

Hawn State Park
Informational Meeting – July 16, 2022
3:00 PM

Opening Remarks & Introductions Greg Combs

- Welcome
- Purpose for the Meeting
- Introductions
- Questions related to NexGen Mine

Park Update Ben Bailey

Hawn State Park: Established 1952 by Ste. Genevieve Schoolteacher Helen Coffey Hawn Original acreage was 1,459 acres. Current acreage is 4,956 acres

Staff

- Ben Bailey- Superintendent
- Therese AuBuchon-Administrative Specialist .75
- Billie Tedford-Maintenance
- Two to three seasonal maintenance

Volunteers

- Sierra Club East Missouri Group assists with trail building, maintenance
- Friends of Hawn Association assists with education, events, trail work
- VIP Campground Hosts assist with campground management

Natural Areas: (Natural areas are managed and protected for their scientific, educational and historic values. They are formally recognized as the least disturbed and highest-quality biological and geological sites across the state. Our policy on natural areas are to, protect and preserve the natural features recognized for their uniqueness, and to restore and maintain the natural landscapes representative of each of these areas.)

- Lamotte Sandstone Barrens 81 acres
- Botkin Pinewoods 30 acres
- Pickle Creek 58 acres
- Orchid Valley 120 acres

Whispering Pines Wild Area is 1,770 acres and is managed as wilderness (Our policy is to permanently reserve the 1,770 acres of undeveloped state park land as a wilderness resource; to be managed for its wild qualities, natural conditions and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation. This wilderness resource is made available to park visitors so that they may experience it first hand, in such fashion that the wild integrity of the land remains undiminished for future generations. Within the policy we do not allow motorized equipment in the area other than the exemption of constructing fire lines and our yearly 2 week window to clear trail)

Outstanding State Resource Water: Pickle Creek has this designation due to high water quality and pristine nature

Park amenities

- 50 developed campsites: 25 electric, 19 basic, 5 basic walk in sites, 10 Backcountry campsites
- all sites are now reservable
- Special Use Area
- Two Playgrounds
- Whispering Pines Trail

- White Oaks Trail
- Pickle Creek Trail
- 3 Connector Trails

Projects Completed

- Update on Backcountry camping pilot program went from activities section to camping section in reservation system \$10 camping fee
- Installed infrared people counters at trail heads to have a better trail use count
- Purchased 5 wagon carts for campground walk-in sites to be able to use in getting equipment from parking lot to site
- Renovated the office and shop area to add an additional office area

Future Projects

- Expand recreational opportunities: proposed “Spanish Land Grant Trail”
 - We are in the clearance phase should begin trail construction work this fall
- Add a 30 space parking lot for the proposed “Spanish Land Grant Trail”
 - Again in the clearance phase should begin this fall will be installed by region construction crew
- Add concrete to multiple campsites in campground to alleviate erosion
- Water tower repairs: interior sandblasted and new interior coating

Visitation

- Usually hovers around 100,000 per year
- Camping increased around 18%
- Day use has decreased 15% over the past year but are still up 25% from 2019

Natural Resource Stewardship

- Prescribed burns this past year Central Unit 721 ac,
- Entrance 576 ac,
- Boy Scout Camp 41 ac totaled 1,338 acres
 - These ecological burns involve cooperation from park staff from other facilities and region stewardship staff

Education/Outreach

- Farmington Intermediate School Science Classes
- Ste. Genevieve Elementary school
- Show Me MO Parks

Missouri State Park Rangers

- Park Ranger Role
- Law Enforcement trends in parks

MSP Director Update

David Kelly

- Questions related to Hawn SP

Div. Geology & Land Survey Update

Joe Gilland

- Next steps for NexGen Mine

DNR Director Update

Mike Sutherland

- Questions related to NexGen Mine