enhanced. As a member of the Sports Committee in Branson, I would see this property being an asset to entice unique sporting events like trail running, adventure races, etc. Thanks for taking the public's comments into consideration.

Zip Code: 63021

Even if parks are not developed in near future they should stay in the state park hands when land is sold just a few enjoy it now everybody who can enjoy it a hiking trail or two and a parking lot would be nice in all three

Zip Code: 65689

I totally oppose selling off these new state parks! Who says we have to "develop them"? Just leave them be for now and let me picnic and hike on them. And who would they be sold to, and then what would happen to the land? Stripped of trees, eroded, no runoff protection for the streams? These parcels are priceless. I wonder what secret agenda Greitens has. I don't trust him at all

Zip Code: 65483

This park needs to continue to be open to the public as a State park. It needs to be developed as a State Park, not sold by the Governor.

Zip Code: 65608

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. Since 1980 this area has suffered significant loss of wildlife habitat due to the tremendous growth of the Branson area including the highway expansion and increase in attractions. Let the natural beauty of the Ozarks survive in this very small piece of land. PLEASE!

Zip Code: 63116

You have no right to sell state parks. They are for everyone and important for everyone to have access to nature.

Zip Code: 65101

We need the state parks to preserve them for future generations. They need to be protected. If we don't keep them they will turn into concrete and blacktop and the natural areas will be lost forever. As a voter and a tax paying citizen I am for paying what we need to keep them.

Zip Code: 63146-3769

Regarding Ozark Mountain State Park: My husband and I travel to the Branson area about once a year. This park sounds very intriguing and we would definitely enjoy hiking and bird watching there. I'm impressed about the 40 acres of glades as I know they are important habitat. I suggest that a nice restroom facility or composting toilet might be all that is needed there for our purposes. None of our state parks should be sold as the land is for Missouri residents and others to enjoy. We must ensure lands for wildlife exist, and our parks do just that. Our parks should not for sale. Thank you,

Zip Code: 63146

Missouri citizens need and want this park. It looks like a wonderful natural area that should be open for all of us to enjoy. It seems like the state should try to work with nature groups to develop hiking trails. The worst option is to sell this property. Voters overwhelmingly approved the park sales tax. We need to protect these natural areas for us and for our children and grandchildren.

Zip Code: 63640

Please use this property to demonstrate correct timber management and removal of invasive species. If we can not do that as a state park please deed the property to the Missouri Department of Conservation. We need this kind of property to erase some of the carbon footprints of our state and nation.

Zip Code: 63060

Zip Code: 64119

Zip Code: 65109

Please keep this park in the system. This is a growing and much-visited part of the state and this will be a valuable addition to outdoor land available to the public.

Zip Code: 63129

Stop environmental cuts. Save our parks

Zip Code:

ALL state parks are resources for our citizens and visitors. We have some of the nicest state parks in the country. Keep the ones we have open and open the ones in question.

Zip Code:

what are you all thinking. have the nuts taken over the asylum. our parks should not be for sale to corporate greed. shame on the corporate

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63130

I'm asking that you not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. We need public recreational areas near Branson.

Zip Code: 63139

I frequently use the parks in Missouri for recreation and I am very much opposed to selling Ozark Mountain State Park. I strongly believe that we need more land in the parks - not less. Once it is paved/mined/developed it will never be wilderness again.

Zip Code: 65781

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. We all know that Governor Greitens has sold his soul, but that doesn't excuse him (or the DNR) from selling the public's land. Stand up against those who represent the interests of the monied over those of the public!

Zip Code: 63012

The Missouri State Parks system is one of the best in the entire country. I feel very fortunate that our State and our citizens continue to provide financial support and provide these wonderful parks for all to enjoy free of charge. This is fantastic! The State Park Dept. should not sell off ANY existing parks, whether they have been fully developed yet or not. The Ozark Mountain State Park does not need to be developed immediately but it should be preserved and further study should be conducted to determine the most efficient and potential uses for MO residents and out of state tourists.

Zip Code: 63640

Deed the property to mdc for education toward timber management, invasive species control, and growing milkweeds for monarchs.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63379

Please leave Parks alone for future generations.

Zip Code:

These areas need to be kept open for the public to enjoy, study, and manage in a sustainable manner. Perhaps local groups can volunteer for some maintenance.

Zip Code: 63640

Use the land for timber management.

Zip Code: 63303

The Missouri Park System should retain the Ozark Mountain State Park property. This area contains the White River Glades (bald knobs) that people from all over the country relate to as a Missouri-unique habitat of our Ozarks. Distinctive native prairie, oak woodland, and Roark Creek are wonderful features adding various habitats to this one property. Removal of exotic invasives and restoration of the area will allow the recovery of many rare and unusual flora and fauna of the Ozarks. This area is an excellent complement to the existing Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area. As Branson urbanizes, areas like these are required for green space to allow people to get out, enjoy and connect with nature. Natural areas are also a tourist draw adding to the economic and tax base of the local communities. My husband and I have spent many of our vacations IN MISSOURI enjoying our parks. Natural resource management and restoration should begin in 2018, with a long term plan determined with public input. Missouri State Parks should add to Ozark Mountain's infrastructure over time in stages as funding and staff become available. Low cost infrastructure like gravel parking lots and primitive trails should be created soon to at least allow some public access to this public area. The Missouri Park System has never in its 100 years sold property, and any sale revenue would never benefit the residents of the whole state of Missouri as this property does. With the overwhelming renewal of the State Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax last fall, the people of Missouri approve of their parks. Please retain and begin maintaining Ozark Mountain State Park allowing it to be "open" to the public. Thank you!

Zip Code: 64015

Zip Code: 63130

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63033

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.,we need more green areas and parks and less industrial overload. Please save what GOD and Mother Nature GAVE us to enjoy for all our future generations. Thank you!

Zip Code: 63122

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. We need to preserve our unspoiled lands for veterans and future generations.

Zip Code: 63116

Do not sell Ozark Mountain Park, which would provide critical recreation near Branson. We need our state parks. We should NOT be selling them off!

Zip Code:

preservation of the one-room schoolhouse

Zip Code: 64701-7400

MO

Zip Code: 65101

Missouri's glade environment should be preserved, and keeping Ozark Mountain State Park is a great way to do that! We need more park land, not less!

Zip Code: 63654

Zip Code: 63125

This Ozark Mountain belongs to the people of MO. It should not be sold to boost the coffers of the state. Once sold - it's gone forever.

Zip Code: 64055

Missouri State parks are meant to be for the enjoyment of the citizens and for tourist industry that can bring additional revenue to the state. State parks should not be sold off for short term financial gains at the expense of our long term beauty and enjoyment of our state.

Zip Code: 63017

Ozark mountain State Park needs to be kept open. Preserving these lands are important to our state and future. Our children and grandchildren need to see and experience these lands. The beauty of the Ozarks cannot be destroyed and must be saved.

Zip Code: 63124

I would like the Ozark Mountain State Park to remain in the Missouri State Park system. It is a jewel, a precious piece of property that should not be sold away from the people of Missouri. It is close to a popular, frequently visited area and is an important addition to our park lands. We are fortunate to have it now, and we should keep it. Thank you for your consideration and support of our state parks.

Zip Code: 63139

I urge Governor Greitens not to sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 65203

I hope Ozark Mountain becomes a State Park. I completed the Missouri State Passport book in 2017 and became a believer in the State Parks Department. I loved every park and now think the more the better. Keep these special lands for every person in Missouri.

Zip Code: 63376

Please leave our state parks alone! Thank you!

Zip Code: 64126

Dear Governor. Grietens, I love the Ozarks. We are lucky in Missouri to have such stunning natural beauty to protect. I travel from KC to revel in the glory of the Ozark's majesty just like so many other Missourians. Its sacred and magical. If the Ozark Mountain State Park was open I would spend time and money there. If it is sold off I can't do that and neither can anyone else. Missouri has gorgeous state parks. Don't sell off our pride and joy.

Zip Code: 64064

My family and i have loved going to Ozark State Park. It is a good relief from the hustle and bustle of Branson. Please do not sell it or neglect it further.

Zip Code: 65401

Ozark Mountain contains many spectacular features including endangered habitat known as glades. This rare feature would be a great attraction to the already bustling

Joplin. State Parks require very little money to maintain yet brings in many tourists that stimulate the local community.

Zip Code: 65203

Dear Governor Greitens, As you know, parks provide a well of peace and renewal that never runs out. Did you know that London's parks were created in part to respond to coal-burning pollution centuries ago? In an age of unprecedented pollution and environmental destruction, we need to put our money where our mouths are -- the earth. Please make sure our descendants enjoy the same beauty in our state that we do! Thank you for reading. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65203

I think the property should be added to the state park system for the following reasons - It connects with Henning Conservation Area near Branson in a rapidly urbanizing area (Branson West), will buffer the White River Balds Area and the western edge of Roark Creek from development impacts. This will also help protect water quality in Table Rock Lake It provides distinctive habitat, limestone and dolomite glades and balds, for unique plants and animals. Roadrunners! It is nearer to Branson and Reeds Spring, for their residents to enjoy primitive recreation and exploration, about 9 miles, compared to these other state parks - Roaring River State Park - 54 miles Table Rock State Park - 12 miles Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site - 67 miles It is very important to get ahead of population growth in southwest Missouri and preserve these areas for their ecological and environmental benefits and to ensure there are a variety of recreational opportunities for citizens in this part of the state.

Zip Code:

test

Zip Code:

Ozark Mountain State Park is a treasure and Missouri parks are widely supported by nearly all Missourians. This park offers unique geological and biological features that contribute greatly to the beauty and natural environment of the area. Further, it is bordering a large metropolitan area that could use additional access to natural areas. It would be a shame to see this unique, beautiful landscape destroyed in favor of developing another cookie-cutter office, apartment, or house. Missouri has done an amazing job of identifying and caring for precious natural spaces and it should continue to do so by preserving this park. It would be a terrible mistake to try and cut out this new park from the system.

Zip Code: 64068

This is a scenic and unique part of Missouri that I and my family enjoy. I support setting aside land for this park. We are always looking for new hiking opportunities when we visit Branson as are the million of visitors that come to Branson each year.

Zip Code: 63141

We need to preserve as much of Missouri as possible as so much of it is being commercialized into more shopping malls. Getting kids to the outdoors provides them a new venue to discover and helps them in turn, to care about the future of the planet

<https://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/kids-in-nature/kids-in-nature-poll.xml> Please do not sell this important land to preserve so others may enjoy it as well. It will still bring in tourism revenue.

Zip Code: 64804

Preserve the natural habitat -urban squalor is overtaking the wooded areas and the wildlife have nowhere to go.

Zip Code: 65708

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. I am in favor of public lands. My family benefits greatly from activities that our public lands offer. We love hiking, fishing, the outdoors...we need to keep all of your public lands, protect them, and make nature and the outdoors accessible to as many people as possible. Far too many people have lost the connection between the land and their own survival. People need the chance to experience and understand nature and our reliance upon the food web as well as to enjoy the peace and beauty that can be experienced when surrounded by the natural world.

Zip Code: 63021

I have been to all of the state parks and state historic sites during the past two years. They are treasures! We Missourians should be proud of the whole park system. The people have spoken loudly in approving the Park, Soils, and Water sales tax amendment in 2016. When 79.88% of the public agrees that parks are important enough to support financially, that is a strong sentiment. The properties in question (Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek, and Jay Nixon State Parks) should not be sold. It is appropriate to take time to develop a management plan for each park. Once that plan is in place, the park can be gradually opened for use. Thank you for your consideration.

Zip Code: 65401

OMSP was purchased after years of searching for suitable park property in the area. It can be developed and operated at a modest cost.

Zip Code: 65203

Retain the new park to save the natural area from the rampant development of Branson and Taney County. Open space is as important in this urbanizing area as it is in any "city". Consider partnering with Taney county and Branson on minimal development, policing, and management. Consider partnering with MDC on same issues. Development should be minimal using existing structures. Existing road should be open only to park vehicles or as a trail. Trail access should be minimal and compatible with the significant natural resources. Tier management to Table Rock State park. Minimum cost outlay. Develop local citizen support into volunteer force for development and management. Consider finding corporate sponsorship.

Zip Code: 64151

Missouri has some of the most outstanding state parks in the nation, why would the state even consider selling them off? I am opposed to selling the Ozark Mountain State Park, and would like to see it developed and enjoyed by Missourians and visitors alike.

Zip Code: 65203

I would favor keeping and developing this area as a Missouri State Park primarily to help buffer and balance the rapid development of many similar sites in and around the Branson area.

Zip Code: 63111

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63114

Having a "survey" for consideration of state parks is misleading when the only questions is a complete fill-in-the-blank. How about a survey that gives the options to consider? Are you thinking of not developing the parks at all? Making them strictly hiking? Build a replica village around the schoolhouse? Adding mini-golf courses? Using the creek for Iron Man competitions? I would be happy to give my opinion if I knew what the parameters were.

Zip Code: 63130-1718

Zip Code: 63129

I was saddened to hear about the closing of the three parks. We should preserve what lands we can for the parks system for Missouri citizens and for generations to come. So please preserve what we have and because the parks are also a big tourist attraction for the state.

Zip Code: 97223

Ozark Mountain SP should be retained in the park system. It contains significant natural resource values such as glades and creek frontage that qualifies it for inclusion in the system. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding its acquisition, it should be retained and minimally developed for limited public use. It will benefit the local economy by increasing tourism dollars to the area. While there is a maintenance backlog in the system, that is true for virtually every park system in the nation. Developing this park will not significantly add to this problem. The backlog should be addressed through a bond issue or other major statewide funding program.

Zip Code: 63133

I'm so disappointed with the our lawmakers. These people have forgotten their representing the entire state with tax payers dollars. This State is already slow to accept it's diversity, now lawmakers have taken us 50 years backwards. Lawmakers here love the slogan "Make America Great Again" for the wrong reason. Leave our parks alone!!

Zip Code: 64701

You have no right to sell public parks

Zip Code: 65203

This is a unique property located in a particularly significant part of the state. With its exponential population growth, the Branson area is an ideal location for additional park properties. While Table Rock Lake SP is nearby, it does not offer anything comparable in terms of potential for hiking or other land-based recreation. This property is an excellent addition to the MSP portfolio. As with all of the newly added properties, I am in favor of mothballing them if necessary to wait until funding is available to develop them to the high standards that Missouri State Parks are known for.

Zip Code: 65203

Keep and improve Missouri's Ozark Mountain Park.

Zip Code: 64137

Please don't sell the park and recreation area next to Branson called Ozark Mountain State Park. Our family has enjoyed using these state parks and they belong to all of us. We believe they should remain as a beautiful unmolested wilderness and be available for use by our children and grandchildren.

Zip Code: 64507

Please keep our beautiful state parks open in Missouri. Ozark Mountain State Park and other State parks should never be sold. They belong to all of us, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations.

Zip Code:

The people of the State of Missouri need to be able to maintain this parkland for the future. Do not sell or transfer this one of a kind outdoor space from the public trust. My grand children and the grandchildren of so many other Missourians need a place to go that is free of electronics just to observe and enjoy the wonders of nature. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 64053

The Ozark Mountain State Park will continue to contribute significantly to the economic and natural scenic provision for all folks national and international that visit annually. We must preserve our small in number natural reserves in order that we can visit and interact with refreshing landscape and hideaways. Once it is gone we cannot retrieve such beautiful spots in our great state of Missouri! Please continue to note the importance of this area.

Zip Code: 63031

My family love camping at Missouri state parks. We stayed at Table Rock state park last summer, we would have stayed longer, but we could only make reservations for mid week because the weekends were already booked. While there we ate dinner out every night, went shopping, rented a boat, went zip lining and went to Silver Dollar City. We contributed to the local economy. Missouri state parks are becoming crowded and harder to get reservations for full hookups. We need additional state parks and campsites to help local economies.

Zip Code: 65251

no state park should be "for sale"!!!! all parks are for the enjoyment of the people of the state, or even the nation when they pass through our state! the governor has no right to shutter or sell off OUR state parks. all gov. greitens does is for the betterment of greitens!! he is not

looking out for the people of the state of Missouri or for our parks. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65248

Dear Gov. Greitens, We can't afford to give up any more wilderness to human growth. Our state has such a fabulous state park and natural resource system. Living habitat has a value much greater than a monetary one. Let's instead find ways to put people to work installing solar on every building instead of continually poking holes in the ground and poisoning ourselves for the sake of the money that can be made short term. Long term vision is the more challenging way to view things. Challenge yourselves to look down the road a ways.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65775

It is important to me that this park, and the other two closed state parks remain in public ownership. THEY SHOULD NOT BE SOLD, and I look forward to the day when they are developed to the degree that they open for public use.

Zip Code:

Values of state parks: natural resources conserved, educational potential for the public, economics for the region, opportunity for the public to improve their overall health. I see a majority of state parks values as nothing but good.

Zip Code: 63664

We have to conserve as much land as possible to ensure it's preservation is here for our future generations to come. Please don't sell these parks. We must do this for our children to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63074

Please do not sell this park.

Zip Code: 63021

I am so saddened that the current governor fails to see the value of setting aside and protecting natural resources such as these parks. Our park system is valuable for visitors and residents as they provide opportunity to enjoy the wonders of nature, while adding dollars to surrounding communities. Plants and animals of these areas are important now and in the future. We need to value and protect them so they do not disappear. I implore Governor Greitens to think beyond the dollar signs that appear to be blinding his vision for our future. Thank- you

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63118

Zip Code: 65063

Do not sell off any Missouri state parks. The Ozark Mountain is a treasure for all Missourians. Please remember, you work for the people of Missouri. My family, all 35 of us, visit these parks every year and it is in the memory bank of our children and grandchildren. Make them proud to live in Missouri. The state parks are a part of that legacy.

Zip Code: 63117

We actually need more park and open space in Missouri. Please read the book "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. Our physical health depends on our exposure to nature. With all the anger and frustration surrounding us, we need more people to spend time outdoors in nature. More than half of Missouri's population is non rural. To accommodate urban dwellers need for nature time we need MORE parks, not fewer. Please preserve all the parks we have!

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65301

The question is why anyone would even consider selling Ozark Mountain State Park or any other state park. We should be acquiring natural areas for future generations, not short sightedly selling them.

Zip Code: 65775

Keep our state Parks public. Please do not sell!

Zip Code: 63303

Zip Code:

I believe the three state parks in question need to be protected and further developed for public use. Outdoor tourism is a rapidly growing industry in our state and residents and visitors alike need enhanced access to public lands featuring our natural heritage. Outdoor tourism means hiking, camping, fishing, paddling, hunting. Its important to maintain lands where all Missourians can appreciate and enjoy the great outdoors. We need more state parks, not less, and we need more access points, trails, restrooms, picnic tables, info kiosks and maintenance within those parks. I understand there is heartburn over the name of Jay Nixon State Park. Change the name and keep the park. Thanks for reading my comments.

Zip Code:

Please leave some trails and keep the area in its natural state through sound conservation practices. Please also monitor water quality. Thanks.

Zip Code: 63119

Zip Code: 63146

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State a park

Zip Code: 63124

The Ozark Mountain State Park's proximity to Branson, its protection of water quality of the creeks which flow into Lake Taney Como provide enough value to argue for formalizing the designation as a state park. In addition the park would provide protection for two distinctive White River ecosystems, dolomite glades and woodlands. This opportunity should not be wasted.

Zip Code: 63051

I strongly support MO State Park system for both my enjoyment and preservation for the future. The Ozark Mountain park represents an unique ecosystem and should be protected. DO NOT SELL MO STATE PARKS>

Zip Code:

I would like to see initial cost effective development for public access with consideration for future development and improvements. I would like to see legislative support for an over time continued development program until the park becomes a full destination facility. As with all Missouri State Parks, protecting and restoring significant resources should be given a priority and stick to the Missouri State Park mission statement. The park in this location fills a gap and as such is more accessible to persons in SW and S Cental MO, where not as many parks are available. Plan for initial limited staff but eventually work to provide adequate staffing to be responsive to public use and resource protection. Thank You

Zip Code:

Our tax dollars pay for these parks. They belong to the citizens of Missouri, not the politicians.

Zip Code:

Please keep the park, open it to the public and maintain our states beautiful public lands.

Zip Code: 64111

I think preserving natural land is important even if those lands are currently being used for recreational purposes. Save the parks for future generations.

Zip Code: 63552

Leave our state Parks alone! Do not sell off any of the land and don't be mining or fracking in them either!

Zip Code:

ALL STATE & National Parks As we are losing too much of our beautiful land to developers and those who are poor have hardly any beautiful places to visit and rest.

Zip Code:

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63116

Don't sell off Ozark Mountain State Park! My husband is a West Coast transplant & he misses the awe-inspiring Federal & State parks of the West. But he still loves exploring Missouri's great outdoors. Please leave places for him (and the rest of us!)to hike & camp.

Zip Code: 63021

Dear Governor Greitens, I enjoy (and donate to) Missouri's State Parks. These parks will be enjoyed even more by our children as more non-park land is turned into shopping malls. I urge you to give support to all our parks and forgo any short term profit from selling Park land. Thank you, [REDACTED] Ballwin Missouri

Zip Code:

This is an abomination. I will not forget what you have done next election.

Zip Code: 64424

DO NOT SELL these areas I have spent over 1/3 of my childhood in these areas. Now I spend two weeks a year there. This is where my family roots are. I have seen the devastation to the skyline and clear creeks just from the massive boom of Branson. The multi lane highways have just ruined all that is beautiful and pristine about these parts. We have so few natural places left due to what's called progress and it's really slowly killing us all physically and spiritually. Leave these untouched areas be. My grandchildren deserve to experience these areas as I have. Leave these areas be, they are NOT FOR SALE

Zip Code: 64150

please DO NOT sell any park land! my children and grandchildren, deserve the opportunity, to use and enjoy this land!!!!

Zip Code: 63135

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64050

America the beautiful must be preserved and protected for all generations to come. Please see the importance of this over greed and profits which will never be enough.

Zip Code:

I feel very strongly that this park should be retained/owned by the Missouri State Park system.

Zip Code: 64114

don't sell off our state parks. they belong to all the people.

Zip Code: 65203

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63663

Consideration for a road leading into the new park for public access parking area and a hiking/walking trail (primitive) Any options to minimally prepare the park for public access Look into RTP Grants to develop your trail head amenities, paving of parking, pit latrines, picnic tables, etc.

Zip Code: 63087

We enjoy r Missouri state parks. They were set apart so we could have a place 2 go 2. 2 be able 2 see and enjoy Missouri at its finest.

Zip Code: 63051

Zip Code:

Stop trying to sell off OUR parks. There is no good reason to do this other than corporate greed. You are behaving just like the traitor in chief.

Zip Code: 63072

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 65336

I am against the sale of this land. I find it outrageous that the government would even consider it. Selling this would be a form of theft to the people who you are supposed to serve.

Zip Code: 65453-8199

State Parks and Public lands are for the People, not corporations or private entities. Please keep the parks and the public property for the People.

Zip Code: 63751

Please consider that our state parks are important to the economy of folks who live anywhere near them, or even on the road to them. People love and visit our state parks, and they do business along the way to and in the area around these parks. Parks are a source of state pride as well as "paying off: so please do not sell or diminish our parks. God bless you with wisdom and with the courage to resist immediate profits from corporations. We need you to take care of the parks for us people.

Zip Code: 63376

The Missouri State Parks should be protected. There is no excuse to sell off the land. The Ozark Mountain area is a wonderful place to visit. We don't need to ruin it with buildings and roads.

Zip Code: 63376

Zip Code: 65201

Please preserve this state park to be what it was intended to be: an area of pristine nature to which all may come and enjoy the wonder and beauty of our state's ecology. Do not sell it off.

Zip Code: 64501

Leave it alone!

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65619

Preserve and defend all Missouri State Parks.

Zip Code:

1st: the DNR should always protect our state parks & tell Gov. Greitens they aren't for sale! 2nd: the Ozarks Mtn Park means a lot for MO. MO is famous for our

ozark mtns! The Shepherd of the Hills only furthered that fame across the nation! People expect to see the natural beauty of the Ozarks when vacationing in the Branson area. It's the destination for many Missourians every yr. Tourists nationwide come to Branson expecting to see the same thing while taking in the Branson shows. People from other states are always saying how beautiful the MO Ozarks are. I attended college @ School of the Ozark's & am fully aware of how much the students & locals depended on nearby places to be able to hike, bird watch, escape the area's thriving tourism on a regular basis, & enjoy some exercise & peacefulness of nature. This Ozark Mtn State Park should be such a place, & always belong to the people, their kids, & their kids' kids. It's important to preserve some of the area's nature & keep it pristinely in it's natural state. It's a great place to protect from bldgs, concrete, cars & roads. There just needs to be preserved natural places like Ozarks Mtn State Park!

Zip Code: 64152

Dear Missouri Sate Parks officials, I am writing to you as a supporter of the national Sierra Club, the Missouri Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Wildlife Federation and other environmental organizations. I, and many other Missourians, hope that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will NOT sell off the new Ozark Mountain State Park. We hope the DNR will protect and preserve this beautiful state park and recreational area for Missourians and visitors to our state. This new park will provide a critical recreational area for thousands of visitors annually next to the city of Branson. This park belongs to all Missouri residents and should be protected and preserved for our children and grandchildren in the future. Thank you for considering this critical environmental and recreational issue in Missouri.

Zip Code: 63367

Do not sell off Missouri new State Parks. These parks should be developed for there natural beauty and for the enjoyment of all Missourians. ██████████ Lake Saint Louis, MO

Zip Code: 65401

I love the historic structures on the site! They must be preserved and interpreted! But otherwise, I have mixed emotions. Keeping some green space in the sprawling Branson area is very important but I'm afraid this area is already compromised by highway noise and light pollution. Would this be better as a day use only site? Probably.

Zip Code: 64804

I know budgets are tight and adding parks adds to that budget. But, these sites are already available and if they are removed from the system, they will most likely never be replaced. Once something is gone, it is gone. We are fortunate in Missouri to have such unique parks available. There doesn't appear to be a big expensive outlay to keep and maintain them either. Not ever site needs a lot of development either; wild beauty is wonderful. I hope the state will be in favor of keeping these three sites.

Zip Code:

Please keep Ozark Mountain as a protected Missouri state park that is open to the public. The future of Ozark Mountain must be as a state park that will attract visitors to our great state and preserve the natural beauty of Missouri.

Zip Code: 63116

Ozark Mountain State Park is a beautiful wilderness area, which Governor Greitens, for whatever reason, is considering selling off. I believe that natural areas are vital for both the human and the animal populations in their regions. Therefore, I am asking the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to protect the new Ozark Mountain State Park. Don't let it be sold at all. Thank you for working diligently for this cause.

Zip Code: 63021

Zip Code: 63090

Please keep this property in state ownership and open it up to public use. This property could be managed inexpensively as primitive public land to the benefit of all Missourians for the purposes of primitive outdoor recreation, important wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. Thanks for your consideration!

Zip Code: 63376

PLEASE Leave our State Parks Alone. I grew up in the Ozarks and there is no place more beautiful in this state. It pains me think that you would even consider doing anything to take this away from the people of not just Mo. but of the world. The Ozarks Mountains should SHARED not sold off to the highest bidder. You are proving yourself to be just who we thought you would be..... WRONG FOR MISSOURI

Zip Code:

Keep this park! Do not sell!

Zip Code:

Please SAVE the natural environment within Ozark Mountain State Park! Don't sell it! People need nature, and nature needs people! People benefit from the natural world in many ways. Open space provides peace and quiet, a rest from the hectic pace and pressures of everyday life. People need wild areas to wander and explore. They need first hand encounters with other life forms that live in Missouri! Parents and grandparents need high-quality environments to visit with their children and grandchildren. Experiencing wildlife and natural resources can foster a sense of wonder in the young and old alike, inspiring fresh perspectives, pursuits, and creativity. These natural places also provide ecological services that value all life like providing habitat for native plants and animals, promoting biodiversity, combating global warming, filtering water and air, preventing soil erosion, and protecting pollinators. Please SAVE the natural environment within Ozark Mountain State Park! We need it now more than ever!

Zip Code: 65023

I have only one question. First, why can't the rich provide the money we need to fill the gaps in our budget instead of selling off the beautiful rivers and lands that Missourians use to relax, enjoy their families and fish. These are lands that Missourians have every right to benefit from. They are not lands for investment by Sinqfield and the 100,000 millionaires who clearly only see this land and water as an opportunity to squeeze some more money out of citizens who cannot afford to buy a park. Shame on you for even taking these treasures away from us.

Zip Code: 63037

This property, to me, lends itself ideally to hiking, observation, and meditation. The views are spectacular. The mix of wooded, openly wooded, and open glades offer so much variety of wildlife and plant life to both the casual and the studied observer. I can envision pleine-air painters taking full advantage of the vistas and everything in them. I can also envision pack animals, such as llamas, being utilized, possibly in a guide service, to explore the more primitive areas because they have a soft tread that causes little, if any, impact on the land. The second important quality of this area are the water resources and the many paths that they take to provide for the sustenance of life here, and the contribution to the watershed. I would hate to see this property developed beyond what is suggested for basic access.

Zip Code:

PLEASE DO NOT SELL ANY OF OUR STATE PARKS . WE ARE LOSING AN ACRE A MINUTE TO DEVELOPMENT I OWN ACREAGE IN GASCONADE COUNTY AND HAVE SEEN THE CONSTANT DECINE IN BIRDS AND ANIMALS PLANTS AND INSECTS IN JUST THE PAST 45 YEARS. AT THIS RATE HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE WE DESTROY EVERYTHING. QUAIL BUTTERFLYS MARTINS MIGRATORY BIRDS KEEP DISAPPERING. KEEP THE ROCK ISLAND CORRIDOR A NATURAL AREA DEDICATED TO PLANTS AND ANIMALS, NOT A USELESS TRAIL. THERE IS NO OTHER PLANET LIKE THIS ONE. THE MAJORITY OF LEADERS WE HAVE NOW ARE TURNING THERE BACKS ON PEOPLE WHO DEDICATE THERE LIVES TRYING TO SAVE WHAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US BY GOD TO PRESERVE NOT DESTROY

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65203

Greitens, just like Trump you are trying to sell off our heritage of public lands to the highest bidder no doubt to curry the favor of corrupt wealthy power brokers you hope will help propel you into higher office but the Resistance is smart and wide awake. We're onto you. Back off! Our public land is not yours to sell. You do our bidding, not the other way around!!!

Zip Code: 65738

Please make every effort to maximize the benefit of the new parks and open them for the 80% of Missourians that voted to support state parks. Especially the 11-point Park.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 64055

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

We need more parks not fewer, please do not sell off our new parks, open them as you should!

Zip Code:

Do not sell any part of Ozark moutian

Zip Code: 63383

Please do not sell our state parks. They are important to our health and well being as well as to our children's futures!

Zip Code: 63129

Missouri State Parks don't belong to the governor, but to the citizens of Missouri. Don't try to sell any of them.

Zip Code: 63033

I do not agree with any proposal to sell Ozark Mountain State Park or any other Missouri State Park! I think that Governor Greitens does not appreciate the consequences of selling off this land!! For one, there will probably be a considerable number of jobs lost. Missouri parks are beautiful, must everything be at the mercy of the almighty dollar??

Zip Code: 63301-2607

We must keep as much land in a natural state as possible, assuming the state has enough money to manage it or hold it in trust for future generations. The more crowded and urban our lives become, the more important public lands and recreation places become.

Zip Code: 64093

Zip Code: 65804

Please do not get rid of Ozark Mountain State Park. Protect our natural places and preserve for the our children and grand children.

Zip Code: 65203

2017 saw the 100th anniversary of the State Park system. How nice it would have been to end the year with 3 new state parks. How nice it would have been to honor all the voters who have overwhelmingly voted to fund the parks. Currently there are 88 parks. Eight-eight corners of the state to explore, to get lost back in time, to discover how great is our state. Missouri is one of few states where the parks are free to the public. Free. Why, because we vote to fund the parks, we vote to expand the parks, we the public want the parks. So there is no reason why we should limit the parks. I've been to 68 of the 88 parks and plan to see all the other properties in the state park system. We are unique that the park system is still growing... I don't know why bureaucrats want to stifle it. I want more state parks.

Zip Code: 64055

Please do not close Ozark Mountain State Park. Our wilderness areas are precious resources, and provide

many benefits. Many parts of our nation are already crowded and heavily polluted; it is our privilege to live in a less congested part of the world. If we do not appreciate this luxury we are doomed to lose it.

Zip Code: 65203

Zip Code:

Ozark Mountain State Park is an important open space resource near Branson which is a population hub. Research has shown that people need places to interact with nature to maintain psychological and physical health. Not only does this park provide that opportunity for interaction with nature, but also provides an opportunity to maintain high quality ecosystems at a time when human influence is generally degrading those systems of life. Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. It is a valuable resource for the people of Missouri.

Zip Code: 63139

Please add Ozark Mountain State Park to the list of areas protected in Missouri. We need more Missouri venues that we retirees can visit without the time or cost of traveling to Federal Parks. This park has the side benefit that it can tie in nicely with a visit to Branson.

Zip Code: 63456

Zip Code: 64111

Zip Code:

We need all the green spaces we can get and save plants and animals at the same time.

Zip Code: 64034

Please do not sell any of the existing Park lands, once sold they cannot be saved or would cost more to repurchase. It makes no sense to sell any of these parcels, please do not let Governor Greitens do this.

Zip Code: 64086

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

I don't want you to consider any options. I would like the sale of all public lands to be off the table. I can not understand the rationale of selling off our parks &/or natural areas. In my opinion the Dept of Conservation

and the DNR are the best users of my tax dollars and are the best hope for the future of generations to come.

Zip Code:

Public lands are a treasure that should not be squandered. If there are currently no funds for development, declare the area a public wilderness. But don't sell - these opportunities may never come back. We love the hiking Missouri has, and the access to public land is one of the reasons we love living in this state.

Zip Code: 64145

I think this would be a great new state park. I fully endorse funding of it.

Zip Code: 63117

Zip Code:

I don't believe MoParks should retain this property; with concerns with its current financial condition. MoParks is letting property's decay for the sake of expansion only. I don't believe the majority of Missouri wants to loss our parks. BUT GIVEN THE CHOICE OF MANAGING WHAT WE HAVE VS EXPANSION....I believe the majority will vote MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE

Zip Code: 63034

We have only one Mountain in Missouri and making a state park out of it is a really good thing. Closing State Parks is a dumb thing for our future. We are going to need parks in the future so that families can see pristine forest, prairie, lakes and streams.

Zip Code: 63042

Zip Code: 64015

Zip Code: 65673

Zip Code: 63021

One of the wonderful things about Florida is its terrific system of state parks. Missouri doesn't have beaches and tropics, but we do have rivers and Ozarks, and we should treasure them. State parks protect our unique natural areas from development, while also making them accessible to all of us to enjoy, now and in the future. Please protect our state parks, including our own Ozark Mountain.

Zip Code: 63366

The governor should not make these decisions. The people of Missouri should vote on those decisions.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65203-3520

Please do not sell any of Missouri's State Parks. I have so enjoyed hiking, canoeing and camping in most of those parks, especially in the Ozarks. Best of all these treasures are there for everyone and will be so for future generations.

Zip Code: 63077

Don't let him or anyone else sell our lands and infrastructure to anyone. Just because of the new tax bill, we are sure to be shortchanged, along with everyone else, and that just leaves the door open for the rich to come in and buy our lives and charge us for it! Gov Grietens is only set on becoming president down the road and he doesn't care who or what he does to get there. Missouri has the most beautiful land and waterways and they are for the Missourians who pay the taxes and care for the lands.

Zip Code: 65616

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. We are looking forward to having a State Park so close to home. Please continue to develop the area.

Zip Code: 63119

Please don't close Ozark Mountain State Park. It is a valuable asset to Missouri citizens.

Zip Code: 63755

I want our state parks protected and to be a continued recreational spot, not sold to the highest bidder for who knows what. We, as Missourians, want to be able to enjoy our natural resources for years, and generations, to come. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65714

Don't sell Ozark Mtn. State Park.

Zip Code: 65101

Our Missouri State Parks preserve natural habitats, wildlife and plants for future generations. Ozark Mountain State Park should remain a state park in order to bring these ecological and psychological benefits to

those who are Missouri citizens and lack their own property.

Zip Code: 65039

Do not sell any of our state parks. My husband and I have enjoyed them for the past 40 years and we need to preserve them and secure more land for state parks to ensure our grandchildren will have the same access to our states beautiful outdoors. We would to see more parks close to St Louis and KC so that urban families can enjoy what we have had.

Zip Code: 63367

Please protect Ozark Mountain State Park. There is so little land left that hasn't been developed.

Zip Code: 63143

Beautiful nature protected and preserved for all (human, animal, plant) to benefit from. What other essence of life is there. We need our Missouri State Parks open and available to breathe.

Zip Code: 63130

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. Opportunities to buy quality recreational lands, esp. near attractions like Branson, are rare. The temptation to sell them will always be there.

Zip Code: 63084

Zip Code: 65256-9584

As a Missouri resident I am opposed to selling Ozark Mountain State Park. While at it might suggest that our state acquire more state park lands. Kind regards,
[REDACTED] HARRISBURG,
MO. 65256 [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63025

Please do not sell any parks...including the Ozark Mountain Park. Parks benefit everyone...anyone can go spend time in a wide open space... too much space is out of reach for non-landowners... 10% of the annual budget should be spent on growing and enhancing parks I vote for politicians who support grow and enhance Mo state parks

Zip Code: 63348

Don't close the park please!!

Zip Code: 64024

Please do not sell off our public lands!

Zip Code: 64850

Please keep this park in the State Park system and do not consider selling this valuable resource.

Zip Code: 65712

Our Missouri parks should NOT be FOR SALE. We as a people are tasked with being good stewards of this great land of ours. Selling property that was designated as a park by the former governor who is not in the GOP is not morally correct.

Zip Code: 63136

Gov. Greitens: Our State Parks are not for sale! Protect the Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code:

The state should not consider disposing of any state park land it currently owns. It should also not close any land to use by the public. If funds are not available, then do not develop until funds are available. In such case leave the land for the public to enjoy in its natural state. There are plenty of paved hiking paths in other locations if that is what a person desires.

Zip Code: 63385

You have not provided any details as to how the public will be able to utilize the park. Is it strictly for hiking, day use or will camping be allowed? What will this park be used for? In my opinion, we need more state parks with RV usage areas

Zip Code: 63304

Stop taking State Parks for more industrial and commercial uses. The state of Missouri has enough of those. Leave the parks alone.

Zip Code: 65203

The State Parks belong to ALL the citizens of MO. They have been paid for and their upkeep paid for by Missourians' taxes and donations. They should never be sold or leased to private groups. Missourians have consistently voted for taxes to maintain these public lands. The current elected officials should not consider (or be permitted) to undermine decades of support for protection of these public spaces!

Zip Code: 64093

Please preserve our state parks and wilderness areas in Missouri. Selling them and closing them is ridiculous and shortsighted.

Zip Code: 63366

Zip Code:

These belong to the people of Missouri, not yours to sell!!

Zip Code: 63114

Ozark Mountain State Park should be preserved. Whether it is developed for tourism now, later or never does not diminish it's value as a natural resource. The contribution of the park to surface and groundwater reservoirs is vulnerable and serves thousands of Missourians far beyond the park boundaries.

Zip Code: 63104

Zip Code: 63628

Please do not sell this property. We need to preserve this site! It is the right thing to do. Thank you!

Zip Code: 63645

Please preserve, do not sell, and open Ozark Mountain State Park. I am a user of our state parks and conservation areas. They restore my soul. They lower my blood pressure. They inspire my gratitude for Life. This park was properly acquired with the settlement funds provided for that purpose. Despite arguments to the contrary there is no significant loss of tax revenues from the opening of this park property. (Less than \$2000 per year; and no solid indication of development for other purposes any time soon.) This acquisition is consistent with the DNR's long term planning and 1992 identification of this area as worthy of protection. This park is close to growing population areas in Springfield and would provide wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities for all Missourians and an additional attraction for tourists to the area. I have a weekend residence in Madison County and urge you to keep and operate all of the park properties that are now under consideration for sale or non-use as parks for us, our children and our grandchildren. Thank you.

Zip Code: 63366

I believe that Missouri needs to keep all of its state parks due to the economic benefits that they bring, now and in the future. Even if a piece of land is underutilized, it is an investment in the future and our children's children will appreciate it.

Zip Code:

Parks should always stay to the people. We're running out of wilderness.

Zip Code: 65550

I have visited Ozark Mountain State Park and it provides a wonderful recreational area near Branson.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65721

I have read that the state is NOT considering selling the new parks, and I sure hope that is true. Missouri citizens love and use our parks, and as our population grows, there's a need for even more of them. How horrifying if we suddenly began selling off our parks. If we don't have the funds to develop these newly acquired lands as parks now, then keep them as they are and open them to the public later. Our park system is a model for other states. Let's keep it that way. XXXXXXXXXX

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63116

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63121

I have been a resident of Missouri for the past 45 years and have camped in and enjoyed many state parks around the state...beginning with a honeymoon at Roaring River State Park almost 59 years ago! I was thrilled when three new state parks were added, because I think they will serve the needs of the next generation. Selling them would be very short-sighted....and if new leaders wanted to expand their use in the future, it would be too late.... If the state lacks the money to open and operate them now, maybe seeking the will of the people on how our tax money is allocated would be a better solution than turning these places over to timber or mining interests for a one-time payment. Please don't sell these parks....or ANY of Missouri's parks for that matter!

Zip Code: 65109

Gov needs to leave our State Parks alone we love them & need them to stay close to nature hands off

Zip Code: 63501

The Branson area needs to continue to develop its outdoor attractions. Do not sell this land; instead begin slowly and wisely developing it for day use and extending its uses as we hold it in the public trust. As someone who lives near Thousand Hills State Park and

Long Branch Lake, I know these parks add value to their communities.

Zip Code: 65101

Like most Missourians I do not own land for hiking or camping. Public lands are our only place to enjoy nature. Not only our citizens but tourists from outside of our state come and spend money here because of our state parks. We voted overwhelmingly to continue the tax to support parks and I believe we owe it to our citizens to keep all of our state parks and preserve them for our children. Ozark Mountain is particularly valuable as a natural resource because it borders Roaring Fork Creek and helps preserve water quality for Lake Taneycomo. It also serves as a buffer to the ever growing Branson area. As a trained water quality monitor, I know the value of riparian corridors in protecting watersheds. Please move forward and open Ozark Mountain so we can all enjoy it.

Zip Code: 65202

Our state parks were designated for everyone, not for the profit of individuals. You are no good Missourian if you threaten this.

Zip Code: 63137

This park will make an excellent day use only park and a good attraction for the Branson area. The proposed costs to build, maintain, and operate the park seem minimal at best but if this cannot be managed in the state park budget, perhaps this park could instead become a Missouri Conservation Area. Then in the future it could possibly be converted to a state park.

Zip Code: 63146

We enjoy hiking in our State Parks and canoeing the rivers. These parks are jewels for our State and a legacy for our children. Missouri can afford to keep these parks open for recreation and closed for commercial development. Please don't destroy this message after you read it.

Zip Code:

To the DNR and Gov. Greitens Our state parks belong to all the people. They are not for sale. What do you see at year end on the number of people who use these parks. It's not wasted land. Americans use their parks. Our taxpayer money supports the Ozark Mountain park. Why are you doing this? God made this country for everyone,

Zip Code: 63119

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64118

Please keep the three state parks. Citizens need an affordable (free) place to relax, reconnect with wilderness and recreation. With the tiny house movement, heightened concern for our environment, RV sales at an all time high, etc. people are wanting (proving they desire) to explore and enjoy Missouri's parks more than ever!

Zip Code: 63122

This land should be preserved as natural parkland and protected for future generations.

Zip Code: 65041

I am writing once again to let Governor Greitens know I do not support his agenda of selling off public land. Any land that has been secured for public access and enjoyment is an asset that needs to be retained. Whether the plan is to sell it off for short term profit, rid the state of long term maintenance costs, give private exploitative industries a valuable resource at bargain basement prices, or all of the above, it is a decision that robs the people of Missouri of property belonging to them. The failure on the part of the governor to see the wisdom in investing in our state's natural beauty by protecting those areas for the sake of both conservation and tourism is endemic of most in public office today who place private interests ahead of what best serves the public good. Citizens nationwide are growing less tolerant of these agendas of placing profit ahead of people. Missourians are no exception. The politicians who will be revered will be those who never lost sight of their obligation to serve the people, first and foremost. Those who used elected office to transfer public wealth into private hands will enjoy no such legacy. If remembered at all, it will be with disdain.

Zip Code:

I feel the cost for these new parks will be excessive to develop & maintain which can leave less funds to operate the existing parks.

Zip Code:

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64776

Keep it a protected land! The habitat loss alone would be tremendous. One of the best things about Missouri is the

abundance of forests and wildlife. Keep Missouri great now so we don't have to fix it later.

Zip Code:

Parks are one of our most valuable resources. Set aside some land for future generations to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63121

Please keep Ozark Mountain State Park within the Missouri state parks system.

Zip Code:

please don't let Gov. Greitens sell off Ozark Mountain State Park, which provides a recreational area near Branson. We love it there and would hate to see it in the hands of private corporations.

Zip Code: 65270

Incorporate a small State Tax to fund the opening and continued maintenance of our Beautiful State Parks

Zip Code: 65251

I have hiked the near by Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area. The land here is special. This countryside brings a bit of the Southwest to Missouri. The glade plants and animals are more than unique but unparalleled for Missouri. Such species must be give space to continue to exist. Small parcels will doom such amazing, fascinating species to extinction. Being so close to Branson this park will provide pleasures which will complement Branson's entertainments. Honestly this will make the area more family friendly. Sometimes the government can provide for its citizens what private enterprise fail to provide.

Zip Code: 63110

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

Missouri State parks are vital to tourism and the quality of life of Missouri residents. Closing and or selling any Missouri State Park would mean this governor is a one term fool.

Zip Code: 63119

Message to Governor Greitens and the Department of Natural Resources: Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. Our public parks belong to everyone and our children and grandchildren! Parks help increase tourism to our State.

Zip Code: 65020

Please do not continue to keep closed, or sell off, any of Missouri's state parks. We need to keep as many natural spaces as possible for Missourians to enjoy -- and make these parks accessible to the public. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65721

Zip Code: 63031

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. We need more protected lands and park areas, not fewer.

Zip Code:

State parks are a very important resource for all Missourians, particularly those that might not be able to afford commercial options. They also support local economies, drawing people to our state when they might we'll go elsewhere. Selling our public lands is short-sighted and diminishes the quality of life for many of our residents.

Zip Code: 63049

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63108

I am an avid user of Missouri State parks. Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. It's location near Branson makes it a nice resource for the citizens of Missouri.

Zip Code: 64083

Please leave the state park as it is for all to enjoy. Consider measuring the environmental benefits with iTree or another assessment to show how nature contributes to the economy.

Zip Code: 64081

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 63130

As a university professor who for years has taken students on field trips into the Missouri wilds, I urge that all efforts possible be taken to preserve the new Missouri state parks, especially Ozark Mountain State Park. We need to protect the state's natural beauty from development....for the future of our grandchildren and

coming generations. [REDACTED] Professor Emeritus Saint Louis University

Zip Code: 63129

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63390

Future funds should be designated to keep and open (even if delayed) the three state parks that were recently established, including Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek and Jay Nixon state parks. Our natural resources are too precious to sell off. We need to keep, nurture and appreciate what we have.

Zip Code: 65806

Zip Code:

This comment is about Ozark Mountain State Park. I believe this area is such beautiful and important asset to the state of Missouri. Please do NOT sell Ozark Mountain State Park. It would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson in this exquisite part of the state. Thanks you from a citizen who enjoys the natural beauty of our state and enjoys hiking in our wonderful state parks.

Zip Code:

Please protect our beautiful state parks. We are blessed to have them. They provide rest, relaxation, fun, & spiritual benefits to Missourians & others who visit them. They also provide jobs & financial resources to the area close by.

Zip Code: 64118

Ozark Mountain State Park is a wonderful recreational area for southern Missouri. I'm shocked that the state would even consider selling and state parkland. We need more wilderness areas to be preserved, not sold for political payback and/or greed. Unbelievable! Please stop this ridiculous proposal.

Zip Code: 65793

I believe that the parks are costing Missouri very little to maintain. Outdoor activities are known to provide participants with a greater opportunity for exercise and to experience the natures of life. Please keep Ozark Mountain State Park open for residents in the area to enjoy!

Zip Code: 63122

Our parks are public owned - not governmental discretions. We oppose sales without public vote.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65714

Parks and their wilderness areas are important places for the general public--especially the hiking and general outdoor experience.

Zip Code: 65809

Dear Governor Greitens and DNR, I am writing as a resident of the Ozark to recommend sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. This is a beautiful area that the residents and visitors to Missouri could enjoy. We have a robust tourism industry in this area and this could be an area to entice visitors.

Zip Code:

I think it's important to have state parks and to keep those we already have. With all the development everywhere, having places that are set aside and kept for the enjoyment of natural beauty is paramount. I travel down blacktop roads which have been cleared for subdivisions and big homes, and remember when the road was dirt and lined w/ tall trees on either side. It was calming then. Being out in a wild place can relieve stress, renew perspective and provide a place for outdoor activities such as hiking or camping. Keep these parks and make them a priority.

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63020

Do not sell this valuable State park property. We will regret it later. Citizens can enjoy the property without expensive improvements. Improvements can be made in the future as we can afford it.

Zip Code: 65301

Our parks are important resources for our state. They provide income from visitors and recreation of various types. They also provide many important ecological services such as purifying water and flood prevention. They are reservoirs of biodiversity for many species of economic value such as bees and other pollinators. They also helps us preserve our heritage to pass on to future generations. The action of selling these parks is short

sighted and not in the best interest of the citizens of Missouri!

Zip Code: 65804

Please don't take our public land away. Ask anyone who grew up in Kansas and has come to know the joys of using public land in states like Missouri

Zip Code:

The Missouri State Parks have always been a special gem to me and my family. Missouri has been an impressive model for how to create and maintain beautiful public lands for all to use. Don't sell the Ozark Mountain State Park, which provides a recreational treasure in our state. It's a shame that after all the years of parks being beautifully maintained and well used, that the current administration has decided it's not valuable enough to continue. This is an extreme disappointment and so sad. Missouri is a beautiful state and so many people use the public parks for recreation. I rarely make a trip to a park where the park is not well used. In fact I sometimes wish there were less traffic. If you want to know what your constituents want, please ask and then do what the majority want. This is why we vote.

Zip Code: 63104

One of the things I love and respect about Missouri is its dedication to public lands. This parkland, in close proximity to Branson- a tourist hot-spot, provides a unique opportunity for many to explore the natural beauty of our state. Please maintain the protections on these 1,100 acres to ensure people have spaces to enjoy the wild, animals have a place to roam, and plants have a spot to flourish. Thank you for your consideration.

Zip Code: 64146

I grew up camping, fishing and hiking in our State Parks. They are a State treasure and need to be preserved for our children and grandchildren to have the same opportunities

Zip Code: 63118

Dear Missouri State Parks Services, Selling parks is not the best practice. To sell Ozark Mountain State Park would be very short sighted and in the interests of the more immediate moment. At a time when banks, corporations and individuals have amounted more cash than they know what to do with, why does it seem imperative to sell-off State resources to these types? These parks are the same as a saving account for our future posterity. You are harming them even further by depriving them of this resource. You have already set a one and a half trillion debt on their shoulders which they

are expected to pay. Do not do this massively unfair and unjust act upon our own future generations!

Zip Code: 63303

Zip Code: 63367

Do not sell off Ozark Mountain State Park. Open the park for use for all Of Missouri.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65202

The state of Missouri can benefit so much from the recreational opportunities that will be provided by this state park. Do not sell it off for short term gain.

Zip Code: 65018

Keep the state parks for the people of MO and for visitors to the state. DO NOT SELL to individuals or corporations for their private use to make a profit. The state parks belong to the people of MO NOT to government officials to sell as they please.

Zip Code: 64068

Please protect the Ozark Mountain State Park, and do NOT sell it off! This area can be a valuable recreational park for the Branson area and should not be sold to private parties. Our national parks are one of our greatest resources as a state - please be a good steward for future generations!

Zip Code: 63109

Please allow this land to remain owned by the public. Once it is sold we will never get it back. Also, the open land and natural environment are essential to the health and well being of people. It has been proven in scientific studies. Please consider the common good. Thank you for your attention. [REDACTED]

Zip Code:

I want our state parks to remain in the hands of the public. Public lands provide us, we the people, with a better present and future. Public lands improve our quality of life so increasing, not decreasing our land is in the public's best interest. Every living thing needs plants to live. Every living thing needs animals to live. Trees give us the clean air we breathe. Our air is but one necessity. Volumes have been written about the need for vast amounts of natural habitat. When we take care of the Earth, the Earth will give us clean air, clean water, unpolluted food, and enriching outdoor experiences. Please allow the public to take care of all

of us by protecting our public lands. We save our lives when we save our wild outdoor spaces. Thank you,

██████████

Zip Code: 65810
Keep the parks open for public use. Implement recycling, ban plastic bottles, keep our parks wild!

Zip Code:
Open them up! The public is hungry for new and protected state parks.

Zip Code: 65807

Zip Code:
Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64133

Zip Code: 63130
Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 65804
Do not sell this land. Public land will become even more important to us as our area becomes more crowded. We need more natural areas available to all for refreshing their spirits, not less.

Zip Code: 63111

Zip Code: 63105
Our parks are the beauty of the state and many people enjoy them....please do not sell any of them....it would just be a shame to do that and destroy they natural wonder of Missouri.

Zip Code: 65775
Preserve parks as public spaces. Do not sell public parks.

Zip Code: 63010
I am writing to you regarding the future of Ozark Mountain State Park. As an outdoor enthusiast and a longtime Boy Scout leader, I urge you don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. Missouri's parks and recreation areas provide a vital resource, not just for tourism but as a place for young people to learn, explore and develop self-reliance. Ozark Mountain State Park is just such a place and should be protected for current and

future generations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zip Code: 64114
Please keep our parks and public land for recreation and local wildlife. It is crucial to our environment that we maintain green spaces and waterways, without encouraging further construction of homes and buildings. Thank you for maintaining all parks. I hope you can soon find more staff and more resources to work with.

Zip Code:
If anything, they need to be expanded and further protected. Not sold off like some kind of snake oil.

Zip Code:
Please protect Ozark Mountain State Park. We are losing so many National Parks that our State Parks are even more important. This park should not be sold! This park should not be sold so that some corporate entity can profit and destroy the natural habitat that so many come to enjoy and to study. Our children need to see areas like this not just read about them. They need the experience of looking at, and studying, and researching, and the finding peace that a natural area has to offer. Our heritage, and our culture, and our well being depend upon being able to visit, study, research, and enjoy these areas. Do not sell it off!

Zip Code: 65202
In regard to Ozark Mountain State Park, you must consider it is owned by the citizens of Missouri and should remain in public ownership as a state park. Park land is a public trust and not meant for just today's Missourians, but those who will camp, float and hike generations from now. Keep this land and make park improvements on a gradual plan as budgets allow. Parks and and the tourism industry in general provide a dynamic contribution to the economy of this state.

Zip Code: 63089
Please do not sell any of our Missouri State Parks or land purchased to become a state park!!!!

Zip Code: 63143
Please keep Missouri State Parks public. They are not for sale!

Zip Code: 64093
I am against the sale of state parks. These lands belong to the people of Missouri current and future generations

and once they are sold can not be recovered. Missouri has plenty of land available for private and public development. Even if the parks remain closed and become natural preserved, that would be preferred to private development.

Zip Code: 63366

I cannot believe that anyone in their right mind would even consider selling our wonderful Missouri State Parks.

Zip Code: 64155-2890

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. This newest proposed state park would only enhance Missouri's reputation for having gorgeous outdoor wild spaces and many of them. It would provide a beautiful state park close to the citizens of the Springfield area. It would further encourage the conservation of wildlife and our environment. Even though at 1011 acres it would be one of the smaller state parks, small packages contain big surprises. This beautiful land could still be used for the people rather than selling to an individual or a corporation to develop into God only knows what-- cookie cutter tract housing? Some odiferous and polluting business? Some business that would charge an exorbitant fee for enjoying the pristine beauty of Missouri's wilderness areas? Don't sell our natural resources and beauty to the highest bidder.

Zip Code: 65624

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. These resources can't be repaired easily or cheaply once they have been developed. Why cash in this lovely piece of land? It belongs to the people of Missouri, not the governor. It is not his to sell.

Zip Code:

Please protect the Ozark Mountain State Park. Don't sell it off. Missouri parks need to be valued and protected so they will be available and natural for our children and grandchildren. Is there anything that is sacred in any way? Or is all of Missouri going to be one large chain store built on a freshly bulldozed leveled trash heap serving factory-processed pesticide-laden food patties with every bit of unique beauty and character obliterated for an extra square foot of parking lot ?

Zip Code: 65201

Zip Code: 63010

Missouri state parks give natural spaces for all Missourians to enjoy. They should be left alone. Wild

spaces are also places for animals and native plants. Please let us have our state parks!

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63146

MO

Zip Code: 65020

I would like the authorities to consider permanently closing this state park. I think that the number of state parks that we do have is sufficient. I am in favor of maintaining well the current state parks that we do have and not spreading our resources thin.

Zip Code:

Please stop the selling off of our state parks. I would even pay higher taxes to help fund them.

Zip Code: 63146

I want to see Ozark Mountain remain as a State Park. I have been there many times and enjoy the wooded areas and all the native plants and animals it supports. I would like to take my children and grandchildren to this park in the future. We need public state parks and it is certainly one of Missouri's attractions for tourism and recreation. Please keep Ozark Mountain as a Missouri State Park.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63021

Do not sell any state park land!!! Raise taxes on the wealthy. Don't sell off state assets!!!!

Zip Code: 63146

Zip Code: 65284

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65810

Missouri's parks are an essential part of our character and they preserve important pieces of natural habitat that provide multiple recreational opportunities for natives and visitors alike. As population continues to burgeon, additional parks are necessary to prevent overuse and damage to existing parks. There are several new parks that need to proceed in order to provide these opportunities. I ask that these properties remain in the state park system and under their management.

Zip Code:

Don't sell off our State Parks! We need all the wilderness areas possible to keep Missouri a great state!

Zip Code: 64113

Do not sale Ozark Mountain State Park. Protect this beautiful area for all of us in the state.

Zip Code: 65337

There is so much history it would be a shame to loose this just to ruin these parks.

Zip Code:

There are good reasons of habitat preservation in keeping Ozark Mountain State Park open. As we travel through the state, we like to stop at any state parks close

Zip Code: 63139

Please do NOT sell Ozark Mountain State Park. This provides an important recreational area next to Branson and selling the park would also affect those who depend on tourism in Branson.

Zip Code: 63111

Don't close MO state parks!

Zip Code: 65251

Please protect Ozark State Park. Don't sell this, it not only belongs to all Missourians, but to all generations to come.

Zip Code:

PLEASE SOMEBODY START DOING THE RIGHT THING...OUR STATE PARKS SHOULD NEVER BE FOR SALE..I SAY WE SELL GREITENS OFF TO WHATEVER STATE WANTS HIM,SELL THE REST OF THE NASTY DEPLORABLE REPUBS AND FAKE DEMS AND DON'T FORGET IDIOT,RACIST CHEETO POTUS ALL HERE GROUPS AND MEMBERS,SELL THEM TO NORTH KOREA...WE COULD USE THE MONEY AND THEY (REPUBS)ARE MASS MURDERERS ALL THE PEOPLE GOING TO DIE FROM THEIR RAISES THEY ALL GOT..FORGET SELLING THEM.... DEPORT THEM TO NORTH KOREA=PEACE OFFERING

Zip Code: 65656

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Preserve the natural beauty and habitat of the Ozarks. It is not worth the money to sell out on public lands.

Zip Code: 63125

I am Missouri resident currently living in Paraguay. I grew up in Missouri and together with family and friends have always used and enjoyed our state natural resources in the parks in Missouri. There have been many family reunions, camping trips, fishing, swimming and in various state parks. Until today, when I am in Missouri, I alwayy make visits to some of the parks. They provide a public space full of the natural beauty of our world. I ask you please to do all within your power and authority to preserve the Ozark State Park for public enjoyment by all of us and futrue generations. Don't sell off OUR PRECIOUS LAND.

Zip Code: 63139

Please protect our state parks from the governor , including Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 64114

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64015

Zip Code: 63114

MISSOURI STATE PARKS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE OF MISSOUT, NOT THE GOVENOR. LAND GRABS SUCH AS THIS IS PURE GREED. PARKS PROVIDE AREAS OF RECREATION AND RELAXATION FOR PEOPLE ESPECIALLY IN THESE STRESSFUL TIMES. NATURE IS A GREAT HEALER. DON'T TAKE IT AWAY.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63132

My daughter is studying to be a park ranger. Don't erode the lands she wants to protect.

Zip Code:

Preserve our state parks...for all time!

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63117

Beauty, for all to enjoy

Zip Code: 65401

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. In addition, it's landscape is unique and not provided by any other state park. This is especially important to me.

Zip Code: 63017

Zip Code: 64138

The State parks belong to all of us and should not be for sale. We pay for the opportunities to use OUR parks. Greitens better suck it up because he may not have his D.C. goals available after the 2018 elections. And his future will be finished here in Missouri also.

Zip Code: 63376

Leave the state parks alone!!! They are for the citizens of Missouri (and travelers from out-of-state and are meant to be enjoyed, NOT commercialized. They are beautiful open outdoor spaces that are meant to be enjoyed by people NOT commercialized in any way. LEAVE THEM ALONE!!!!

Zip Code: 63401

Public parks are a proud American tradition. We should not sell and privatize them. We need more of them.

Zip Code: 63129

Leave our state parks to be enjoyed by all. They have existed since before you were born.

Zip Code:

Please don't sell off state parks. They are something to be proud of and people from all segments of our society use them. In some ways they represent peace, freedom and democratic values. Thank you. ██████████ Boonville, MO

Zip Code:

The Ozark State Park must not be sold and made unavailable to Missouri citizens and visitors from other states. Selling this preserved land takes away from the ever dwindling park system in the United States, thanks to Trump. I urgently call upon you to please not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. This park would provide a critical recreational area near Branson, a destination for in-state and out-of-state park visitors, and additional income to the area.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63114

None of our Federal or State Parks should be sold to anyone at anytime at any cost. To sell land such as this is just inviting greed-based commercial enterprises to move in destroy the natural beauty of our country's protected areas. We must protect and preserve all the remaining natural parks areas that still remain in our country - the United States of America. For the Love of Nature. Hugs.

Zip Code: 64015

The governor has proven to be a greedy louse, bought and paid for by the Koch brothers and their ilk. He cares nothing about Missouri or the people in Missouri. No one I know wants that property sold. I have a lot of family living in the Ozarks and they are appalled at the greed of these people. They care about nothing but making money and they don't care who it hurts, as long as their getting their share. They are a disgrace to Missouri and our country. What is it going to take to rid us of these duplicitous, rapacious men and their companies?

Zip Code: 63043

Governor Greiten, Please keep OZARK MT. PARK. We need it for beauty, outdoor life, clean air, for our souls. thank you, clare duffy

Zip Code: 63144

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63021

Don't sell any State Parks! Run them for the people to enjoy. Keep them to preserve nature.

Zip Code: 63116

Missouri's renowned State Park system is strongly supported by Missouri votes, including those of Taney County where Ozark Mountain State Park is located. The glades and views make this land worth preserving. Being along highway 465 would provide an easily developed trail head. Longer hikes could extend into the adjacent Henning Conservation Area, enhancing the value of that state property. The sale of this property would suggest Missouri's desperate need for funds for short-term gains. I don't think that Missouri is that desperate. With low annual costs, we can invest the future.

Zip Code: 64113

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. Parks like these are one of the things that make Missouri special.

Just last summer during the solar eclipse, I was trying to find the perfect location to be in the wilderness to experience this rare event and ended up at one of these parks. I spent the day hiking in the woods along with many other of my fellow Missourians. We need to preserve these wild places so we have recreational opportunities like this.

Zip Code:
Please Keep Ozark Mountain State Park a state park!

Zip Code: 63017
I am a MO Resident, a frequent visitor to our parks. An diminution of this system is ill advised. Our citizens and especially our youth needs maximum access to the natural world to protect the planet and understand the need for conservation. Do not be bullied by the current administration into selling off our public lands.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63116

Zip Code: 63146
The economic value alone of the park (\$26 dollar return for every dollar spent) should be enough to justify keeping the park. It is a unique piece of property that balances out the resources of our other state parks. We Missourians USE the state parks and this one should not be discarded.

Zip Code:
Please Strongly consider the use of parks and the influence it has on many lives. We dont just look at the parks as pretty. For many of us it represents freedom, the freedom to detach and explore, not only nature, but ourselves as well as we are given these opportunities to learn and preserve the very land we walk. This land was purposely protected for use by the public, it is part of the grand picture of the "Wild Places" that Americans and others around the world have come to admire. Parks are not just land, they are the wild in which the "west" was admired for. Please consider opening this park for public use, and promote use, rather than narrowing our paths as industry takes over the land.

Zip Code: 63122
Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63116
I think the governor should leave his greedy hands off the Ozark Mountain State Park and any other park he wants to turn over to BIG BUSINESS! We need our GREEN SPACES!

Zip Code: 65101

Zip Code: 63385
Please do not sell! Please keep our beautiful parks. I am a registered voter.

Zip Code: 64145

Zip Code: 63122
The Ozark Mountain State Park is a gem, both for those who live in Missouri and for those from outside the state, and especially so since it provides crucial recreational facilities near to Branson. PLEASE DO NOT SELL IT. It would be such a shame to lose this gem to various commercial interests. Thanks.

Zip Code: 64119
Please do not sell the Ozark Mountain State Park. This wilderness belongs to everyone for the purpose of maintaining wild life habitat and recreational activities. Sell off and development will destroy a natural treasure more valuable than money. Thank you.

Zip Code:
Keep your hands off of our parks, you greedy Republican thugs! Not everything is about money! Our parks are not for sale!

Zip Code:
PLEASE DON'T SELL OZARK MOUNTAIN!!!

Zip Code: 64114
Please do not sell off the Missouri Ozark State Park. Please keep it as a natural area.

Zip Code: 63775
These mountains belong to all of us and are not for sale.

Zip Code: 63105

Zip Code: 65791
Our state parks are a big draw for tourism, which is an important source of income for local residents. Please

don't penalize us by taking away our recreation AND our income.

Zip Code: 65201

Please protect our parks for future generations to enjoy!!!!

Zip Code: 63128

Our state parks might well be our best assets. They are certainly precious irreplaceable treasures. If we lose them through lack of stewardship by the Repubs, no one can replace them. Greitens ought to see where his support really lies: in God and Mother Nature.

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

Missouri state parks, as all our countries national parks, are too precious resources to sell just so some company can exploit them. Americans need green spaces!

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

We live in the Branson area near Ozark Mountain State Park. Missouri has its priorities wrong when it considers selling state parks in order to provide tax breaks for cash-rich corporations. Let's fully fund the Department of Natural Resources as part of our critical infrastructure planning!

Zip Code: 64157

Zip Code: 63126

The area of Branson is already too congested with retail & for profit entertainment, what the Qzarks need is more quiet space where one can walk in nature & breathe fresh air! The Lake itself is already polluted with so much traffic, gas, germs (e coli) that I wonder about the safety of people swimming & playing in it! LEAVE OUR WIDERNESS ALONE, don't you think your children might enjoy the fresh air & trees, Governor Greedins! Or, are you like all the rest of the GOP, thinking your power & profit are more important than the people you serve (or, rather, supposed to serve) & future generations? (your children included)

Zip Code: 63016

DON'T SELL OUR OUR OUR NOT YOUR STATE PARKS!!!!!!

Zip Code: 63123

Please do not sell off any of our Missouri State Parks.

Zip Code: 64725

The destruction of our beautiful landscape was horrifying when Branson was overdeveloped. It can never be recovered. Never. Gone forever. There are other ways to make money than by destroying natural wonders, and in private hands that is exactly what will happen, sooner or later. Those lands belong to us, citizens and taxpayers. They should never be for sale.

Zip Code: 65355

Zip Code: 65065

Don't sell this park. Consider admission. It seems like this is what the Republican party wants to do, get rid of our natural sanctuaries.

Zip Code: 63017

Zip Code:

Save our parks!!!

Zip Code: 65078

Keep the parks as they were intended for future generations. Selling of public lane will give you cash but money is fleeting and when it is gone so is the treasured public lane that is way more memorable. Do not sell our children and grandchildren our heritage.

Zip Code: 64131

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? Donald Trump is attacking national parks all over the country. Now Greitens wants to do it too? THESE AREN'T YOUR LANDS GREITENS. This are NATIONAL parks and you have no right to do this. Leave our precious parks ALONE!

Zip Code: 65803

Please protect our state parks. Please don't sell them.

Zip Code: 63304

Stop trying to sell the people's land. It isn't yours to sell. It belongs to all of us.

Zip Code:

Please do not close Ozark Mountain State Park. I know money and governmental interests may seem paramount to Gov. greitans, but this piece of wilderness is irreplaceable

Zip Code: 64082

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64804

Keep Missouri state parks open without reduction. They are an asset to the citizens of Mo. and visitors from out of state.

Zip Code: 64068

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63141

Do not sell Ozark Mountain Park. There are fewer and fewer places where everyone can gather. This state should be an amazing tourist destination and parks are a huge part of the tourism industry. Having a park close to Branson offers families a natural setting for events, picnic, and interaction with nature. Do not sell the land and thereby restrict the public from access.

Zip Code: 65775

I would prefer that the state parks be developed as originally planned and not turned over to private owners for their personal use. Please consider making this park a reality for all Missourians and others to enjoy for many years to come.

Zip Code: 63654

Please don't sell any Missouri Parks!

Zip Code: 63376

Ozark Mountain State Park should NOT be sold!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! None of our state parks should be sold!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Zip Code: 63110

I understand that the Governor is considering selling the Ozark Mountain State Park. I am writing to ask him NOT to sell the park. The Ozark Mountain State Park can provide a critical recreational area next to Branson, and is an important resource for our children and grandchildren. As a St Louis resident and native, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be in the great outdoors through the Missouri State Parks. These resources have been important for the education of my children. Please don't sell the park.

Zip Code: 64081

Please protect Ozark Mountain State Park from being sold off.

Zip Code: 63368

Please save our Ozarks State Parks. This is our and future generations heritage. They provide beauty,nature,ecology and recreation,fishing ,hunting. All help local economies. I believe there are many more options than selling them off due to greed. You can't replace these beautiful places. It's somewhere to disconnect from all the busy world for just a bit. The wonder in my kids eyes tell it all. Charge nominal fees. Most people would not mind Have volunteers work. Get local scouts or vets to work and help maintain. Get involved. Please don't do this.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 64055

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63031

Our state parks are not there to sell. There are reasons why we have them and selling them is not one of them.

Zip Code: 64114

The area around Branson is so important to the state of Missouri, both economically and for health and recreation related reasons. Please, do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park!

Zip Code:

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

This park is a valuable addition to the Missouri state park system - don't sell it. It doesn't need expensive development to be enjoyed by the public.

Zip Code: 64081

Ensure our public lands are protected for future generations. Do not sell them off!!!

Zip Code: 64082

Please don't close this Missouri treasure. We need to save these last precious refuges not just for the creatures

who live there, but also for ourselves and future generations.

Zip Code: 65672

Don't sell Ozark mountain state park! It is vitally important for our future and our health to have open places where people can get into nature. Think to the future, our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren etc. not just the small amount that the government would get selling off this land. I and many other voters are strongly against this!

Zip Code: 64474

I am a state park volunteer serving as camp host in several Missouri State Parks. It is my opinion that Missouri State Parks needs to quit opening new parks and use that money for upgrades and maintenance of existing parks. Older parks need upgrades to RV pads most of which are gravel; accommodations need to be made for today's RV's which are many feet longer than 10 years ago; many parks need upgrades and improvements to restroom and shower houses; more 50 amp sites are needed. Most new RV's, 5th wheel; bumper hitch and motor homes, use 50 amp power. Campers are willing to pay the extra site fee to have the 50 amp. Ask site managers what is needed; use the Comment Card to ask campers what they want to find in Missouri State Parks. We have the greatest park system in the US - let's keep it that way by making improvements, not opening new parks. If you choose to open new parks, take a close look at North Missouri. There are 4 Parks within an hour of Kansas City but few further North. There are more people wanting to camp in electric sites than can be accommodated. Also, I believe Missouri State Parks should add an additional fee for campers from out of state. Our NW MO parks have a very high useage by people from Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska mainly because our Parks are cheaper and better maintained than those in their home states. Out of State campers contribute very little to the state tax that supports the Parks. They fuel their vehicles; buy groceries etc at home therefore no contribution to MO State Parks. Many northern states already charge an additional fee to out of state campers. Thank you for "listening" to my comments

██████████

Zip Code:

Mo. parks belong to all Missourians, including our children and grandchildren. Please protect Ozark Mountain State Park by not selling it off. We have to consider the future benefit, as well as the present. The children that will grow up to use it cannot vote yet. It should not be political, but viewed as an environmental benefit for our state. In the future, states will be known

for how well they preserved their natural resources and I hope Missouri will be thriving.

Zip Code: 63108

Do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park! This beautiful area should remain as the lovely, open recreational area close to Branson that it is, some of my favorite memories of enjoying my state's natural beauty have been made at our State Parks. My family and I have enjoy hiking, river floats, picnics and swimming in our State Parks.

Zip Code: 65656

Our parks should not be for sale. Save them.

Zip Code: 63108

Zip Code: 63143

We desperately need parks and other natural areas. Suspect that we will continue to need them even more.

Zip Code: 63146

Zip Code: 65076

Do not develop. How can DNR afford these additional State Parks? Will it impact our existing state parks with deferred maintenance? How many additional DNR staff will need to be hired to maintain these parks? Does additional equipment need to be purchased in order to develop and maintain these state parks. I understand DNR is reducing the size of its vehicle fleet, how can you justify adding more state parks during a period of downsizing? Using the average costs from your "Factors Under Consideration" my estimates show each of these 3 State Parks will cost an additional \$340,500 (\$1,021,500 for all 3 parks) - where does this funding come from?

Zip Code: 63948

I am now convinced that republicans are totally nuts.

Zip Code: 63144

Leave them be! Parks are treasured by the people... tell obsolete gas, oil and coal to go away and bring in solar and wind and Tesla free energy... stop the corporate greed... instead represent the people. We want organic.. order Monsanto to stop GMO, HFCS to stop poisoning us sk tje for profit medical system can make huge monetary profits... we know there will never be a cure for cancer because a cure would be healthy organic food, air and water... stop being bought by big corporate who think there are too many people in the world! Get off your high horse and be a decent old white male and stop

tormenting women with your ignorance... just go back to Mars where you belong...

Zip Code: 63368

Please keep it a wilderness area park. Leave it alone.

Zip Code: 64064

Zip Code: 63033

All Missouri State Parks should be protected and not sold off to the highest bidder! State Parks were not created to be 'saved for some future developer' to buy and make a fortune from, they were created for future generations to visit and enjoy FOREVER! Please back off from the destruction of these pristine lands for the 'almighty \$\$\$' that some greedy people want to use them for and move to protect them further from such folks. Thank You..

Zip Code: 65737

Please don't sell Ozark mountain state park. It is vital to Branson and the recreation in this area.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63110

I oppose Governor Greitens' initiative to sell newly acquired public parks like Ozark Mountain. I have all my life enjoyed hiking in Missouri and Illinois, along the great rivers and in the Ozarks. These are community assets that matter to me personally, but that also sustain other interests and endeavors, including those of horseback riders, conservationists, outfitters and providers of hospitality in the vicinity of Missouri's parks. That many of these parks were acquired with funds that were not even in the state's general revenue indicates to me that there is no compelling budgetary reason to sell these parks off. I acknowledge that operational costs as well as costs of acquisition and parks development must be considered. I insist that such costs can be sustained with political will and point to the example of St. Charles County, which has developed an array of local parks that are assets to this region and to that county's residents especially. It is time to sustain Missouri's parklands -- not sell them off.

Zip Code: ptseo@aol.com

We need these parks for Missouri tourism as well as the preservation of the various species of animals our state plays host to. If Missouri cannot pay for the maintenance of this park, then they should instate or raise entrance fees.

Zip Code:

Pls do not sell or otherwise dispose of any Missouri state parks.

Zip Code: 63021

Keep Ozark Mountain State Park! My family has traveled across the country visiting state and national parks. I feel very fortunate that Missouri state parks are beautiful and kept in great condition. The best resource we have in Missouri are our public lands and I support the state park system and it being well funded. We recently purchased a camper to enjoy the parks even more. Thank you for all you do!

Zip Code: 61409

Missouri Parks belong to all of us, including our children and grandchildren. The Department of Natural Resources need to protect the new Ozark Mountain Sate Park. Don't sell it off.

Zip Code: 64151

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64075

Missouri State Parks are not for sale. These are necessary places of peace and education for all of us.

Zip Code: 64015

State parks are wonderful and needed. They make for so many meaningful low cost vacations much needed by hard working people who can't afford more expensive choices. They also have a huge environmental and ecological impact and should be maintained.

Zip Code: 64744

Zip Code: 65052

State parks are not for sale. They belong to the people of Missouri and future generations.

Zip Code: 63501

The trend to move public lands into private hands is one of the most disturbing things I have seen resurface recently. Missouri has great outdoor access and a beautiful variety of landscapes; this is something we should strive to maintain, not give over to corporations or a few rich individuals. Ozark Mountain State Park was purchased legally and correctly, and needs to be opened to the public and protected. It would be great if

our state and national leaders could focus on things like health care, the environment, and numerous other issues instead of constantly attempting to undermine our outdoor heritage.

Zip Code: 65809

Zip Code: 63143

Don't sell MO parklands!

Zip Code: 63021

We can not afford to take away opportunity for our citizens to enjoy the outdoors and view nature first hand. Children brought up to respect our earth make the best citizens. They contribute to our society. Do not reduce their opportunity by taking away another park. It is the least expensive education available.

Zip Code:

I am from CO, but spent the past two years in MO. I believe the Ozark area is an unknown beauty to many people. I also think the MO Parks have a great reputation in terms of camping accessibility. I am not sure if this would be appropriate, but perhaps a first come first served backpacking area would be manageable.

Zip Code: 64109

State parks are beautiful and necessary and should always be protected!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Zip Code: 65109

Gov. Grietens, This park belongs to the people of Missouri. Our parks can and have been enjoyed by the public without expensive upgrades. The Missouri parks system has always been a point of pride for our state. Thank you, A concerned voter.

Zip Code: 63114

We need to keep our parks and public lands. Do not go the way of our delusional President!!! The states have to hold the line till we get a mature person back in the White House.

Zip Code: 63123

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65548

Our Parks and public lands provide major sources of enjoyment for Missourians. They also are a draw for

folks coming in from out of state. Please Leave our public lands intact and add parks to the system instead of selling land off..

Zip Code: 63139

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63122

Just leave as a wild space with no hunting allowed.

Zip Code: 64030

I have lived in Missouri all my life & I think our parks make us stand out as a great state to live in. If the governor sells Ozark Mountain Park it just proves to me that he is just in for the money. Shame on him!

Zip Code: 65255

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 65560

Once we get rid of a park we can never get it back for the public to use and enjoy.

Zip Code: 63123

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63139

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63123

Restoration, not deportation!

Zip Code: 63366

Zip Code: 65201

We need ALL of our State Parks to be open and available to all Missourians so that the natural beauty of Missouri and the Ozarks is available for visitors who enjoy nature and science and biology that goes with all that beauty. The State Parks are vital to our Economy, the Tourist Industry and all the support that goes with our parks, their care and upkeep, amenities available to

both hunters, campers, fishermen/women, sports enthusiasts, hikers, climbers, and so much more. Our State Parks are vital for a myriad of species that call them home and the herds depend on their habitat, our care of said habitat, and good Stewardship from our Parks Keepers which means trained, capable, Professionals, the best Money can Buy...Period. To close State Parks is an act of cowardice and bad Stewardship...for anything else means we just didn't care enough about our Children's futures and our Grandchildren's futures...Shame On Us!

Zip Code: 63117

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

Do ot shut down „mo.state parks you may think some lobbyist is giving you good advice..Not So,, many who supported you during the election period did so think you would stop back room deals that the public is paying for,,but this is state communism at it's worst, selling off public domain,that is there for all mo. Resident's,and there future prodogy,will be the height of moral blasphemy. Our parks have been here longer than you have been alive,and without our support for you would be here long after we are gone.YOU are the bottom line ,,I may just be some hunter , camper,fisherman, but I know how many billions are in our rainy day funds (as in other states), let alone what is on the table now.If you do this ,your support for now ,and your future endeavors,will dry up,, sports people have long memories,and some have good education, good enough to know this is on you,period.sincerely [REDACTED] I vote and know what a voting block is.

Zip Code: 63141

Please do not sell off any State Parks. They are for people and animals, not for sale.

Zip Code: 63109

These parks belong to my children and me. Don't sell them. Land is in short supply.

Zip Code: 63116

This park should be kept and maintained. As a state, we are paving and developing the land at an exponential rate. Why give us this park after the investment we have made, it does not make sense.

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63128

Having completed the Missouri State Park Passport program and visiting all of our great state parks, I would like to see the money spent on improving our existing parks instead of creating new ones. 1. Being an avid camper, we would enjoy a robust internet WIFI system added to camping areas. 2. Improvements to stated WIFI availability that includes the camping area instead of ranger office/convenient store areas.. 3. Paved camp sites. Example: Johnson Shut-in State Park. Loop 4 at Montauk has turned into a sand dune and makes camping miserable. 4. The new shower/bathroom facilities being constructed are geared more towards park maintenance than state park users. Not having any countertops by the sinks is a large shortcoming. Would like to see improvements like the old shower/bathroom located in loop 4 of Montauk. Extra showers outside, but bathroom facilities with countertops to place shave kits and other articles while using sinks. Again, having visited all the Missouri State Parks in 2016-2017, we have seen parks that are in need of improvements. Echo Bluffs is a beautiful park, but that money would have gone a long way on improving existing parks.

Zip Code: 63146

DO NOT SELL ANY OF OUR PARKS. SUGGEST RAISE GASOLINE TAX BY DOUBLE CURRENT RATE AND USE EXCESS TO HELP FUND PARKS AND EDUCATION.

Zip Code: 65109

"This park is a valuable addition to the Missouri state park system - don't sell it. It doesn't need expensive development to be enjoyed by the public."

Zip Code: 63111

We need to SAVE our State Parks, not take away any land.....Missouri State Parks are necessary for the environment, jewels in the entire USA, and speak of historic beauty in MIssouri. They must be protected from any environmental wounds, too much trafficking, 4-wheelers, etc.....the least amount of infringement is the answer. Future generations need to see Missouri beauty.

Zip Code: 64114

Please don't sell off the Ozark Mountain State Park! State parks should remain open to all Missourians.

Zip Code: 63131

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park!! It provides important and critical recreation next to Branson. Missouri Parks belong to all of us, including our children and grandchildren. To take it away weakens the entire State Park system. Listen to the citizens of Missouri. We WILL NOT forget at election time.

Zip Code: 63139

Please, don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64152

Gods creation is precious to me. The future of our children depends on us. We live, breath, and feel free in our lands. Land belongs us, and we belong to the land. Earth to earth, dust to dust. Please don't touch our beautiful National Parks. We have spoiled other parts of this earth, that the good Lord, gave to us, for you, me and others. Our children's lives depends on us. We cannot put money on it. Money cannot buy, the most precious part of US. LAND is us. We need to protect it. Missourians children now and the future needs us to protect these beautiful National Parks for them, and their children. Land is us, and we are the land. We, the land and us belong together. Do this for your children, my children and there children. These is National Monuments that reminds us of Gods love, and beyond. Creations that will always make us wonder, and seek for more wisdom to guide us now and into the future. The Ozarks is part of that creation. I

Zip Code: 63111

MO

Zip Code: 63109

Please leave the park lands in Missouri (AND our Nation) alone. Once sold off to corporate and commercial interests they are gone to us forever. There is a reason wonderful people in the past thought about our Nation's Land and what it means to our Future. Please leave it to nature and posterity and not to development and ruin.

Zip Code: 63134

Increase the size of Missouri State Parks. Give people access to more undeveloped land to observe the beauty of nature.

Zip Code: 64746

This is the people land and thats that. You shall not steal our property for you Rich corprate buddies. This is

precious land for our State and our citizens not your destruction or sell off. This republican theft has to stop now.

Zip Code: 63144

Zip Code: 63011

When I was child my parents couldn't afford to take my family on vacations to Florida or The Grand Canyon, etc. my father took us to many of Missouri's state parks. Because of these trips I learned to appreciate Nature. Missouri must preserve and protect the environment, our greatest resource, from developers, farmers, corporations and others who would ruin, pollute or decimate our Parks for future Missourians.

Zip Code: 63122

Don't sell our parks!

Zip Code: 65203

Due to the unique features of this property and proximity to urban sprawl and adjacency to the conservation area, I recommend that the Missouri State Parks organization retain ownership of the land for conservation sake. If money is problematic, can this land be potentially an undeveloped extension onto the currently adjacent conservation area? Can additional expenditure be deferred and the land be made open to public for use as conservation space?

Zip Code: 65203

We hold state parks in trust for future generations. Please keep the parks in public hands and open for public use.

Zip Code: 63146

Remove all sickies, the republicans.

Zip Code: 65063

I'm an avid outdoorsman who has always been proud of the way our state treats its natural areas -- parks, streams, watersheds, prairie, etc. So, it is with great disappointment that I see that DNR and the Governor are considering changing the status of Ozark Mountain. I urge you to keep our tradition of protecting, and even expanding, opportunities for families to experience the outdoors and wilderness areas. Please do NOT SELL or change the status of Ozark Mountain. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63026

Our state parks are not for sale!

Zip Code: 63049

Protect this state park. Maintain this land for the people of Missouri and other visitors to enjoy nature. Our land and planet is more important than cash and we have nothing without it. There is no planet B. Clean land, air, and water are necessary for our survival and for future generations.

Zip Code:

Keep the park. Once it's gone, we can't get it back.

Zip Code: 64068

Governor Greitens, Do not take away public access to state parks by selling our beautiful lands. I do not endorse or support the sale of any public park land in possession by the Department of Natural Resources but urge that we redefine our thinking and our actions and give the land back to nature and to animal habitat that I have enjoyed as a child and as an adult.

Zip Code: 3123

I urge your NOT to close the Ozark Mountain State Park. The woodlands and glades alongside Roark Creek and East Fork Roark Creek contribute to the water quality and aquatic habitat by providing shade, surface and groundwater inputs, and watershed protection in the rapidly urbanizing areas of Branson and surrounding Taney County landscape. They are also key natural resources from a wildlife, bird and native plant conservation perspective. Particularly important are the species that are unique to glades and are adapted specifically to the glade environments. It is very short-sighted and backward thinking to limit the public's access to natural environments, as they have been shown to improve general overall health.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 64030

Please DO NOT SELL MO STATE PARKS.

Zip Code: 63109

Missouri should not be selling our State Parks including Ozark Mountain. We need to preserve our wild areas for wildlife and for recreation that gets people outside and active and enjoying all of the attributes of nature that Missouri has to offer. This is an essential part of our state and not only benefits Missourians but also brings tourists and their dollars to the state.

Zip Code:

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code:

Don't sell!! Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63445

Zip Code: 63122

Please protect Ozark State Park and open it for public use. We need more outdoor spaces. They are a great investment for the citizens and visitors of Missouri.

Zip Code: 65772

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. This is close to where I live and Branson Mo. This area provides necessary recreational use for the area.

Zip Code: Clemons

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park. Let it remain the beautiful area it is.

Zip Code:

This park is a valuable part of the Missouri state park system - don't sell it. It doesn't need expensive development to be enjoyed by the public.

Zip Code: 63122

Zip Code: 63109

Please consider the future. The land we have is all the land we will ever have. Don't throw this away for a short term gain.

Zip Code: 65775

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 64804

Do not sell our parks. You have closed our Ozark State Park and I have heard planning to sell it. Are you afraid citizens might enjoy their natural parks? This is just disgusting. Are you going to sell them all? I imagine it is lucrative for you all who will get kickbacks from such a transaction. We will not quietly allow this corruption.

Zip Code: 64081

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. Missouri Parks belong to all of us, including our children and grandchildren.

Zip Code: 63043

Don't Sell Our Parks,, We All Need Them

Zip Code: 63117

What in the world is wrong with this? Because we will not get the beauty of these spaces back. Moved to CO for a while and one of the difference between MO and CO is they understand how important acquiring land for the people is. They know people are healthier and happier when open space is available to all not just the people who can afford to buy up land. Reconsider the closing and open it up to the people.

Zip Code: 64056

Zip Code: 65203

Save Ozark Mountain State Park!

Zip Code: 65251

Please stop planning to sell off our state lands. What is the matter with Greitens and the Republicans? Public lands belong to all Missouri, to provide a place of respite, to provide safe places for wildlife, and to protect our environment.

Zip Code: 63143

We need more state parks, not fewer. We do not need to develop every state park. We enjoy nature as it is.

Zip Code: 64114

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, as it provides vital outdoor recreation opportunities to the Branson area.

Zip Code: 63131

As a Missouri citizen who travels to the Branson area regularly, I am asking you to please not sell Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 64070

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park

Zip Code: 63385

Don't be like our moron President be better...much better.

Zip Code:

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63143

Zip Code: 63012

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain, keep it as a natural land in Missouri. Farmland is being sold to developers for cheap housing destroying the natural habitat for animals and nature. Missourians need to preserve what they can - once it is developed we cannot get it back. Even if Missouri cannot afford at this time to maintain it as a park, it is land equity for the future and allows future generations the option of deciding what is important and I believe that they will see nature and undeveloped land and habitat for Missouri native plants and animals as important.

Zip Code: 64113

Zip Code: 63131

Zip Code: 63304

Zip Code: 63123-3808

Yes, Please Keep And Maintain The Ozark Mountain Land For State Park Use. Public Land Use For All People Of Missouri.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 65201

Greetings, please protect the Ozark Mountains State Park and keep it open as a valuable recreation area near Branson. Don't sell it off--it is a valuable part of our heritage and democracy. Thanks!

Zip Code: 63366

Many of the rural communities in this state are dependent on tourism. If anything, we should be expanding our state parks and rails-to-trails programs, not selling them off in a short-sighted manner. In particular, the Branson area is completely dependent on tourism. It makes no sense not to develop this beautiful land into a park the area can be very proud of. It

doesn't matter your political affiliation, people in this country love their parks.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63116

They're for all the people to enjoy ??

Zip Code: 63026

Ozark mountain state park is another one of our treasures. Missouri's natural treasures should not be sold off because they attract people from everywhere in the United States to our great state. The governor's desire to sell off these treasures tells me that he has not brought his own children to experience the wonder and beauty that is right in front of us. Outdoorsmen are not happy about the selling off of these public treasures.

Zip Code: 65010

If you allow the sale of legally acquired State Park property, I will NEVER support another Parks and Soils Tax renewal and will work to oppose any future renewals. Be concerned about the unattended consequences and find a way to solve the problem without creating another for yourself. The politics isn't worth it.

Zip Code: 64836

Zip Code: 64454

I dont understand how this new regime thinks they have the right to sell off State Parks or any and all of "our" (the people) protected lands that we have funded through our tax dollars. Didn't know when the people elect a governor or president that that gave them the right to sell off our prtected areas for ther own gains and not consider the publics opinions. These poloticians are destroying our lands in so many ways what is wrong with there mind sets this has never happened before!

Zip Code:

I do not want a corrupt Governor--his election having been purchased by the wealthy and his obedience bonus so generous--to destroy what belongs to Missouri's people. We already have the most private hunting acres of any state in America. The Department of Natural Resources needs to stand their ground in opposition to this short-sighted immature boy, Greitens.

Zip Code: 63336

If we sell off our parks. Formerly protected soon china will own us

Zip Code: 63088

Please do not sell off the Ozark Mountain State Park. It is a fun, vital recreational area near Branson, MO. and it would be shameful to get rid of it merely for some person's financial profit when everyone profits from having a place to get away and enjoy the beauty that nature offers!

Zip Code: 63122

Zip Code: 65333

Save something for our childern

Zip Code: 64081

MO

Zip Code: 63011

Parks represent a comparatively small investment in dollars yet yield an invaluable return in enhancements of lifestyle for all the people of the state that wish to use them. No doubt someone is pocketing a bunch of money as a result of this action and it's not the people of Missouri.

Zip Code: 63703

Please keep Ozark Mountain State Park accessible for our state's residents and visitors to enjoy; it is a special area for all people, and it should not be sold to the highest bidder. We need to protect our beautiful Ozarks, and this is exactly what keeping this area as a State Park does.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63123

Zip Code: 63146

Zip Code:

Don't sell off state park property. This area provides mental and physical relief for citizens of the state of Missouri. Even if this land is considered an asset to be leveraged, do not make the mistake of liquidating it for a marginal gain of appeasing some interest group. There are far better ways to monetize this land without selling it; destination permaculture farm, green energy generation, etc. Don't take an easy way out for a short term gain at the direct expense of people who have not

had a chance to approve of a well researched, properly informed plan.

Zip Code:

Do not sell this property. Once gone, it will never be regained. Our state park system in Missouri is one of the finest in the world and one of the few things that make our state a unique place to live. We all need these spaces. Does the current government want to be remembered for this?

Zip Code: 65203

Do not sell off Ozark Mountain State Park. Missouri's state parks are a significant (and lucrative) draw for tourists. Our state's natural beauty should not be destroyed and should be there for future generations. As has been implied: don't pave paradise just to put up a parking lot. This state has many natural wonders that need to be preserved.

Zip Code: 64730

MO is known as a leader in their State Parks System, why reduce one of the few things that we do right? Our family use the the State Parks all the time, camping, hiking, fishing, etc. Please Governor prove that you have more integrity than our president. There are many things more valuable than money going into the pockets of big business. Missouri's State Park system is one of them. DON'T SELL OUR STATE PARKS?

Zip Code: 63123

Zip Code:

Governor Greitens, I don't understand why the need to sell off the Ozark Mountain State Park has come up. I think our state parks are an important part of the wilderness/public use of this state. I believe that it is in the best interest to leave this area alone. Thank you for your time, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 64111

Public land is going to be more and more scarce. Missouri parks should not be sold or closed!

Zip Code: 64110

Our State Parks are a treasure. They belong to all of us and should not be "up for sale" to anyone at any price. Please preserve our natural wonders for us and future generations.

Zip Code: 65401-3567

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. It is in an area of growing population. Missouri Parks also attract many tourists to our state. Once sold this valuable Missouri resource cannot be replaced.

Zip Code:

Open Ozark Mountain State Park so the public can enjoy this beautiful land and critical recreation area. Selling this land would prevent Missourians and tourists from enjoying the wonders of our state and stifle economic opportunities. Keeping the park closed or selling it will hurt Missouri.

Zip Code: 63128

I feel that the park system should retain the properties. Future development possibility makes the retention worthwhile. Once it's gone it's Gone.

Zip Code: 65622

If you have to just leave the new parks in their natural state.

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

We need legislation making it illegal to sell any state park!

Zip Code:

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 65109

Your a FOOL to give away our parks, and Lands set aside for future Generations, Your ambitions to rise up the political ladder is obvious that you are paying back all those donors, and your hidden donor list must tell all of us something! [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So the Seal playing on your military service is not hero material, but your actions will stay with you for the rest of your political career. Hero's are actions that are recognized by others, not self made, be a HERO for Missouri not a TAKER! Your jet fly's over my house on a regular basis on all your out of State trips to see your DARK DONORS who want to destroy OUR STATE! ROB

Zip Code: 63038

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64118
Leave OUR parks alone!

Zip Code: 63026

Zip Code: 64030
Our state parks are important. Many Missouri residents can not afford to travel long distances in order to enjoy outdoor experiences. They rely on the resources within our own state. These precious resources need to be protected, not exploited. Please do not sell off these park lands for commercial use.

Zip Code: 65706
Please leave our state parks for future generations. I know people who have donated land for conservation areas, state parks etc. I don't believe they would have left such to have it sold and money made from it. They would probably left it to a charity [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Loretta R Hall

Zip Code: 63304
Protect the park. Do not sell it off. Don't make a short term decision that impacts future generations and their ability to get outside and enjoy the natural world. Republicans are doing their best to destroy what we have at the moment. Having more places to experience the outdoors may be the only way we have anything left once they are done.

Zip Code: 65203
Don't sell our parks. They belong to all of us including our children and grandchildren.

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63379

Zip Code: 65793
If the State of Missouri is in such a desperate state that we need to raise money at all costs, then I'd suggest taxing the top 1%, or legalizing cannabis. As a real estate professional, I can tell you that it's very easy to sell property, but not so easy to get it back. People don't come to the Ozarks for it's subdivisions.

Zip Code: 65721
Mr. Governor, I left Las Vegas in 1973 and my wages dropped to 1/3 of what bugetI was making. I have stayed

all this time because of the natural beauty of these Ozark mountainous and parks. I know you have to stand for the cuttings of the budget but, please reconsider your decision to sell off our beautiful parks.

Zip Code: 63129

Please keep this property in the state's hands. Do not put it up for sale to the general public.

Zip Code:
As a Missourian I am proud of the value we place on our natural resources and natural places. Ozark Mountain has the potential to be another one of those places for generations to come. We have proven again and again that adding to such places increases our appreciation of all of them. Show you are in step with the people of the state by keeping Ozark Mountain as a place of beauty and recreation for all Missourians.

Zip Code: 63130

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. Our state parks are what makes our state great. Do not sell any park land it what be a horrible mistake on your part. Thank you

Zip Code: 63501

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 64028

Zip Code: 64015

This beautiful wilderness area should be preserved for future generations.

Zip Code: 63301

The State parks are not Governor Greitens to give away. They belong to the people of Missouri. He is not the King.

Zip Code: 63141

Do not sell off these state parks.

Zip Code: 65804

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain Park. Recreation areas are important to our communities and provide a valuable resource for the people of our state.

Zip Code: 64138

Please do not sell off Ozark Mountain State Park. This area has been entrusted to the DNR to preserve as natural area for the public and future generations.

Zip Code: 64152-4418

State parks are limited resources within themselves. Once gone, you can never get them back.

Zip Code: 63390

Our parks are NOT for sale! Keep the Ozark Mountain state park!!! Do not sell it off!!! Protect our land!!

Zip Code: 64152

Quit closing and selling our State Parks. If anything we need more parks land in the State of Missouri, not less.

Zip Code: 65080

Please do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. This area is one the most beautiful in the state of Missouri. Our family loves to visit and make solid family memories camping. Our children can't wait to go again. Please encourage these parks for many generations to come. Not sell them off. Thank-you!

Zip Code: 64130

Zip Code: 63119

Do not sell off our Missouri State Parks, especially Ozark Mountain. These are valuable resources that the state needs to protect, not sell off as if it is an offense to the previous governor.

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 64118

Our parks are the envy of many other states. As we lose more open spaces to housing and shopping developments, we need to keep the special places as they are. Maybe, only a few use a certain park, but it's important to them

Zip Code: 63119

Governor Grietens, Hold the land designated for State parks, even if there is no budget right now to improve them. . if you let the land go, it won't be there later. Please save the land that has been set aside for State Parks for our future. Thank you

Zip Code: 3461

Zip Code: 63141

Please don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 63124

Please save Ozark Mountain

Zip Code: 64075

We need more public land not less.

Zip Code: 63106

Please preserve our nature and recreational areas by NOT closing any state parks.

Zip Code: 63126

Missouri is known for it's beautiful parks. Please do not sell this area!

Zip Code: 63111

I would rather you charge to get in than sell our park. the park belongs to all of us and you don't have a right to just sell it off

Zip Code: 63011

Missourians love their parks. consider the beauty of free undeveloped land for everyone to hike through and enjoy. The animals in these parks are wild and protected. We need to enjoy our country, lands undeveloped areas. We do not need more developed land. We are tearing down malls, office buildings, companies, etc. etc. Do you let those greedy for gains to take away pleasure for all the enjoy.

Zip Code: 65201

Keep Missouri State Parks and don't sell them off. People need them to enjoy and we need to keep the land available, not for more development.

Zip Code:

Mr. Greitens and DNR: Missouri State Parks such as the Ozark Mountain State Park belong to the people of Missouri, NOT YOU PERSONALLY. They're NOT your personal property to sell off so you and your buds can make a buck off of public land. I realize "doing the right thing" is a foreign concept to you, Mr. Greitens, but maybe -- just maybe -- you can look your children in the eye and they'll be proud of you for standing up for what's right. And maybe -- just maybe -- you'll be able to sleep at night.

Zip Code: 65205

Zip Code: 63304

Please don't sell Ozark State Park. Keep it for the citizens of Missouri.

Zip Code: 65011

If we do not protect our state parks, no one will. Please reconsider selling.

Zip Code: 63359

Save the forest...you can't take it with u. It will still b here when u r not.

Zip Code: 64118

These areas should be preserved for future generations and not sold off. The Ozarks are home for me and my family still lives in this beautiful area. All efforts should be taken to preserve as much as our natural world for this and future generations.

Zip Code: 65043

Our diverse state parks are one of missouri's biggest assets! This land needs to be preserved for the future. Please don't sell it! Even if no further improvemen's can be made at this time, we need to keep the land protected.

Zip Code: 64836-6130

As wildlife continues to be impacted by highways, more places are needed for conservation. As the current economic climate improves, greater stress is placed on our natural spaces. Gov. Greitens is behind the curve on this one, help put him back ahead!

Zip Code: 63537

I urge Governor Grietens to support all our state parks! They enrich our state and us all and I personally love have these places there for hiking and enjoying nature!

Zip Code: 63043

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson.

Zip Code: 63116

Missouri State Parks are part (a large part) of what makes Missouri a great place to live. Sell them off and people will not want to visit or live in the state. Seriously the state parks are what makes Missouri great! DO NOT SELL OFF any state parks! Do not sell off state resources for short term profits!

Zip Code: 64118

Gov, PLEASE do not sell ANY of Missouri's State Park lands. It would NOT be good for your political career.

Zip Code: 63129

Please do not sell off this property. The value is too great to the state and our people who enjoy the use of it. Money over property of natural sites isn't worth it. Dont sell it.

Zip Code:

Zip Code:

Zip Code: 63119

Don't sell Ozark Mountain State Park, which would provide a critical recreational area next to Branson. Protect our lands.

Zip Code: 63341

With live more and more becoming what it is, our State Parks are essential for our health and wellbeing. Please do not follow the trend of selling off public lands to private interests. We need the sanctuary they provide.

Zip Code: 63116

Zip Code: 63108

Do not sell our state parks!

Zip Code: 64056

We cannot control big business let us not give them our land

Zip Code: 65101

The only state park that should be sold is the small parcel of land called "Jay Nixon State Park." Its purchase violated the rules for purchasing the land, particularly with the funds used. All other state parks should be left alone and kept for the public's use.

Zip Code: 63303

The parks MUST be protected and never sold off to businesses that will strip the beauty of our state and parks.

Zip Code: 63390

Zip Code:

what short sighted people . more green space is needed;
not more development by some congress persons
contribution source [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63026

We have a wonderful state park system. We need to
build up our parks, not pull back. Parks bring people to
our state who spend money. Parks are great for the
environment and the economy. Ozark Mountain park
needs to move forward.

Zip Code: 63080

I feel that this park is located in a very high traffic area
in the branson area,I think ths would be a lost treasure
for visitors to go too

Zip Code: 65301

This is a great opportunity to increase offerings in the
southwest part of Missouri! Glades are awesome and
rare.

Zip Code:

Please do not sell the land. The park does not need to be
developed and can remain rustic if the department has no
funds to develop at this time.

Zip Code: 65714

My comment is for all 3 parks. I would ask that careful
consideration be given to development of the parks.
There is no set timeline or specific expenditure that is
required. They can remain in their natural vegetative
state for everyone to enjoy as then they can be developed
at a later date. If there is a belief that something must be
done immediately then seek the help of the citizens of
Missouri. Ask for help from the groups who support
keeping these parks. There are areas and ways where we
can all contribute, or dare I say it, an incremental 1/8
cent sales tax Here is the main concern; If you sell
the parks off simply because there is a lack of current
resources to develop them, then they they are gone
forever. Each a gem never to be recovered. Missouri is
an amazing state where our state parks and forest's are
part of our heritage and our future. Not many states can
boast such a heritage. Let us preserve ours! [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63144

We need to save all three of these state parks. They are
important to save for the wildlife and for humans who
enjoy the wilderness.

Zip Code: 65438

When my husband and I have visited the Branson area,
we have especially liked the vistas when we have been
able to get up high to see the surrounding country.
There are not many opportunities to do this in the
Branson area. This piece of land looks like it would
provide that opportunity. The property itself is pretty,
with the open woodlands, glades, vistas and small stream
valleys. I could see this as a picnic, low impact hiking
area with a minimum amount of development. It is
really a pretty area and close to Branson, which I could
see Branson treasuring in the future.

Zip Code: 63125

Yes, save this possible park with all it's flora and fauna
species unique to glades and knobs.

Zip Code: 63139

Dear Sir: I support our state parks by maintaining and
working on the trails in several MO State Parks as well
as hiking and camping in them. Our state parks are the
best in the USA! And, they can be used by all kinds of
citizens for many types of recreation. Missouri voters
passed the Parks, Soils, and Water Sales tax by nearly
80% so use and support of our state parks is important
to many of us. MO State Parks add to the jobs and
economies of communities near them—and will
continue to do so for generations! They also add to the
quality of life of nearby communities and the health and
education of young folks who live nearby. Ozark
Mountain SP is close to Branson with special bald
knobs, dolomite glades, forests and waterways such as
East Fork Roark Creek which we must protect and can
be enjoyed in the future. How lucky we are to have such
a property with its 1011 acres. The fact that it borders
Ruth and Paul Henning CA means better protection for
both the Ozark Mountain property and Paul Henning CA
then if either were stand alone. This park comprises
ecology and landforms which are missing from our
present Missouri Parks system. Please open this park for
use by the public in the future as well as protecting the
ecology found in the park. Please add property to our
Missouri state park system when there are reasonable
opportunities. It is still critical to add to the Missouri
state parks system when biologists believe the parcels
are examples of ecological value or geology which can
be used for learning, training, protection of species and
protection of water quality. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65202

As a native Missourian, a long time biology and geology
teacher, and quiet outdoorsman, the protection of the
watershed areas to Lake Taneycomo is of utmost
importance. Not only will Ozark Mountain State Park
help to provide a riparian corridor buffer from the

expansion of the Branson urban area, the park landscapes and ecological communities are uncommon, and special. The preservation of Missouri's ecological diversity, which directly underpins our great tourism industry, is important to me, my family, and to our great state's conservation heritage. I strongly support the inclusion of Ozark Mountain Park in our State Park System for eternity.

Zip Code: 63303

State Parks are a resource for the entire community. They provide much-needed wild spaces for both humans and animals alike. I would like to see this park improved for use.

Zip Code: 65014

There will always be people rich enough to provide places for their own recreation. Parks provide places for all people. Our plan should center on building a better Missouri, not just for today, but for future generations. Private ownership contributes to the wealth of the property owner, parks contribute to the wealth of Missouri.

Zip Code:

These 3 new state parks that you are asking for our comments on are vital to our area. South Central MO is the poorest part of our state but is abundant in beauty. Our local residents and our valuable tourists both need access to these pristine areas, in a gently and environmentally safe way. Please keep our new parks open and maintained for our future generations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Willow Springs, MO

Zip Code: 63146

Missouri's state parks bring together people from across the state, the vast majority of whom are justly proud of their parks. No park land should ever be sold.

Zip Code: 65109

Public spaces are important to Missouri. I support keeping this state park.

Zip Code: 65807

This is a unique Missouri property. For now it should be developed for hiking even if it requires the purchase of a hiking pass for a nominal fee. We will never be able to replace it.

Zip Code: 65203

Our Missouri State Parks are a treasure that is essential to our well being and joy, perhaps especially to children. Let's all do our part in keeping them flourishing!

Zip Code: 65203

This Park has a great resource in the boundary with Bryant Creek. This park should retained in the Missouri Parks system to protect its resources for future generations. It doesn't need to developed in the near future. Development can proceed in the future as funds are available.

Zip Code: 65807

Missouri is a beautiful state, and people come here from all over the country to enjoy its natural beauty and resources. Once land is developed that beauty is gone forever. With the improving economy, we will be able to maintain these parks for future generations, but money should not be the deciding factor. Please save this park for Missourians and others to enjoy!

Zip Code: 65201

This park is a valuable addition to the Missouri state park system - please don't sell it. It doesn't need expensive development to be enjoyed by the public.

Zip Code: 65203

This park is a valuable addition to the Missouri state park system - don't sell it. It doesn't need expensive development to be enjoyed by the public.

Zip Code: 63109

Seeking additions to the Missouri State Park System has followed a succesful, deliberate, and non-political process. This unique Missouri landscape of extensive open glades was not represented, and qualifying lands in this part of the state have been under development pressure for many years. I know firsthand from living in the Branson area for several years. Every park facility undergoes conceptual development planning prior to actual development of facilities and their opening to the public. Depending on funds this can take years, and typically is not complete at opening. Whatever amount of time that takes, for now the qualifying lands serve as an important placeholder to one day fill in this important missing landscape. Selling the land would set a bad precedent, and incur added public costs of ever increasing land prices. With the information presented that seems unnecessary. For minimal cost the state should preserve this future opportunity and make the limited commitment to care take the valuable green space.

Zip Code: 63110

Dear MO State Parks, I live and work in St. Louis and was unable to get to your public meeting about Ozark Mountain State Park. However, I can assure you that my family takes every opportunity to enjoy our wonderful state parks – including multiple-day cabin stays at Montauk and Echo Bluff just this year – and we strongly believe these new parks should remain in our system and be developed for public use, even if just modestly.

Missourians absolutely need these treasures for recreation, better health and rural job development. And we absolutely need these treasures as repositories for animals, birds, plants and all the other species on which we depend. In fact, my vote is always for MORE public land in Missouri, not less. Missourians seem to be evolving into a group of people who want to pay as few taxes as possible but still insist on getting “something for nothing” on just about everything. I have the opposite view: I willingly vote for every Parks and Soils tax that comes along and would be happy to pay even more to support MO State Parks, as well as other important functions of state government, because they support and enrich all our lives. Keep up your good work.

Many thanks, [REDACTED]. St. Louis MO 63110

Zip Code: 65616

I have lived in the Branson area since 1963. I have seen the results of uncontrolled development in the phenomenon which transformed Branson from a sleepy village to an international tourist mecca. I have also seen the improvements as the result of thoughtful, planned development. This park is a continuation of that thoughtful development and will be an asset to the conservation of one of those elements of Nature that originally attracted tourists to the area following in the steps of Harold Bell. The city of Branson has thoughtfully added parks in the city as the city has expanded to meet the increasing tourist load, and we know that additional lands like the park will help in not only conservation but also in the development of the area. The planned development of the park will be a great asset to keeping Branson as a tourist destination.

Zip Code: 65809

Anything to allow hiking or camping. If we get rid of these parks, it will be a great loss.

Zip Code:

I'm a relatively new Missouri resident, but one of the things I have been so impressed by are Missouri's State Parks. Developing more of them, increasing the opportunities for people to get into the outdoors, explore

Missouri and its natural history, and preserve the landscape for future generations to enjoy is a great thing. I fully support spending state resources on developing and preserving these three parks. Thank you!

Zip Code: 65203

This park is a wonderful addition to Missouri's state parks and is very popular with the surrounding community. I support DNR's plan to assess and plan for good management that protects the natural beauty and ecologic health while providing access for visitors.

Zip Code:

I would like for the Ozark Mountain State Park to remain a part of the Mo State Park Systems. It is vital to be able to use and preserve these glades as a vital resource to citizens to use for walking and hiking and enjoying the natural untouched lands of Mo.

Zip Code: 65560

Please develop the park. Missouri needs more public parks for its citizens and visitors to Missouri. The Ozark Mountain park is in a beautiful area of Missouri and should be developed.

Zip Code: 63116

Please keep this park sacred. Don't listen to the wealthy politicians who want to starve the beast to justify investment in public resources. Please tell Park critics to move to Kansas where tax money goes only to private billionaires. Thanks for all you do.

Zip Code:

he only option is to keep the park a SP. Why should a few people benefit from selling and buying the land when ALL will benefit from enjoying the land recreationally for generations.

Zip Code: 65721

After viewing this park from google maps, it appears to be an excellent four wheeling state park. It has established logging roads. While access would be limited to foot traffic and ATVs, it is the least expensive option to open the park to the public ASAP.

Zip Code: 63122

Please preserve Ozark Mountain State Park. Many citizens have more recently discovered Missouri state parks and they are being heavily utilized. As property values in Missouri rise, it is fiscally responsible to maintain the state park property we have because it will be much more expensive to acquire land in the future.

We have been, and will continue to be, citizens who often visit our state parks for hiking, camping and floating.

Zip Code: 63367

Once Missouri takes ownership of park land, it should never be "given back" or sold for private or business use. DNR and MDC are all about protecting public resources for current and future generations. If funding is not available at the current time, then we must wait for future development of the park for public good. During the interval, the acreage should be protected as part of the public trust. Human connection to the natural world and a healthy environment count on this. I am a retired biology faculty member from one of our state universities. I was born in Missouri and remain a Missouri resident. I have spent countless days on my own, with friends, and with students enjoying and continuing to learn about our state public lands. Thanks!

Zip Code: 63104

Please keep all of our Missouri State Parks. Do not sell our Missouri State Parks. The wild life need a place to go and be safe. If we cannot afford all the modern fixing, just leave it natural. We need our parks!

Zip Code: 63021

I support keeping this park in the state park system and funding the trails, bathroom, and gravel road. Please DO NOT sell our parks, but keep them as native, wild places that Missourians enjoy so tremendously.

Zip Code: 63130

If this property was a working ranch, then it probably has some sort of plumbing system in the house on the property. That house could be the visitor center/park office. Depending upon the size, it could house a live in employee (superintendent?). Since there is some sort of road on the property, attractions could be set up off the road--possibly by the barns and/or other areas right off the road.

Zip Code:

I love coming to the area & hiking & just enjoying nature in my state park system. Please continue to fund these important land resources for me & future generations.

Zip Code:

Do not sell the park

Zip Code:

Keep all of this park in public ownership and ensure it is managed to fit within MDNR and/or MDC missions. Promote low-impact public use opportunities.

Zip Code: 65401

The costs here seem minor compared to the potential income to be gained by offering this recreational option near Branson. It would be short-sighted to let this property go undeveloped and/or sell the land. We have plenty of commercial offerings in this area. I favor using our tax dollars to provide more outdoor, healthy recreational options for all Missouri citizens.

Zip Code: 65203

It is outrageous that state government is considering selling park land. Even if there are no funds available to develop the park at this time, there is no reason to sell the park eliminating any chance to develop the park years or decades from now. Many Dept. of Conservation properties open to the public have only a parking lot and no trails. But even without a parking lot the lands owned by state parks belong to the public. Please do not violate the public trust and sell the park, ruining the landscape for future generations. Try to have a long-term view instead of considering only the short-term. The mission statement of the parks is to protect Missouri's natural resources. Try to do that job.

Zip Code:

I don't think you should sell this park. People can still enjoy it even if there is no funds to create all the amenities that other parks have. All that is needed is a parking lot and trail. If funds are available in the future, then it can be developed. Missouri State Parks should be looking long-term instead of short-term.

Zip Code: 65441

My family travels to Missouri state parks on average every other weekend. We are avid hikers and are constantly looking for new places to hike. Missouri should be adding more state parks not freezing or reducing. When we travel to different parts of Missouri we spend money close to the parks which helps the local economy.

Zip Code: 63052

Please keep and develop the park! I completed the passport challenge and saw Missouri from a different point of view. Our state is gorgeous! Missouri state parks allow the public to see the beauty of our state, our homeland. The lawmakers who want to sell, have they visited s state park recently? Do they take advantage of

the awesome hiking trails in the park? Do they camp or boat in the parks? If not, they should have to complete either the passport challenge or the hike challenge and then come back to the table. I have a great solution for raising funds for the current running and underdeveloped parks, legalize Marijuana. Use the tax revenue to fund state parks.

Zip Code:

I absolutely want the park to stay open to the people. We own it.

Zip Code: 65201

The natural landscape is a vital component of the state of Missouri. It is one of the best, if not THE best, things about the state. As a transplant from the Chicago suburbs, I will likely stay in Missouri just due to the ample natural spaces and outdoor activities. The state should be finding new ways to increase state park lands - not decrease them. The parks received record-breaking attendance last year, and almost 80 percent of voters approved an extension of the state's parks, soils and waters tax last year. It is obvious that your constituents want more natural lands. Please work for your people and promote the continued goal of expanding natural lands in Missouri.

Zip Code: 63049

The Ozark Mountain Park is a natural resource worthy of investing in. It's close proximity to the International attraction of the City of Branson and Silver Dollar City would give the millions of tourists that frequent the area an opportunity to see the beauty of the Missouri Ozarks during their stay in addition to Lake Taneycomo and the trout fishing opportunities and hatchery. It would bring outdoor enthusiasts from around the world to see the natural beauty of Missouri. I want to see this park happen.

Zip Code: 63050

Please keep this property for a state park. This area NEEDS a state park and it will be well-used. Please do not sell this land off.

Zip Code: 63117

The Ozark Mountain property provides an excellent opportunity to for handy hiking and nature study to the Branson area. The fact that the property is adjacent to a Conservation Area carries additional advantages by providing a larger contiguous protected area for wildlife and water resources. Do not sell the property. Keep it as a minimally developed state park.

Zip Code:

To me, like Bryant Creek State Park, this site looks like it has the resources to be a worthy addition to what is considered by many as one of the finest state park systems in the country. I realize that any development will take time, as happens with most new acquisitions. However, considering the draw that most Ozark parks are to out of state visitors, over time I see this park as a net gain for the state as out of state visitors spend their dollars in Missouri, especially in nearby local communities. Selling these lands for a one time dollar input to the state coffers makes no sense to me when continuous visits over years will bring more tourists & dollars into the state. It should be looked at as an economic asset to the state & to the local area. Planning for public use should begin as soon as possible so the potential of this site can begin to be recognized. Again, I don't favor selling this or other recent park acquisitions so their potential as worthy additions to one of the best state park systems in the country can be realized.

Zip Code: 63011

As a private citizen who frequents Missouri State Parks with my family and friends, I urge you to entertain all options prior to sale of these properties. I appreciate the financial constraints but cannot ignore the natural resources and links to the region's cultural heritage the parks in question (Bryant Creek, Eleven Point, Jay Nixon, and Ozark Mountain) provide. With thoughtful stewardship, these properties offer a unique opportunity to preserve, educate, and enjoy for generations to come. If development of these parks by Missouri State Parks cannot be done at this time, might the best option be to delay? That is instead of selling them or making improvements at this time, leave them as is until financial constraints have been resolved. Thank you for your consideration.

Zip Code: 63114

Unbelievable that selling off a state park is even considered, what could possibly be the expense in simply leaving it alone, and maybe allowing primitive hunting and hiking with minimal or no development required. There is value in land that is simply just left alone.

Zip Code: 65708

Please keep this park open for Missouri citizens. We need to protect and preserve natural settings.

Zip Code: 65101

Dear Sir, I would like to see the inclusion of Ozark Mountain State Park in our Missouri Park System. I

voted for the State Parks tax so that our wonderful park system will continue to grow and share the natural beauty of Missouri. Thank you. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63125

I respectfully request that the park be allowed to open as another great addition to our wonderful system of state parks. While my wife and I have not been to all the state parks, we have been to a number of those including the new Don Robinson state park which we enjoyed. We also spent our vacation this past summer for a few days at the new Echo Bluff state park and totally enjoyed the lodge and floating in the local river. This park would make for a wonderful park for those residents living and visiting the southwest area of our state.

Zip Code: 64050

The Ozark Mountain State Park provides a unique and rich resource for the the citizens of the state of Missouri and should be retained for the current and future citizens. Economic near-sightedness is not a strong enough reason to abandon this site for the future of Missouri.

Zip Code: 65401

I think all of the four parks in question should be opened, as public parks and part of the Missouri state park system. Tourism is a very important industry in this state, and should be supported and expanded by providing places where people can visit and support the local economies. State parks give people a place to go in this state, rather than going to other states to enjoy park activities. Parks are a natural resource, which should be preserved and protected. Establishing and/or maintaining parks is a positive, constructive activity for the government to do, giving people recreational options. It is an opportunity for the state government to invest in the future, which reflects respect and responsibility for the environment. I am a Missouri native, long-time resident, and tax payer. I hope you consider my comments on this issue.

Zip Code: 65802

I lived in the Branson area for 9 years leading up to 2013. We moved to St Louis until 2017, moving to Springfield Mo in June of 2017. We desperately need a State Park(s) in Southwest Missouri. The St Louis area had a crazy amount of places to go hiking and enjoy the outdoors. It is such a disappointment to me that the Springfield area has virtually nothing in the realm of dirt trails. It is a huge lack in this area that I feel many would support and enjoy. Please move forward with this and the other 2 State Parks!

Zip Code: 65631

I would like to see this property opened for hiking, if sold it would likely be turned into a development and all the natural features removed. We don't need more developments we need more outdoor recreational space. Thank you

Zip Code: 63077

Leave it Wilderness area,

Zip Code: 65810

Short and sweet since by now I am sure you have heard it all. It's always about the money! Keep this park, make it a semi-wilderness area, unimproved as needed with inexpensive parking and lets go forward. --[REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65401

As a democrat leaning voter, Nixon supporter, and an avid Missouri park lover (my spouse and I spend a total of a month a year in various Missouri state parks)...it pains me to say this, but we simply don't have the funds to start new parks and commit ourselves to the ongoing costs of parks. Especially those that likely do not have enough natural features to attract enough visitors to offset the park costs. After visiting Echo Bluff State Park, I have seen first-hand what throwing money at a remote state park looks like when there simply aren't enough natural features to attract people. It was nearly empty, there was not much to do, the camping is not at all private, and the giant lodge and various landscaping features showed a blatant abuse of funds. Missouri parks should be about nature, outdoor activities, family fun, a simple home away from home. I have also seen firsthand the effects of deferred maintenance and improvements at other state parks in Missouri...aging and non-functional bathrooms and shower facilities, run down park buildings, unkempt trails, etc. It gives those parks a feel of a gross truck stop rest area...not at all how we should represent Missouri to our own residents, let alone to those park visitors from other states. I believe these park plans should be shuttered until funds are made available for the improvement and upkeep of Missouri's other wonderful state parks, most especially the Missouri Rock Island Trail.

Zip Code: 63020

please keep this park

Zip Code: 63122

I am very much looking forward to exploring Ozark Mountain State Park! Every Missouri state park I have visited has been a worthy investment.....well-managed, well-maintained, well-loved by the public. I'm baffled

as to why the Missouri Legislature would want to prevent residents from enjoying our newest public lands. Our parks are so important to us. Please allow preparations to move forward asap, and by all means, DO NOT sell off these precious opportunities for public use and appreciation.

Zip Code:

Please leave the parks we already own alone. We don't need to sell our children's birthright. And hundreds of use these daily. It's what makes for great family memories!

Zip Code: 65548

As voters and citizens of this beautiful state we want to voice our opinion about keeping all our state parks. We need to have these special places preserved for now and for all future generations to enjoy. Selling off any of these special places will lead to their destruction. Please preserve our heritage! Thank you!

Zip Code: 63026

The Ozark Mountain State Park should be retained within the Missouri Park system. If funds become available, public access can be improved. There is no immediate need to add gravel roads, parking lots or asphalt trails. Ecological restoration (e.g. controlled burns of glades) should take priority over new construction. This park preserves a remnant of the distinctive southwest Missouri landscape, including: 430 acres of Ozark glade, 400 acres of forest, and five bald knobs. Particularly important are wildlife, bird and native plant species that are unique to glades and are adapted specifically to the glade environments. Protecting this unique area from the rapidly urbanizing areas of Branson and surrounding Taney County is crucial. Ozark Mountain State Park offers a unique opportunity to preserve, educate, and enjoy Missouri's natural communities by present and future generations.

Zip Code:

We are in AR but we would like to bring our scouts to the Branson area on a regular basis! It would be fantastic to have a primitive area to camp in! The trip in the past has been very cost prohibitive.

Zip Code: 63357

I am an avid outdoorsman and wish to see each of the three state parks in question, open and accessible to the public. I encourage the state to find funds by either increasing revenue or cutting costs elsewhere.

Zip Code: 65737

I enjoy walking in Henning Conservation Area, Roaring River State Park and the Table Rock State Park and adjacent White River Trail System. I encourage the Park System to use the newly acquired land to expand the opportunities for locals and visitors alike to have more trails to walk on and get fresh air and exercise away from the bustle of Branson. This site could connect to Henning and have a longer river side trail and maybe a new trail head.

Zip Code: 63050

I am in favor of preserving this property for public use and access. I understand this property was purchased with the intention of creating a new state park. This park does not have to be developed right away but could be used as a conservation area until developed as a park.

Zip Code: 63119

Very simple- Keep the three parks that you are evaluating as parks. Do not sell them, do sell the lumber nor open them up to 4 wheel vehicles for recreational use. Keep them as is. Our future children need to know what beautiful stream ,rocky bluffs and virgin timber looks like. I am afraid that the new governor just wants to further pollute all lands and streams in Missouri so ,he can look at his success in jobs creation for when he runs for his next office, One can never bring the beauty back once it is gone. Charge for the poplar parks to help pay for newer parks. This comment is for all three parks that you want input on

Zip Code: 63301

Please develop this park. The park will generate revenue for the county that private development will not generate.

Zip Code: 63119

Ozark Mountain SP is a wonderful resource, in a part of the state where human population will surely keep growing and human development will surely continue. The park helps preserve the natural habitats and wildlife of a unique section of Missouri. It was a far-sighted acquisition and will mean more to each new generation. If funds for maintenance and upkeep of all parks are limited now, that is a short-term issue that suggests minimal development of Ozark Mountain for the time being. But whatever the short-term issues, it is of highest importance to preserve this parkland for the people of Missouri and for our out-of-state visitors—all of whom will spend money and contribute to the local economy. We have one of the premier state park systems in the United States, with majority support in every county in

the state in the recent tax reauthorization. This land must be retained as a park. Do not sell it!

Zip Code: 65023

The State Parks management have indicated that there is \$200 million in back infrastructure and updates needed in the existing parks. If that is the case, why would you consider taking on additional properties and their associated expenses when you can't adequately manage the properties already in the system. While it would be a nice addition to the parks system, as would many, many other properties, you can't pay for what you have. I say NO to this new park and the other two as well.

Zip Code:

We are so very fortunate that the Missouri DNR was able to acquire this property. It's location near Branson, proximity to a Conservation Area, and unique natural and cultural resources will make it a treasure for current and future generations. This park will add to the growing number of attractions that will make contribute to the growth of this region as a national tourist destination. We frequently travel to the Branson region to take advantage of the unique outdoor activities that can be found there. When we ask out-of-state friends to join us, one of the first questions they ask if there are places nearby where they can hike and explore the unique natural features of the region. This park will fit the bill perfectly. The initial investments in getting this property ready for public use will be minor when compared to the dividends it will yield for the region and Missouri. We have an opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations. I hope we take it!

Zip Code: 63069

If selling undeveloped properties is what's required to better maintain the more frequently visited parks, then it's absolutely the right thing to do.

Zip Code: 64445

Mo. has enough land, sell it.

Zip Code: 65203

Ozark Mountain State Park can be another asset and attraction to tourists going to Taney County. For people like me who would rather go to Table Rock or Roaring River than go to a show, it's another reason to visit the area and spend money. This could be opened for public use for primitive hiking and basic parking and improved as time and budget allows. If you let it slip there are Bachman's Sparrows and Painted Buntings in residence, there will be even more visitors from all around Missouri and from out of state.

Zip Code: 63026

Please consider opening Ozark Mountain State Park to the public. My family enjoys all of the State Parks. We often hike and camp at the wonderful parks in Missouri, and we look forward to seeing new ones. We visit Don Robinson State Park frequently, and have attended the Missouri First Hikes each year – as we plan on attending this year at Babler State Park. Since the new state parks were acquired with the plan to do minimal development, the cost to the State should be modest. On the other hand, the benefits to Missouri would be substantial. State Parks are good for the local economy. Our state parks had 18 million visitors in 2016, ourselves included, a new record. Those visitors patronize local businesses for food, gasoline, rental canoes, and hotel rooms. That means more local jobs as well as more local tax revenue. Missouri State Parks do not charge an entrance fee, so low and moderate income Missourians have access to affordable outdoor recreation in our community. Accessible outdoor recreation means improved health for our children and families. In November 2016, Missourians voted to renew the sales tax for state parks and soil conservation. A majority of voters in every single County in our state voted yes for parks. We shared the joy with many rangers throughout the state when we stopped in the visitors centers. We hope you will take into consideration our comments, and allow for families like ours to enjoy Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code:

Ozark Mountain State Park needs to be kept, and lightly developed with trails, parking lot, restrooms and perhaps an interpretive/ picnic pavilion to shelter people caught up there in case of storms. The view from adjacent Paul Henning is amazing. When money permits, the pavilion could house panels placed out of the weather talking about balds/glades and the real history of the area-- before the tourists came. It should be day use only unless mobile staff or designated volunteers (an astronomy club?) are conducting authorized night programs there. Management of the area should be run out of Table Rock State Park, which does not have much natural area. That might involve having no more than a seasonal or volunteer interpreters, and a 10 month maintenance position, since Table Rock closes during the winter anyway. The restrooms/pavilion could be one structure with some sort of emergency contact system on the wall, although I would guess that the area is close enough for town to have cell service. Speaking of which: discreet cell towers might be a source of revenue for the property. Whether it stays a separate park, or just the Ozark Mountain unit of Table Rock is irrelevant to me, as long as the acreage is retained. But it should be left

mostly unimproved, and like MDC's Henning, a tribute to what came before.

Zip Code: 65726

I wholeheartedly support the purchase and maintenance of this park. Even a casual visitor to Ozark Mountain Country can recognize that our forests and other natural resources are threatened by over development. Further, our history and culture are in danger of devolving into roller coasters and golf courses. Consequently, I would suggest a folk center along the lines of the one in Mountain View, AR. The proximity of such a center to Branson would, I believe, make it financially viable. Regardless, I hope that we will seize this opportunity to preserve our Ozarks from further despoliation.

Zip Code: 63116

Turn it over to the MDC. We need more public hunting and fishing ground.

Zip Code: 65616

I love Missouri State Parks. We are so fortunate to have one of the best parks systems in America. I think that the department should acquire land whenever it is available. The development can wait for the budget to improve if necessary. The Ozark Mountain State Park needs to be acquired for the growth of nearby Branson can gobble-up land in a hurry. Long term we will be thankful we got the land when we did. As citizens, we need these natural areas for preservation of historical artifacts/sites, conservation, education, wildlife, our health and enjoyment. The only development that would be nice to see would be hiking trails with a parking lot and some pit toilets. The fact that it adjoins the Henning Conservation Area is an added bonus and makes it all the more attractive to acquire.

Zip Code: 63122

Keep all the Parks. they are the last best thing Missouri has.

Zip Code: 63301

Sounds like a great addition to the state park system. Developed or not.

Zip Code: 64119

Good afternoon, This is a nice opportunity for me to comment. Thank you for opening this up as I was not able to visit any of the meetings. Sounds like a great Historic site, where you could fish, maybe allow small craft boat down the creek, Hike/bike, have a picnic or just visit and take in the Ozark sights. This is a really beautiful place. Glad to see it presented to be

maintained by the Missouri State Park system. Thank you for allowing the public to comment and I appreciate all the MO state parks. -2005/2006 Passport and 2016/2017 Centennial Passport fan -2007 Trail of the Month fan

Zip Code: 63303

The Missouri Park System should retain the Ozark Mountain State Park property. This area contains the White River Glades (bald knobs) that people from all over the country relate to as a Missouri-unique habitat of our Ozarks. Distinctive native prairie, oak woodland, and Roark Creek are wonderful features adding various habitats to this one property. Removal of exotic invasives and restoration of the area will allow the recovery of many rare and unusual flora and fauna of the Ozarks. This area is an excellent complement to the existing Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area. As Branson urbanizes, areas like these are required for green space to allow people to get out, enjoy and connect with nature. Natural areas are also a tourist draw adding to the economic and tax base of the local communities. Natural resource management and restoration should begin in 2018, with a long term plan determined with public input. Missouri State Parks should add to Ozark Mountain's infrastructure over time in stages as funding and staff become available. Low cost infrastructure like gravel parking lots and primitive trails should be created soon to at least allow some public access to this public area. The Missouri Park System has never in its 100 years sold property, and any sale revenue would never benefit the residents of the whole state of Missouri as this property does. With the overwhelming renewal of the State Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax last fall, the people of Missouri approve of their parks. Please retain and begin maintaining Ozark Mountain State Park allowing it to be "open" to the public. Thank you!

Zip Code:

Leave the state parks alone and open them to the public. These are special places.

Zip Code: 63109

I would hate to see more of the ozarks become golf courses, condos, or strip malls. Everytime I go to the Ozarks there is less and less Ozark and more of anywhere America. I want to see the Ozarks and have more hiking options. The bald knobs should be saved. I feel like they are being turned into rich peoples houses. This is one of the few areas my family can potentially enjoy. My mom likes shows while my dad fish, while I can just hike with my dog.

Zip Code: 63128

We need to keep our natural wonders in MO for all citizens to enjoy!! Do not sell this land!

Zip Code: 63119

This park should be retained as a MO State Park and appropriate development done as time and funds allow. NO Missouri state park land should be sold !

Zip Code: 63755

Our state parks need to stay open for citizens to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63069

Would love more cabins! Need good restrooms
Walking trails

Zip Code: 63052

Love the parks in the Ozarks. Can't wait to explore this one. Please, keep this park. Never exchange nature for cash. You can NEVER get it back.

Zip Code: 63112

Let's keep this land accessible to the people of the state to enjoy in various ways. I am a bird watcher and feel it is so important to have quality habitat in various parts of the state for birds and the people who enjoy them. I don't think we can have too much of this type of resource. Please consider this in making decisions about the park. Thank you.

Zip Code: 64012

Ozark Mountain sounds like a lovely and important piece of property that deserves to be preserved. Even if there is no money to develop it as an open to the public state park, it still has benefit to Missourians. As a routine Branson area visitor, I would love to see it developed in some fashion and would visit it if it was, but even if it wasn't, I would love to see it kept.

Zip Code: 65201

We need more park land, not less. More public access to nature is good for everyone. Please do not do away with any parks or decrease acreage of any.

Zip Code: 63028

Please don't sell off this valuable property. If we don't have funds to develop it then hold the property for a future time when funds are available. Missouri has a strong history of providing wonderful state parks. Let's continue that legacy.

Zip Code: 63049

I am against selling or closing this state park. As a lifelong citizen of Missouri, I believe public land is a treasure and tradition that should carry on for generations to enjoy.

Zip Code:

Please ensure the state park remains in the system. Provide appropriate development and services as budgeting allows. Missourians love their state parks as demonstrated by the multiple renewals of the Parks & Soils Sales Tax. Opportunities to protect unique landscapes do not happen often and our descendants will be the benefactors.

Zip Code: 65202

Please keep this state park open. We need more wild places for the people of MO to go - not less.

Zip Code: 63049

Please develop into an off-road park like St. Joe State Park

Zip Code: 64152

This opinion if for all 3 under consideration and for any that may be regarded as disposable. Not developed lands are valuable, even without public amenities. Public support and interest in environmental stewardship is not to be ignored [REDACTED] Kansas City, MO

Zip Code:

This is an area with distinctive and important southwestern species. It seems important to keep a balance of natural attractions along with all that is available for visitors and residents of the Branson area. "Roadrunners, painted buntings, Bachman's sparrows, collared lizards, spotted skunks, long-tailed weasels, tarantulas, scorpions and ringed salamanders have all been known to occur, and some are common. Prickly pear cactus, American aloe, stenosiphon, pallifoxia, blue wild indigo, bottlebrush blazing star and poppy mallow give a strong Southern Plains character to the flora, while plants like yellow coneflower are native only to the Missouri Ozarks."

Zip Code: 63069

i would like access to any water source, hiking trails, camping, and bird watching blinds.

Zip Code: 63137

I urge Mo State parks to spend the money to reopen this park within 1 year

Zip Code: 63038

Do not sell this park. Allow it to be used with minimal development to both preserve it and minimize costs.

Zip Code: 63129

Keep Ozark Mountain State Park. Open it as a wilderness area until it can be developed. This park should be developed with a trail and picnic sites. The funds to develop and operate should come from closing a few underutilized parks or Historic Sites.

Zip Code: 63012

This park shouldn't have been closed in the first place. Keep the politicians hands off one of Missouri's greatest assets.

Zip Code: 65101

I would suggest that Missouri State Parks utilize this piece of property to for its potential for the people of Missouri. This park should be retained as part of the MSP system. If money is an issue, then only develop it minimally. The people of Missouri have voted and made it clear that State Parks are an important part of Missouri's history, natural, and cultural landscape. Therefore, Missouri State Parks should ensure this park is available for future Missourians to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63070

I just want you to take the time to manage the property so that it will be there for my grand son. The same thing with all park property and add to the system any time we can. We have great parks that the country knows about and or trails have made the state called the best in the country for hiking.

Zip Code: 65066

Director of Natural Resources, I want to let you know that I support Missouri State Parks including the three new ones: Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek and Jay Nixon (change the name if that makes it more political feasible). If necessary, place in some kind of hold, to develop and safeguard these lands until which time we can "afford" them. Thanks for listening. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Owensville, MO 65066

Zip Code:

This is a beautiful area and needs to remain in its natural state. Utilize/create a rehab program that works the park in exchange for treatment. Could be for young adults, adults, even youth that are troubled.

Zip Code: 65804

The Springfield-Branson metropolitan area needs more access to nearby high quality natural areas for hiking and camping. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the local economy and this state park will be a great asset. Please move forward with opening this state park.

Zip Code:

The United States of America is a beautiful country. It's National Parks are one of the reasons.....we, as a nation, must continue to preserve and share these Parks with all Americans. I've visited many Missouri's (and America's) national parks and look forward to visiting more of them and more often. Preserving the lands, the wildlife and the natural wonders is crucial at this point in time when so many other areas of this country seem to be disintegrating (shamefully).

Zip Code: 63628

Keep the parks and preserve them for future generations to come. Love how well of a job our state does maintaining our parks and all they have to offer. Even if the 3 parks aren't developed right away for park use you still need to keep them from being developed for other use and lost forever. Preserve and study the properties if need be.

Zip Code: 65793

This park is a unique geological and biological wonderland nestled in the Branson region that is worth the time, energy and funds to protect. The location is handy to the public and Missourians overwhelmingly support state parks.

Zip Code: 65261

I urge you to please keep the Ozark Mountain State Park in the Missouri State Park system. State parks are fantastic for local economies. They attract tourists from other areas of the state and country who spend money at restaurants, gas stations, hotels, and other local businesses such as canoe rentals, grocery stores, etc.. They are a show piece for the state by preserving and protecting our ecosystem, natural landscape, and history. They provide affordable outdoor recreation, unique education opportunities, and family bonding experiences. Missourians have already gone to polls in 2016 and voted to renew our sales tax to support state parks and soil conservation. In fact, the majority of voters in every single county in the state voted yes for our parks. Please do the right thing and honor what the voters of our great state want. We want our state parks and we support them! Please keep Ozark Mountain State Park!

Zip Code: 63052

The Ozark Mt State Park should be developed, maintained and opened for public access. State parks are especially important for public use considering the Federal Government's lack of concern for the environment and the lack of preservation of current Federal park lands. Please take the lead in making sure citizens have areas of undeveloped land preserved in their natural beauty and balance for this generation and future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Zip Code: 65737

Ozark Mountain State Park represents an important link in the park system. I feel that it is important that it remain a state park, as it represents unique biomes that are not represented elsewhere in the park system, while also offering the opportunity to preserve Ozarks cultural heritage, with the presence of the Garber Schoolhouse on the property, its proximity to Shepherd of the Hills (which is historically intimately related to Garber), and proximity to the site of the town of Garber. Ozark Mountain State Park is an opportunity to have another park in the system that is not centered plainly around a reservoir and those associated activities, in a part of the state where state parks are scarce. As the only other park in close proximity is Table Rock, which IS a reservoir based park, Ozark Mountain would be a good complement to Table Rock and a solid addition to the area. As for development, Ozark Mountain state park lends itself well to trails, as there is already an established road that accesses much of the property. I envision the existing road being improved to function as an artery for the park from which smaller trails can branch. The large area on top of the first hill where some of the farm buildings currently stand would make an excellent place for a campground. As Table Rock SP is so close and includes a well developed campground, Ozark Mountain represents the opportunity to create more primitive camping options that would appeal to campers who are not part of the 'RV-set'. I envision an unsupervised, first come first served camp area in a similar vein to what can be found at Taum Sauk. It would also be great to have 'walk-in' camping options for those who want to experience the true seclusion that the Ozark Mountains can offer. The park is miles from any intruding development and would provide a perfect setting for this sort of camping experience. Given the varied elevations and rocky terrain, Ozark Mountain lends itself well to hiking and mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and possibly equestrian activities. With multiple scenic views, there are so many points of interest that trails could take people to. I also feel strongly that some effort should be made to stabilize and preserve the Garber Schoolhouse. It presents an excellent interpretive opportunity, to educate visitors on the hard-scrabble way of life that early Ozarks settlers

dealt with. Ozark Mountain state park will stand to preserve and protect the glade/bald knob biomes that are so representative of these old mountains. Its presence will help ensure that Roark Creek will continue to be a first-class habitat, and also contribute to the continued scenic nature of the Ozark Mountain High Road. In a world where there was more money to go around, it would be amazing to see the site of the town of Garber, which is contiguous to the existing park grounds, be brought into public possession, with a trail to link it with Ozark Mountain. That land is currently for sale. In sum, I feel that the ideal future for Ozark Mountain State Park would include: - Public access for camping, hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and cultural interpretation - Limited primitive unsupervised camping areas (no hookups will help discourage RV's!) - Walk/Hike-in camping spaces - Trails that take visitors to bald knobs, scenic views, and through rocky glades and along the creek - Stabilization and preservation of the Garber Schoolhouse, with potential for cultural history interpretation. Ozark Mountain SP is truly a gem. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Feel free to make contact with me for additional input.

Zip Code: 6415

I support developing and opening this state park. Protect our natural natural areas! More parks the better!

Zip Code:

Thank you for purchasing this Ozark Mountain State Park property. This is a welcome piece of wilderness near Branson, and citizens of all ages love to come here to get back to nature. Would welcome this addition and am suggesting it remain somewhat primitive, with a trail head, trails, a bathroom if needed. Absolutely no ATVs. Disturbs the peace of nature for the rest of us.

Zip Code: 65203

The opportunity to acquire these park lands now was probably the only chance we will have to ever acquire them. If there are not sufficient funds to develop them now, simply holding on to the land until the development resources are available will cost the state and Division of State Parks very little. Casting them aside for some one-time cash would be a terribly shortsighted move. The only winners would probably be entities who can acquire, exploit and destroy these natural areas. The losers would be the millions who value and enjoy our great state park system.

Zip Code: 63122

If Missouri State Parks has decided to cease protecting valid and valuable areas of the states acknowledgeably dwindled biodiverse habitats, then turn the land over to

the Missouri Department of Conservation who protect state land at apparently less expense and with less amenities provided.

Zip Code:

I support developing and opening this state park.

Zip Code: 64024

I think it of utmost importance to preserve the Ozark Mountain area, and hope you will consider it a worthwhile investment in Missouri's tourism industry, with out a doubt it will pay for itself many times over. While adding income to small as well as large businesses in the area. Thank you for your consideration of my views. [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65618

I strongly support permanent status for Ozark Mountain State Park under a policy of minimal development.

Zip Code: 63090

Hi we use the Missouri State Parks all the time, we have done the Passport 3 times and completed and received our backpacks this last year. We always camp in at least 5 different state parks every year so we feel we should have a say and be listened to. 1. We don't have enough camping State Parks so getting rid of any land is a bad idea. 2. This governor doesn't seem to care about our Parks!!! Traveling around this last year workers were complaining about their hours being cut by this governor and he doesn't have our parks high on his list, this is sad for our state and our young people. It also showed because the staff being short the restrooms were not as clean. 3. Cut something else but keep our parks and open these 3 new parks! 4. We need more things to do outside around the Branson Area hiking and camping away from the crowds. 5. Kids need nature: hiking, biking and camping

Zip Code: 63050

do not sell this property even if it cannot be opened in the near future.

Zip Code: 65250

These new parks are excellent investments for the future; only a crackpot would put them up for sale.

Zip Code: 63010

This park should be preserved. Our state parks are what make Missouri the envy of the nation. This park will not only preserve priceless natural landscapes, but also help mitigate the deleterious effects of climate change.

Zip Code: 65203

Keep and fund the parks ! We can't have too much green space for our citizens to enjoy. Plus it saves the wildlife too. Thank you.

Zip Code: 63146

This property is a beautiful diverse wild area near our state's very well known and visited tourist area. 430 acres of glades! What an opportunity to preserve a unique habitat area! 5 bald knobs....key to the view of this well known tourist area. People will want to come to this park for the Ozark view and the unique habitat. Yes it will cost some money to develop and manage. Hiking, bird watching are huge tourist activities, and this provides a "Western" hiking motif in a very accessible Midwest location. The 400 acres of forest land provide natural air cleaning and water cleaning services for Branson and Lake Taneycomo. We must preserve this wildlife gem. Please get started on the work in 2018. Like other State Parks, it may take time to get it fully accessible. It is worth the expenditure of time, money and effort. PLEASE DO NOT SELL THIS GEM of a property.

Zip Code:

I would like this park to be open immediately for day hiking. I would like to see it developed for horseback riding and perhaps other uses. The local state park people seem to only want it for limited use but...I was at the hike initiated by the state park people and there were many other used mentioned like atv trails etc. Seems like the history of state parks is to take control of the park area and install camping spaces and lodge and cabins to get income off the property but not allow many other uses. The people spoke at the day hike and they want other uses besides campground. Let's listen to the will of the people and open this park asap. I don't want the government to grab land and then not allow people to use it.

Zip Code: 63146

There is no pressing need to close ANY parks in Missouri. The proponents of this are looking to grab land on the cheap!

Zip Code: 65714

I hope you will proceed with the establishment of the Ozark Mountain State Park. this proposed park is relatively small (1011 acres), but is an example of the natural beauty that Missouri offers, and this park would be an enjoyable addition to our state park system which could be enjoyed by all of us now, but also available to

generations in the future. Areas like this will be harder to establish as our population increases, and the time to finalize the Ozark Mountain State Park is now.

THANK YOU for your consideration of my opinion.

Zip Code: 65806

In November 2016, Missourians voted to renew the sales tax for state parks and soil conservation by a resounding 80 percent margin. A majority of voters in every single County in our state voted yes for parks! That shows that Missourians (me included!) want to grow our great park system. I encourage moving forward with the development plan for this park and opening it so all Missourians can enjoy it!

Zip Code: 72648

I support keeping the park, as well as the other two on the chopping block. They are important for citizens of Missouri and surrounding states. They are important for fish and wildlife. They are important for the plants and insects they conserve. They are important for the fish, crayfish, mussels, and aquatic macroinvertebrates they conserve. I am no longer a resident of Missouri, but retain strong ties to the area. I live in Arkansas now, but can be to the Ozark Mountain State Park in about an hour. I would much rather go there than Branson. Governor Grietens, just because Governor Nixon established these parks does not mean they are bad ideas. Tit for Tat governance is wasteful of taxpayer time and money, and always leads to a bad end. Please reconsider your foregone conclusions on these parks.

Zip Code: 63131

This area offers important natural resources and is adjacent to Conservation Dept. areas. It is important to preserve these green spaces as our population grows. They provide opportunities to connect with nature and also maintain plant life, rock formations, streams and animal habitat. Even if this property cannot be developed immediately, please bank this land so it can be developed in the future.

Zip Code: 65686

Ozark Mt. State Park would be a great asset to the region. People who come to the area to visit Table Rock State Park would utilize the area. I am in favor of hiking trails, but not trails for motorized vehicles. Bikes might be acceptable. I think there are enough volunteers that are willing to maintain the trails.

Zip Code: 64068

Under no circumstances should this land be sold or otherwise converted to private ownership. Even in an

undeveloped state, it provides many benefits to Missouri as well as helps the tourism industry by just adding to the scenery which people come from all over to visit and view. It also has many unique species that should be protected and habitat provided for. While ideally, development for public access (trails, parking, toilets) and use should occur soon, that is not necessary. It can be done as resources become available. Tracts of land like this are becoming more and more rare as lands are subdivided and development occurs throughout the area. It is unlikely this could ever be replaced. It's importance to the natural resources of Missouri and citizens will only increase. It's shared boundary with Conservation land only compounds it's importance as large public land tracts provide even more benefits to both agencies.

Zip Code: 64114

Please re-open this park. It provides a unique landscape in our great state that should be shared with the public.

Zip Code: 63011

What a beautiful and significant piece of Missouri Ozark Landscape. The citizens of Missouri deserve the opportunity to enjoy this landscape and keep it in the public trust. Some say we can't afford to maintain this property. I say we can't afford not to.

Zip Code: 65804

Once land is set aside as a Park, it should remain a park. The White River glades as represented in Ozark Mountain Park is found nowhere else in our system. For this reason alone it should be kept and treasured. With all the development near it, I believe this park can be minimally developed for hiking and such. Sometimes good things take time. Current fiscal situations will change and so if not now, when the money is available. Relatively unspoiled land is rare in our time. No more is being created. It should be treasured.

Zip Code: 65616

I would like to see more mountain biking trails and I believe ozark mountain state park would be an ideal area to place these.

Zip Code: 63628

I do not think the state should sell the land to Ozark Mountain State Park. I think campsites could be built when funds become available. There should also be trails built. DO NOT SELL THE LAND!!!

Zip Code: 63628

I do not think they should sell this land. There is so much you could do there. They should make new trails though. Take people off the trail and to new land and areas.

Zip Code: 63601

I would want this park to be protected not to be sold. I would like to see some trails in the park.

Zip Code: 63601

I think that the state should not sell the land to farmers or anyone and keep it preserved

Zip Code: 63601

Missouri should not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. These kinds of landforms can be very special to people. Any ancient artifacts that are there, buried in the ground could be found at any moment. Selling the state park or destroying some of it can be a loss of the artifacts.

Zip Code: 63628

I don't think the state should sell the Ozark Mountains State Park. I think they should add a campsite and campgrounds. There should be trails and a dock.

Zip Code: 63628

I would love this land to be protected. I do not want it to be sold. I think there should be rugged backpacking trails built in the future. The land does not have to be developed right away but should be protected.

Zip Code: 36301

I think you should add a tower for people to climb to get a view of the whole park. I also think that it would be neat if the park had a zip line going down the mountain. I would like you to add these features to the park because it would make it were most people wont just visit it once and never come back they will come back because there will be more things to do.

Zip Code: 63601

I think Ozark Mountain State Park is very important to our ecosystem and important because of its vegetation. This park also provides shelters and habitat for animals native to our area.

Zip Code: 63620

We need more Missouri State parks. These state parks would really help our economy for our state and our town. In the future, i would like to see more camping areas in this state park, and a swimming area and a picnic area. Thank you for your support and

consideration on the future of Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 63601

I think the land for Ozark Mountain shouldn't be sold. This park is so beautiful and would be a great place for people to enjoy and spend time outside. Since this park is so close to Branson and many people vacation in Branson, I think this park could have a lot of visitors and would have a great use. I think it's more important to have a fun place to hike then selling a lot of useful land.

Zip Code: 63628

There are not very many things to do in the area so taking away this state park would cause the area to lose money and tourists. Taking away this park would also cause the city to lose taxes on the park.

Zip Code: 65790

I would like this park to remain as pristine and natural as possible while being made accessible for people to hike, hunt, fish, bird watch, explore the glades and observe native plants and forest animals. I am excited about this park as a way to preserve a beautiful piece of the Ozarks. I believe that development of this park should be kept at a minimum in order to attract people that love nature and to make it affordable to the state park system budget. Thank you for holding the public event addressing the future of our new state parks on Monday. I visit my family in the Branson area often and spend many days hiking with my daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter at Table Rock State Park and at Dewey Short. I am looking forward to when Ozark Mountain State Park is open. Our family loves the outdoors.

Zip Code: 65606

Please stop buying more land to make parks or increase the size of existing parks by taking productive Ag and Forestry land out of production. Maintain or improve what you already have and learn to work inside your budget.

Zip Code: 65010

There is nothing more important than our natural treasures. Missouri should protect these parks at all cost. They draw tourism and are used by missouri residents on a constant basis!

Zip Code: 65265

This park represents tourism dollars for area residents and tax revenues for the state. Keep state parks open.

Zip Code: 65201

I cannot describe the effect that the Missouri State Parks system has had on the past two years of my life. I started doing the centennial passport program and really enjoyed the trips I would make over the weekends to go to every single one and experience the unique things each had to offer. My boyfriend and I had a lot of fun finding the parks and getting all the stamps. It was in Missouri state parks that I started trail running and now I have taken up the sport, training with others around my town in mid-Missouri, multiple days a week. I am in the best shape of my life, have an entirely new appreciation for the outdoors, and have had some of the most memorable adventures in the past two years in Missouri parks than I have ever had before. If given the opportunity to develop more parks, no matter where, I say soundly, yes! I will travel to each and every one of them. Please keep this land and use it for the good of the people. Missouri state parks are available to all of Missouri citizens no matter what their socioeconomic status, and in this day and age, the people need some free fun that can bring families and friends together.

Zip Code: 64086

This property should be maintained as a Missouri State Park. Minimal development would be fine with me. I have enjoyed the Henning Conservation area in the past. This area is in a rapidly developing area of the state and has some nice glade habitats that provide habitat for unique flora and fauna. The addition of this 1,100 acres to the glade complex of Henning CA will increase the likelihood that the unique plants and animals here will survive. Any property that can still be acquired in Taney County is a gift to future Missourians. Walt Disney once said that someday people would pay more to see the natural world around his Disney World Resort than the Resort itself. I think the same could be said about this property on the edge of Branson. If the argument is that there is no money to develop the property or for maintenance then bank the land for future development. Or lease it to MDC to manage until there is money for MDNR. Don't give away Missouri's natural heritage.

Zip Code: 63034

I am an avid supporter of Missouri state parks and I love the quiet natural area around Branson. I strongly prefer that the Ozark Mountain property remain a state park and that it be developed as a primitive area. This makes sense economically, as well as ecologically. There are nature-based non-profits who would be willing to assist with natural resource management.

Zip Code: 63131

I am an enthusiastic fan of our beautiful Missouri State Parks system. My family has lived in this state since

before it was a state; it is my devout wish that our state parks survive and thrive so that my grandchildren and great-grandchildren can love and enjoy them as well. Right now our state is sadly divided, and I fear our state parks are being used as a political football. Please do whatever it takes to remove petty politics from our parks. Please don't name parks after living politicians; that just invites controversy where it doesn't belong. Our parks provide not only recreation, but an economic boost to surrounding communities. Our parks preserve our natural and our cultural heritage. Please do not consider selling off park lands. Instead, take the time and effort involved to think about appropriate development of these precious lands. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65101

I understand that more land in the state park system could be an economic burden to the system, however the property has some unique features that we, as a state, probably want to preserve. What I haven't heard is what impact would the removal of these areas from their present use have on the area, even if their purchase was now and their development was delayed until financing was arranged. Anytime day use areas are available to people of the State, they must benefit. I would much rather have my taxes go to these areas, as to many other areas! Thank You

Zip Code: 65101

Protect the parks and do not close them.

Zip Code: 65536

Keep the land of all of the new state parks. Selling the land should NOT be an issue. Primitive development would be OK. Example: Camp Zoe (Echo Bluff) is grossly over developed. Current River, just across the highway, is a great place to visit. Primitive trails for hiking and mountain biking and providing access to rivers in appropriate areas would be good. Limited primitive campgrounds would also be OK.

Zip Code: 65686

I attended the information session in Branson about the Ozark Mt State Park. This park could be a great asset to this region of Stone and Taney County. Many younger visitors are being attracted to the Table Rock Lake area and seek outdoor family adventure on hiking trails. I think basic dirt trails with some historic permanent signs on the property is all that is needed. I do not suggest bike or ATV trails; keep the silence of nature for the enjoyment of the walkers. A volunteer group could be formed to monitor the trails once they are built. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Trailblazers Hiking Club, Kimberling City

Zip Code: 65101

I am not strictly opposed to government owning land in the public trust and I am sure these properties are extraordinary in many ways. However in this circumstance i am greatly concerned with the additioin of any "new" parks when the park system has such a large backlog of maintenance projects. While the public overwhelmingly supports the park system via the sales tax I highly doubt they support the lack of transparency when it comes to buying land etc. Many people likely were not aware of the purchases and maintenance backlog because they are often not discussed prior to the last vote. Also the amazing staff at parks and sites do everything they can with the circumstances they are given to keep up appearances. If the public were truly knowledgeable on these issues the former governor would not have gotten away with so much. Finally beyond the obvious maintenance issues state parks is sorely lacking in the attention and funds given to the cultural resources under its care. These for the most part are out of sight out of mind for visitors but it the conditions were known there would be an outcry! Finally many parks and sites are understaffed and overburdened (and have always been asked to wear to many hats that really require specialized training) following the layoffs in 2009. Instead of spending money on new parks the administration should be looking at ways to strategically bring back staff to address the above issues while maintaining efficiencies. Finally if you get people to the parks that is great but just getting them there isn't enough. They have to build a connection to the place in order for them to support it long term. It is interpreters and exhibits that help visitors connect and LEARN. In recent years that part of the mission has been under valued in favor of lux camping and rec. opportunities (which is recognized as revenue generators). The park system needs to get back to the basics. Also lets be more transparent/realistic in the visitor count # which rivals the Vietnam war enemy body count in its obsured exaggeration at most parks and sites.

Zip Code: 64474

Why do you keep spending money on new parks when all of the existing parks are in need of repairs and upgrades such as 50 amp service update older campsites and a lot of heavily used parks put in new campsites. No do not open new parks, upgrade what you have already [REDACTED] long time volunteer in Missouri State Parks

Zip Code: 65802

I believe Ozark Mtn. Park should be retained and minimally developed. Cleared trails not asphalt, toilet facilities, trail signs and maps. This area is very popular

with tourists and could see many outdoor enthusiasts choosing it as a destination for a day hike.

Zip Code: 64801

This is so petty and small-minded of the Missouri Governor. I am ashamed of any person who would sacrifice public lands for the good of a political party. This is a disgusting display of cruelty, robbing history from a united country is like slapping the Missouri residents in our faces. Governor Greitens should be asked to leave this beautiful State because he obviously has no reason to stay. He only looks at greenery in the shape of money. A disgusting, horrible human being.

Zip Code: 65810

Per the US Census Bureau, 89% of the land in Missouri is privately owned. This figure magnifies the value of any public green space and park land for outdoor recreation. In our fast paced world, people need natural places to unwind and experience peace and quiet. Having parks within a short drive is essential to many who do not have access to private land to relax and recreate. Please keep and develop all three of the new parks, including Ozark Mountain. Thank you for considering this request.

Zip Code:

Please keep this park open as is. Minimize efforts for building roads, trails and paths. Primitive parks are the best ones.

Zip Code: 63367

State Parks acquisition of this piece of property is fantastic. The unique glade and "bald knob" features of the new park will be an additional draw to the Branson area by featuring the very features that are so important to local folklore and legend. By being part of the state park system, they will provide a good balance of public accessibility and nature conservation. I wholeheartedly support development of this park. IF it takes a few years, that is OK. The state parks Division has demonstrated a good balance of development, maintenance and forward thinking. I say, create a plan that allows people easyu to access some of the balds and glades and the stream while keeping others at the end of a long hike where the more adventuresome can revel in the serenity of a good days hike.

Zip Code:

I am submitting the same comments about all three parks. Since you are the Parks department, I really feel it is unnecessary to remind you of the many benefits our amazing state parks give everyone. (I find spiritual

renewal in the parks in my area and think that many, many other people do, too.) I will just make a couple of points. First, land acquired for parks is often not developed or managed for years after acquisition. Second, the current Republican Evil that is looting our public institutions for private profit will pass. If we survive it, you will have a chance to develop these three areas later. If our republic is destroyed, it won't matter that they were not developed.

Zip Code: 63390

Do not sell ANY State Parks. Keep them for the people of Missouri and open them for our use.

Zip Code: 65101

The only option is to value the unique assets this park adds to the Missouri Park system and develop short and long-term plans to develop the park for appropriate public use and enjoyment. Points to consider: Historically, new parks have not been immediately developed. The first parks acquired in the 1920's received their first significant development by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration in the 1930's. There were five undeveloped state parks when the Parks and Soils Sales Tax first passed in 1984. Any new parks need a period of assessment and planning. Development and staffing should follow in stages. Public access could occur within a relatively short time for activities that do not require extensive infrastructure, yet can be supported by the parks' natural environment. State Parks are economic assets to the local communities, counties, and the state. Studies have shown they have profoundly positive economic impact. The parks attract visitors who spend money at local businesses. The state spends in the local area for operation and maintenance of the parks. The parks provide full and part-time jobs in the park and in businesses in the local area. These activities produce tax revenues for communities and counties. While it will take time for the lands to be developed and the tax benefits of tourism to be realized, this is an investment that should not be missed. While state parks contribute greatly to Missouri's tourism economy, the increased opportunity for recreation in the local area is just as significant. Lands of the natural qualities found in these four new parks are rare. The fact that these high quality natural areas still exist in today's world is something of a miracle. They offer unique opportunities to preserve, educate, and enjoy. Retention of the lands in State Parks for the benefit of present and future generations is an achievable goal, and should be considered necessary to the quality of life in Missouri. The Missouri Park System has prospered for 100 years without resorting to the sale of its lands. Sale or disposal of these lands should not be an option. No one can

answer where the funds received from such a sale would be spent. It is extremely doubtful that another use for the funds would benefit so many people in the state, or that any part of the funds would be spent for the benefit of the local communities and counties in the areas of these new parks. Sale of these new park areas is a loss for every citizen of Missouri and a dangerous precedent for the future of the system. Natural resource management and restoration of this property should begin in 2018. These are seasonal activities that could be supported at low cost with part-time personnel led by regional park staff. While the impact of these activities is long term, they are also a necessary step to prepare for public use. Planning for public use should begin immediately. Planning activities are typically led by regional and central office staff. The choice to begin planning activities is a choice of priorities rather than cost. Initiating a public planning process should begin with these public meetings. Planning for public access and park development should consider activities that are compatible with the natural and cultural resources of these park areas. As the Missouri State Park System Mission requires, recreation and public use of these new parks must be balanced with preservation and interpretation of the areas' natural and cultural resources.

Zip Code: 65747

Since the land for these three new State Parks is already owned by the state, they should remain as public lands. Even if we can't afford to develop them now, they should be protected and left to nature as much as possible so future generations will be able to enjoy them.

Zip Code: 65616

I would like to see hiking trails developed at the Ozark Mountain State Park in Taney County.

Zip Code:

Ozark Mountain State Park is currently able to be used by all people, especially Missourians. These parks display the beauty and magnificence of Missouri. I grew up in Kansas where there were few state parks and the ones that did exist were pretty shabby. When deciding to move to and eventually remain in Missouri, the ability to take my kids to the beautiful and well kept state parks was and continues to be one of the factors of my residence. We have seen bald eagles, hawks, fish, snakes, and so much more. They learned to hike, make fires, and what plants can and can't be eaten or touched. These are public lands, which means that I can take my kids there. If you continue this process of privatization, you are not returning them to use for all you are giving them to a few people. It will hurt tourism and the lives of the constituents you were elected to serve. Stop this land rush for your donors, and let Missouri thrive.

Zip Code: 53960

I have been reading how sales of RV's especially RV trailers has been booming in 2017 and recent years. Buyers will need a place to stay, and many like state parks. I stay at both private and public campgrounds when traveling. Here's a December 2017 news report that sales are twice what they were ten years ago. "The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) wrapped up its annual national trade show last week. It was a love fest of monumental proportions. At the opening breakfast, the organization's president Frank Hugelmeyer announced that not only will 2017 RV sales be good, they'll be spectacular! He told the crowd that shipments of RVs to dealers this year will exceed a half million units — about 505,600 to be precise, 13 percent higher than previously forecast. That's double what they were ten years ago!" <http://rvtravel.com/rv-travel-newsletter-issue-823/>

Zip Code: 63051

Please keep them available for public use and as part of our parks dept. Green space is so important to our state. If they can't be kept them due to finances then please consider selling to another entity that would keep them as green space.

Zip Code: 63026

It would be nothing less than theft to sell this or any state park--regardless of its level of development. The parks belong to ALL the citizens of Missouri--not to the state government, not to the legislature, and not to the governor. I am very concerned, angry, and disappointed in the Department of Natural Resources to hear that these parks are being considered for sale to private interests who would either keep them from the public permanently, or mine, log, or ranch them to oblivion. "Angry" is an understatement. Missouri has the the BEST state parks system in the entire country, and the fact that nearly 80% of state voters chose to support them with a renewal of the parks and soil conservation tax should be an indication that the parks of off-limits to sale. I do not live near Ozark Mountain State Park, but I do frequently drive great distances across the state to visit new state parks or my favorites to go hiking, camping, or backpacking. That said, it is my understanding that Ozark Mountain State Park features glade environments that are not found anywhere else in North America--maybe the world--other than here in Missouri. These environments should be preserved and open to the public to experience, at the very least through primitive, dirt hiking trails. This would seem to be the least costly development, but I can see a need for a parking lot and a vault toilet to go with it. If possible, I can envision small picnic area with a water spigot and a

few tables at a trailhead. If primitive trail camping could be permitted at a few designated sites (similar to the backpack sites at Meramec State Park), that might be a way to raise a little revenue with a self-pay station at the trailhead. I don't think ATVs have a place in this sensitive environment, and I question the wisdom of allowing mountain bikes or horses for the same reason, unless there can be reasonable assurance that they won't go off the trail and destroy the fragile grasses and wildflowers native to these rare glades. Thank you for seeking our input on this very important matter. I implore you to do the right thing and keep the all the new parks within the state park system permanently.

Zip Code: 63628

I support this park being added to the state park system. It can be developed when funds become available. Natural places such as this park should be conserved for future generations. State parks are the most valuable natural resource in Missouri.

Zip Code:

Keep the park for future development when funding permits.

Zip Code: 65039

Missourians love their State Parks and have always in the past shown this by supporting them w their \$. As more and more people are finding out about the beauty of Missouri from all over the country we need to expand the network of parks to avoid overcrowding. These parks are the life blood of some of the poorer counties in the state bringing in tourist dollars on a long term basis. Containing costs can certainly be done initially by limiting services and keeping some of these areas primitive and then develop them as seems appropriate depending on use.

Zip Code: 63084

Please keep this beautiful place a park for future generations.

Zip Code: 63123

As a native born and bred Missourian, one old enough to know we must protect what we have, I must protest the possibility that our three newest state parks are being threatened. It's a fact that state parks are economic assets to the local communities, counties, and the state through the visitors they attract. They have profoundly positive economic impact--the Katy Trail is a perfect example. But, even more important, these new park lands are astounding in the extent of their natural beauty. It is short-sighted to remove them from the oversight of the

Missouri Park System, which has existed for a century without selling any lands. Sale of these new park areas is a loss for every citizen of Missouri and a dangerous precedent for the future of the system. I most sincerely urge you, Do Not Go Down This Road.

Zip Code: 63026

Ozark Mountain contains distinctive southwest Missouri landscape of bald knobs, natural glades and woodlands traversed by 2.2 miles of Roark Creek. This creek is headwaters for Lake Taneycomo and the Branson watershed. The Park's proximity to Branson would give the public a great opportunity to visit a natural area and see fields are covered predominantly by native grasses as well as unique glade flora and fauna. The park is adjacent to the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area which adds to the uninterrupted protected land in an area that has seen rapid development and loss of habitat and would allow for a longer trail system connecting both areas. Development requirements would be minimal, although preservation of the schoolhouse would be a welcome link back to the past. Please open this park to the public.

Zip Code: 63751

I urge you to help preserve all park lands. All public land in Missouri amounts to very small percentage of private lands. Public lands can be enjoyed by all citizens. Private lands are just that private and subject to all types of exploitation.

Zip Code: 63119

Please keep these parks. Each is unique & served a different portion of the state. They will prove to be valuable in the long run as population grows. Already demand for Parks is increasing yearly. Parks add to the local economy & to the state economy by bringing tourists. Please change the name if you must but keep the park!

Zip Code:

Please keep this park!! It is a great example of Ozark natural plant communities and a refuge for all biodiversity in an increasingly developing world. Many endemic Ozark flora and fauna reside here. If it becomes owned by the private sector, as is usually the case, the endemic and rare flora and fauna will be at risk due to development or any number of commercial activities. Over 88% of Missouri is privately owned, giving the public much less opportunity to view such areas when compared to most other states. Transferring these properties to the private sector will not make a difference in any one local/county level economy to be worth the potential irreversible loss to bio-diversity. If

transferred to private hands, the financial gains will likely be a one-time bump in the local economy, likely related to timber purchases, not enough to have any level of sustained significant increase. Upon harvest of merchantable timber, if converted to pasture for livestock production, as is the common practice in the Ozark region, the soils will not support a sustainable or thriving system of production. This fact can be evidenced in the many small, low-productivity tracts through out southern Missouri where off-farm income is essential to keep financially afloat. However, the potential economic gains due to eco-tourism would far outweigh any others the private sector offers, especially when projected out over the long-term. Suitable examples of this economic gain would be in the Ozark communities of Eminence, Van Buren, and Arcadia Valley, which see yearly tourism dollars supporting business and families, directly related to the public's ability to access beautiful and healthy public lands. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears. Missouri's citizens have a rich heritage in the conservation of our state's natural resources, a fact that is envied and replicated through out the nation. Ozark Mountain State Park is another page in that history, please keep this park!

Zip Code:

Thoughtful and well managed lands are critical for the health of our water. I would like to see the parks kept under ownership and management of the State Parks. I also encourage public use with hiking trails and campgrounds but using creative holistic planning and design, keeping any disturbance and impervious surfaces to a bare minimum. Keeping the wild, wild should be the biggest goal; Reducing impact and reflecting best management practices on every level.

Zip Code:

Please leave Missouri State Parks as they are. If the name of one is what's causing all the problems, then rename it. Otherwise, don't return a park to the general public to be treated as most privately owned land is. That's why you have the Division of Environmental Quality--Obviously a large majority of citizens just don't get it.

Zip Code: 63141

This is wonderful state park that belongs to the residents of MO! All the links (topography, geology, info fact sheet, photos, etc.) provide many reasons why we the residents of MO want to keep this beautiful land to use for hiking and camping. We only need future development (roads, parking, paths and bathrooms) to expand its use but for now it can be conserved. Having this property is a great asset that should not be developed

for any commercial use. I am against having the MO govt sell this land. It should remain as it is...a state park for the residents of Missouri. We look forward to traveling to see this park in the future. Thank you.

Zip Code: 63125

I'm really looking forward to visiting this new state park. It will be near my inlaws and a great place to visit while we are visiting them.

Zip Code: 64068

What a Grinch thing to do - taking away State Parks! For Shame! The Missouri Park System has survived for 100 years without resorting to the sale of its lands...And the money for purchasing these lands came from dedicated tax monies separate from State general funds - where it looks you want the proceeds to go. So now you want to rob Peter to pay Paul? New parks have historically not been immediately developed and many activities do not require extensive infrastructure. State Parks are economic assets to local communities, counties, and the state, and contribute greatly to Missouri's tourism economy. Planning for public use should begin immediately and should consider activities that are compatible with the natural and cultural resources of these park areas. Lands of the natural qualities found in this park and others on the chopping block are rare. It is a small miracle that they still exist. Retention of the lands in State Parks for the benefit of present and future generations is an achievable goal, and should be considered necessary to the quality of life in Missouri.

Zip Code:

This Ozark State Park would really benefit the thousands of people who visit Lake of the Ozarks every year! This is a popular spot for family vacations and building a state park here would get great turnouts and use throughout the years.

Zip Code: 65201

Please preserve this area for a State Park. The glades are so important to our natural environment and need to be respected and maintained. I support this State Park and the funding proposed for it's inception.

Zip Code:

Please do not let ATV's in. Preserving the natural beauty of this place is important. Not very many places like this exist. Land is being bought up at an alarming rate due to population increase. Please preserve it.

Zip Code:

I am in favor of keeping all parks - it is well worth the money and i would like them protected for future generations to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63501

I recommend that the state of Missouri preserve this property as a state park. Public lands are one of Missouri's most attractive features. Ozark Mountain glades are among the most fascinating of our state's environmental features. Chances to preserve our state's ecology are rare, especially in the rapidly developing Branson region. The type of primitive amenities that will allow public access are comparatively inexpensive, given the long term benefits of this project.

Zip Code: 63117

Allow Motorcycles, Atv's, and Utv's to share the parks.

██████████

Zip Code: 63089

Do not sell any Missouri state parks. They are fantastic resources to the citezens of the state and should remain under protection. ██████████ Villa ridge, Mo

Zip Code:

All of our state parks should remain open.

Zip Code:

Please reopen this park even if it cannot be improved.

Zip Code: 63123

Please Keep It! We need spaces to escape crazy politics and scandals, more now than ever!

Zip Code: 63376

Put a sign up with the parks name on it. Quit trying to over develop every last parcel of land!

Zip Code:

Please find a way to keep this land public park land open to the public. Please do not sell to private interest.

Zip Code: 65301

This property is a wonderful asset for all Missourians. Please keep it in the ownership and stewardship of the State Parks system. Please take the long view and take politics out of this consideration. I don't care how it was acquired and if you look at the value how can that be a consideration? Many, many Missourians are proud of our state owned and operated lands. Don't squander our children and grandchildren's assets with petty politics.

Zip Code:

Why did park staff chose a glade landscape adjacent to MDC's Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area? It would only further confuse the public's understanding of the differences in how both agencies manage their lands. MDC manages a "larger" glade landscape which is a natural area. If the glades of Ozark Mountain are just as important, then why not just turn it over to MDC and allow them to manage it as part of their natural area?

Parks should more carefully locate a larger glade landscape away from Branson that better meets the standards of a quality state park similar to Taum Sauk Mountain: at least 3,000 acres, higher biological quality, ease of prescribed burns away from an expanding urban area, and majestic scenery. In the long run, this park will lose scenic integrity due to urban expansion.

Zip Code: 63069

I've spent many hours exploring Taney County and it's classic Ozark features. Given the crazy development of the Branson area, protecting and managing this area are critical. Throughout my life I have CONSISTENTLY voted for monies to be set aside for DNR and MDC and I want my money to support all public lands. They belong to all of us.

Zip Code: 65039

Keep it as a state park! Do not sell it.

Zip Code: 65807

This piece of property reflects alot of the reasons tourists come to our state. It would be a wise move to preserve and lightly develop this tract so that both residents and revenue enhancing visitors can use and enjoy it.

Zip Code: 64078

State parks are and have been a valuable resource. Not only do they provide a respite and forms of recreation for individuals and families. They also provide much need habitats. By reducing the acreage of the park, you doom the flora and fauna of the the entire area just through encroachment.

Zip Code: 63109

Perhaps if the Department of Natural Resources isn't up to developing and managing this park then ownership can be passed to the Conservation Department for development into a Conservation or Recreational Area.

Zip Code: 63123

I believe that the 3 state parks under consideration of closing should remain in the Missouri state parks system. Even if the development is slow. Perhaps just a gravel road in each this year. Pit toilets the next, etc. 80% of Missourians voted in favor of support of Missouri state parks in 2016. Obviously our state cares about public lands. It is a scary time, thinking about these parks fate and also the fate of some of our National parks. Sincerely Yours, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63122

Keep our parks as public land. It's a treasure for future lands. If someone donated this land to the state, we need to keep the gift. 80 percent of us voted to fund the parks. Why is there discussion to sell it?

Zip Code:

please don't sell

Zip Code:

Please open the parks for people to enjoy! Even if there aren't funds to support these parks, Missourians can still enjoy them as they are.

Zip Code:

I am a hiker and would love to see hiking trails in this park. Please help us maintain the beauty of this area by making it available to hike throughout the park.

Zip Code:

I would like to see Missouri State Parks keep Ozark Mountain. Please keep the land (you can't build more land) and plan a slow development process that can be sustained long-term.

Zip Code:

Please keep this park and make it available to the public. It would be great to have a public park near Branson that typifies natural beauty of the region. If state park can not afford, please consider working with other agencies to make this viable. Thank you for the forum.

Zip Code: 63090

Please consider keeping the new parks so there are wild places for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Do not let political agendas make the decision. Thank you

Zip Code: 65202

This State Park should be a no-brainer. It will more than pay for itself as part of the attractions in the Branson Area. I regularly go down to this area for entertainment and exercise and will definitely use this are is approved.

Located adjacent to the Branson Area, it is an easy to get to area and is close to a conservation area nearby. The development costs seem to be relative low and the access high in comparison to other active State parks. The park will also likely include preservation of rare and endangered flora.

Zip Code: 65109

Ozark Mountain State Park is a wonderful property and making it a state park was a good decision - please keep it that way and develop it in the usual state park way for hiking, camping and other activities.

Zip Code: 63110

Mo. State Parks, First, generally, I wish to have all four - including and most importantly the Eleven Point property - state parks placed in the public domain and opened up to the public. My personal preference is for the smallest amount of money to be spent on paved anything and for resources to be wild areas and trails open to foot, horse, or bicycle traffic only. Specific to Ozark Mountain, I would like for it to be opened to the public without road improvements or new buildings beyond basic potable water access and pit toilets if that allows for it to be open sooner than later. Thanks for your consideration of my request. Respectfully submitted, [REDACTED]

Zip Code:

If, for the time being, there is no money in budget to completely develop this as a state park, why not make it a conservation area in the interim. This would allow public access without requiring as many resources. It's a shame to have a large piece of public land that is closed to public access at a time when it is becoming more and more difficult to find access for hunting and fishing opportunities. Thank you for your consideration

Zip Code: 65101

Missouri's state park system was tied for first place on my list of reasons to move here from South Carolina when I separated from the United States Navy. Also, Missouri State Parks generate amazing benefits for the state economy for a relatively miniscule cost. Any decision to sell off or not open Ozark Mountain State Park would be foolish I think the park should be opened with primitive facilities as soon as possible.

Zip Code: 63146

I believe it was Will Rogers who said of land, "They ain't making any more of it," or a very similar quote. For that reason, this park should definitely be kept in the MO State Park System, even if there currently are no

funds for development. This land will become increasingly more valuable as time progresses and wild spaces outside the Park System become more and more scarce. DO NOT SELL THIS PARK LAND!

Zip Code: 65757

We would like for the State not to sell this parcel of land. We would like to see multi-use trails, including equestrian, developed in this area. This would take some of the pressure off of Busiek Conservation Area where the trails have been over used because of lack of horse trails in other areas.

Zip Code: 65656

SAVE THE PARKS!!!! Green spaces, nature and places to hike and explore are what make Branson area AWESOME!!!!

Zip Code: 63110

Please, do not dismantle the Ozark Mountain State Park. It is a park where I have hiked often and it is an important part of the Missouri trail system. We must protect our beautiful wilderness from exploitation and development. Our parks are a valuable resource, which you cannot put a dollar value on. Please do not take the Ozark Mountain State Park away from the citizens of our state!

Zip Code: 63069

I feel that this property should be held in the public trust for protection of watersheds and for future public enjoyment.

Zip Code: 64834

I support Missouri State Parks. Love them.

Zip Code: 65065

My husband and I are totally in favor of Ozark Mountain State Park, whether or not it is open to hunting in future years. We can never have too many state parks and other sources of public land recreation. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65616

Hiking trails and historical information stations for existing structure "remains" should be developed in the Ozark Mountain Park. This would be a great addition to the hiking trail system existing in the Branson area. The Ruth & Paul Henning reserve and Lakeside Wilderness trails are wonderful family-oriented recreation areas as well as hiking challenges for serious outdoorspeople. The Ozark Mountain Park would be a super addition.

Zip Code: 64118

I am so proud of Missouri State Parks. They are a tremendous resource and such an attraction for tourist. Missouri State Government should be equally as proud for building on the vision of other Missouri leaders of the last century in expanding the State Park System. I have visited too many State Parks and Historic Sites to count. I met people from all across the country who treasure Missouri's parks as well as spend their hard earned money here. The opportunities I see for development at this property are, first, doing public education on the fragile ground water resources of the region. Secondly, This corner of the state is home to a number of unique plant and animal communities associated with the glades. These unique ecosystem support species normally found farther south and west of the state. They are "islands" of species found nowhere else in the state. I would recommend focusing on unique bird species like the road runner and the painted bunting. Once again, I want to compliment the state on acquiring new park land and urge the Department to do everything possible to develop these properties. It does not all have to happen immediatly, but these parks can be developed over the coming decade or two to become another of the gems in the Missouri State Park System.

Zip Code: 64011-9110

I support Ozark Mountain State Park and it should not be sold.

Zip Code:

Please quit playing politics and preserve this land for future generations. Don't let our party-pandering dipshit governor notch his political belt over Missourians desire to enjoy God's Great Earth.

Zip Code: 66202

I support Ozark Mountain State Park and would like it to remain open.

Zip Code:

I am against the selling of Ozark Mountain State Park or any other state park. They were legally purchased for the good of the people.

Zip Code: 65401

Missourians support the State Park Sales tax by over 80% and it passed in every county. This shows the strong support the Citizens of Missouri have for their state parks. Nationally the general public wants more public lands to use and recreate on, politics and big business lead is a small voice leading the opposition to more public lands. This evidence says we need Ozark

Mountain State Park, especially just outside Branson where tourism is king!

Zip Code: 65401

Section 4, page 5 of the ASARCO Southeast Missouri Natural Resource Damages Settlement Agreement clearly states that, "The trustees shall use all of the funds in the Restoration Accounts, including all interest earned on such funds. for restoration activities at or in connection with each Site as directed by the Missouri Trustee Council, but shall not be used to conduct assessment activities.". If Ozark Mountain State Park was purchased using funds from the ASARCO NRD Fund, the ASARCO NRD Fund. If selling the land is the only way the Missouri Department of Natural Resources can get the money, then they should do so immediately.

Zip Code: 65779

It is my wish as a Missouri resident with 4 children, that the Missouri State Parks received even more funding than currently allocated. I would gladly pay an increase state income tax or sales tax to directly fund the best state park system to be found in our country. We recently completed the state park challenge and visited all 88 current parks and what we found was the most of our beloved parks are in need of funding for basic maintenance, staffing, and programming needs. That parks that are well developed, like Echo Bluffs, while beautiful are not fully accessible to all Missourians due to the price point. It is my belief that should a conference center/hotel be required at a state park, that it be developed privately on private property nearby and that park funding should be used to educate the public, provide affordable accommodations (that can still be nice), and provide access to the outdoors. I would like to see these 3 parks opened to the public. Primitive camping, trails, even nature centers or program buildings would be acceptable. My most important message is that all our parks need more funds, more staffing, more interpretation, and more opportunities to recreate in the outdoors. I'm willing to pay for those things through a tax that would be proportional to my income, through cuts to the pay of state legislatures, or though a nominal non-resident entrance fee or any combination.

Zip Code: 63020

I can't give any reason that you have not seen mentioned a 100 times. My family and I have always had a strong passion for the outdoors instilled in us from an early age. My 7 year old daughter and I hiked up Hughes Mountain Sun. for one of the most beautiful sunsets I have seen in my life. I will never forget that moment with her. That was 3 days ago. We have so many wonderful memories in our state parks. The less parks we have the less

cherished memories people will have with friends and family. For future generations we need as many public acres we can get. With the latest vote Missourian's showed we support the conservation of this great state with our continued tax. Now I know the tax is minute in the grand scheme of things but the way folks are these days with having to pay for any tax good/bad it showed our passion. I'm rambling now so thank you for providing some of the most beautiful land in the country to all of us.

Zip Code: 63144

I work in St. Louis but take my kids to MO state parks often for camping, hiking, and floating. It seems shortsighted to me to get rid of parks now when usage is up. These resources will be worth more as they are held onto.

Zip Code: 64118

First I want to thank Missouri State Government for building on the vision of other Missouri leaders of the last century in expanding the State Park System. As a 60 year resident of the state I have visited over 70 of the State Parks and Historic Sites and met people from all across the country who treasure Missouri's parks as well as spend their hard earned money here. The opportunities I see for development at this property are, first, doing public education on the fragile ground water resources of the region. Population in this part of the state is growing rapidly and demand on groundwater resources will grow too. The bedrock exposed in this park makes up one of the main aquifers in the region and illustrates the vulnerable nature of karst aquifer. We need to educate people on the need to protect these resources. Secondly, This corner of the state is home to a number of unique plant and animal communities. The glades of the area support species normally found farther south and west of the state. They are "islands" of species found nowhere else in the state. I would recommend focusing on unique bird species like the road runner and the painted bunting. Once again, I want to compliment the state on acquiring new park land and urge the Department to do everything possible to develop these properties. It does not all have to happen immediately, but these parks can be developed over the coming decade or two to become another of the gems in the Missouri State Park System.

Zip Code: 65550

Let's insure that our great State Park system, including Ozark Mountain State Park, remains one that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy. As the state's population grows, so should the availability of public recreation lands. This new state parks will bring in visitors to Ozark County, along with their dollars for

this local rural economy. The new park should be opened to the public as soon as possible after proper planning has been completed. I urge the DNR to seek a balance between preserving and enhancing natural communities and providing compatible recreation opportunities. I am adamantly opposed to any thought of selling any state park lands, including Ozark Mountain State Park. These are the property of all Missourians, not just local politicians or landowners. To my knowledge, we have never had to resort to selling park lands, especially given that Missourians have voted several times to help fund the parks with a 1/10 cent sales tax.

Zip Code: 63303

Any public park is priceless. Please find a way to keep all of our parks open.

Zip Code: 65203

I would like to see the three potential state parks, Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek and Jay Nixon, developed as state parks for citizens' use and enjoyment.

Zip Code: 63640

Our family has camped regularly in MO State Parks for many years. Montauk is a favorite for our children and grandchildren. We feel that state money would be better spend making improvements to existing parks instead of spreading it to three new areas. Before this decision is made, we feel that the group of people involved should spend a night or two in the lodge or campground of one of the many existing areas. Pay special attention to the last time any of them had "extra" money to renovate the shower houses, cabins, or any of the other buildings. The citizens of Missouri do not need powerful people building monuments to themselves. When our home needs repairs, we take care of those, instead of abandoning the old house and sinking our limited income into building a new house. Ask the employees of the current parks what they would like to see renovated if they could have a wish list. They work hard to make the parks enjoyable and safe and probably have a lot of wonderful ideas for how to spend the money. We expect that you will make educated decisions about the use of state money.

Zip Code: 65203

We're seeing attempts at a state level that mirrors that at the federal level to take public lands and turn them over to private interests. Tell the Governor not just no, but Hell No.

Zip Code: 65402

The Ozark Mountain State Park must be retained as an important future Missouri park. Once this park land is sold to private enterprises all is lost---forever. We only have one chance to secure this property, don't blow it by selling it off simply because we might not have the money today to develop it. I wish this property were in Phelps County---we would love it! [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63670

I am unalterably opposed to selling this or any other land that has been acquired by the MO DNR, unless it can be conclusively shown that the money derived will go to acquiring other lands of equal or higher natural resource value. The only other option I could agree with would be to turn the land over to the MO Dept. of Conservation. Our Missouri public lands are far more valuable in public ownership than they would be in private ownership, and far more valuable than the money derived from selling them would be. I would suggest spending the money for a gravel parking lot, and seeking volunteers from various organizations to construct hiking trails.

Zip Code: 65686

Please do not close we need more hiking paths in the Branson area.

Zip Code: 65793

We need more State Park service for future generations and for conservation and for education. Keep our Parks open don't sell off the land. No logging or mining in our Parks.

Zip Code:

This is property of the citizens of Missouri, supported by continually approved revenue streams. These areas must be available for public access.

Zip Code:

Please find a way to get this park open and available to the public. An asset to the community does not come available very often.

Zip Code: 65043

It is important to protect this property with its distinctive southwest Missouri flora and fauna. It would be beneficial to have it open to the public, with at least a rudimentary trail system. This is an area of the state that receives a lot of tourists, so it would be likely to get visitors.

Zip Code: 63090

Ozark Mountain State Park as well as all of our other (Missouri) state park lands should be preserved. Governor Greitens' fiscal policy and priorities are skewed in the wrong direction on this issue.

Zip Code: 65550

I think the park is a wonderful idea. We do a lot of hiking and need more places to go in that area. I like state parks in the fall for you cannot hunt in them. Hard to go out when the deer hunters are on the move. I'm all for more areas I can hike and explore in.

Zip Code: 63089

This is an amazing, unique natural area that deserves protection. This park was already protected and I hope it will stay protected. This state park was purchased with the intent that it would be very minimally developed. It is not expensive to keep these state parks because trees will grow on their own. November's overwhelming statewide vote to renew a one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax for parks shows Missouri residents' strong desire to support parks. Please save this park.

Zip Code: 63357

I would like see it "developed" into a very high quality ozark landscape...taken back to a time when Schoolcraft walked through the area.

Zip Code:

This would be a useful park to have in the Branson area, as a public rec area so close to tourist areas. Glades, Hills -it looks like a wonderful place for a park. If finances are an issue, please consider making it publicly available in a more limited cost manner -day use and primitive facilities. If even those costs are prohibitive under state park budget, consider working with other agencies to keep this land available for public use. Thank you.

Zip Code: 64145

The Missouri park system is intricate part of our nature and well being. They are a tourist attraction and a beautiful composition of Mother Earth made to be shared and explored throughout all the vast lands. This state park is one to keep for the decades and the fact that we are even considering letting go for a few dollars is incredibly disappointing and upsetting. There is no other state mark that is more profoundly unique and beautiful in all of Missouri. This is a park that has been visited by families for many years and in no way shape or form would loving outdoorsmen ever condone the sale or removal of a state park. I truly hope the Missouri Department of Parks and Recreation will do all that they

can to retain all their state departments and will continue to develop and acquire more land for the years to come.

Zip Code: 64083

do not give up one single acre of our preserved natural spaces!!!

Zip Code: 63357

This park should be kept and opened, even if it is minimally developed. open spaces for public access and protection are important to our start and the health of our people and environment.

Zip Code: 65203

Great idea! Let this property be returned to the marketplace and help balance our state budget. Missouri has many lovely parks to enjoy. Let's use our resources to keep them up.

Zip Code: 65203

With fewer than 7% of Missouri's land in public trust it is an embarrassment that you would even consider selling these lands, or leaving them closed. I am by no means saying you need or should develop them. Let them sit, as they are. Land cannot be created, it is limited. Missouri already has little public land. If you don't own your own land you have to scrounge for a place to recreate or hunt. Please don't mess this one up.

Zip Code:

I don't think we need to close any state park.

Zip Code: 63051

I would like to see more ohv parks in Missouri. I hate traveling out of state to ride and spend my money.

Zip Code: 65580

I am in favor of continuing with development of the park. The land has already been procured and plans have already been made. Investment of state dollars to protect/preserve natural areas and/or historical properties is always a good use of public funding. And, unlike some other investments of public funding, state parks and state historic sites are available for everyone to visit, so everyone benefits. My husband I regularly visit state parks and historic sites and would enjoy the opportunity to visit new sites.

Zip Code:

As a life long resident of MO-57 years-along with a frequent visitor to MO parks and Conservation Areas, I am requesting that you keep this park open to the public.

Zip Code:

Missouri has a wonderful state park system, but some of the older parks are in dire need of upgrades and expansions of facilities. I would rather see available money go in this direction rather than toward developing the three new parks. I'm not going to single out any of the three new parks because my comments would be the same for all. I live near Montauk and the lodge and dining facilities are too small and outdated, but money has continually gone to other parks.

Zip Code: 63118

Please keep our parks as we have voted for their conservation through our supports for funding.

Zip Code: 64850

I think simply marked trails and bare bones facility like at Ruth and Paul Henning would be best for this area. Its mostly suited for hiking and you should save money for areas like Roaring River, Tablerock and other parks with features beyond trees and hills. But I'd like to hike this area soon so to me, the minimum is best. Thanks!

Zip Code: 65802

Please keep our public spaces protected and available for all to use! Thank you for all you do!

Zip Code: 63039

I was born and raised in Missouri and have lived here my whole life. The best thing about this state is its beautiful nature, and its state parks. This land is included in that. As an advocate for the environment and the preservation of land such as this, I ask that you please not sell this beautiful land to be torn apart and "developed." This land should be preserved in its natural beauty.

Zip Code:

Once land is developed, it is gone from us forever. At a time when habitat and wilderness is disappearing so quickly we can't even keep track of it, please please don't sell off our treasured land! Let's make sure it is usable and accessible to all Missourians and kept intact for our children's children.

Zip Code: 65804

I am writing to express my support to keeping the four new parks. A civilized society cannot have enough parks and green spaces for its citizens. Being out in nature is essential to the wellbeing of humanity, to the nurturing of our psyche, our spirit, for general health,

for serenity. I am opposed to any of the four new parks closing. I believe that if there is a budget consideration, surely we can employ newly graduated conservation majors, haul in used trailers or modular buildings to set up an office onsite, and use volunteer workers to erect needed fencing. I know I would volunteer if asked. We don't need much money to open these parks; we would be employing our college graduates, and families and individuals would have a place to "decompress" and be one with our Creator. Thank you.

Zip Code: 63119

This is a beautiful parcel of land! I would suggest that development would be minimal and in phases-as funds become available. First phase should include proper signage and trail development with adequate trail head parking. Second phase: primitive camping with no greater then 30 sites; utilizing on,y a pit toilet and no potable water. Third phase: provide potable water and functional restroom without shower facilities. Basically keep the sight primitive with developed trails and minimum camping when funds are made available. I have over 30 years experience in administering and managing parks; 6 1/2 were as a MO state park superintendent. The site does not beg or require massive or major development, but rather serving to link the MDC parcels and other public lands adjacent.

Zip Code: 64152

I support the opening of new state parks. I also support continued investment in existing parks. I would be willing to pay higher taxes to fully fund state parks.

Zip Code: 63021

I do not support closing this park and/or selling off the property. Missouri State Parks are a tremendous asset. I have visited most of them, bringing money not only in the form of camping permits but also my spending dollars to the surrounding communities. My family and I camp, hike, boat, and fish in Missouri state parks every season of the year. All of these activities bring money into the community. We should be investing in MO State Parks, not selling them off. Selling them off is short sighted. I have no problem with my tax dollars being used to develop new parks and maintain existing ones. Missouri State Park use is at an all time high. More residents are using our parks than ever before. This means that money is being brought into those communities and families are making their living from those parks.

Zip Code: 65046

One of my favorite things about Missouri is its wonderful state parks. One of my favorite places ON

THIS EARTH is a particular Missouri State Park, Johnson Shut-ins. This state park is unique because it is a home for roadrunners and cacti. The photos I saw of the forest and glades are beautiful. Please don't sell it off. We don't need another Applebee's and they sure aren't making trees anymore.

Zip Code:

As an Eagle Scout that spent a lot of time on Missouri State Parks, I see a lot of value in maintaining the possibility of future public use. I wouldn't be who I am today without my experiences in the Boy Scouts, and consequently, my time in Missouri State Parks. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Zip Code: 65203

I am writing to express my support for Missouri State Parks, including the ones that are newly-purchased but not yet opened. Missourians love nature and outdoor recreation, as demonstrated by the overwhelming support for the 1/10th cent sales tax for parks and soil conservation. The parks bring tourists into the state. It's important to preserve these natural areas for future generations. The attitude of the current state administration and the state Legislature is shortsighted in that they have reduce state revenues and cut the state budget thereby making it more difficult to maintain the parks. Years ago, the state supported the parks with fees, the special tax for parks and General Revenue. Now the General Revenue budget has been cut. Protect the parks; don't sell them.

Zip Code: 65714

Investing in state parks is investing in Missouri. The decision to purchase and develop these parks reaped tremendous positive press. This will only generate negative press, hurt the elected officials relectability, and damage optics for the state of Missouri and our ability to attract talent, families, and good citizens. It would be interesting to hear the arguments for selling this land. Logically, it strikes me akin to selling personal belongings at a pawn shop, and it has the same PR viewpoint. Make the logical, ethical, and moral choice to continue these projects and fund existing parks.

Zip Code: 65203

Keep the parks open. Residents love and enjoy the beauty of MO. Travelers love to visit and enjoy them as well!! I can't believe this is really an option.

Zip Code: 65203

Ozark Mountain is a Missouri state treasure, as are all the state parks. It is important to me and many that these

areas be kept for future generations to enjoy, for habitat preservation for many wild creatures and flora, and to keep the pristine waterways free of pollution. I am extremely concerned about the national and state level of carelessness to open these areas to exploitation would be a tragedy. If sales included restrictions against invasive development like mining, drilling, clear cutting and the like...as an extreme measure to sell, only with restrictions. There must be more creative ways to decrease costs by encouraging interest in the parks from students, city dwellers, tourism, research studies, archeological, geological, historic studies, etc. Please consider alternatives to sales of our precious wilderness parks in our beautiful state in this wonderful pristine Ozarks area. I would be willing to serve as part of a think tank team to come up with alternatives to selling. Please contact me.

Zip Code: 65616

Thank-you for setting up the meeting at Dewey Short the other evening. I believe it was an informative and beneficial session. As a neighboring landowner to the Ozark Mountain State Park, I strongly believe it should remain in the Missouri State Parks system. I would hate to see it sold and developed into a 1000 acre subdivision full of cookie cutter homes. I think it is a fantastic amenity to the subdivisions nearby as well as the Branson community and Southwest Missouri region as a whole. As for suggestions for it's use, I am a proponent for conservation and protecting and preserving our increasing limited greenspace. However, I also hate to see land preserved without giving the public an opportunity to learn and enjoy the beauty of the land. To that end, I would like to see the park developed in phases beginning with primitive road(s) & facilities that can be updated and expanded as time, interest, and funding allows. Ultimately, I envision it being similar to Cades Cove (<http://www.cadescove.net/>) in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee; limited, controlled access with some walking/hiking trails with perhaps a small campground or RV hookups. Thanks again for taking the time to obtain comments from the public.

Zip Code:

do not close any parks

Zip Code: 65680

I find this a great opportunity to provide people visiting the Branson area yet another reason why this is such a great area. I am an RVer so I will lean to anything relating to the betterment of the RV folks. I know the Branson area is flooded with RV parks, yet there is always room for more. From my looking at the Branson RV parks they are laid out to provide the park with the most number of RV's. I feel that at the State Park level

of park you will be able to make each site larger, more attractive to RVer's. Yes there is a cost factor in the set up but then you already have part of the the cost in your projections. The additional cost would be water, elect., for each site with a sewer "dump" station in the area. This day and age most RVer's are looking for WiFi so that would be an additional cost, however if not free a small fee per RVer would most likely work. The site layout for RV's would be very important to make sure all size units could get in and enjoy the land. Sites would have to be at the correct angle for trailers and 5ths to back in with ease. You have the chance to make this a Branson area destination RV park. Most RVers are very aware of the landscape and would want to keep it as natural as possible. You already have the streams, the woods and the cabin. I think that would make a great setting for the park. You have costs set up for nature trails already so that would not be a factor. As you know the RVer's have a great network of "WorkCampers" who could host and take care of the park, in return for a free site. This would help offset the cost to the state. The sale of fire wood is yet another way for the state to offset the cost. Please do not let this area become yet another area for ATV's to run over the land and change the make up of it. Since moving to the Branson area almost a year now I have so much enjoyed the make up of the land the steward ship the state has taken to make sure it stays in natural state for years to come. Thank you for the chance to let my ideas known [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63119

Ozark Mountain State Park will provide a critical open space resource for the Branson area. The park should not be sold off. The public meeting held in Branson on December 4, 2017 demonstrated the strong local support for the park.

Zip Code: 63132

We need to preserve our state parks in Missouri, as a life-long Missourian, I have spent years enjoying the opportunities that our parks offer. I often post photographs on my Facebook page and receive many comments from people about the natural beauty these parks offer right here at home. I have been very proud of Missouri's conservation efforts, making it a leader nation-wide. My mother lived for many years in Springfield, MO, affording me the opportunity of visiting Ozark Mountain State Park. It would be very short-sighted to sell these properties and affect generations to come. Please, don't make this mistake. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 65203

Please keep, maintain and open any/all the state parks. My family loves and looks forward to going to and camping in the Missouri State parks every year.

Zip Code:

We would love more parks with trail systems for off-road use for UTV's, ATV's and camping. It would benefit a lot of people who participate in these recreational activities and help cut down on trespassing because of Missouri's limited amount of State parks for these activities. If you look at lots of other states they have much more state ran and state provided land for this to promote safe and responsible recreation use.

Zip Code: 65615

Here is a thought, [REDACTED] who is from the area, has a knack for being a big business man. He has turned the Branson and Springfield area into a destination place for many years. You already have a state park in Branson, why exactly would a second park even be needed? You seriously think you can compete with what [REDACTED] has already developed in Dogwood Canyon? Cut your losses, sell the property to an entrepreneur who actually knows how to manage their money and funds and not be deceitful to the tax payers in throwing money down the toilet building what is already built at Table Rock and Dogwood Canyon. It is the equivalent of building a Home Depot across the street from a Lowe's and a Menard's. Stop wasting the tax dollars and repair the parks we already have.

Zip Code: 63144

The vast majority of Missouri land is privately owned. It is absurd to consider selling off these new state parks, which will benefit people for generations to come. Protect them for outdoor recreation and nature.

Zip Code: 65611

This Ozark Mountains are a beautiful gift of nature. Roark Creek is getting stopped up due to all the construction going on around it. If you look at what the construction around the Branson Landing has done to Roark, it is concerning that this could happen further up the stream if it isn't protected. We need this green space.

Zip Code: 65608

Please sell this land to the city Branson so the taxpayer who will never see or use this park are not affected by your projects. Branson will be able to manage this area, and pay for it's management. It may bring revenue in to the area, as it will be another attraction to the area. They will do a better job of management than the DNR.

Zip Code: 64079

While I was unable to attend the public meeting at Ozark Mountain State Park, I wanted to make my displeasure known that the Missouri Legislature is considering selling of these vital public lands. Ozark Mountain contains a unique and vibrant ecosystem, one that is found nowhere else in Missouri, selling it off only to be turned into farmland or development would be a tragedy. Missourians value our public lands, I first learned of this decision to sell off state parks on the Kansas City subreddit on reddit.com, where it is one of the highest viewed posts I have seen on that forum. I know that I am not alone in my concern that legislators across the country seem to be quick to sell off our public lands to the highest bidder. Please consider the benefit these parks have to our citizens' quality of life, do the right thing.

Zip Code: 64804

These parks are public land, NOT for sale!!!!

Zip Code:

Please retain this property as a state park for future generations of Missourians to enjoy. Regardless of whether or not the prior administration handled this acquisition in ideal fashion, at this point it would be counterproductive to undo what has already been done and return the property to private ownership. There is long term value in protecting this property even if it takes a while to provide some relatively basic amenities.

Zip Code: 64012

Even if we can't afford to develop now does not mean we can't in the future.

Zip Code:

This property should be operated by the Missouri Conservation Commission. Conservation oriented parks controlled by DNR are poorly managed and inefficiently run. Conservation could more effectively and efficiently manage this and similar properties.

Zip Code: 63130

This land has more acres of wonderful glades and every wildflower and animal that inhabits them than any other 1000 acres I know. The state of Missouri would be crazy to let this get away from us. If our current state government can't find the money to build a trail or two in here and a gravel parking lot to get to it/them, let's find a new set of leaders who understand the value of wilderness and Missouri ecosystems in particular.

Zip Code: 64060

Please don't close Ozark Mountain State Park. I am a huge supporter of conservation, and selling off our conversation areas saddens me. I understand that it is a budgeting issue, but we need our natural areas. If anything we should be clamoring for a budget increase. Reading over the fact link it seems that there are several distinctive native animals and wildlife that flourish there.

Zip Code: 65613

The park need not be developed or even opened to visitors any time soon. What is imperative is that we keep this land in the State Park System so that it can be preserved from destructive forces that will not maintain the natural integrity of the ecosystem. We are losing natural landscapes and wildlife habitat to development and economic interests at an alarming rate, and if we do not preserve them now, they will be gone forever.

Zip Code: 65803

Do not sell the park. Do not sell or lease resource rights for the park. Maintain, at minimal levels if needed, until such time the park can be further developed.

Zip Code: 63011

MO parks and Forrest's should absolutely not be sold off to private owners corporations etc. they ought to be preserved ground with animal wildlife programs, trails, educational programs that encourage the public to visit and get outdoors, demonstration on how our ancestors conducted stewardship of the land and its resources etc. perhaps even some wilderness races would be fun and encourage visitors.

Zip Code: 64850

This land was given to the people of Missouri now living and those generation yet to be born. I can understand at this time the state does not feel it has the money to keep these parks. But to get rid of them would be a far worse fate the for them to lay idle until funds do become available. And do not underestimate the people of Missouri. We are the off spring of people who rolled up their sleeves to fight foreign threats, to collect money for programs one dollar at a time to take care of a need or a fellow citizen in need, to fight to keep wild spaces wild so all may enjoy the peace of wild places and countless other task that had to be done. These lands do not belong to those living now they belong to our children's children's children and countless generations yet unborn. If the state will hold onto this precious land and allow the people to roll up their sleeves they will not only volunteer their labor and their treasure they will collect the needed funds one pie supper, one concert, one event at a time and inspire others to join them. Please give the

people a chance to save land given to the all of s for generations. Do not sell us short. Roll up your sleeves and vote to keep this land. We at least deserve to have a chance before you so carelessly dump these nice sites for a few coins now when they are worth untold value in all the people's life who will enjoy outdoor activities on it. It's the right thing to do, let us all get busy and care for these sites. Give us a chance please.

Zip Code: 63376

As suburban residents, my family depends on public parks to access the outdoors. We kayak, tent camp, home, etc. Our public parks are the ONLY accessible wild land for a very large number of Missourians. There is no reason to shrink parks. Environmentally, we have too few outdoor spaces to maintain our current level of biodiversity. We are facing huge, widespread, and eminent extinctions. The evidence suggests that we may lose many flying insects, for example, which would DECIMATE farming in the state. Financially, parks are investments, not expenses. Further, they are investments that need to be made now--waiting only makes them exorbitantly expensive, if not impossible. Banking land In the form of parks is a *savings* play, allowing use future use of the land. Selling the land is *consuming* it for current use and forstalling all future use. **DO NOT BLOCK THE CREATION, EXPANSION, AND INVESTMENT** in our parks.

Zip Code: 65721

Desperately need a decent hiking trail system for the SWMO area that's accessible to Springfield and Branson residents, especially in a quentissential Ozarks representative area like this.

Zip Code:

Missouri State Parks are an important part of our wonderful life here i the Ozark's. We need to preserve as much natural beauty as possible for future generations to love and explore. I would hate to see this site lost to not only Missourians but to all people from near, far, and across the globe.

Zip Code: 63341

I strongly believe the three parks should remain open and in the park system. They offer unique examples of Missouri landscape. Leave them as undeveloped to minimize their costs. The problem with selling them is once they are gone, Missourians will never get an opportunity to enjoy them.

Zip Code: 72756

ORV trails should be a part of the plan

Zip Code: 64119

Ozark Mountain State Park will add to an already nationally recognized Missouri State Park system. This new park can be developed at a relatively nominal cost and is an asset to the local community and our state. Please move forward on this plan.

Zip Code: 63021

I would like to see basic multi-use trails and perhaps limited primitive camping. A small interpretive/welcome center. I would also support an alternating trail-use schedule to limit horseback-mountain bike conflict as is done in some Indiana parks.

Zip Code: 65738

I would like to see the state parks developed and maintained as part of the state system: Ozark Mountain: Branson will need more than kitsch and country music to draw younger tourists. It will take good park facilities, with opportunities for hiking and mountain biking. I don't know much about the other areas, but I think we need these amenities in our state for both tourism and for attracting young workers to the state who want to be able to go do outdoorsy things on the weekend. State parks and conservation areas are amount the best features our state - let's take advantage of these opportunities!

Zip Code: 63123

Missouri was rated within the last few years of being #4 (last time I checked) Why do we want to rescind recent purchases when we are doing so well? We have been to state parks in a number of other states including the then # 1 Florida. Their actual facilities were horrible, very run down, Their high ranking came from "opportunities" to surf and ocean kayak. We could never be #1 because we are in the landlocked Midwest. We have been awarded MO Camper Awards numerous times--meaning we have camped a lot and in a wide variety of Missouri parks. We have not been disappointed. The Sales tax that 80% of Missourians approved of for Dept of Conservation and DNR has been wonderful to help keep parks maintained. Missouri State Parks are WELL UTILIZED even by those in surrounding states. (especially Illinois) If we need to raise revenue it may be wise to charge "out of staters" slightly more in fees as we have to do when we stay in other state's parks. Our problem with state parks is that they are so popular we can never go camping spontaneously because all the sites are already reserved, months in advance. We need MORE state parks to accommodate the large demand--NOT less. YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT THE PURPOSE WAS

BEHIND CREATING STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES--it was not to promote luxurious spa like lodges or golf courses. It was to preserve our heritage, such as CCC built cabins/ buildings and to promote opportunities to experience nature. It has been our experience when you upgrade to high amperage and connectable sewer lines you then get the very BIG rigs. You then tend to see those "campers" put out their satellite dishes, flip on generators and kick on the AC and you never see them outside. There are plenty of private campgrounds that can accommodate them. Let us real campers enjoy the chirping birds, the rippling streams and the scampering chipmunks. We LOVE Missouri State Parks. Do not betray outdoor loving Missourians by taking away state park land after we overwhelming voted to continue to support them by agreeing to the 10 year tax for Conservation and the State Parks.

Zip Code: 64055

Leave the park with its beautiful creatures and fauna alone! Hands OFF our state parks!!

Zip Code: 64119

Keep this land closed and preserved.

Zip Code: 65786

I would be in favor of keeping it as public land. If it is sold it should only be sold to the MDC.

Zip Code: 65656

I think keeping the State Parks open and accessible to the public is an important part of Branson and the Ozarks culture. I think we get more out of them as they are for the sake of our society and culture than if we shut them open and sell them off to private entities. I strongly believe they should remain open to the public as they are.

Zip Code: 64116

Please do not sell this property. I support natural parks , once it's gone you can never get it back. Hold on!!!

Zip Code: 65793

I am definitely in favor of making Ozark Mountain a state park eventually. There is no reason to hurry, but no reason to sell it. Our state parks are jewels. MO has a great state park system. State parks bring in money through tourism. MO is well known for its system. Our state parks can be used by anyone, not just rich people, since there is no charge. People need these parks as an opportunity to get back to nature, to fish, camp, hike, bike, just hang out. I hope our governor does not

mothball these parks out of spite, or to be a Trump copycat. The people of Missouri deserve better. The Ozark Mountain park is within biking distance of my son's family. Please work to make this land a state park. Please do what is right for the people of Missouri. We have voted to support parks by large margins. Thank you. - [REDACTED], Missouri resident and citizen

Zip Code:

Change the name of Jay Nixon State Park.

Zip Code: 64114

I have never been to this particular state park but can't for the life of me imagine why our state would EVER consider selling ANY of the amazing parks in our state. Missouri doesn't have much to offer to tourists and quite frankly our state parks are one of the very few drawing cards Missouri has to offer. What I DO know about the state parks closer to KC that I have visited is the ALL of the state parks should offer more cabin rentals and where able, should build a pool as Bennett Springs has, which is great for families. I hate having no options when choosing our state parks except tent camping and I've done it gladly all my life but it gets tiring and now in my 50's I'd rather stay in cabins more than tent camp.

Zip Code: 64836

Once this land is lost it may never be recovered. The lower part of Missouri does not have much to bring in income and these lands can be held for future development of tourist areas which will just be getting bigger and bigger as time goes on. Do not take a short view and look at the future possibilities for this land. If we do not have the money to do more than the min up keep right now it will be a small investment in the future

Zip Code: 63303

Please ensure that this great new park remains in public hands and is developed (minimally) and opened to public use as soon as is practicable. Living as I do in an area lacking in large state parks like this one to recreate in, I believe it is important to enlarge our state park system throughout the state so that locals have an option to experience the outdoors in a state park and as an exciting travel destination for people such as myself that live more distantly from the park. It does not require extensive development. Just a gravel parking lot, a small superintendent/naturalist's office and museum, a primitive campground, and several miles of hiking trails. Thanks

Zip Code: 65807

Please keep this park intact until money is available to open it. We need some open, undeveloped land here near Branson. Breathing room outdoors is valuable for everyone!

Zip Code: 63122

Keep the property for future park development. Phase in development where there is the greatest need and potential.

Zip Code: 65802

It would be great to have a state park that allowed UTV's, ATV's and dirt bikes like St. Joe State park does in Park Hills, MO. This would be a great addition to the area and I believe would bring more people in. I would gladly pay day fees for this activity. If camping was added it would be a great way to offset costs as Branson already draws in lots of campers and this would be an activity that would draw people to the beauty of the area, and get families out together.

Zip Code: 65203

Governor Greitens is a bully who just cares about becoming POTUS. His actions on MO state parks is unconscionable. MO state parks are an asset that brings tourism and much more to these specific remote areas of the state. I love MO state parks especially after visiting TEXAS state parks - those parks are dirty, costly, and really not suited to "state park" status. IGNORE GREITENS at your own risk. But OPPOSE EVERY FRIGGING STUPID IDEA OF HIS UNTIL HE IS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE OR GOES TO JAIL. These state parks deserve MO support. More than the despicable man occupying the Governor's Mansion (maybe close that instead and make him buy a house in Jeff City to support local economy).

Zip Code: 63052

Missouri state parks are some of my favorite places to go. They have been voted the best state parks in the country. The economic benefits far outweigh any money the state invests in them. Even if this park can't be developed right away, it should be banked and plans prepared for later opening. No Parks have ever been opened right away without planning and thought going into them. We have never sold off any land before even during the Depression or the recession of 2008. The quality of these lands are rare and the recreational opportunities are great. Please keep these lands in our Park system

Zip Code: 64068

We are in favor of retaining this park.

Zip Code:

Do not sell this park. If the budget doesn't work out to open it right away, hold onto it until planning and partnerships can overcome the financial restrictions. It is gem and a huge resource for the area.

Zip Code:

Missourians need more parks, not fewer parks. Politics should not enter into the calculation. This park should be retained and improved.

Zip Code:

Ozark Mountain State park could be a invaluable asset to the community and state. Please proceed with development plans.

Zip Code: 65020

Missouri has a long history of providing its citizens and tourists the best in outdoor recreation in the United States, please keep it up by developing and making this property open to the public. There should be a plan in place to keep this heritage alive for future generations.

Zip Code: 64116

Do not sell public lands, period!

Zip Code: 65201

I feel like selling off Ozark Mountain State Park will offer very little long term. Sure we will see short term gains but what about the next generation? Dont let our generations legacy be of greed.

Zip Code: 65653

I'm all for state parks. Missouri is known for it's great outdoor areas. To sell land we already have purchased is foolish. Keep the land minimally developed until funds are available. Trails and fishing are priorities for our family.

Zip Code: 63070

I love hiking in Missouri and I live experiencing the outdoors. One of the things that makes our state so great is that we have beautiful parks for families and groups to enjoy. I would like to keep Ozark Mountain open and available to the public as parks are intended for. Please don't sell off this important natural experience. Please consider Missouri families and the impact removing such a destination would have on our wellbeing and happiness. Parks are valuable to those who seek the outdoors and we would never wish for them to be sold

off for profits. Please reconsider the ramifications for taking this away from the community.

Zip Code: 65608

Please refrain from considering sale of this property in the north Branson area. Such land with its natural habitats, geological formations, and open space values is not being "made" any more. Should it be sold, then the opportunity for citizens to benefit from its intrinsic and extrinsic values will cease to exist. That is a harsh reality to pass on to the next seven generations. Please do prioritize the planning for public use of this property in a rustic state. The gravel road does not have to be accessible by private vehicles and the area treated as a path for access by non-motorized methods. Given the large number of conservation-mission organizations and Scouts groups in the area, it is not unfeasible for a "Friends of" group to be formed to assist in stewardship activities including litter pickup, trail maintenance and habitat improvement projects approved by the overseeing authority (DNR), and public educational events to introduce and further the understanding of natural environments by the citizens who visit the area from near and far. The planning staff is already in place at central and regional offices and planning for public use of this area should be prioritized. Thank you for considering my opinion. I am sure it resonates with many others in the southwestern Missouri area.

Zip Code: 65646

I suspect Missouri is home to many like my family. Not born here, here by choice, because of the trees, the water, the air, I think each of the above big three are interdependent and form the environment i chose to call home. If there can be no regularly scheduled staff, maybe a set up more like national forests. Or better yet opening staffing opportunities to retirees or volunteers. We simply cannot give up our state's beautiful out of doors areas to the political whims of the current winds of change. Please, please protect our gifts, treasure our breathing, clean water and oxygen by thinking outside the box to look for solutions to man's march forward to plunder the environment!

Zip Code: 64060

Do not sell Ozark Mountain State Park. If we maintain this property, located on the edge of the rapidly expanding urbanization of the Branson area, it will remain for future generations to enjoy - even as the areas around it are swallowed up by real estate and industrialization. Funding for improvements does not need to be made available immediately. Historically, some state parks have sat unimproved for decades. Meanwhile, the land itself - the habitat - was preserved. My mother remembers visiting Watkins Mill State Park

(Clay Co.) when there was nothing there; no lake, no improvements. Today, it is a place that I visit regularly, and take my daughter to connect with nature. Three generations have enjoyed it, despite the fact that it was not immediately developed with pit toilets, paved access, and picnic shelters. Had the park been sold prior to development, the area would likely look much like the area around it today: cattle pastures, many of which have recently been plowed under for corn and soybeans. When I visit the Branson area, it is to enjoy the Ozarks. The potential for public land situated so close to the Branson area to draw in hikers, birders, bikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts is tremendous. I have driven 250 miles from my home in Kearney, Missouri just to see Painted Buntings at Henning Conservation Area. I know this land. We should not sell it; we should be buying more of it.

Zip Code: 65738

I realize that there will be significant costs in developing this property into a viable state park. However, the one-room school house provides an interesting historical site, as well as ties the state park to the local community. Further, the glade ecosystem present in the park provides for a unique opportunity to manage a somewhat rare ecosystem type, and will provide visitors with a unique experience. I think that since the property is already purchased, the state should keep the property, even if development has to be put on hold for the time being due to budget concerns. The only option for selling the property that I would support was if it was sold to another agency such as the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Zip Code: 65109

I fully support the development of Ozark Mountain State Park as a primitive park, and would be willing to offer my time where any volunteer hours could help (trail building, etc.). I am also vehemently opposed to the sale of the land that would comprise Ozark Mountain State Park, and would actively (and financially) support groups interested in bringing litigation against DNR for any attempt to do so.

Zip Code:

I along with over 80% of my fellow Missourians **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Missouri State Parks, its employees and the mission of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to preserve and protect our states resources. I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** removal of the three newly acquired properties from the state park system. Now is a time to acquire and preserve not liquidate for partisan political reasons.

Zip Code:

Please, for the present and for future generations of Missourians, don't sell off this land. I have fond memories of coming out here with my dad to 'hike' and explore nature, and my girlfriend and I are talking about how we eventually want kids, and the family escapes we can take to the parks. Do it for Missouri, do it for America, preserve nature for the world

Zip Code: 64110

It would make the most sense to keep this site in the parks system and make it available for backpackers by having a small access vehicle access point and small gravel parking lot and no other amenities. We regularly make the drive from Kansas City to the Ozark region for outdoor adventures and outdoor tourism is a major economic driver for that part of the State. Keeping the area scenic is important to maintaining that tourism draw. Also, Branson is developing so quickly that preserving quality outdoor areas and habitat in the vicinity is becoming increasingly important. The Ozarks lose some of their scenic beauty with every natural area that is removed. Please keep Ozark Mountain site in the Missouri State Parks System!

Zip Code: 64113

RETAIN this newly established State Park. It is a gem of a park and a worthy addition to one of the greatest park systems in the nation!

Zip Code: 63005

Consider simply banking the land until development funds are available. Land sold for development can never be reclaimed for park use. Trading undeveloped park lands for funds to maintain existing parks is short-sighted and unnecessary.

Zip Code: 65810

I would like to see the parks minimally developed and preserved for public use. I believe local environmental groups would love the opportunity to volunteer to help maintain the parks. I am almost 70 years old and still enjoy spending time immersed in nature. I walk 2 to 3 miles a couple of times a week, weather permitting. The places I usually walk either have a lot of traffic noise or homes are in very close proximity. If the Ozark Mountain State Park were to open to the public, I wouldn't go every week or two. But on a beautiful day when I have no other plans? You bet I'd go! The last thing I want to see is this land sold off. Presently it belongs to the state. I believe it should remain state property and be preserved for public use. I am grateful that the decision is about what to do with the land, not whether or not to acquire it.

Zip Code: 65653

I would love to see the Ozark Mountain State Park developed. The beauty of the land is majestic and should be open for all people to see. It would be nice to see hiking trails developed, especially connecting it to the Henning conservation area. My wife, son, and I spend a good amount of time at the Henning Conservation Area, and we have noticed the uptick in traffic and hikers there in the past year. The new land should have hiking, a few picnic areas, and a nice parking area able to fit several cars. With the park being in the area that it is, (close to Branson) I could imagine several tourists taking time on their vacation to explore the natural beauty of the area. I know many tourists have asked me about good hiking areas and usually I tell them about Henning and Table Rock State Park. But Table rock state park's hiking is sort of bland. The trails don't take you to many scenic views, this new land would have several areas on top of the hills that would provide wonderful views of the hills.

Zip Code: 65672

Please save the Ozark Mountain Park. It does not have to be developed right away so no expense for now. If we lose this property it will be gone forever. Meeting last night was disappointing since there was no public comment and could not find anyone from the governor's office.

Zip Code: 65026

One of the things that I have always been proudest of is to call Missouri "home". Our state is so beautiful and has so much ecological diversity. Our state parks, in turn, act as a living, breathing, protected "safe spot" (for lack of a better term), which allows nature to thrive and be protected; especially when so many natural areas across the U.S. have been gobbled up and used for human development. Missouri parks benefit not only the environment and the wildlife within them, but provide humans with the ability to get out and recharge their emotional and physical batteries in the beauty of their surroundings. Our parks provide relaxation, recreation, and educational opportunities to countless Missouri citizens and visitors as well as acting as an economic booster to the areas near them. Please do not allow Ozark Mountain or any of our state parks to be sold. Our parks should be kept and preserved as the biodiverse jewels they are; for nature itself, and for this and countless Missouri generations to come.

Zip Code: 63628

Keep the property and do not improve until all of the current parks are funded adequately.

Zip Code: 65804

I live in Springfield but frequent the Ruth & Paul Henning Conservation Area which will abut this park. I love hiking in the Ozarks and would definitely frequent the Branson area more for hiking if there was yet another option there. When in Branson I typically go to the Outlet Mall and also stop to eat. This brings money to the area. I know I am not the only one who would do that. I would also be less likely to go hiking at Henning if there were a development right next door. Many hikers, myself included, prefer areas that are more natural and away from people. We are competing with Northwest Arkansas for hiking and outdoors areas, and they are winning. This means revenue lost to Missouri. I do believe this area would be just fine without a paved trail. While I like paved trails in some cases (greenways, etc.) I think keeping things more natural would be great and has been proven effective at places like Lost Valley in Ponca. It could also save some costs. Obviously if washout is an issue that would change things.

Zip Code: 64060

I support Ozark Mountain State Park and it should not be sold

Zip Code: 63025

I encourage DNR to avoid political pressures and keep ownership of the Ozark Mountain property in the state park system. It is understandable that development of the property may need to be delayed for several years but giving up ownership of this parcel in the developing area in which it is located would be giving up on an opportunity sure to cause regret to our children and grandchildren. Keep the property and let's look for additional funding if needed, as I am confident the great majority of taxpayers will continue to support additional parks in our state.

Zip Code: 65809

Please provide more hiking trails! This is a beautiful piece of property and with the proximity to Springfield and Branson, including the hundreds of thousands of tourists, Missouri's supply of hiking trails drastically lags many other states, including our neighbor to the south. Also, please restrict trails to hiking only. Specifically, horses should not be allowed, or should be restricted to specific areas that do not interfere with hikers. Please restrict any hunting to archery only to avoid accidents and avoid noise pollution from firearms. Busek is a beautiful area, but it is extremely disappointing to hear all the firearms from the nearby shooting range. I'm a hunter, but there need to be places where users can enjoy the serenity of our landscape and wildlife without risking

a stray bullet or more commonly noise pollution.
Thank you!

Zip Code: 64108

Our state parks should not be for sale. Missouri boasts one of the best state parks systems in the country. Last November, Missourians overwhelmingly voted to continue the Parks, Soils, Water Sales Tax which is just one-tenth of one-percent of sales taxes, but makes up roughly 75% parks' budget. Adding and maintaining state parks has been a bipartisan tradition in this state because Missourians love hiking, biking, fishing, camping, and many other outdoor activities throughout the year. Please keep and open Ozark Mountain State Park for residents of Missouri to enjoy.

Zip Code: 65010

Please do not sell these closed parks for development. These treasures should stay in the hands of the state for the benefit of the community and visitors. Preserving natural areas is important for all of us even if they can not be opened to the public at this time.

Zip Code: 65793

This park looks like a wonderful place to camp, hike and enjoy nature. My husband and I enjoy watching birds and other small animals. I can't understand why this park would remain closed to the public. Why? It's already bought and paid for. Maintenance would not be expensive. Please reopen this park as soon as possible.

██████████ Willow Springs, Mo. 65793

Zip Code: 62040

What is the problem with opening up these parks to ATV's/sidebysides and possibly jeeps. Charge a yearly fee to generate revenue, plus the small municipalities as well as countys will also enjoy the jump in revenue due to people traveling to the area for riding or special events. Missouri is falling behind on not developing a trail system that people across the country would want to travel to. Colorado, Idaho, California, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, are just a few to have a trail system that Missouri can to the same or even better.

Zip Code:

I think that doing nothing and keeping the property undeveloped but protected is a better option than selling it. It can always be developed into a full state park at a later date, but once it is sold that opportunity will be lost forever. Especially so close to a popular tourist destination, give people options to support our natural resources in that area in addition to the commercialized

destinations (and the lakes are definitely commercialized!).

Zip Code: 65615

Ozark Mountain State Park should be OPENED without any further delay. This is a unique and special place worthy of protection. The funds used to purchase OMSP were obtained lawfully and used appropriately for the purchase. The loss of property taxes will be minimal and offset by recreational users spending money in the local economy.

Zip Code: 63017

Need utv trails they are everywhere but Missouri

Zip Code: 65109

I would like to see the Ozark Mountain property to be developed. Missouri is lucky to have state parks that make the natural features of Missouri accessible to all. Within these natural areas are many species of plants and animals that make Missouri a desirable destination. Without these protected natural areas, Missouri would not have the high-quality waterways and diversity of plants and animals. I am excited by the prospect of adding another gem to the crown of Missouri's State Parks. The Ozark Mountain area has several key features that I would like to be able to see: glades, dolomite forests, wet-weather waterfalls, and a historic one-room schoolhouse. I can envision the promotion of such features into a highly touted recreation area. My family visits many state parks each year for hiking, camping, and wildlife photography. I am proud to say that I have raised my children to enjoy outdoor recreation. I would like to see this property developed as a state park for my children and for future generations to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63020

Keep the land. It can be developed later. There is no additional land being made and our kids and grandkids, etc. need to see this beautiful state. I don't care about the names but the land should be retained. I visit state parks regularly and hike. It's a great way to keep money in our state and see the varied landscape of this great state and all it has to offer. DO NOT SELL! It's just wrong.

Zip Code: 63010

Parks should not be sold or closed. The people of Missouri last fall approved the tax's you asked for by a large majority. To sell even one park is an injustice to the residents of our state. There are ways to increase revenues for the state parks that I'm sure most who use state parks would gladly pay. Example charge out of state residents extra \$5 a night for campsites \$7 if a

premium site. I notice a lot of out of state people at certain parks. Charge out of state an extra \$1 or \$2 a day to fish at trout parks. If you must put a tax increase on the ballot for the parks. Don't sell them. If you do ask for a tax increase I'm sure it would pass. But please change reservation system to 6 months for residents and 4 months for nonresident. We don't mind paying a little more so we can keep our parks. Just give our state residents preference.

Zip Code: 65775

Dear Missouri State Parks and DNR, Last year, amidst the fervor of a centennial celebration and passport program that pushed Missourians and residents of other states to state parks in droves - the best attendance ever recorded for the system - Missouri State Parks upped the ante by announcing three new parks in areas that were beforehand woefully underrepresented in the overall system. Then, almost as soon as they were opened for public input on introductory hikes, they were snatched back out of public access and now they are threatened to be taken out of public hands entirely. In the wake of elections, there's often a house cleaning period where everything that was done by predecessors - particularly of a different political party or affiliation - is deemed unfit for the present administration's agenda. Do not fall prey to bipartisan bickering, blaming and finger pointing. One of the best things that has happened to Missouri's economy and image in the past 10 years is the recognition it is receiving for its state parks and approach to public land. You risk destroying within a matter of months a legacy it has taken much longer, 100 years in fact, to realize. The \$200 million backlog of maintenance that's often bandied about as the "real" reason we don't need these new parks is laughable compared with the much more serious deficits in areas such as transportation and infrastructure. Institute a volunteer work program. Reach out to AmeriCorps and the Boy Scouts of America. Push the "Friends of _____" parks program. Work with MPA. Build partners out of all this goodwill and renown you've been creating among the public with staggering momentum over the past few years. More than 200 people came out in freezing temperatures to see these lands for themselves last January. People in this state clearly love our public land - what little we have of it here compared to western states - or we wouldn't have voted 4 to 1 to INCREASE TAXES to fund it. Rather than take away land that now belongs to all of us, figure out some way to let the people who care about these new parks help be active stewards of the old ones. In no way shape or form should you renege on your commitment to opening this State Park. That goes for Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek, Eleven Point and Jay Nixon (if the name really bothers people so much then change it, but keep the park). Best.

Zip Code:

To whom it may concern: this park is surely a special space ecologically and must be protected. While I understand the value proposition gained from its sale, the same could be said for almost anything. Would you sell the arch? Would you sell every last Missouri cave? Yes the state would gain some money but it would lose the enormous value which this park is to its citizens and its flora and fauna.

Zip Code: 65202

Missouri has had one of the finest park systems in the country for many years, but in recent years the legislature's starve-the-beast mentality has led to a gradual strangling of the funding for them, and the result has been growing deferred maintenance. The solution to this problem is not to sell off newly acquired parks, but to give the whole park system the funding it needs. Selling off parks is like eating your seed corn.

Zip Code: 64112

Missourians care about their natural environment as evidenced by the overwhelming 80% support of the recent sales tax revote. To sell a beautiful piece of property like this would be squandering resources. Through planning and community participation the park can be developed over time. The planning process should engage citizens throughout the State. Nowhere on the Considerations is there any mention of the wildlife this area supports or the ecosystem services that a natural area like this provides. These factors are important. For ourselves, our children and our grandchildren natural areas like these must be valued. If the property should sell would any of our progeny be able to benefit by where ever the money from the sale is spent? Abraham Lincoln said it best: "Laws change. People die. The land remains." Hang on to this property. Do NOT sell!

Zip Code: 63122

Please do NOT ever sell off this state park land. They are a public resource and provide economic as well as environmental benefits. My expectation as a taxpayer is that these parks will never be sold. I also expect that my State Park system will always be on the lookout for opportunities to expand the system with additional purchases of exceptional Ozark properties if an opportunity becomes available. Do not sell any property and work to continue to expand the system.

Zip Code: 65201

Do not take away a thriving tourist attraction in favor of big business interests.

Zip Code:

Please keep this State park in our system and develop what you can, when you can. Do not let political pressure put our future generations' access to public lands at risk. To let this opportunity slip out of our (the State) hands would be a huge mistake and potentially harm the public's support for the parks sales tax.

Taxpayers like to see what their dollars are being spent on and this is a perfect example. Keep the parks, ALL OF THEM!

Zip Code: 63119

State Parks protect our rich natural heritage and provide opportunities for recreation and scientific exploration.

Please make sure that Ozark Mountain State park actually becomes a park!

Zip Code: 64114

Don't sell the parks. You are losing habitat for the entire ecosystem.

Zip Code: 65804

Some of my fondest memories are of family hikes and camping trips to Missouri state parks. I greatly value Missouri's state parks and firmly support the continued protection of Ozark Mountain State Park. These lands are valuable both for the protection of fragile ecosystems and the enjoyment of Missouri residents. Missouri is home to beautiful, diverse ecosystems that foster a wide range of plants and animals. More and more, I am seeing increased development throughout Missouri, threatening the survival of these environments. I view the acquisition of Missouri's new state parks as an important step in conservation. We must continue to protect these parks. State parks are a unique and priceless attribute of Missouri. Many Missourians, including myself, deeply value the outdoors and the protection of natural areas. I strongly urge you to continue the protection of Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 64111

Please keep Ozark Mountain open as a State Park. Missouri is truly a beautiful place, we should not let it go for a few dollars.

Zip Code: 64117

Please don't take away our beautiful state park!

Zip Code: 63122

If there was ever a time to hold and protect public lands it is now. Our state's natural resources are a treasure and to give up pristine land, here in our own state, would be a travesty for future generations. If the resources are not in the budget to develop and maintain these parks, make the smart decision to let them stay as they are, BUT under state ownership. There will be money in the budget spent the road to develop and maintain these parks. Let's wait for that day so that our sons and daughters can experience what pristine Missouri lands look, feel and smell like!

Zip Code: 63132

Why not turn them into unmaintained conservation areas and keep the land for the people of Missouri instead of private interests who will likely destroy the land.

Zip Code: 63116

To Greitens - please don't put yourself among the likes of Donald Trump and wipe out land for corporate use. It's sickening... We need to think of future generations and preserve our land, not destroy it.

Zip Code: 65560

This park will be the most needed park of the lot. More people need a place to camp in Branson.

Zip Code:

Based on the information presented, there is not enough compelling public interest for the Ozark Mountain property to remain in public hands, much less to become a state park. The DNR and MO State Parks has a poor track record in managing properties, with many state parks in a run down condition, receiving less maintenance than they would receive if they were sold and returned to private landowners. It would be a mistake to entrust them with more when clearly funds are short. In my experience as a real estate appraiser, private landowners take far better care of their real estate from a conservation perspective than when it is held publicly. Additionally, public ownership removes a property from property tax obligations, which makes a huge difference for struggling local governments. Thank you for considering my comments, [REDACTED]

Zip Code: 63031

Please do not close this State Park. I was eagerly anticipating a visit there this coming year. We Missourians pride ourselves on our State Park system and the bountiful public land we have to use. It would be a travesty to see it actively dismantled. I know wealthy people donate lots of money to corrupt politicians who

lie and promise us they are different, when in fact, they are just as bad if not worse. I will be appalled if the government forcibly takes away this land from Missourians. That doesn't seem like a "small government" that seems like big, bad government. This land is for the people to enjoy, not corporate interests. Eric Greitens, call me and explain to me why this is a good thing. Explain why this is necessary. Explain how this addresses your goals.

Zip Code: 65203

Our state parks are a precious commodity that must be protected and supported. The value of open land resources, trails, camping, sporting activities such as fishing and hunting, can not be overstated. As more and more people are moving into larger metropolitan areas of our state, the need for a place to reconnect with nature is growing. The one thing that helps me stay healthy both physically and mentally, is to be out in nature. It would be severely short-sighted to not develop these park areas so that people living in these areas of our state can benefit from using them. Also, as other states do less in developing parks for tourists, the lure of Missouri State Parks will become stronger which benefits the state economy. Please do not sell these parks. Take a few dollars that seem to go to rich corporations for hollow promises of good jobs for Missourians and develop these parks. I will use them. I travel and vacation specifically to be in state parks, sometimes for a couple of weeks to a day trip, so please expand my opportunities to be in nature in my own state. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Zip Code:

I am very excited about the possibilities this property offers. Although we don't live in the area (yet), we visit frequently and always look for places to hike with our dogs and commune with nature. There are some very nice trails in Branson (Table Rock) that are pretty busy most days and a little "too civilized" for my taste. On the other hand, there are also a number of areas that are pretty wild (conservation and wilderness areas), where it is sometimes difficult to find your way or trails are overgrown. My husband and I are of retirement age and appreciate well-maintained, solid trails (e.g. old logging roads). Ozark Mountain looks like it would be pretty easy to put in and maintain some good gravel-type trails. I feel that well-maintained, gravel-based trails encourage walking and hiking. Many people don't like hiking because they associate it with poorly maintained, narrow trails that are a haven for ticks. Another aspect I think I would appreciate about Ozark Mountain is the fact that it is more open and cleared (and has no high-voltage power lines!). Of all the hiking we do, I think the majority

(probably about 80 percent, not by choice) is in heavily wooded areas that offer no views or variety. Open glades would be greatly appreciated. The third point I would like to make is that many of the areas around Branson that offer some hiking trails are conservation areas, which means that we, as hikers, can't safely use them for a good portion of the year and have to always consult the hunting schedules before venturing out. Since hunting is not allowed in MO state parks, that issue would not present itself with Ozark Mountain. As a hiker, I do not mind multi-use trails at all even though they can get eroded at times from mountain bike or equestrian use, but chances are they are used more and therefore less overgrown. One of the nicest places we have hiked in the Branson area is Two Rivers Mountain Bike Park, which offers nice open pastures, great views and trails that are better maintained than we have seen in many state-owned areas. An idea that I personally would find intriguing would be to have a native plant garden with occasional classes on foraging and the food and medicinal uses of native plants commonly found in such areas (e.g. elderberry, echinacea, yarrow etc.). In any case, we look forward to the park being made available to the public and hope to explore this beautiful area with our dogs in the near future.

Zip Code: 63332

Missouri needs more beautiful parks like Ozark Mountain, not fewer. Please save this treasure for future generations!

Zip Code: 63139

I ask the government of this state to stop selling off the future of this land and country for short term profits.

Zip Code: 64050

It is important to protect our natural resources. To promote and support native species and preserve nature. So much is being developed and preserving what nature we have left is imperative to our health and our future. While cost of improving and maintaining the land is something to consider, there are sources of funding that could be looked into, there is a strong movement to conserve nature and many organizations that could perhaps help with funding and promotion.

Zip Code: 63630

I think opening the park to ohv riding would benefit alot of people .and help keep places for family's to go.

Zip Code: 64850

OPEN THESE PARKS UP TO HIKERS AND BACK PACKERS! It does not cost that much to open up these

areas for campers, back packers, and hikers. These lands belong to the state of Missouri, open them up as free spaces for the people of Missouri. Do not sell off our resources!!!

Zip Code: 64152

Ozark Mountain State Park is a huge asset to the state of Missouri, all residents, and visitors who come to Missouri (and contribute to small, rural economies). I support this park for its natural resources, geology, plant communities, wildlife, and water resources. Keep this park for future generations of Missourians

Zip Code: 63033

Our Missouri State Parks are a true blessing. This past Sept I set a goal to camp in all 39 parks with available camping over the next 2 yrs. It would be even better if I could add Bryant Creek, Ozark Mountain, Jay Nixon and Eleven Point to that list. I am encouraging all my FB friends to contact you on this subject. Please open, staff and maintain our parks. I have set up a FB page to record my visits. Only 2 so far, but it will pick up dramatically in the spring. Ck Facebook for "A Visit to MO State Parks"

Zip Code: 65672

Ozark Mountain State Park has the potential to offer residents and guests the opportunity to experience a very special piece of our State in a way that would not be possible without public access. It is our position that facilitating the public's opportunity to share, in a very hands on and personal way, a part of what the Missouri Ozarks are noted for is a core mission of our State Parks system. It should be expected that the acquisition, development and maintenance of any public lands comes with associated expenses, both short and long term. These investments expand the public land trust that forms the foundation of our entire State Park system. We view these reserves as a priceless opportunity to secure the "Missouri Ozarks experience" for the public into perpetuity. With the retention of this park, 50 years in the future the challenges of today will have long since been forgotten and its acquisition, development and maintenance will be deemed a positive choice, made by good stewards of our natural resources and their consideration of future generations.

Zip Code:

Do NOT sell state land to corporations for any reason.

Zip Code: 65020

I Believe Missouri state parks are our best resource. Missouri unfortunately does not have international

manufacturing or large international businesses. We do have beautiful recreational areas to offer our state citizens and those who visit from far away places. This is a workable and benign source of revenue for our state. In other words state parks make money for our state. We do not have any other industry that comes close to the revenue produced by state parks.

Zip Code: 63376

I love our state parks and do not want to lose the new parks. I have found a new love of the outdoors by visiting the state parks and completing a passport book with my children. The parks, new and old, should be kept for all generations to use forever.

Zip Code: 63957

As a Missouri resident in the Ozarks, I have an appreciation for the beauty of the undeveloped land remaining in Missouri. I have, however, watched development encroach on our forested lands for years. I would like to see Ozark Mountain remain a state park, in as undeveloped a state as is possible. It isn't necessary to spend large sums on developing the park into an attraction. Many Missouri residents, like myself, enjoy hiking through the wilderness areas left in Missouri, and state owned land is one of the best ways I can do this.

Zip Code: 63376

We need more ground for atvs and utvs!

Zip Code: 64113

Missouri's state parks are the envy of the nation. People come from other states all around to visit our beautiful state parks, and they spend money. My sister and her boyfriend are two who did so! People even move here for the outdoor recreation. Another factor is that our state parks have shade, whereas some surrounding states don't have shade at their state parks. More state parks means more people coming to Missouri boosting the economy with their recreational dollars! Thanks for the opportunity to offer this input.

Zip Code: 63123

I know many in the OHV community would like to see a multi county ORV trail system! We could bring in millions of dollars from tourism dollars by: charging annual OHV permits, creating trailheads to local businesses. We have a petition making its way around as we speak, within 8 days we have 2k supporters. These state parks could easily be re-zoned to ORV areas with minimal contribution from the state, we have volunteer groups within our community who are willing to help. Its been proven that we do not cause the amount of

erosion claimed by non-motorized groups. We are willing to work closely with other associations including the MO- State parks to keep our lands beautiful. We deserve a place to enjoy our hobby too. We have 1.5 million acres of forest land which sits on the southeast Missouri lead belt. Only a few mines remain in production today, several distressed counties in Missouri that could benefit from the economic stimulus a Multi County OHV Trail System provides. In 2001 the Hatfield McCoy trail system was created for economic development of 7 distressed counties. As of today, those 7 distressed counties generate 25 million dollars a year in revenue from the Hatfield and McCoy trail systems. With 80% of revenue generated coming from out of state visitors, who travel these counties for several days. These 7 distressed counties now supersede the entire state as a whole for tourism revenue. These distressed counties were once thriving communities in the logging, mining, and natural gas industries. Sounds familiar right? Our recreational committees are filled with non- motorized board members. Those in the OHV community have not received funding from the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) since 2014. As our industry rapidly grows, our demands need to be met. Join MO-MOTO TRAIL RIDERS by showing your support and sign this petition; when completed please share this with your fellow riders.

Zip Code: 64105

Missouri state parks are beautiful and the opening and maintaining of this park will bring in revenue for the Ozark area that needs it. We don't need more farm land but we do need more conservation areas.

Zip Code: 63123

Sell it

Zip Code: 65616

I moved to the Branson area just 2-3 years ago and have quickly fallen in love with the unique geology, plants, and wildlife. It feels like you are a thousand miles from Springfield. Like many in the area I was unbelievably excited to see Ozark Mountain State Park be designated. I took the guided tour and learned more about this area and think it is incredibly important to keep this park and return it to the original state. I would be happy to volunteer work hours for trails, fundraising etc, to help keep this gem. PLEASE, consider protecting this area for our future generations to enjoy what is otherwise a disappearing ecosystem.

Zip Code: 65803

Tell our Governor to quit giving tax breaks to 2% of our population (business owners) an start using our tax

dollars for the other 98%. Once the land is gone it will never be a park. More parks not less.

Zip Code: 65559

Ozark Mountain State Park is important to the state park system because of its location to nearby Branson. The property will provide another outdoor recreation option for the hordes of people who flock to Branson each season. Also, Ozark Mountain State Park is home to unique flora and fauna and provides additional watershed protection to a part of our state that is rapidly losing natural environments to development.

Zip Code: 65692

We dont need anymore state parks, Mo needs to take care of what they have not start land grabbing more and more to take out of private lands. DNR LIES!!! SELL IT!!!

Zip Code: 63123

I do not want the State of Missouri to sell any public lands. The current State Park(s) in question, namely Ozark Mountain should be kept by the state and minimally developed to include a minimal parking lot and restroom facilities. In the future a single track, unpaved hiking trail should be considered.

Zip Code: 65804

It is extremely important to me to see this property, and the other two newest state parks, preserved and made available for public enjoyment. All too often I see trees being cut down and land stripped for development. When Prime built a new facility across from the MDC office in Springfield, every single tree was cleared--not one left. There were 3 turkeys looking lost that day in the MDC parking lot after their homes were destroyed. This is what could happen, along with much more habitat lost, if the Ozark Mountain State Park (and the other two new state parks) isn't preserved. Our world is a very stressful one today with many terrible things happening all around. Our state parks and other public lands are the escape we have from the stress and anxiety we otherwise experience. They are valuable for the solace they provide, the habitat they provide AND the economic benefits they provide. People who visit our state parks also visit other places in the area: convenience stores, restaurants, etc. Southwest MO NEEDS Ozark Mountain State Park. Please, please, please do not sell this land. It would be worth every penny spent to turn it into a state park. Please listen to the taxpayers and keep this park and the other two newest state parks open for generations to enjoy.

Zip Code: 63031

I'm from the St. Louis area and spend a lot of time in South Missouri and the Ozarks. These park represent some prime wilderness/habitat area's in the state. We owe it to our children to leave them wild places. Public lands are our lands..

Zip Code: 64119

It is frankly a travesty that any national park could be put up for sale. While a quick dollar can help the state in the very short term the loss of these unique and valued environments will be a lasting and permanent loss to the state and humanity. Please do not sell these beautiful monuments to nature for, optimistically, more farmland.

Zip Code: 63049

To me this issue comes down to the fact that selling these lands is a one way street - if we sell them now the people of Missouri aren't getting them back. Our beautiful lands are a limited resource and while it may seem tempting to sell them in order to reduce costs and balance budgets, in the long run it's simply not worth it and not in the best interest of Missourians. Money can be found in other places. Costs can be cut in other areas. However, these natural treasures are one of a kind and if we give them up there's no going back. These state parks belong to the citizens of Missouri and I believe I speak for the vast majority when I say I would like to keep it that way.

Zip Code: 65804

We need more state parks not less state parks. I would encourage stronger protections and expansion of existing state parks, specifically Ozark Mountain State Park.

Zip Code: 64109

Making this land open to the public is the best use of it. It would be a shame if we sold some of our most beautiful land to the highest bidder.

Zip Code:

Do not sell this park! We need to preserve some of the natural ecology of our state!

Zip Code:

Keep parks under state control. Do not sell any public lands. They should remain public lands.

Zip Code: 64117

State parks are an absolute necessity in today's culture where we're being overcome by technology and kept inside what are for all intents and purposes plastic

bubbles. They're a valuable tool for protecting endangered species of both flora and fauna. Along with that they're excellent for educating people on the natural world which is slowly shrinking due to activities such as selling them off.

Zip Code: 64117

Hi there - I'm one of the founders of the Missouri Exotic Species Association, and just wanted to mention that our organization (I believe we have 500 members at last count) was hoping to some day be able to visit and camp at this location with its unique flora and fauna. If there is some way that we can help contribute to keeping Missouri parks preserved for the future, we'd welcome the opportunity. Last year we held a charity event and raised several thousand dollars for a wildlife sanctuary in Oklahoma, and I'm certain we could look into holding similar activities in this state.

Zip Code: 64114

Don't close or sell any of the state parks! These areas could do more for the state and local communities as tourist attractions instead of land for grazing or agriculture. Missouri's history has a long running vein of conservation and nature, we don't need more agriculture to advance our state. If this passes, it's another example of why millennials and younger generations don't want to live here.

Zip Code: 66613

Missouri needs to keep these parks as state parks, spend sufficient money for advertising both in-state and out of state to promote them, and maintain them. To do otherwise would be a disgrace on our state government.

Zip Code: 65037

Camping, picnic facilities, hiking trails where appropriate at each park. It is important to develop these new parks as well as maintain current ones. They are a source of revenue (tourism) as well as a lasting legacy for future generations.

Zip Code: 65807

This property should remain a part of the Missouri State Park System. Development of the park can occur over time as funds become available. If the land is sold it will never be able to be reacquired in the same condition. Seek corporate or individual grants to possibly fund some of the development. You've seen what Ameren money did at Johnson's Shut-Ins --try to get corporate money (without a disaster!) to fund certain developments at the parks, in exchange for favorable

publicity and possible naming rights of certain trails, campgrounds, etc.

Zip Code: 64155

Keep this one open and close/sell off the other two

Zip Code: 66227

Save our parks!!! Do not sell them

Zip Code:

Please continue to maintain this land as a protected natural resource.

Zip Code:

Do not sell our park. We just voted to retain the state parks tax to preserve and add to our park system, How tone deaf can this administration and the staff they put in place be. I will work so hard to remove all of you from jobs if you attempt to sell off our parks. Send ms Comer back to Indiana, she consistently fails to demonstrate missouri values.

Zip Code: 52302

As you determine the future path for all of the parks, including Ozark Mountain State Park, I hope that you will not consider privatization. If it becomes a consideration, it should be one that is deemed unworthy of much thought, a bad idea. I live in Iowa - but used to live in Missouri - and I still come back to the state every chance I get, drawn back by places like Ozark Mountain State Park. It goes without saying that when I come, I spend money. But I also tell the story to others of what incredible natural resources Missouri has to offer, and what a great job the state has done to steward them. As a former resident and a current fan and champion of your wonderful state, I implore you to continue the legacy of keeping public lands public, open and available as a shared resource for all.

Zip Code: 63108

I am strongly in favor of keeping Ozark Mountain as a Missouri State Park. The costs listed to implement basic improvements are relatively minimal compared to the funds the State spends elsewhere and are well worth the return in enjoyment by the public for years to come. Our park lands are valuable public resources for one and all.

Zip Code:

Parks are for the public and the future. Selling to the highest bidder now it's undermining your children's future.

Zip Code:

Keep Ozark Mountain a national park!

Zip Code: 63122

Please don't take Missouri's parks away. We have some of the best in the nation and they draw visitors from out of state as well as provide cheap and easy entertainment for taxpayers.

Zip Code: 64138

Open the parks. No need to develop them: just allow people to hike/camp without trails if necessary. Missouri doesn't have enough parks and Ozark Mountain is beautiful.

Zip Code: 64111

Please preserve Ozark Mountain State Park. Our Missouri Parks system is a source of great pride for our state and must be protected.

Zip Code: 65616

We need to have some managed hunts open in this area. Currently there are to few managed hunts in the state to accommodate the numbers of hunters trying for them and there are none in our immediate area.

Zip Code: 64152

Ozark Mountain State park would make a beautiful addition to the attractions that make the Branson area a tourist destination. Keep it as a beautiful Missouri state park and add some hiking trails, picnics areas, and educational centers on the flora and fauna of the region.

Zip Code: 65721

Maintain our parks! Our parks are the best thing Missouri has.

Zip Code: 65616

Please keep the park open and don't sell

Zip Code: 65742

Please no 4 wheelers or dirt bikes. People go to parks to enjoy nature not to hear a bunch of idiots ripping and roaring!

Zip Code: 65714

DO NOT sell these properties and parks off!!!! Our state needs to protect its natural beauty and resources.

Make trails and camping areas in all of them being discussed

Zip Code: 64429

I do not feel that Ozark Mountain should be sold. We the Missouri tax payers overwhelming voted on our Conservation programs. I hope our Congressmen listen to us.

Zip Code: 64116

Parcelling and selling this protected land will only assist in the destruction of biodiversity in Missouri. We must preserve these unique natural places for generations to come - selling Ozark Mountain State Park will be a disservice to future Missourians and the ecosystem at large.

Zip Code: 65560

Do not sell this property to private interests. This property should be kept in the public domain until it can be developed for appropriate use by all Missourians. The same consideration should be given to the other three properties recently acquired for future development into state parks. Do not sell any of these tracts of land.

Zip Code: 64133

I support Ozark State Park. My family and I have a goal to travel to (and camp in when possible) all of the state parks properties and when we do so we stay, shop and play in the surrounding communities. This land should not be sold for development.

Zip Code: 64151

In November of 2016 voters overwhelmingly support Missouri State Parks by a resounding 80% voting in favor of the State Parks, Soils and Water tax. The great State Park and Conservation Department in Missouri is valued by Missourians and brings in Millions to the state from sportsmen and nature enthusiasts alike. Regardless of your political bias to the state administration that protected these lands, Missourians will not tolerate political games with their public lands. Furthermore, you cannot launder mitigation money through the sale of these parks. The money that will be spent on the legal challenges you will face could be better applied to the care and development of these parks and the backlog of infrastructure repairs needed to the park system state-wide. Missourians do not support the dismantling of the lands currently preserved. If development is delayed, with still ongoing attention to maintaining the natural areas in these parks so invasive species don't take over, then so be it. But Missourians will not tolerate the hapless, greedy, politically motivated sale of these parks

that leave less for future generations and tell the world that we have set greed above our State Parks System. DO NOT SELL OZARK MOUNTAIN, BRYANT CREEK OR THE ADDITION TO TAUM SAUK.

Zip Code:

Keep the park. We need green space now more than ever.

Zip Code: 63090

Do not sell any of our state parks. They are all treasures worth keeping and protecting.

Zip Code: 65616

Many people use the state parks, myself included. the health benefits alone make these a good investment for the state. with limited opportunities for physical activity, all of our existing trails are used extensively. in addition there is a growing body of research indicating the health benefits of just BEING in nature, "forest bathing" it is called. finally, especially in the Ozarks, it is vitally important to preserve our natural environments for future generations. please do not sell these properties. even if they are only minimally developed, they will still be treasured.

Zip Code: 64151

The State Park system should retain this property for the use of all state residents.

Zip Code: 65737

Thank you for taking public opinion into consideration when making the decision to sell the property or develop it for public use. The following are some of my thoughts that I ask you to take into consideration. 1. The Ozark Mountain region continues to expand. It would be forward thinking to anticipate continued growth and protect current ecosystems that are unique to the area. 2. Ozark Mountain Country has become well known for its beautiful scenery and outdoor activities. The addition of a State Park to the area would reinforce the expectations of visitors every year. Satisfied visitors helps guarantee the future growth of the area and the potential growth of tax revenues for the state. Revenues that could help pay for the cost to operate the park. 3. As a resident of the area, I appreciate the existing outdoor areas and hiking opportunities. Many people who live in the area move from outside the state to the area in part to enjoy the wonderful outdoors and activities that exist. The addition of a state park would reinforce that thought and potentially increase the population base in the area. ■■■

Zip Code: 64083

Please save ALL of our beautiful state parks. Turning this land over to the highest bidder is a disgrace to everyone who calls this beautiful state home, and a travesty to our children and grandchildren. They deserve to grow up with the same beauty and nature that every generation up till now has enjoyed.

Zip Code: 64012

Even if you never develop this park or any of the others, they still hold value simply as wild untouched places we can cherish. Please do not sell them off just for the sake of selling them off. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65616

Missouri is the oasis of the Midwest and largely due to the diversity of our parks. As for the Ozark Mtn Park, Branson area attracts over 8 million visitors per year. We have an opportunity to make this park a crown jewel that brings tourists back year after year and spend tourist dollars. Rather than cutting spending or selling off a park, figure out ways to attract these tourists to spend extra money in our state to finance these gems. Once they are gone, well they are gone forever! We have already been named the #1 trails state and #1 camping state in the country. In my opinion, Missouri lacks a real identity. Travelers from around the world tell me over and over that they had no idea Missouri was so beautiful and unspoiled. So, lets figure out a way to make Missouri the "State Parks State". We have a great start already!

Zip Code: 64058

We need to keep as many public lands as possible in Missouri. With only 5% of Missouri land being public we should not sell any lands that have already been bought. With the State Park tax being renewed last year by a record approval I believe that should tell you how Missourians feel about our park lands.

Zip Code: 65074

State parks that protect the most unique and beautiful parts of our state are important not only as places for Missourians to experience the outdoors but as places that can draw in individuals from outside the state. They also help protect the diverse range of animals, plants, and geographic wonders of this state. This will always be worth the cost especially when the numbers given are provided with zero context. Provide greater information about how this fits in the larger statewide budget and how this land would be used if these parks were eliminated.

Zip Code: 65740

Please keep this as a state park!

Zip Code: 64076

Mo has a great park system, offering different things for different interests. (From boating, to fishing, trails, natural areas, four wheeler trails, forests, glades, and etc). Please keep nature, conservation, and outdoor education front and center. I am excited about our new parks and hope they are developed to reflect the surrounding area and in line with the above. Our parks are a source of mo pride! I pray that the governor can support this.

Zip Code: 65737

A State Park near the well traveled Branson area would be a great boost to the local economy. I have observed in other states that state parks preserve and protect the unique natural resources of an area as well as attracting conservation minded tourists. My personal concern is for the rich wildflower growth here. As a 30+ year resident of this part of the the Ozarks I would consider the proposed Ozark Mountain State Park a very positive improvement as opposed to the pervasive commercial development which would probably be the alternative.

Zip Code: 63122

THE DVD, A CENTURY OF MISSOURI PARKS will be your guide as you discover the landscapes, terrains, rivers, lakes and historic sites featured at some of Missouri's premier state parks including Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Watkins Mill State Park and Historic Site, Roaring River, Bennett Spring, Prairie, Johnson's Shut-Ins, Lake of the Ozarks, Katy Trail, Scott Joplin House, and Echo Bluff. So there has been a century of Missouri Parks. Why can't Missouri find the fund to hold the property as is? Even if not open to the public, here are facts to support holding the property for future generations: 1) Almost 90% of Missouri's original wetlands have been destroyed. 2) 99% of the prairies have been eliminated. 3) Aggressive, non-native or invasive species are now listed as the second biggest threat to our native species and degrade the environment. These parks are our heritage and will be inherited by our future generations. If you want to close parks, fine, but keep the property!!!

Zip Code: 64117

Do not close or sell Ozark Mountain SP.

Zip Code: 65355

We need to protect our state parks, and preserve more of our states natural environments. Do not submit to the money interests to develop these areas.

Zip Code: 65672

I'd like to see Garber included in the Ozark Mountain State Park, so that it can be protected and maintained, for its history.

Zip Code: 65202

Dear Missouri State Parks, As a life-long Missourian, I appreciate the opportunity to opine on the currently-closed Ozark Mountain State Park (OMSP). I have thoroughly reviewed the documents made available and will try to keep my comments as concise and as brief as possible. Missouri has some beautiful public access areas, many of them with considerable amenities and infrastructure, which as we all know creates a need for funding for construction, maintenance and the labor to do them. After spending considerable time in the western U.S., I've realized how developed many of our Missouri public lands and access areas are. At times I feel we've stopped allowing wild places to be wild in Missouri. The truth is we don't need a 1-mile asphalt trail or a gravel road through the middle of OMSP to enjoy the 1,011 acres the area has to offer. There are numerous potential recreational opportunities that OMSP could offer, including but not limited to: hiking, primitive camping (site and dispersed like our National Forests), photography, fishing, hunting (perhaps regulated as deemed appropriate due to proximity to population areas, etc.), and general enjoyment and observation of nature. The greatest enjoyment I've had on Missouri public areas are on the less-developed areas. Overall, this could be a win-win for recreators and the pocket book; I strongly feel this is an option that should be considered. The wild cards with OMSP are the historical buildings. I think we can all agree consideration should be taken as how to best preserve those structures, but again, that comes with maintenance expenses. Due to park closure, I assume minimal maintenance is being performed currently. I look forward to contributing my opinion on Bryant Creek and Jay Nixon State Parks as well. Thank you for your time, [REDACTED] Missourian and Public Land Owner

Zip Code: 65616

Don't sell the property! It is so difficult to come by public land. It is a beautiful piece of property next to a Conservation area and the Ozark Mountain Highroad. I personally love to hike, mountain bike and camp. So I would like this park eventually grow into having these features. Start with some hiking trails, maybe some can be open to biking. Then start our with some

primitive camping that can grow into a true campground in time to come. Maybe Missouri Department of Conservation would partner in the development of the trail system? The "right" private partner might also be able to assist, as long as that partner has the same motives for this park as Missouri State Parks has. This is a nice buffer on the north side of Branson. Please don't sell the land--they don't make anymore!

Zip Code: 64114

These parks offer unique and irreplaceable habitat. Please do not sell the park. It's fine if the Park stays undeveloped for a time until funding is available. It's common in MO for SP to be in development for awhile. If you'd like you can open the parks without facilities and use volunteers to support the park until a study can be completed.

Zip Code: 63116

State Parks are an excellent way for folks to get outside and learn about the natural environment of their state. They provide learning experiences to both adults and children, but access to ecologically preserved and/or restored areas can be hard. Additionally grasslands such as glades and especially prairies are greatly reduced from their original acreages but contain many important plant species, some of which are only found in the Ozarks. At a time where many flora and fauna are threatened due to changing climate and expanding urbanization, it is important to maintain large enough and a great enough number of preserved areas so that they maintain their populations and hold a greater chance of adapting or even evolving over time with climactic change. Holding onto as many parks as possible is important both for public education as well as for maintaining Missouri's ecosystems' health. Personally, I think Missouri as a whole should invest more money in developing and maintaining our state parks. Missouri's Ozarks and what is left of our prairies are especially unique ecosystems and could even serve more as a tourist destination if Missouri chose to invest in maintaining them and making them more accessible (though not at the detriment of maintaining ecosystems). To be frank, I think we all know that Missouri is not on most people's list of places to visit. Nourishing the gems that we do have is critical. Lastly, I think there are ways to reduce at least some costs for creating a state park. For example, to begin, dirt trails could be created instead of gravel or paved trails to save on costs until DNR has the funds to make trails nicer. From personal experience, I know that AmeriCorps St. Louis, an in-state partially government funded nonprofit has served with DNR several times and has provided extremely comparable (and by comparable I mean well cheaper than any organization I've seen) and good quality work

including habitat restoration and trail building. NCCC often works with the USFS and helps to create and maintain trails for reasonable prices. Both these organizations provide valuable job training for young adults giving a year of their life to service. Under the right circumstances, if parks could become more accessible and community oriented, perhaps trail construction in parks could also be extended via volunteers like through the Ozark Trail Association. Although it will take time, and it will no doubt take quite a penny of funding, there are many avenues to be explored in creating a state park, and it is well worth the benefits.

Zip Code: 63116

Do Not sell the property. It can wait until there are funds. In the history of state parks in Missouri many of them sat idle and undeveloped for long periods of time. There is no need to rush. The state park system provides jobs and creates job. Not only jobs directly connected to the park but all those that come about in the area because of the park. Do Not sell the Property.

Zip Code: 63025

Please keep this property for a state park and do not sell it off. A state park will PRESERVE the land and everyone can use it. Those people who don't want it to become public land are selfish -- they want it so they can hunt and run ATV's on it with no restrictions. My family and I have enjoyed visiting MO state parks throughout decades. Please don't make a mistake selling this land. We need to KEEP it for a state park. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65747

New land is not being made and cannot be replaced. Please do not sell off our wild lands. Let it sit undeveloped until funds become available in the future if necessary. Don't be like POTUS and gut our precious natural resources. If it goes now it won't be coming back.

Zip Code: 65109

We need more - not less, protected and managed unique and diverse environments to be preserved for future generations. I would be willing to pay more taxes in order to adequately fund Missouri parks and other natural resources. The Governor should be ashamed of himself for feeling this Park is not needed. Thank you.

Zip Code: 65632

Even if there are no improvements made for a hundred years, this should be kept for future generations.

Zip Code: 65679

Please keep and fund the Ozark Mountain land as a protected state park. Our hills and mountains are so unique and important, contributing to the initial popularity of the Ozark area. Developing trails and outdoor activities encourages schools, environmental and conservation awareness, and could help bring tourist revenue to Reeds Spring and the surrounding area. The high road is a beautiful area begging for visitors to explore the area in a safe way. Please do not sell and developer the land. We have enough over building and worthless construction projects in the Taney County area as it is. As a 15 year resident, I full support paying more taxes and volunteering time in order to keep our beautiful mountains, glades, wildlife, and supporting our parks.

Zip Code: 65679

Leave the new State parks intact. Open them and take care of them for now and the future citizens of our State. The only reason these are in jeopardy is the fact that they were conceived under Governor Nixon. Greitens, like Trump only wants to tear down anything good that a Democrat was in favor of. If you want to get rid of worthless property, then send Greitens on down the road to some other State. BUT leave the parks alone.

Zip Code: 65202

Do not sell or otherwise disburse our State Parks!

Zip Code: 65804

I would favor keeping the land as natural and unspoiled as possible. Gravel roads and trails are fine, and relatively inexpensive to maintain. The less commercialization, the better. I have floated the river areas on many occasions. They are beautiful and provide wonderful experiences for all. Thank you for allowing public input.

Zip Code: 65714

The parks should be fully funded for benefit of the people. Parks are a valuable resource for all Missourians. Where can you spend our tax dollars that would have more health benefits for us all, that you don't have to have money to take your family.

Zip Code: 65738

This is a unique karst area, near a lot of development. We should protect it for future generations, we all need some green space. It should not be put up for sale like the Governor's office and state legislature. goodness.

Zip Code:

These three park properties are unique natural resources that should be protected and preserved. This should be a high priority for the MoDNR, the Legislature, Governor Grietens. These parks will enhance local quality of life and provide limitless recreational opportunities, all while increasing local property values. State Park lands SHOULD NOT be sold. These properties should be saved for future generations of Missourians to explore, experience and enjoy.

Zip Code: 65010

Please do not sell this land. Missourians love our state parks. No need to develop the land with roads and trails (although someday that would be nice)-keep costs as minimal as you have to, but hold on to the land and treasure it.

Zip Code: 64113

Please protect our state parks!!! Do not sell off our park land! Please save our parks and our natural resources! If you sell it off we will never get it back. Please think of Missourians and future Missourians and preserve our parks and green space. I can't believe I even have to say this!

Zip Code: 63068

Missouri should not consider selling any of the new state park land. This is just so ridiculous they would consider this an option. It is a slap in the face to fine citizens of Missouri. These are beautiful gems of land that should be protected and available to all the people of Missouri. We can fish, camp, hike, and enjoy these places-all the people will have access to these beautiful places. Stop the nonsense NOW! These lands should not be for sale-they are there for all people of Missouri. Missourians are proud of the foresight we have to protect our natural heritage

Zip Code:

Please don't make this a political choice. Our parks are something that Missouri can be proud of.



SCHOOL OF LAW

Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic

January 6, 2018

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Ben Ellis, Director, Division of State Parks

Submitted via Missouri State Parks website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FJ9JXNL>
and via email to ben.ellis@dnr.mo.gov

Re: Comments on the Future of Ozark Mountain State Park

Dear Director Ellis:

On behalf of Sierra Club, we submit these comments on the future of Ozark Mountain State Park in Taney County, Missouri. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club has been an advocate for public lands and has worked to protect and increase access to them for well over a century. In furtherance of its mission to promote recreation, education, and conservation, Sierra Club organizes thousands of trips, outings, and hikes every year, including hundreds across the state of Missouri, to engage people in the outdoors and promote appreciation and protection of the natural environment. As such, the future of Ozark Mountain State Park is of critical interest to Sierra Club and its approximately 10,300 members in Missouri.

Sierra Club recommends the following with regard to Ozark Mountain State Park:

- Preserve the 1,011 acres in perpetuity for use and public access as a state park, the purpose to which the property was expressly dedicated when the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquired it.¹ Do not sell the park.
- Implement the restoration plan described in the Roark Creek Tract Project Proposal.² Re-forest the park's open fields and pastures, preserve its existing native oak woodland, and restore and maintain its natural glades.
- Open the park for public use and access, but leave it undeveloped with the exception of trails, parking, and vault toilets to preserve its natural character while minimizing development and operation and maintenance costs.

I. DNR Should Not Try To Sell The Park.

Missouri's state parks are immensely popular, and Missourians willingly show their support for them with both their feet and their wallets. The number of people visiting the parks each year has increased by more than 5 million over the past decade and topped 21 million in 2016, an all-time

¹ Warranty Deed, by and between the David F. Mungenast Trust and Mungenast Investments, LLC and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Oct. 21, 2016), Recorded in Taney County, Missouri Oct. 21, 2016, Book 2016, page L35371.

² Missouri State Parks, Natural Resource Restoration Project and Restoration Plan, Roark Creek Tracts, Taney County, Missouri (Sept. 2016) at 18-22.

high.³ Missourians voted overwhelmingly in 2016 to reauthorize the one-tenth-of-one percent parks, soils, and water sales tax, which provides the bulk of the park system's operating funds; 80 percent of voters statewide supported reauthorizing the tax, it passed in every single county, and 81.6 percent of voters in Taney County voted to reauthorize the parks tax.⁴

Missourians also benefit economically from state parks. According to the State Parks Division:

The Missouri state park system ... has a positive economic impact on the state and local communities. ... Results of an economic impact study released in 2012 estimate that total annual expenditures of state park visitors in 2011 were approximately \$778 million. The overall economic impact of these expenditures is estimated at \$1.02 billion in sales, \$307 million in payroll and related income, and \$123 million in federal, state and local taxes. Also, visitors' expenditures support 14,535 jobs. **For every dollar spent by Missouri State Parks to operate the state park system, Missouri's economy saw a \$26 return on investment. These impacts show that Missouri state parks enhance our state's economy as well as improve visitor's health and well-being.**⁵

Adjusting for the increase in attendance since 2011, park visitors would have spent approximately \$946 million in 2016 (the latest year for which attendance information is currently available), resulting in a total economic benefits of more than \$1.7 billion.

Given the popularity of Missouri's state parks and their economic and other benefits, it would be contrary to the interests of Missouri residents, including Taney County residents who showed their strong support for the parks by voting four-to-one in favor of reauthorizing the parks, soils, and water sales tax in 2016, for DNR to try to sell Ozark Mountain State Park. As set forth below, such a move would be both unwise and unlawful.

II. Ozark Mountain State Park Is a Long-Sought Addition To The State Park System.

DNR has been seeking to add Ozark Mountain to the state park system since 1992, when the Ashcroft Administration published the Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan (1992 State Park Expansion Plan or Plan).⁶ The Plan's release followed a five-year process

³ DNR, State Parks Division, Missouri State Park Attendance for January-December 2016 (Jan. 23, 2017), available at https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/FINAL_2016_Attendance.pdf; Record 20 million people visit Missouri state parks in 2016, Missouri.net (Dec. 21, 2016), available at <https://www.missourinet.com/2016/12/21/record-20-million-people-visit-missouri-state-parks-in-2016/>.

⁴ Election 2016, Missouri Amendment 1 – Keep Conservation Sales Tax – Results: Approved, New York Times (Aug. 1, 2017), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/results/missouri-ballot-measure-1-keep-conservation-sales-tax>.

⁵ DNR, State Parks Division, Facts And Figures, Economic Impacts of State Park System (emphasis added), available at <https://mostateparks.com/page/55072/facts-and-figures>. See also Cole, Shu Rian, et al., University of Missouri, 2002 State Economic Impacts of Missouri State Park Visitors, Submitted to Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks (Feb 2003), and DJ Case & associates, Missouri State Park Economics and Benefits: An Update Based on 2011 Visitation, White Paper Prepared for Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Park (May 2012).

⁶ DNR, Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan (Sept. 1992) (1992 State Parks Expansion Plan), available at <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/ExpansionPlan1992.pdf>.

involving research, public meetings, and input from elected officials.⁷ The 1992 State Park Expansion Plan identified recreation, natural history, and cultural/historic resource gaps in the state park system and recommended specific sites for inclusion in the system to address those gaps. To this day, DNR continues to embrace the 1992 State Park Expansion Plan: “This document still provides the fundamental basics for evaluating suggested additions to Missouri’s state park system.”⁸

The 1992 State Park Expansion Plan stated that the state park system should include representation of as many major natural history themes as possible in each major natural division and section in the state, and identified the White River Glades as a significant theme lacking representation in the White River Section in southwest Missouri:

A unique landscape region distinguished for its glades and associated biota. Valued scientifically at a national scale, this scenic area attracts millions of tourists annually to area lakes and recreational developments.⁹

The acquisition of Ozark Mountain State Park therefore fulfilled DNR’s decades-long determination to fill a natural history gap in the state park system by adding a park in southwest Missouri that preserves hundreds of acres of the White River Section’s distinctive dolomite glades.

III. The Park Was Purchased Primarily With Funds Dedicated To Natural Resource Preservation, Which May Not Be Used For Other Purposes.

DNR acquired Ozark Mountain State Park primarily with funds obtained under the federal Superfund law.¹⁰ Kerr-McGee and related companies caused significant contamination resulting from chemical, mining, and oil and gas activities in Missouri and several other states. The federal government, numerous states including Missouri, and the Navajo Nation sought clean-up costs and compensation for natural resources damages under Superfund, which makes parties responsible for contamination liable to clean it up (or pay for others to do so)¹¹ and also to reimburse federal, state, and tribal trustees of public resources for natural resource damages.¹² In a series of lawsuits and settlements over several years, the companies ultimately agreed in 2015 to a record \$5.15 billion settlement to cover cleanup costs and natural resources damages.¹³

⁷ *Id.*, Foreword and Introduction at 6, available at <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/ExpansionPlan1992.pdf>.

⁸ DNR, State Parks Division, Facts And Figures, Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan, available at <https://mostateparks.com/page/55072/facts-and-figures>.

⁹ *Id.*, Notable Gaps in the Missouri State Park System, at 23 and 27.

¹⁰ The federal Superfund law is formally known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq.

¹¹ 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a)(1)-(4)(A)-(B).

¹² 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607(a)(1)-(4)(A)(C) and (f).

¹³ U.S. Department of Justice, United States Announced \$5.15 Billion Settlement of Litigation Against Subsidiaries of Anadarko Petroleum Corp. to Remedy Fraudulent Conveyance Designed to Evade Environmental Liabilities (Apr. 3, 2014), available at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-announces-515-billion-settlement-litigation-against-subsidiaries-anadarko>.

Due to the contamination of sites in Springfield and Kansas City, Missouri, the state received nearly \$48 million for site cleanup costs and nearly \$6 million for natural resource damages.¹⁴ **Both the Superfund law and Missouri state law expressly limit the use of natural resource damage recoveries “only to restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of such natural resources by the state.”**¹⁵ In accordance with Superfund practice and regulations, DNR prepared a Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan to evaluate options for redressing the natural resources damages covered by the Kerr-McGee related settlements.¹⁶

Missouri State Parks then prepared a specific project proposal explaining why the acquisition of the property that became Ozark Mountain State Park would fulfill the goals of the restoration plan.¹⁷

Roark Creek is a 1,011-acre tract of natural glades and woodlands, traversed by 2.2 miles of Roark Creek including half of the East Fork Roark Creek’s 3-mile length. ... Water quality and aquatic habitat in Roark Creek and its tributaries support recreation (wading, swimming, seasonal canoeing and kayaking), livestock and wildlife watering and protecting aquatic life; and contribute to the water quality and aquatic values of Lake Taneycomo. The woodlands and glades alongside Roark Creek and East Fork Roark Creek contribute to that water quality and aquatic habitat by providing shade, surface and groundwater inputs, and watershed protection.

The purpose of this project is to restore and preserve 1,011 acres of native glades and woodlands; and protect the aquatic diversity and water quality along the 2.2 miles of Roark Creek and East Fork Roark Creek within its boundaries.¹⁸

¹⁴ Consent Decree and Environmental Settlement Agreement, In re Tronox Incorporated, Case No. 09-10156 (S.D.N.Y. Bankruptcy Ct., Lodged Nov. 23, 2010, Corrected Ex. 2 Nov. 30, 2010); Settlement Agreement, In re Tronox Incorporated, Case No. 09-10156 (S.D.N.Y. Bankruptcy Ct., filed Apr. 9, 2014, Approved by Opinion & Order Nov. 10, 2014, Case 14-cv-5495 (KBF)); EPA, Case Summary: Settlement Agreement in Anadarko Fraud Case Results in Billions for Environmental Cleanups Across the Country, available at <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/case-summary-settlement-agreement-anadarko-fraud-case-results-billions-environmental#distribution>; DNR, Former Kerr-McGee Wood Treatment Facility, Springfield, Missouri, Fact Sheet: August 2016, available at http://multi-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Springfield-MO_-Fact-Sheet_08-31-16_FINAL.pdf. See also press reports at - <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2015/02/10/koster-million-clean-railroad-tie-plant/23176979/>; <http://ksmu.org/post/settlement-results-19-million-cleanup-contaminated-springfield-site#stream/0>; <http://fox2now.com/2015/04/23/missouri-gets-another-3-million-for-springfield-site/>; <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2016/09/14/group-cleaning-up-contaminated-springfield-site-plans-more-testing/90317228/>; <http://www.newstribune.com/news/local/story/2016/sep/18/more-testing-planned-springfield-cleanup-site/640809/>.

¹⁵ 42 U.S.C. § 9607(f); § 640.235.3, R.S.Mo.

¹⁶ DNR, Missouri Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan (May 2015), available at <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/docs/finalgroundwaterstatewiderestorationplan.pdf>.

¹⁷ Missouri State Parks, Natural Resource Restoration Project and Restoration Plan, Roark Creek Tracts, Taney County, Missouri (Sept. 2016).

¹⁸ *Id.* at 3-4.

In its capacity as natural resources trustee for the state, DNR approved the project proposal.¹⁹ State Parks used \$1,703,900 of the Superfund natural resource damages settlement funds, together with \$1,102,537 from the State Parks capital improvements budget, to acquire Ozark Mountain State Park.²⁰ Thus, 61% of the acquisition costs came from the Superfund settlement's natural resource damage funds.

The recorded deed states that the property is “dedicated to public use” and conveyed to DNR “only for the following purposes and none other: for public use as a state park, and for natural resource restoration and preservation.”²¹

Because State Parks acquired Ozark Mountain State Park largely with settlement funds that may only be used – under both federal and state law – to “restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of such natural resources” damaged by the Kerr-McGee related activities, those funds could not have been used for other, pre-existing parks. Moreover, apart from DNR’s lack of legal authority to sell the Park (see below), any attempt to sell Ozark Mountain State Park would require that the proceeds be used solely to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources damaged at the contaminated sites. The funds could not be used for State Parks operations at pre-existing parks and could not be directed to other state programs. In addition, if the sale proceeds did not equal or exceed the acquisition cost, DNR would also be in violation of CERCLA and state law by wasting natural resource damage funds.

IV. DNR Does Not Have Legal Authority To Sell The Park.

While DNR has both constitutional and statutory authority to acquire and maintain state parks,²² it lacks authority to sell state parks. DNR is only authorized to dispose of park property if it consists of five acres or less, is being sold for the specific purpose of resolving a park boundary conflict with adjacent property owners, and DNR receives land in exchange that is of equal or greater value.²³ In light of the state’s constitutionally-grounded commitment to expand, develop, and maintain the state park system, and DNR’s narrowly-circumscribed authority to trade – but not sell – park property, any effort by DNR to sell Ozark Mountain State Park or portions thereof would be unlawful.

Sierra Club urges DNR to dispel the cloud that it has cast upon the future of Ozark Mountain State Park and the three other closed parks, and to open the Park for public access.

¹⁹ DNR Memorandum, Missouri Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan – Project Selection, Roark Creek Tract (Oct. 20, 2016).

²⁰ NRDAR Authorization to Pay – Real Estate Acquisition, Project Name: Groundwater Restoration; Property Name: Mungenast; Resolution Number TRNX-2016-001 (signed Oct. 19, 2016).

²¹ Warranty Deed, by and between the David F. Mungenast Trust and Mungenast Investments, LLC and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Oct. 21, 2016), Recorded in Taney County, Missouri Oct. 21, 2016, Book 2016, page L35371

²² Missouri Constitution, Article 4, § 47; § 253.040, R.S.Mo.

²³ § 253.043, R.S.Mo.

Respectfully submitted,



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On behalf of Sierra Club