

## **Montauk State Park, Public Meeting**

5:00 pm, Thursday, September 18, 2025

Amphitheater, Montauk Campground

- **Introductions**

- Local elected officials and/or dignitaries
- State Park leadership
  - Ozark Deputy Regional Director, Brian Miller
  - Ozark Regional Director, Larry Webb
  - Missouri State Park Deputy Director, Justin Adams
- Park staff
  - Emma Allen, Park Specialist
  - Todd Wilkinson, Assistant Superintendent
  - Pete Hovey, Park Superintendent
- Park partners
  - MDC Hatchery Manager, Kyle Case
  - ExploreUS General Manager, Jeremy Hargrave
- Public sign in

- **Brief intro to park**

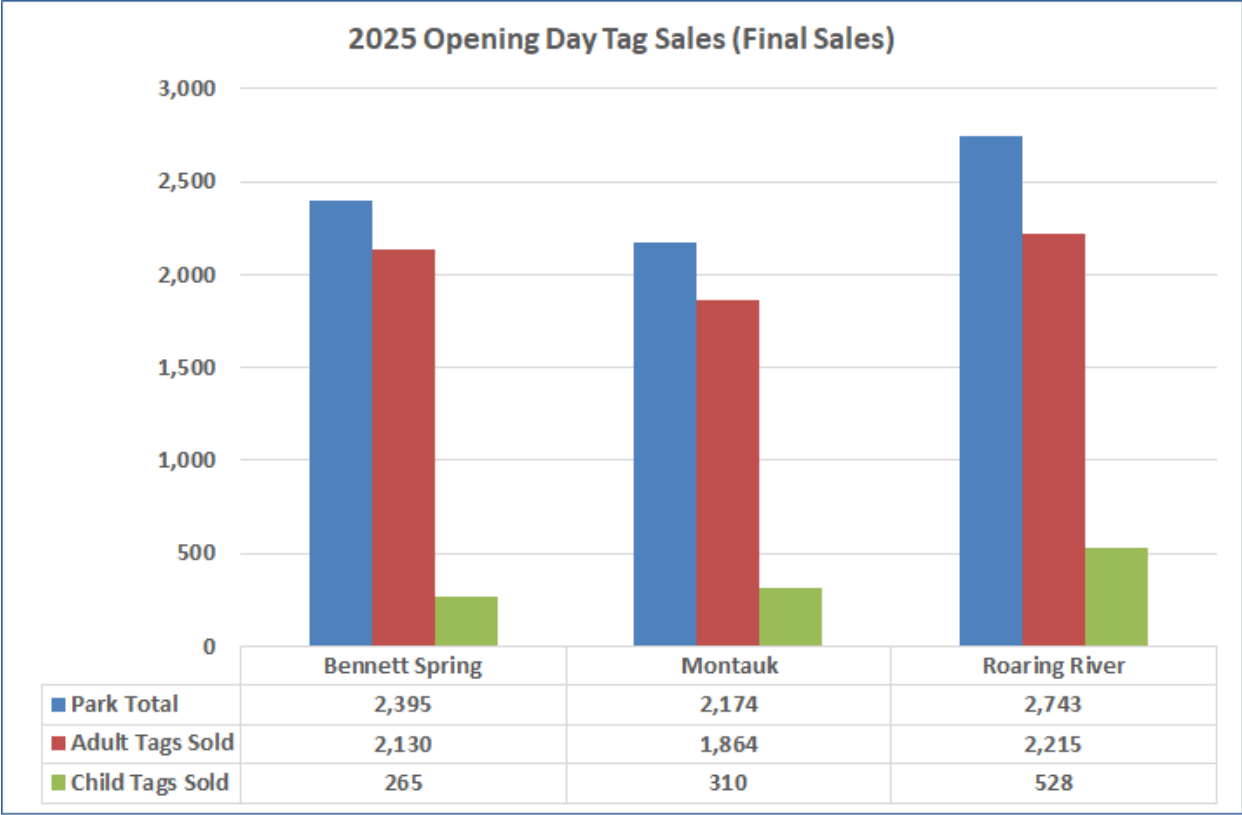
- 2,920 acres of rugged Ozark beauty, including Montauk Upland Forest Natural Area, Pine Ridge Trail, and Montauk Spring
- Montauk Spring, headwaters of Current River; 45-50M gallons/day; 12<sup>th</sup> largest in MO
- Cold-water trout hatchery providing angling for 494,782 visitors in 2024

- **The year in review**

- Historic flood: 19.9' water level, 400 trucks sand, park closed NOV-FEB
  - Damage: cabins 7-8, Mill, footbridges, roads & parking lots
  - Recovery: debris removal, road rebuilding, electrical, demo 7-8, & stabilize Mill
  - Looking ahead:
    - Mill: forensic engineer evaluation, scope of work, goal: restore "as was"
      - Damage not as extensive as feared
    - Foot bridges: planning designs, tuckpoint & masonry, replace decks
    - Cabins 7-8: site selection, rebuilt by concessionaire partner, planning
    - Loop 5: survey & assess, jet-vac manholes & sewer line, DNR self-perform installation of utilities, grading, concrete (to be continued)
- Loop 4 completed!
  - Upgraded electrical damaged by flood, replaced by DNR, main panels by contractor in JUNE
- Under new management
  - Two new managers, new maintenance staff, new campground hosts
  - Flood recovery, establish good working relationship w/State Park leadership (region & directors office), state & regional construction crews
  - Successful season: systems and routines that serve the public and protect the resource, learning new roles and working as team

- **Construction & maintenance projects**
  - Water/waste water upgrades, funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
    - Renovated waste water spray field
    - 8,000 feet of new water distribution line throughout the park
  - Loop 5: 31 new, full-service campsites
    - Order of work: clear manholes and sewer lines, install electrical & remaining water & sewer, grade, pour concrete, and install amenities
  - Shower houses 2 & 4: replace w/two new concrete block shower houses
    - Design review phase
    - SH2 - 8 bathroom stalls, 8 single shower rooms
    - SH4 - 6 bathroom stalls, 8 single shower rooms, & laundry
      - Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), to be completed first
  - Montauk Mill
    - Roof being replaced, to be completed by FRI, SEP 28
    - Foundation, drafting scope of work for bid
      - Proposed plan to stabilize main cross beam at front of building using a steel pier foundation system
      - Piers installed by sections using hydraulic force until contacting bedrock
      - Deteriorated timbers to be replaced with similar size and type
      - Timbers to be clad with structural steel fastened with bolts
- **Projects & programs**
  - 2026 Montauk Centennial celebration
    - Partner with Missouri's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of American Independence
    - Centennial Summer, programs and event throughout year
    - Kick-off on MAY 9-10 w/Mill Days event
  - Managed Deer Hunt, park will be closed TUE, DEC 2-THU, DEC 4
    - 48 participants
    - Goal: control overpopulation & resulting damage to other natural resources
  - Opening Day, March 1, 2026 (see attached graph)
    - Goal: close gap in tag sales with other trout parks
- **Special staff recognition**
- **Highlights from park partners**
  - MDC Hatchery Manager Kyle Case
  - ExplorUS General Manager Jeremy Hargrave
- **Public Q & A**
  - Please keep comments brief and respectful
  - Staff will be around after meeting to discuss issues/interests in greater depth
- **Meeting adjourned**

\*Thank you to Missouri voters for supporting state parks like Montauk through the Missouri Soils and Water Sales Tax, which is scheduled for re-election in NOV 2026.



Our goal for Opening Day 2026 is to close the gap in tag sales between Montauk and the other two Missouri trout parks. For example, Montauk lagged Bennett by 221 tag sales in 2025. While Montauk sold 45 more child tags than Bennett, we sold 266 less adult tags. So bring your family, bring your friends to Opening Day 2026, and help us close that gap!