

## **Roaring River & Big Sugar Creek state parks Public Meeting**

June 5, 2025 - 6pm - Emory Melton Inn - Riverview Room Town Hall Meeting

- 22 public, 11 Staff in attendance
- Local elected officials invited: Barry County Commissioners, Cassville Mayor
- Local elected officials attended: Steve Blankenship, Presiding Commissioner Barry County
- State elected officials invited: Rep. Scott Cupps, Sen. Mike Moon, Rep. Dirk Deaton
- State elected officials attended: None
- Key stakeholders/groups invited: Cassville Chamber
- List of key stakeholders/groups attended: Cassville Chamber
- List of media attended - Cassville Democrat
- Meeting description, including a list of items/resources that were handed out or made available for guests:
  - Park & Site Data Sheet, Park Maps
- Summary of discussion topics, including the information presented and any public comment or discussion at the meeting
  - Past Projects: Discussed current projects completed to date:

Constructed new “Grab & Go” counter for the Park Store

New swing set in Zone 1

Refreshed the Amphitheatre

4 Electric vehicle chargers installed & functional

Propane system improvements at the Park Office

Propane System improvements at Camp Smokey

R60 insulation installed at CCC Lodge & HVAC system work

Renovated 4 showers in campground 3

Installed new metal roof on the Maintenance Shop

2 storm sirens were installed in CG1 & CG3

Little Free Library installed at Nature Center

Remodel of the Nature Center Exhibit Space

Began working on schoolhouse

Removal of hazard trees

Installed new roof Park Office

ARPA Wastewater system improvement project

Campground 2 improvements

Working on creating a classroom space at the Nature Center

New Trailhead for Fire Tower Trail

MRA Project Updates

CG3 Completion

- Upcoming Projects Roaring River

Campground 2, Phase 2 improvements, sites 109-118

CCC Shelter restoration

Completing water & wastewater system improvements

Complete Fire Tower Trailhead / working with MODOT to remove highway crosswalks / new section of trail

Completing shower renovation in Campground 3

Schoolhouse work will continue

Nature Center Classroom Space work will continue

Remodel of cabins 4-9 in partnership with Roaring River Adventures

- Big Sugar Creek Projects

Renovate vault toilet

Rock building roof replacement

- Upcoming Park Events - Halloween Program, Christmas Candlelight Stroll
- Recycling Program Update, averaging 320lbs aluminum month, using local recyclers
- Opening Day Recap - 2025 opening day numbers, governor's attendance,
- Official Facebook Page - Growth from last year, fastest way to get information out to public
- Ecological Stewardship including wild area update for Roaring River & Big Sugar Creek
- Natural Resource Interpretation - recapped past programming, school groups, Nature Center remodel, upcoming programs

- Ranger Program Updates - Discussed speed limits in the park, securing valuables, writing down serial #s in case an item is stolen.
- Concession Updates / introduction of new general manager Jotham Brown
- Missouri Dept. of Conservation / Hatchery Update. Discussed stocking rates, upcoming free fishing weekend, Fall Kids Fishing Day and Veterans Free Fishing.
- Any other observations/comments: Meeting was positive similar attendance to previous year.
  - Took a question on the possibility of replacing the HWY 112 bridge near the park store due to narrowness of bridge, relayed that it was a MODOT Bridge, Presiding Commissioner in Attendance noted that the bridge is on 2 replacements lists with unknown replacement time.
  - Question as to when the new section of Fire Tower Trail would open, as soon as the parking lot is completed and new maps are in place.
  - Question about increasing the water pressure in the showers of CG2, staff will look at.
  - The Cassville Chamber Director expressed thanks for new direction and vision for the park and partnership with the Chamber
  - Member of the public expressed thanks for all we do and hard work of the staff.
  - Member of the public asked about the location of Big Sugar so he could visit.