

# RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION

## TO Missouri Department of Natural Resources-Land Reclamation Program

### Oppose the Proposed NexGen Silica Sand Mine Across from Hawn State Park

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**WHEREAS**, Hawn State Park's hills of stately pine and oak trees, sandy-bottom streams, and sandstone canyons and cliffs create one of the most significant and scenic landscapes in Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, geology buffs come to the park to see the number of exposed rock types, hikers love the park for its amazing trails, and bird watchers flock to the park for its variety of birds; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4,956-acre Hawn State Park offers a scenic and peaceful setting where visitors can camp, enjoy nature, picnic, and hike on trails which range from a short walk to an overlook area to an almost 10-mile-long backpacking trail that is considered one of the best in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawn State Park is a Dark-Sky site following principals to minimize unnecessary artificial light at night; and

**WHEREAS**, in the cool waters of the Pickle Creek Natural Area, Pickle Creek - designated an Outstanding State Resource Water - winds its way for two miles through narrow and scenic sandstone valleys and rushes over granite outcrops and shut-ins; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawn State Park also includes the Botkins Pine Woods Natural Area, which features pure stands of mature shortleaf pine, that reach up to 80-90 feet in height, on coves and side slopes; and

**WHEREAS**, the LaMotte Sandstone Barrens Natural Area in the park features sandstone glades and a dry sandstone forest characterized by shortleaf pine as well as a diversity of wildflowers and birds; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawn State Park is in a historically significant area, with the nearby town of Ste. Genevieve, the oldest incorporated community in Missouri which was founded around 1735 by French Canadian explorers coming up the Mississippi River; and

**WHEREAS**, the silica mining operation proposed by NexGen Silica, LLC for a 149-acre site north of Highway 32 in Ste. Genevieve County threatens and has the potential to destroy the peaceful nature and visitor experience of Hawn State Park and its Natural Areas and Outstanding State Resource Water by creating excess artificial light and noise during daytime blasting and the 24/7 sand mining, processing and truck or rail shipping operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the silica mining and processing operation proposed by NexGen Silica, LLC will have the additional risk of fugitive dust, respirable fine particulate silica reaching the park areas with the inherent health risks and air and water pollution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows: The Missouri Parks Association, meeting on May 26, 2022, at Arrow Rock State Historic Site, opposes the construction and operation of a silica sand mine and processing facility across from the intersection of Highways 32 and 144 in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, as proposed by NexGen Silica, LLC.

Approved and adopted by the Missouri Parks Association Board of Directors this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2022.

Signed: Terry Whaley, President, Missouri Parks Association

Date: 5/26/2022

