

MSP Disclaimer on Jay Nixon State Park Comments

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Jay Nixon State Park
Comments from Dec. 7, 2017 Public Meeting

Zip Code: 63935

I will begin by saying that the fate of the state park system should not be influenced by politics. Just because former Governor Nixon may have held the state park system as a higher priority than Governor Greitens, it seems petty and foolish to undo what has already been done. You might be able to recoup most of the money if you tried to sell these tracts, but that appears doubtful. Not many individuals have millions of dollars lying around to invest in rocky Ozarks hillsides. Let's keep them and forge a pathway to open these lands to the people who own them... the citizens of Missouri. In 1984, the people of Missouri, approved the Parks, Soils and Waters Sales Tax. The tax has been reapproved in 1988, 1996, 2006, and 2016. Eighty percent (over 2 million) Missourians said "yes: to this funding in 2016. A July 3, 2017, article from St Louis Public Radio states that Missouri is home to one of the best state park systems in the country. President of the Missouri Parks Association, Steve Nagle, is quoted as saying "We've been in the top four the past few years now, and we're also considered the number one trail state." Missourians simply love their park system. The following is straight from mostateparks.com's facts and figures section: 1. The state park system attracts more than 18 million visitors annually (I believe that in 2015 that number was actually higher...19.2 million). 2. An economic impact study released in 2012 estimates that total expenditures of state park visitors in 2011 were approximately 778 million. The overall economic impact...is estimated at \$1.02 billion in sales, \$307 million in payroll and related income, and \$123 million in federal, state and local taxes. Visitors expenditures support almost 15,000 jobs. Let's look at other sources for other trends that would be directly related to future state park usage. A USA Today article from May 2017 shows that RV sales are exploding nationwide. The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association expects almost 450,000 units to be sold this year. That's up from 237,000 units sold in 2008. This rise in RV sales can only mean one thing. Those new owners...the owners in that ever-expanding recreational vehicle enthusiast niche...are going to go camping. Per mostateparks.com's facts and figures page, every dollar spent by Missouri State Parks brought an economic return of \$26. So let's consider the following (2016 data from missourieconomy.org): 1. Jay Nixon State Park is in Reynold's County, the 103rd poorest county (out of 115) in the state, with per capita income of \$28,371. 2. Eleven Point State Park is in Oregon County, the 111th poorest county (out of 115), with per capita income of \$26,094. 3. Bryant Creek State Park is in Douglas County, the poorest county in the state, with per capita income of \$23,973. Please note that the average per

capita income statewide is \$42,926. the counties above have income of only 2/3 this amount or less. Tourism appears to be a perfect way to jump start a dramatic increase in the welfare of these poor rural counties. I am aware that the state is not requesting comments on Eleven Point State Park, but I find the potential of that park to be amazing and believe that it could truly be a gem. The Eleven Point River, combined with the geologic wonders from the adjoining Narrows, Blue Spring, Morgan Spring, the old mill foundation, will most certainly entice outdoors enthusiasts to visit. But to the best of my knowledge, the Pigman Ranch building still exists on the newly acquired state park property. Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California has a unique problem in that Gram Parsons' corpse was stolen and burned in a funeral pyre at Cap Rock in the park in 1973. And, this this day, the park received a constant stream of fans of the singer from the relatively unknown band "The Byrds." Just imagine the visitors that will come to see where the Beatles stayed during their 1964 tour! Most parks can draw visitors for its scenery, the hiking trails, fishing and other recreational activities. But Eleven Point State Park would also attract music lovers from around the globe with a well-designed Beatles exhibit centered around the ranch building where they stayed. I am not a marketing expert, but I would change the name of the park to Eight Day a Week State Park...and watch the music lovers converge on this remote area of the Ozarks. So much potential exists in this park because of the historic music connection with what many consider to be the greatest rock 'n' roll band of all time. The other new parks would not require much infrastructure. I would recommend nothing more than improving roads, building trails, and possibly developing primitive campgrounds. I would not recommend all the development that went into Echo Bluff at Eleven Point (Eight Days a Week) State Park. But developing exhibits around the Beatles historical stay would produce dividends, and all the possibilities in Eleven Point might justify further development such as more elaborate campground that would include hookups. Per the Missouri State Park Attendance sheet available at mostateparks.com, over 300,000 people visited Echo Bluff State Park in the first five months that it was open in 2016. Clearly, if you build it... they will come. I will close with where I began. The state park system should never be a pawn in anyone's political game. Missouri has fantastic state park system. It's time to develop a reasonable and prudent plan so that these parks can be open, and the people who support the parks through their tax dollars can enjoy them for generations to come. Thank you.

Zip Code: 63620

This is the best de Facto wilderness area in Mo. JN park is a valuable addition. lose the Nixon name and add it TS Mountain SP. I strongly support keeping this property.

Zip Code: 63645

Rising camping fees or maybe taxes

Zip Code:

Forum discussion on proposed property acquisition. use-funding public access.

Zip Code:

Jay Nixon State Park was purchased with monies that were supposed to be used for lead remediation. Therefore, it should be sold, and the sales monies used for the original purpose.

Zip Code:

Sell it and maintain existing parks.

Zip Code: 63656

It needs to be sold. They use money that was not for park. It was for clean up the lead from Asarco.

Zip Code:

Sell the land and return the fund from where they were stolen from

Zip Code: 65606

Do not buy anymore land. Nurture what you have. Sell the 4 closed parks.

Zip Code: 63656

You need to sell the land and use it for what it was intended, Asarco clean up. Need to let people hunt hogs as they are tearing up our land!!

Zip Code: 63656

I would like to see (Jay Nixon St Park) SOLD and return that money back into the ASARCO fund.

Zip Code: 63656

I think they should be sold and money use for land clean ups to protect our children

Zip Code: 63640

I am in favor and support keeping Jay Nixon State Park part of the state park system. Missouri State Parks are unique and accessible and important to residents. I

would like to see Conservation groups, individuals and interested groups participate in management and upkeep of Jay Nixon SP. I think schools could be offered the option of developing groups to help maintain parks. I work for a healthcare system and I think healthcare systems could advocate for the health benefits of our State Parks & organize groups to help maintain State Parks

Zip Code: 63640

Partner with the Conservation Department to teach the citizens the importance of sustainable timber management. At the same time allow fishing and bow hunting. Areas set aside for Monarch butterfly habitat (milkweeds) would be a plus.

Zip Code: 63640

I don't care what name you call a park but I believe we need more state parks in Mo. Please do not sell any land we need to reserve as much land as possible.

Zip Code: 63640

Please continue to grow and maintain our state parks. We need more parks not fewer! Please do not sell or close parks. We have to have green space for recreation and to help over come the carbon footprints are populace produces.

Zip Code: 63645

State parks are sometimes the only vacations (camping) that we can afford. Please don't take away our parks. Please respect our earth. Protect our natural resources.

Zip Code:

I will make my comment on line. Thank you. This was helpful

Zip Code:

I will make a detailed response on line but thanks for hosting a well run meeting.

Zip Code: 63650

Would like to see a trail around the lake and make part of the Ozark Trail

Zip Code: 63620

First priority is the Taum Sauk region should be to develop the Church Mt trail system, which has been promised for at least 15 years! But retain the JN land, it's a big component of the overall TS wilderness.

Zip Code: 63640

Just having returned from NY, I can see the importance of Parks and Tourism first hand. Tourism (Parks) are the Second largest industry in NY (agriculture is #1) Promoting roads, trails and recreational options is important (& money). The DAR is proposing an historic trail on one St. Gen/Farmington/Pilot Knob. The DAR in Farmington is proposing designating the "Plank Road Trail" as a scenic regional economic development trail to run from the state's oldest community thru Farmington to the mines of Ironton and the Natural Resources of Johnson's Shut-Ins and accompanies the park system. Parks in Mo's BEST Advantage having worked with "I love NY", I can say that first hand

Zip Code: 63673

Please do not close or consider closing any parks either in remote areas or urban areas, both are vital. Please consider protecting every available source of water for nature, for recreation & future drinking needs. More campsites are necessary - it is often hard to get into parks for camping showerhouses are sometimes inadequate for campsites. When I travel to other states (and camp) and have to pay fees just to drive into a park (Minn and Iowa) I am very PROUD that the sales tax supports our parks and makes them accessible and affordable for all. Our parks are wonderful lets have more. The programs that start youngsters hunting and fishing are also great.

Zip Code: 63673

More camping! Our parks are great. More parks both remote and near. Public lands support our wildlife, particularly migratory animals (birds, butterflies, etc.) Recreation brings many dollars into our state-all GOOD!!

Zip Code: 63118

Please don't sell this park! This is an excellent backcountry hiking and camping location that can keep people coming to the area and supporting the local economy. I hike these trails often and would love yet another excuse to spend time and money in Reynolds and Iron Counties.

Zip Code: 63119

Strongly support opening area. Perhaps add to existing Taum Sauk Mtn SP for Administrative and Maintenance. Lake access adds great opportunities. Ozark Trail needs access to Ironton an the Amtrak. Possible expand short distance from Tauk Sauk Mtn SP to Hwy M. I would like to see the area developed for primitive camping; esp. around the lake. The Ozark Trail could/should be

extended North to the Lake and perhaps North to Hwy N. Please do NOT sell this precious asset.

Zip Code: 63640

The natural landscape and wildlife is part of what makes Missouri a great place to live. I have lived in Missouri my entire life and have spent much time at the parks with my family. I am for the development of new parks. As I travel around I always return and am amazed by the beauty of this area. I think it brings people to our state. I think it is important just as people to appreciate our area. I think it should be kept primitive. Perhaps volunteers would help with the money. I myself would volunteer however I can. I look forward to conversing more in the future.

Zip Code: 63650

This could be a premier park in our area. We've had a cabin at Lake Killarney since 1976 and we retired here 2 years ago. We have visited the parks probably a couple of hundred times, brought our friends & family, hiked the trails and camped in the backwoods. Jay Nixon Park has wonderful features and will be an asset to our community. 80% of Missourians supported the extension of the state parks, soils and waters tax last year. We has over 21 million visitors last year. Please do not take away FREE PUBLIC RECREATION FROM MO FAMILIES!!!!

Zip Code: 63628

One "you" own real estate-NEVER sell it. Keep the ground in its natural state. Minor development required.

Zip Code: 63020

Preserving this land, even in its primitive state, would be my wish. To keep our wild spaces complete with natural flora and fauna would be the goal.

Zip Code: 63119

This is a very integral parcel linking all the public lands due to topography and lack of access. I suggest only trail development, linking all trail systems and other public lands together. I do not suggest restrooms, pit toilets, designated campsites or potable water source. all the above are provided within the other public lands. if the safe/suitable trailhead parking area could be provided if and when funds are made available. In essence, keep the parcel primitive & wilderness based. If it takes changing the name of the park to open it do so. Governor Nixon can be honored later in a future acquisition-he deserves as much. This parcel completes a much needed connection between the adjacent public lands.

Zip Code: 63640

Please do not let ATV's, hunting, and "messaging up" this beautiful land. Just let it be beautiful

Zip Code: 63650

Open to public for fishing!

Zip Code: 63655

Jay Nixon State Park Don't care what name Don't spend a lot on it Keep it wild but Do keep it as a park Hiking trails would be nice-nothing more is really needed.

Zip Code:

Our state parks are our greatest strength, asset & a treasure. Please preserve & enhance further-they more than pay their own way.

Zip Code: 63020-4048

I would like to see the land stay in the system and protect the natural resources. If it could be managed for public use, including equestrian trails in a way that protects the wildlife and plant life, I would like to see that done.
