

## 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
  - o 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**

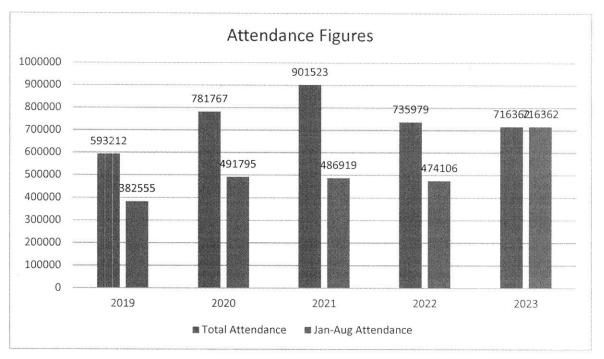
- Capital Improvement Project
  - Beginning Traffic Flow Study and partial design first step to better parking lots and road redesign
- Small Maintenance and Repair Projects To be completed by June 15, 2024
  - \$3,000 funded to replace retaining wall behind Lone Wolf Trailhead gazebo
  - \$8,000 to 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 19<sup>th</sup> Century home, located on Cedar Bluff property
  - Working with St. Louis County partners to discuss alternative uses for Kaes House

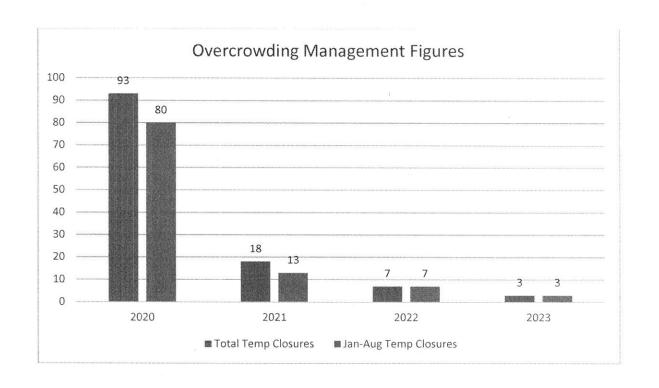


#### **Attendance and Overcrowding Management**

- 2019
  - o 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
  - o Total attendance- 735,979
    - 7 temporary closures throughout entire year
  - o Attendance from January through August 474,106.
- 2023
  - Attendance from January through August 716, 362
    - 3 temporary closures during January through August timeframe







### Sign-In Sheet

# Public Meeting – Thursday, September 22, 2022 Castlewood State Park 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Shelter #2

Name	Organization	DI. N. I	
	Organization	Phone Number	Email address
Ed Schott	17-66 S.P.	314,420.0911	ed. schottedar, mo.
Rob Pulliam	TNC	636-432-6200	rob. pulliam eTNC.org
KEN CRIST		3149743906	
Tim Poque	City of Balluin	636-368-7951	Troques Balluin. Mo.
Aly Awen +	-1 Castlewood	636-637-2492	
Mo14 Seft	Sterra Llyb	696-212-0771	(a) f marker 17 A . h
JOHN FELE	MANN SIGRA CL	MB 314-609-57	78 JOHN FELDMAN
Pare Campbell	Sierra Club	217-553-9009 12	recompoell 9009 egmail.
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David Meether			7 7131 63000
Dan Dunn			_
Jordan Oppolo			
Maria Potter			
Grea Combs			