



For Immediate Release

Missouri Parks Associations Announces 6th Year of Support for 'Seniors to State Parks'

(Kansas City, Missouri, February 15, 2020)

The Missouri Parks Association (MPA) is pleased to announce its 6th year of support for 'Seniors to State Parks'. In partnership with the Missouri State Parks system, this innovative program provides seniors the opportunity to visit Missouri's state parks and historical sites. Made possible by an endowment from the Ben and Bettie Breeding family, 'Seniors to State Parks,' launched in 2015, will have served almost 4,000 seniors by the end of 2020.

MPA's sponsorship has allowed seniors and persons with disability to participate in outdoor adventures such as to seeing the fall colors along the Missouri River at Weston Bend State Park, making Dutch apple cobbler and fresh squeezed lemonade while exploring the history at the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site, and a five-mile canoe trip down the Meramec River. Plans to expand to new areas and programs in 2020 promises a broader reach with a greater diversity of experiences.

"The endowment from Ben and Betty Breeding has allowed MPA to expand its mission of providing educational awareness of our park system. Missouri State Parks provide an ideal environment for older adults to socialize with others, stay active, and have fun! The collaboration with Missouri State Parks has benefited older adults throughout the state and MPA is thrilled to be able to fund the program again this year," said Terry Whaley, MPA President.

"The Seniors to Park Program allows senior citizens, and those who might not otherwise get to experience the recreation and interpretation of a state park or state historic site, the opportunity to spend a day exploring or learning about Missouri resources and history," said Rebecca Young, recreation section chief and program coordinator. "We're grateful for our partnership with Missouri Parks Association and the ability to serve this underrepresented population."

About Missouri Parks Association (MPA)

The Missouri Parks Association is a group of over 3,000 Missourians and friends with a shared love and interest in Missouri's state park system. Founded in 1982 when financial shortfalls and political interests sought to dismantle and off load the park system's irreplaceable natural and cultural assets, MPA has continued the work set in motion 38 years ago. MPA's key focus remains on educating the general public and public officials about the natural resources, values and cultural heritage in the Missouri State Park system and defending the parks system against any threats to its well-being and longevity, ensuring a continued legacy of Missouri's unique history and ecology for enjoyment by future generations.

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