

Route 66 State Park Public Meeting -6/9/2022

About the Park

- Human History: Native Americans, Resort Town, Incorporated Times Beach.
- Dioxin contamination, flood, evacuation, Superfund cleanup, and ongoing monitoring.
- Route 66 State Park opened in 1999.
- Natural resources of the park, Missouri Birding Trail.
- Route 66 – “The Mother Road” national significance.

Operations and Services

- Visitor Center: Exhibit hall, gift shop, variety of visitors.
- Day use: Shelter rentals, boat ramp, playground, events.
- Recreational activities in the park.
- Infrastructure: repairs and upkeep.

Park Data

Attendance: 2019 = 181,156 2020 = 273,705 2021 = 254,025

Returning to pattern of numerous international visitors like we had prior to COVID pandemic

Budget: Operations = \$50,876 Maintenance/Repair = \$6,000 Seasonal employees = \$33,710

Maintenance Projects: Water leaks, visitor center door replacement, plumbing, fuel tank repair/paint, visitor center deck repairs.

Other projects: Amusement Park Display for Exhibit Hall, Al Pac neon Sign

The renovation of the Route 66 Meramec Bridge

Staffing

Superintendent: Ed Schott

Park Specialist: Lavette Patterson

Skilled Trades Worker: Mark Bowers

Seasonal employees helping in visitor center and maintenance

Future Projects

- Visitor center roof.
- Unscheduled repairs as needed.

Special Events/Volunteers

- Operation Clean Stream-2021 event was a big success.
- St. Louis Boy Scout Order of the Arrow volunteer work day in May – they cleaned up the equestrian trail in the park. About 50 volunteers helped with this work day.
- More “Third Party Events” are being held in the park: Harvest Moon Run, Go! St. Louis Halloween Run, Slug Run, Rucking Event.

Lower Meramec Management Unit (What happening in the Unit)

- Attendance at Castlewood and Don Robinson seem to be levelling off to pre COVID pandemic numbers.
- Don Robinson Capital Improvement Project of renovating Don Robinson’s house.
- Robertsville held Dome Life Stream Team cleanup in March, and is sponsoring WOW campout this year, as well as Y-Rangers Activity. Also Missouri bicentennial event and Rockin at Robertsville.
- World Bird Sanctuary (located in Castlewood) partnership-they are working on some modifications on their site.

Bridge

- History – the bridge, which was owned by MoDot, was closed permanently in 2009. The deck surface was taken off in 2012 to reduce load on the structure. In 2017, Missouri State Parks took over ownership of the bridge and began work assembling a team of stakeholders to plan a fundraising effort to restore the bridge to its former glory.
- Partnership – While there are many stakeholders with interest in a refurbished bridge, the current active partners include Missouri State Parks, Great Rivers Greenway, the Missouri State Parks Foundation
- Engineering Design Firm – CDG Consultants

Missouri State Parks

CDG Engineering - Glenn Smith speak/power point

Great Rivers Greenway –Kaitlyn Service speak/power point

Questions?