

Brief Summary Report for Robertsville State Parks' Public Meeting 2023

Name (person submitting survey) - David Winchester (Superintendent)

Facility - Robertsville State Park

Meeting date – June 15, 2023

Meeting format (town hall or open house) – Town Hall

Meeting agenda –

Robertsville State Park Mission Statement

Robertsville State Park mission is to preserve its natural and culturally unique features, and provide interpretation and recreation of the site. Preservation includes existing high quality bottom land forest, riparian and river systems as refuge for wildlife and native flora. The park will also provide natural and cultural interpretation and recreational opportunities and facilities for campers, boaters and river users, hikers, walkers, bicyclists and wildlife observation.

David Winchester, Robertsville State Park Superintendent

Park Description:

- 1,224 acres of woodland and bottomland forest
- Robertsville offers 2 hiking trails, walking, biking, fishing, camping with electric and basic sites, playground, and picnic areas
- Brief Introduction of local facility staff → have rest of staff introduce themselves

Brief description of the park/site history

- About 3,000 acres was originally owned by the Roberts Family starting in 1830 when they moved here from Virginia.
- Mr. Edward James Roberts and his wife Ann Robertson worked with family farm and produced many goods with tobacco as a primary crop
- Edward James Roberts was the largest tax payer in Franklin County and was Robertsville's first post master, along with other roles he filled in the community.
- In 1950, the descendants of Edward James sold it and it was privately owned until the property was purchased by the Department of Natural Resources on April 10, 1979. It was developed until it was officially dedicated on May 10, 1989.
- Total Visitation for 2022 is 117,691 , 2021 was 141,863 and 2019 was 109,972)
- Total camping units for 2022 is 3,355 (total camping units sold for 2019 was 2,455)

- Natural and Cultural features that make your park/site stand out: Robertsville Cemetery, African American Cemetery, Woodland and Bottomland forest, Heron Rookery, prescribed burning, boat ramp, Meramec River

Completed projects for the year:

- 36 Cubic Yards kiddie Cushion added to playground.
- Commercial Water Heater installed at shower house.
- Well Pump installed.
- Comfort station fixtures replaced, painted, & upgraded.

New projects for the year:

- Residence HVAC installed
- Residence flooring
- Trim board replacement at Campground Comfort station
- Fall Festival
- WOW first time campers

Programs / Activities:

- Fall Festival =256 in attendance planned again for 2023
- WOW camp for intro to camping training=30 in attendance planned again for 2023
- Muzzleloader managed hunt 2022 saw 43 does, 10 bucks, 6 button bucks for a total of 59 deer removed from the landscape
- Muzzleloader Managed Hunt Nov. 4-5 2023

Interpreter: Erik Otto Interpretive Resource Coordinator/Don Robinson Facility Manager
(about 3-5 minutes in length)

- Manage and interpret Natural and Cultural Resources.
- Interpretation offered at the facility- fishing, canoe/kayak floats, exotic species, natural community.


Robertsville Park Ranger: Sergeant Mike Gozia
(about 3-5 minutes in length)

Ranger Thompson from Babler SP representing





- Law enforcement within the park.
- Zone 2 Supervisor.

Questions from the Public and Discussion
(for as long as questions or comments are being presented)

Presentations -



Robertsville State Park

BY THE NUMBERS	LOCATION: Franklin County NUMBER OF ACRES: 1,224.65 NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STAFF: 5 NUMBER OF PART-TIME STAFF: 7 VOLUNTEER HOURS:* 3,429 STEWARDSHIP HOURS: 403.75 2021 ATTENDANCE:* 141,863	MILES OF TRAIL: 3.5 NUMBER OF STRUCTURES: 11 MILES OF ROADWAYS: 2.76 STATE SALES TAX PAID:* \$2,660.49 LOCAL SALES TAX PAID:* \$1,731.68 TOTAL SALES TAX: \$4,392.17
BUDGET	SMALL MAINTENANCE & REPAIR BUDGET: \$12,400.00 ANNUAL BUDGET: \$117,682.00	
CAMPING & LODGING	NUMBER OF CAMPING NIGHTS SOLD:* 3,452 NUMBER OF CAMPSITES: 27 NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT GUESTS:* 7,762 CAMPING NIGHTS SOLD BY ZIP CODE: >>>>>>	
SPECIAL EVENTS	MISSOURI STATE PARK EVENTS: 29	
PHOTO ALBUM	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 2em;">Making Missouri MEMORIES</p> </div>	
* All numbers through December 2021. † Information includes park and concession-fee operations. ** Estimated park and concession sales tax paid.		

Number of participants - 17

List local elected officials invited – Franklin County Sheriff Steve Pelton, Pacific Fire Department Steve Sagehorn, City of Union Assistant City Administrator James Schmeider

List local elected officials attended – NA/3 crewmembers from Pacific Fire Department

List state elected officials invited – Mike McGirl, Ben Brown

List state elected officials attended – N/A

List key stakeholders/groups invited – Alpine Shop, Backcountry Horseman Indiana Chapter, Franklin County Master Naturalists, Meramec River Recreation Association, Ozark Trail Association, Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Scenic Regional Library, South City YMCA, St. Louis Audubon, Union Scenic Regional Library, World Bird Sanctuary

List key stakeholders/groups attended – N/A

List of media attended – N/A

Detailed summary of discussion topics, including the information presented and any public comment or discussion at the meeting -See discussion topics in agenda.

Other observations/comments – There was a child molester in campground, smell of marijuana in campground is more frequent, dogs off leash is still a problem, trash dumping is still an issue, continuous drug addicts in the campground, off-site campers are using the dump station without paying, Robertsville is listed on a social media camping group as “infamous Robertsville Campground”, lots of feral cats are being dropped off, Park Rangers are not driving through the park often enough and are not attending meetings, American Lotus/ Pickerel Weed should not have been planted in front pond, automatic front gate is needed, hikers have reported not feeling safe on the trails, lots of cars frequently speed down the roads, there are too many trees near the road, there should be a fee for no-show campers, would like to see a volunteer day, web page needs updated.