



Castlewood State Park Annual Public Meeting

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. September 27, 2023 at Shelter #2

Welcome – David Meeker

Staff Introduction and Roles in Park

Jordan Oppolo – Assistant Park Superintendent

Dan Dunn – Specialized Trades Worker

Sgt. Mike Gozia – Park Ranger Zone Supervisor

Park Accomplishments

- Kiefer Creek Project- Repair of creek bank stabilization Kiefer Creek Stewardship and repair, will continue through 2023-2024
- New gate at Railroad tunnel, better for visitors with mobility issues. Provided paved access to peninsula and lower River Scene trail
- Installed dusk to dawn light at front gate
- New information boards on all restrooms
- Hired and trained three new full-time staff members
 - Assistant Superintendent
 - Specialized Trades Worker
 - Maintenance/Grounds Technician
- New HVAC system at park residence
- Installed 5 interpretive panels to accompany the completed creek restoration work
 - Stream restoration and nature based solutions for non-point source pollution
 - Nature-based solutions for water management
 - Land management improves the Kiefer Creek watershed
 - 20th century history of Castlewood State Park – Beginning of urbanization
 - Early stewards of the land: The Osage Nation
- Conceptual Development Plan Accomplishments
 - Relocated official kayak access to Glencoe along Al Foster trail – This project is CDP objective #9
 - Designation of a special events area for all large special events. This project is CDP objective #7



- Creating a specific place for large special events allows accommodation of special events without disrupting day-users as much
- Area reverts to non-vehicular day-use access when not used for special events
- Redirected Equestrian use trails south of Meramec, all equestrian trails are located on the South side of the river – This project is CDP objective #10
- Relocate official kayak access to Glencoe along Al Foster trail – This project is CDP objective #9

Park Staff:

- Full-time staff: four staff members
 - Maintenance/Grounds Technician
 - Specialized Trades Worker
 - Assistant Park Superintendent
 - Park Superintendent
- Temporary Seasonal Laborers (TSL) – 2,179 hours
 - Two to four TSL employees at any given time.
 - Volunteers: contributed a total of 610 hours in 2022

Future Park Objectives

- Capital Improvement Project
 - Beginning Traffic Flow Study and partial design - first step to better parking lots and road redesign
- Small Maintenance and Repair Projects – To be completed by June 15, 2024
 - \$3,000 funded to replace retaining wall behind Lone Wolf Trailhead gazebo
 - \$8,000 to make improvements to special event area
- Host managed deer hunt in the fall of 2024
- Park to host weekly office hours at the park office. Specific days and times TBD
- Develop Master Trail Plan with Trail Coordinator to guide the development, maintenance and project priorities for the trail system
- Implement inclement weather related trail closures in 2023 – Trails to be closed to cyclists and equestrians when trail conditions are wet to prevent erosion and trail damage
 - Awaiting signage production to implement
- Continue process of achieving designation as Urban Night Sky Place
 - This will help Castlewood prevent light pollution and serve as an example to educate land managers and home owners in St. Louis County about light pollution
- Kaes House – 19th Century home, located on Cedar Bluff property
 - Working with St. Louis County partners to discuss alternative uses for Kaes House



Attendance and Overcrowding Management

- 2019
 - Total attendance – 593,212
 - Attendance from January through August – 382,555
- 2020 – Began active overcrowding management
 - Total attendance – 781,767
 - 93 temporary closures throughout entire year
 - Attendance from January through August – 491,795
 - 80 temporary closures during January through August timeframe
- 2021
 - Total attendance – 901, 523
 - 18 temporary closures throughout entire year
 - Attendance from January through August – 486,919
 - 13 temporary closures during January through August timeframe
- 2022
 - Total attendance- 735,979
 - 7 temporary closures throughout entire year
 - Attendance from January through August – 474,106.
- 2023
 - Attendance from January through August - 716, 362
 - 3 temporary closures during January through August timeframe



