

# 2018 Annual Report

## *Seniors* TO STATE PARKS



- KANSAS CITY AREA
- ST. LOUIS AREA
- OTHER STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES



Starting in 2015, Missouri State Parks received funding from the Missouri Parks Association to encourage Missouri senior citizens to explore Missouri state parks and state historic sites. The name of this program is Seniors to Parks.

The funding from this program came from an endowment from the Ben and Bettie Breeding family to be, “used exclusively for the establishment of an outreach project which would provide funds for the transportation, assistance and supervision of Missouri elderly and/or disabled persons for day and overnight trips to and from Missouri wildlife conservation and preservation areas and Missouri state parks.”

This report details the successful Seniors to Parks trips that were held throughout the state in 2018.

## 2018 QUICK SUMMARY

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- 28 Total Tours
- 699 Total Participants

<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 32,475.54</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>\$31,889.33</b>

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<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$586.21</b>
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## Kansas City Area

**11 total trips**

**250 total participants**

**154 first time participants**

### **Arrow Rock State Historic Site**

- Brush Creek Group, 19 participants
- Four Seasons, 29 participants

The visitor center at Arrow Rock State Historic Site features the history of the town where participants watched the video and looked at the displays. The afternoon ended at Missouri's oldest theater, enjoying either the play "39 Steps" or "Mary Poppins." Lunch was provided.

#### QUOTES

"I had no clue that this place existed. I will have to come back again with some friends."

"I loved having the picnic."



### **Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center**

- Brush Creek, 22 participants
- Four Seasons, 24 participants
- Shepherd's Center, 19 participants

Participants joined us at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center for a performance by the Traditional Music Society. They performed West African dance and music. After lunch, participants had an opportunity to take a self-guided tour of the art exhibits in the galleries. These exhibits were collections by local artist. Lunch was provided.

#### QUOTES:

"We love our trips with you guys. This was an amazing experience."

"You could not help but want to dance."

"That was an amazing performance, I loved that we got to participate in the dancing."



### **Weston Bend State Park**

#### *"Fall Colors"*

- Brush Creek, Two groups, 27 participants
- Locals, 28 participants

Fall is a wonderful time to view the changing of the trees around Weston Bend State Park. Participants took Fall Color Tram Rides on the Weston Paved Trail. The trail went past a historical tobacco barn and overlook of the Missouri River. Transportation was provided.

#### QUOTES:

"We love these trips!"

"The guides were very welcoming and knowledgeable."

### **Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site**

- Four Seasons, 27 participants
- Shepherd's Center, 23 participants

A trip to the home and studio of the renowned painter, sculptor, lecturer and writer offers a glimpse into how the talented Thomas Hart Benton lived and worked in Kansas City, Mo. Participants toured Benton's studio and family home. Lunch and transportation was provided.

#### QUOTES:

"The tour guides were very good and informative - good job."

"Thank you for such an amazing day out!"

## Katy Trail State Park

**5 total trips**

**177 total participants**

### **Katy Trail State Park**

Five total trips, 177 participants

Participants experienced Katy Trail State Park from the comfort of a tram coach. Guided tours are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of the month in the spring and fall. The tram tours run between different Katy Trail trailheads each month, offering a chance for visitors to see stretches of trail they may not be able to experience otherwise.

Tour dates:

- April 3: Rhineland to Portland  
Canceled due to inclement weather
- May 1: Marthasville to Treloar
- June 5: Rocheport to New Franklin
- Sept. 4: Windsor to Leeton (Rock Island Spur)
- Oct. 2: St. Charles to Machens

## St. Louis Area

**5 total trips**

**156 total participants**

**121 first time participants**

### **Arrow Rock State Historic Site**

*"Behind the Scene, Bringing History to Life"*

35 participants

Participants arrived at Arrow Rock and gathered briefly in the visitor's center for a brief tour of the museum led by the Friends of Arrow Rock. The day was filled with learning about ancestors of the past, early traditions, intriguing historical events, exploring exhibits and dining at the historical J. Huston Tavern.

QUOTES:

"Program organizers are very well informed and helpful. Very surprised to learn that slavery played a major part in building town."

"Very enjoyable outing, pleasant group."

### **Deutschheim State Historic Site**

*"Experience, Enjoy and Explore"*

34 participants

Interpretive guided tour begin with an orientation in the visitor center and gift shop. The daily life and traditions of German immigrants were explored through historic buildings and the development of the wine industry.

QUOTES:

"Amazing, all new information, very good tour guide, Linda."

"Put me down for the next trip."



### **First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site**

21 participants

Seniors helped to prepare lunch making fresh squeezed lemonade and peeling apples for a Dutch oven cobbler cooked on an open fire pit. Interpreters presented historic events through stories and hands-on experiences. Participants were given a "Use of Medicinal Plants" presentation. After lunch participants had a craft activity of tin punching to make a trivet .

QUOTES:

"I did art & craft and apple peeling, I felt young again. All was great. I really thank God for providing this trip."

"Excellent location and extremely organized."



## **Route 66 State Park**

*"Get Your Kicks at Route 66 State Park"*

25 participants

Participants rode the bus from the Alzheimer's Association to Route 66 and enjoyed a video of the theme song "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" performed by different artists. Seniors took a guided tour through the galleries and visited the gift shop. Lunch was served in a "pop-up" diner in the visitor center with all the bells and whistles. A new alliance was formed with the Alzheimer's Association for seniors suffering from memory loss. This trip was dedicated to the caregiver and care receiver. Persons with memory loss demonstrated unexpected movements and responded well to the music and video that was created by our staff. We were provided with free training from the Alzheimer's Association.

## **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site**

*"Let's Get Raggin'"*

41 participants

Seniors enjoyed a fun filled day of history, traditions, rhythms, movement, ragtime, player piano and exhibits while touring the historic site. Percussionist Glenn "Papa" Wright provided participants with instruments to play creating their own beat and movement as they played. After the interpretive tour, participants ate lunch in the Rosebud Cafe .

QUOTES:

"Job well done, I am happy to be a part of the fellowship and fun. I enjoyed coming face to face with an entirely different era in American history."

"The two ladies put a lot of thought and hard work to keep the theme throughout the day. A great way to end Black History Month!! A message that we should continue each and every day. Thank you."

## **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site**

**4 total trips**

**104 total participants**

**84 first time participants**

## **Cuivre River State Park**

*"Cuivre River Camp Dericotte Sherwood Reunion"*

38 participants

Former campers from Camps Dericotte and Sherwood revisited the camp from their childhood. Participants took a hike, a hayride along scenic Frenchman's Bluff, ate a BBQ lunch and watched a presentation on the first Negro girl's camp in Missouri. Campers received a hiking stick and back sack. Most of the women attending were part of the YMCA's Active Older Adult program.

QUOTES:

"Haven't been here since my childhood, this was fantastic."

"I enjoyed walking through the various camps and the hayride."

## **Deutschheim State Historic Site**

33 participants

The Seniors-To-State-Parks trip to Deutschheim SHS and other sites throughout Hermann. We left with "Rock Seniors in Action" group. After our tour of Deutschheim SHS, we ate lunch and toured Stone Hill Winery. We also toured Hermann Wurst Haus, makers of German sausage, bratwurst and bacon. Seniors were able to make purchases at all locations.

QUOTES:

"I liked going to more than one stop in Hermann, it really gave a full picture of the rich history."

"The historic site was really interesting. Didn't know about Missouri's wine history being older than Napa Valley."

## **Cuivre River State Park**

"En Plein Air Painting"

13 participants

A true artist experience in landscape painting "in the open air" describes the manner of painting started in the 19th century France. "In the Open Air" painting is experiencing a resurgence in Missouri. Thirteen artists traveled to Cuivre River State Park and painted Lincoln Lake. The seasoned artists were mostly retired and appreciated the art supplies and the introduction to plein air painting. Art supplies were provided along with an art instructor from the St. Louis Art Museum.

QUOTES:

"This is a great program for senior artist, on my fixed income I had pretty much given up art."

"What a majestic park! What beautiful landscapes."

## **Katy Trail State Park**

"Biking the Katy Trail"

20 participants

Scott Joplin House State Historic Site took seniors for a bike ride! Participants rode on a bus to Defiance, Mo., where seniors were fitted with a bicycles from Katy Bike Rental for our scenic fall seven-mile ride along the historic Katy Trail to Augusta, Mo. Lunch was provided.

QUOTES:

"I didn't know about the Katy Trail, I can't wait to bring my family."

"I am telling all my friends about it next year."

## **Other Facilities**

**3 total trips**

**67 total participants**

**55 first time participants**

## **Washington State Park**

"Missouri State Parks Rock!"

7 participants

Seniors from the Park Hills Senior Center spent the day touring Washington State Park and their historic CCC structures and the mining histories of St. Joe State Park and Missouri Mines State Historic Site. A picnic lunch was provided by Sugarfire of Farmington.

## **First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site**

"Play Till the Cows Come Home"

44 participants

This program was designed to give participants an introductory workshop on many different historic themes and topics. They choose from 14 different lectures, historic skills and crafts, hands on activities. Lunch with a 1800s flair was provided.

QUOTES:

"It is not often when programs are geared entirely to seniors. We hope you consider other programs like this primarily for seniors."

"Senior Day was very well done and the staff could not have been more helpful."

## **Sam A. Baker State Park**

16 participants

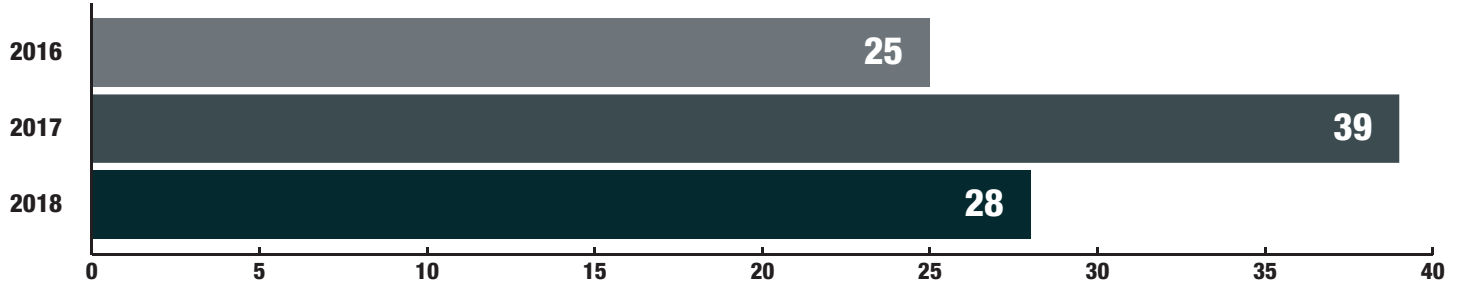
The purpose of this trip was for local seniors to learn about its natural and cultural resources through a behind the scenes tour of the park. The tour included a trip to the visitor center, the historic fire tower on Mudlick Mountain, lunch at the new Mudlick Mountain Grill, and interpretive program.

QUOTES:

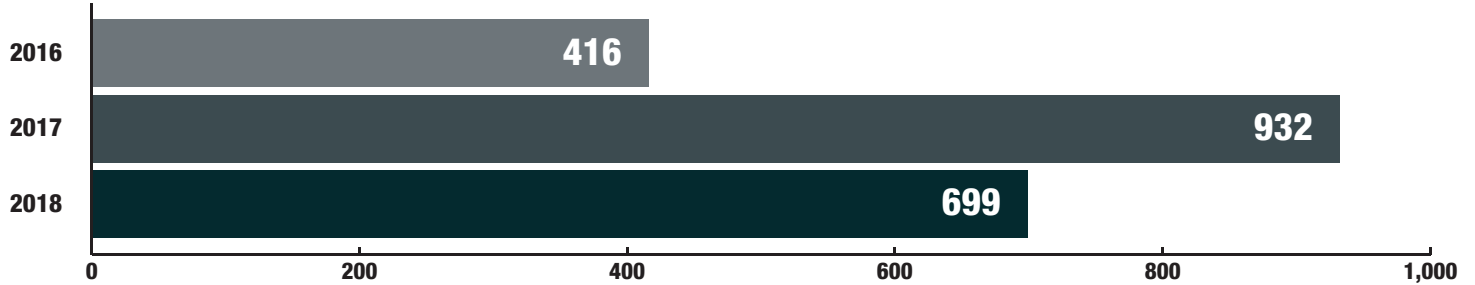
"Great Job! Great crew! Everything was good! Thanks."

"Everything was great. Good to see someone so passionate about their job."

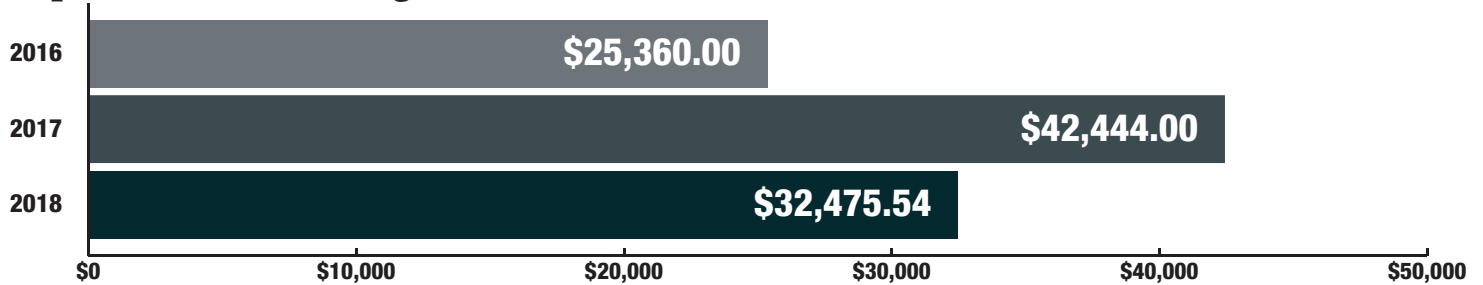
### Comparison of Total Trips in 2016, 2017 and 2018



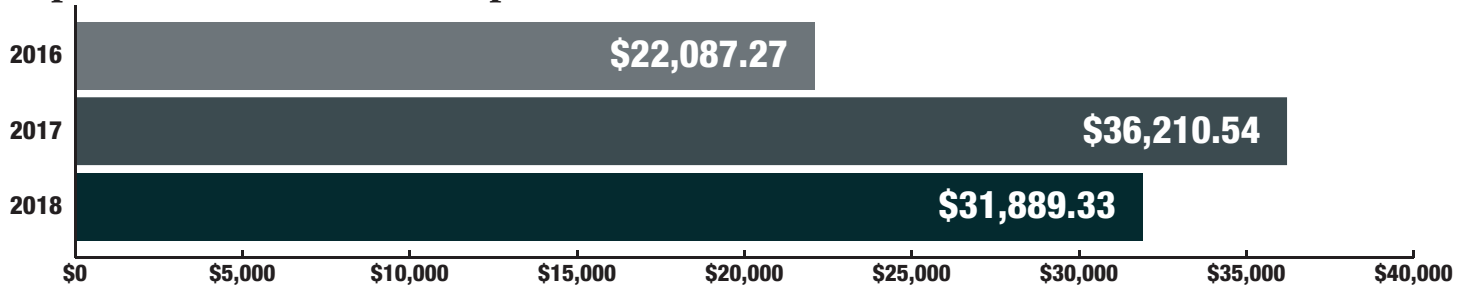
### Comparison of Total Participants in 2016, 2017 and 2018



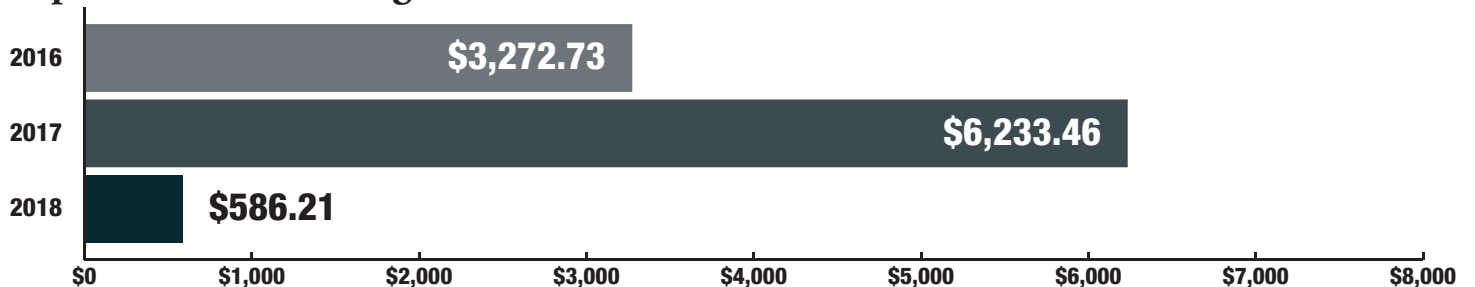
### Comparison of Total Budget Allocated in 2016, 2017 and 2018



### Comparison of Total Amount Spent in 2016, 2017 and 2018



### Comparison of Remaining Balance in 2016, 2017 and 2018





**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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