

**BRYANT CREEK STATE PARK
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PREAMBLE
2020**

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Located in southern Douglas County, Bryant Creek State Park spans rugged, steeply dissected river hills bordering the stream for which it is named. The native vegetation of mostly oak and oak-pine woodland envelopes tall dolomite cliffs, moss-draped sandstone outcrops, fern-lined glens, wet-weather waterfalls, springs and sinkholes. Visitors to the park will experience the magnificence of the Ozarks in the long ridgetop views across deep forest hollows, and the crystal waters of Bryant Creek.

The property for Bryant Creek State Park was purchased by the State of Missouri, acting on behalf of the public as Trustee for natural resources, in October, 2016. Natural resource damage funds, for the acquisition of the property, were the result of monetary damages recovered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR).

Through the Statewide Groundwater Restoration Plan, MoDNR seeks to implement restoration projects that directly benefit, restore and/or preserve groundwater resources through the acquisition and protection of groundwater recharge areas, including those containing direct conduits to groundwater such as those found in karst systems. Bryant Creek State Park is approximately 2,900 acres of forested watershed in southern Douglas County, containing the geology associated with the springs, losing streams and groundwater resources that flow directly into Bryant Creek. A primary focus of the park is to restore, rehabilitate and preserve the 3000-acre forested watershed for the benefit of surface and groundwater flow into the waters of Bryant Creek.

Bryant Creek is a scenic, high quality main tributary to the North Fork River, floatable for more than 40 miles and popular as a fishing stream. It is considered one of the best small river habitats in the White River Basin. Bryant Creek State Park features 1.67 miles of direct frontage on Bryant Creek, four major tributary hollows and at least four springs. Other features include caves, fens, sinkhole ponds and cliffs. The varied topography and complex geology yields a diverse range of natural communities and a suite of glade, woodland, forest and riparian ecosystems that support a strong and floristically diverse native plant community. The extensive forest cover, rich in species native to the southern Ozarks, provides significant wildlife habitat, especially to migratory birds.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of Bryant Creek State Park is to provide natural resource stewardship that preserves the high quality, mature pine-oak woodland and forest ecosystems; rehabilitates the recently-logged acres and restores the knob-top glades; benefits the surface and groundwater recharge areas of Bryant Creek; protects cultural elements; and provides nature-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities that will offer the opportunity to experience and appreciate the natural resources provided by the area.

APPROVED BY:

Director, Missouri State Parks

Date

Regional Director

Date

Deputy Regional Director

Date

Facility Superintendent

Date