

Branson Parks & Recreation

The Missouri Park & Recreation Association works with local municipalities to ensure the growth and improve the quality and accessibility of urban and rural parks, open spaces and recreational lands, facilities and programs. It promotes research and information dissemination on park, conservation, health and wellness, recreation and leisure issues.

Building Healthy Individuals & Communities

- Throughout Missouri, there is a growing epidemic of obesity and associated health issues in both children and adults. **Public parks and recreation facilities offer low cost opportunities for our citizens of every age, ability and income level** to increase their level of physical activity, improve eating habits and better connect with the natural environment, thereby preventing chronic and costly health problems.
- We recommend support for making parks and recreation agencies eligible for any and all state programs that target youth and adults for healthy physical activities, development of life skills, environmental education and crime prevention/intervention programs.
- We support the efforts to increase the tobacco tax, currently the lowest in the nation, which would encourage smoking cessation.

Environmental Stewardship

- **We encourage financial support for local government “green” initiatives, especially any action that reminds citizens of the continual need of improving green space, the wise use of all our natural resources, and expanding recreational opportunities.**
- We support funding for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and the Department of Conservation and **the value of traditional rural recreation opportunities to Missourians.**
- MPRA encourages positive action on environmental issues. We oppose any changes to the makeup of the Conservation Commission, to the process by which the Commission is appointed, or any attempts to infringe on constitutional mandate under which the Commission carries out its mission.

Trails & Outdoor Use

- **Access to safe, well-maintained community connections is a priority for Missouri’s citizens.**
- In April 2013, Missouri was named “The Best Trails State” by American Trails, reflecting the efforts put into the development of major trail systems, including the Katy Trail State Park.
- Such systems contribute significantly to local economies, supports conservation, promote alternative transportation and connect communities to nature and to each other.
- MPRA supports initiatives that enable local and state agencies to develop and promote trail connections across Missouri.
- **We urge support for the Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act as it presents an opportunity to impact Missouri’s economy through tourism and community revitalization.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Studies show that an active social life may reduce the risk of dementia and cognitive decline among the elderly (*American Journal of Public Health*). Community Center programs offer great social opportunities for all ages.

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Parks For All

- Open spaces and various recreational programs have long been regarded as “Safe Havens” for Missouri citizens.
- MPRA urges the State of Missouri, General Assembly and Coordinating Board of Higher Education to maintain and support outstanding parks and recreation educational programs within the state. In doing so, there is acknowledgement of **the critical role that superior parks and recreation opportunities play in the long-term economic health and well-being of the state.**
- Having inclusive leisure experiences enhances the quality of life for all people. As we broaden our understanding and acceptance of difference among people through shared leisure experiences, **we empower future generations to build a better place to live and thrive.**
- This can be attained by supporting programmatic access to all parks, historic sites and recreation area throughout federal, state, country, county and local parks and recreation sites.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, the Branson Parks and Recreation Department hosted 42 tournaments and 8 Special Events. Visitors and participants spent an estimated \$14,823,340 directly in the local economy.

Bonding Initiatives

- We support a comprehensive bonding package that provides increased funding for Missouri state parks and trails, along with its higher education institutions.
- Parks and trails provide an enriched quality of life for all Missourians, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.
- Modernized, state-of-the-art facilities prepare Missouri students for real world experiences and allow for a seamless transition into the workplace.



You're Invited!

Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake Ozark

February 27-March 1

Contact Information



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