

# Guide to Touring Missouri's State Capitol

Missouri's capital city offers numerous educational and cultural opportunities for visitors. Before you embark on a trip to Jefferson City, the staff at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks would like to make the following recommendations to help your group have an enjoyable experience. In addition, a list of other sites to see in Jefferson City has been included.

- **Tour Information:** Free guided tours of the Capitol are offered year round and are approximately 45 minutes in length. When planning your visit to the Capitol, consider bringing your group during June through December when the legislature is not in session. There are more tour slots available during that time, and the Capitol building is not as busy.
- **Reservations:** Reservations can be made online at [www.mocapitol tours.com](http://www.mocapitol tours.com) up to 11 months in advance. From June through February, scheduled group tours are every half hour beginning at 9 a.m. (excluding the noon hour) with the last tour beginning at 4 p.m. From March through May, scheduled group tours begin at the top of the hour, 20 minutes past the hour and 40 minutes past the hour (excluding the noon hour). During these months, walk-in guests may participate in the group tours if group size does not exceed 60 people.
- **Location:** The Capitol building is located two blocks from the Governor's Mansion and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. Please allow enough time in between tours when scheduling tours of more than one site.
- **Group Size:** Each individual tour group is **limited to 60 people** to ensure the most enjoyable and educational experience for your group. Larger groups need to reserve more than one time slot. Everyone that will be taking the tour must be included on the reservation. This includes children (17 and under), chaperones, and/or teachers.
- **Late Arrivals:** The Missouri State Capitol is a very popular destination, and it is common to have tours leaving every 20 minutes during the legislative session. It is important to begin tours on time to ensure that all groups with reservations receive their full tour. If a group arrives late for a reservation, accommodations will be made whenever possible. Accommodations may include shortening the length of the tour, rescheduling the tour to a later time in the day if a time slot is available, or providing information to help the group take a self-guided tour.
- **Cancellations:** If for any reason you are unable to keep your scheduled tour, please call the Missouri State Museum at 573-751-2854 as soon as possible to cancel your tour.
- **Bus Information:** If traveling by bus, the designated school bus drop-off area is at the west end of the Capitol near the base of the west stairs. (See attached maps.) Buses will need to use the north circle drive to access this location. Parking is available in the bus parking zone, which is located on State Street, across from the Union Pacific train depot at the end of Monroe Street.
- **Capitol Entrances:** Visitors will be required to enter the Capitol Building through a searched entrance, either the south Carriage Tunnel entrance or the west public entrance. The primary disabled entrance is the South First Floor Carriage Door. Secondly, the Capitol Basement Garage may be used. Members of the disabled public are subject to search when choosing to enter the Capitol.
- **Capitol Security:** All visitors entering the Missouri Capitol will be subject to search. X-ray conveyors and walk through magnetometers will be operated by law enforcement officers and security personnel to ensure firearms and other dangerous items do not enter the building. Only children aged 13 and under not carrying backpacks, satchels, etc., will be allowed to bypass searches. Faculty and chaperons will not. If bringing lunches, clip boards or other items into the capitol, please put them together for a single search.

- **Tour Check-In:** When you arrive at the Capitol, please check-in at the tour desk in the rotunda on the first floor. A staff member will be able to confirm your tour time.
- **Special Considerations:** Please explain to your group that they should remain as quiet as possible while on tours. Noise vibrates easily through the marble halls of the Capitol and people are working in the offices. Also, the group should be encouraged to be attentive to the tour guides and to remain with the group throughout the tour so no one becomes lost or separated.
- **Accommodations:** If any member of the group needs to use an elevator rather than the stairs, please let your tour guide know when you check in. Unfortunately, staff cannot ensure that a wheelchair will be available. Therefore, it is recommended that the group member brings their own wheelchair.
- **Tour Route Changes:** Many activities, such as rallies, proclamation signing and music programs, occur in the Capitol throughout the year. It may be necessary to change the normal tour route on occasion.
- **Benton Mural and House Lounge:** The House Lounge is home to Thomas Hart Benton's "A Social History of the State of Missouri." This is one of the most popular attractions on the tour. The House Lounge is a working room, often used by House members for meetings and events, notably during session from January through mid-May. Tour groups may not be able to visit the lounge if the room is in use.
- **Meal Arrangements:** Meal arrangements should be made in advance. Jefferson Landing State Historic Site grounds and the Carnahan Memorial Garden at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Capital Avenue can be used for brown bag lunches. Vending machines are available in the Capitol basement. The cafeterias in the Capitol (573-634-2411) and the Truman Building (573-636-5411) are open to the public but reservations are preferred for large groups. Fast food restaurants and other restaurants are located on Missouri Boulevard, and it is advisable to call ahead to the restaurant of your choice. If bringing lunch into the Capitol, please place all lunches in coolers or boxes instead of having group members carry their own. This will ease transition through security at the entrances.
- **Restrooms:** If your group is planning to visit Jefferson Landing State Historic Site and/or the Governor's Mansion, please have your group use the restroom facilities on the first floor of the Capitol Building because facilities at the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site are limited and there are no public restrooms available at the Governor's Mansion.

## **Things to see in Jefferson City**

**State Capitol and Missouri State Museum**—Free guided tours of the Capitol are offered year round. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. From June through February, scheduled group tours are every half hour beginning at 9 a.m. (excluding the noon hour) with the last tour beginning at 4 p.m. From March through May, scheduled group tours begin at the top of the hour, 20 minutes past the hour and 40 minutes past the hour (excluding the noon hour). Reservations may be made online at [www.mocapitoltours.com](http://www.mocapitoltours.com). Visitors may also learn about Missouri's cultural and natural history in the Missouri State Museum exhibit galleries. For questions, please call the Missouri State Museum at 573-751-2854.

**Jefferson Landing State Historic Site** is located at the north end of Jefferson Street. This former 19<sup>th</sup> century riverboat landing includes two buildings – the Lohman Building, which is the oldest commercial building still standing in Jefferson City, and the Union Hotel, which houses the Rozier Gallery featuring rotating exhibits. Both buildings are free of charge. They are open March 1 through the first weekend in December, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations can be made online at [www.mocapitoltours.com](http://www.mocapitoltours.com). For questions, please call the Missouri State Museum at 573-751-2854.

**Missouri Governor's Mansion** is located two blocks east of the Capitol on Capital Avenue. Tour reservations are required for all visitors and must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Reservations can be made online at [www.mocapitoltours.com](http://www.mocapitoltours.com). For questions, please call the Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion at 573-230-7000. Tours are free.

**Supreme Court Building** is located on High Street across from the Capitol. Tours are offered to the public on the half-hour from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays and times when the Court is hearing oral arguments. Reservations are recommended and can be made by contacting the Supreme Court of Missouri at 573-751-4144.

**Cole County Historical Society** is located on Madison Street across from the Missouri Governor's Mansion. The Cole County Historical Society features the inaugural gowns of the former first ladies of Missouri and exhibits on Jefferson City and Cole County history. The museum is open to the public February through November, Monday through Saturday, 1p.m. until 3 p.m. Arrangements for groups of 15 or more can be made by calling the museum at 573-635-1850. The museum is closed from mid-December to February 1. There is a small entrance fee. Visit [www.colecountyhistoricalmuseum.org/](http://www.colecountyhistoricalmuseum.org/)

**Missouri State Highway Patrol Safety Education Center and Museum** is located at 1510 East Elm. The museum has a comprehensive display on traffic safety, law enforcement, drug abuse and items relating to the history of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. There are exhibits focusing on the services and responsibilities of the Highway Patrol on and off the highways. The center is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on state holidays. For more information and to schedule a tour call 573-526-6149. Tours are free.



**Runge Nature Center** is located half a mile north of US Hwy. 50 on Hwy 179. The nature center with displays is open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays). Trails are open daily 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations for tours can be made by calling 573-526-5544. Tours are free.

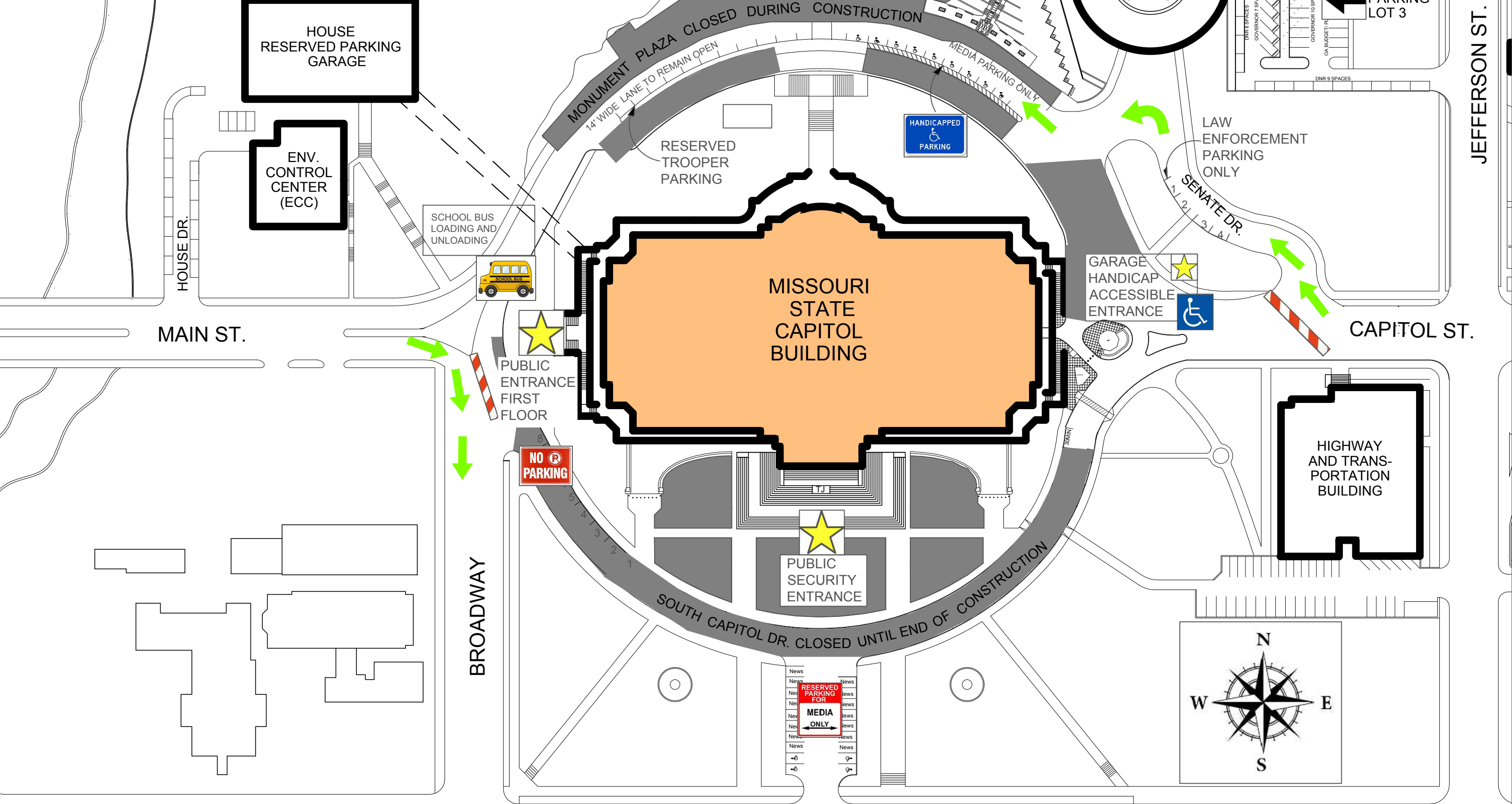
**Missouri Veterinary Medical Museum** is located at 2500 County Club Drive. Visitors have the opportunity to learn more about animals and the veterinary profession at this museum. Museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment on Saturday. For more information, call 573-636-8737. Tours are free.

**Museum of Missouri Military History** is located at the Ike Skelton Training Center on Militia Drive off of US Hwy. 50/63. Open to the public Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed all major holidays. For groups of more than 10 people, reservations need to be made at least 10 days in advance by calling 573-638-9603. Tours are free.

Other events and items of interest can be found online at [www.visitjeffersoncity.com](http://www.visitjeffersoncity.com).

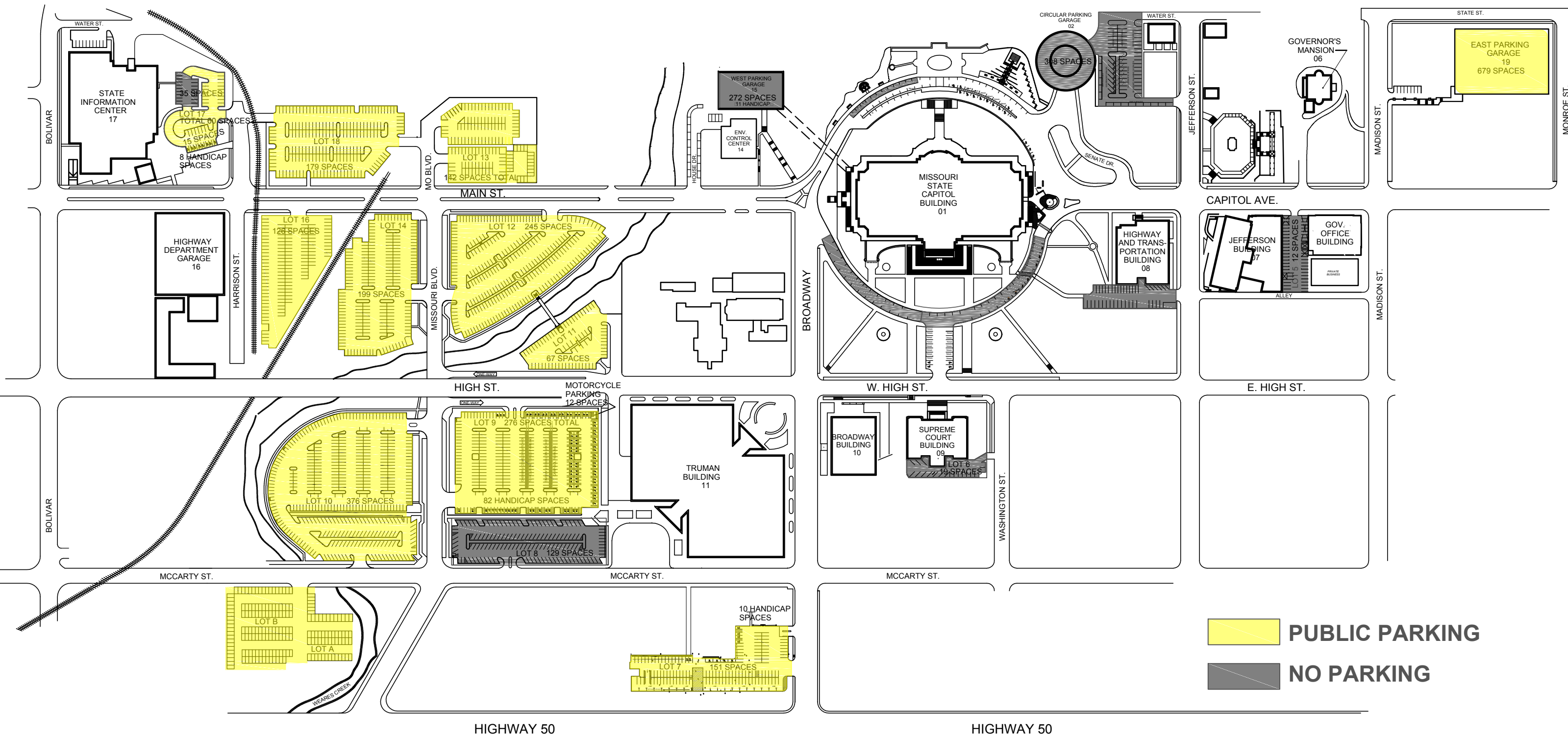
# TRAFFIC LOGISTICS DURING CAPITOL STONE PROJECT


-  - PUBLIC ENTRANCES
-  - AREAS NOT AVAILABLE DURING CONSTRUCTION




JEFFERSON ST.





 **PUBLIC PARKING**

 **NO PARKING**

# CAPITOL COMPLEX

