

# Missouri Parks Association UPOP (Underserved Populations Outreach Program)

## Summary Report for MPA Annual Meeting October 16, 2022

### Ste. Geneviève, MO

#### St. Louis – The Green Center

**Number of Participants:** 41 students in two 4-day sessions

**Participating Organizations:** Students in the fifth and sixth grade from Northview and Fairview Elementary Schools in the Jennings School District

**State Parks Visited:** Castlewood State Park, Babler State Park, First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site

**Amount:** \$5,000

**Noteworthy:** Utilizing the Green Center's 30 acres of Outdoor Learning Spaces as well as two state parks and one state historic site they learned about tall grass prairie/wetland/forest ecosystems, catching macroinvertebrates from a spring fed creek, learning how Missouri became a state at the location of our first state capitol and the importance of the Missouri River to our area's history and much more! Refer to the full report for wonderful quotes from the participants.

#### Kansas City – Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center

**Number of Participants:** 54 campers aged 9-12

**Participating Organizations:** Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri State Parks, Urban Rangers KC

**State Parks Visited:** None. Conservation Areas (MDC) utilized

**Amount requested:** \$2,500 R.A. Long Grant funds were spent this year. The \$2,235.74 carried over due to lack of programming during the pandemic along with \$265 from MPA were not spent in 2022 since there was no state parks coordinator; it will be carried over to 2023. A new state park employee started late in the season and will be able to coordinate UPOP next summer.

**Noteworthy:** Urban Explorer Camp and Urban Rangers Canoe Experience were based out of the Gorman Discovery Center in Kansas City. Urban Explorer camp also visited conservation areas in Buckner and Plattsburg. Urban Rangers canoe experience took place on the Current River.

#### Columbia- Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

**Number of Participants:** 164 children; 30 adults, 12 volunteers, 2 paid staff.

**Participating Organizations:** Columbia Parks and Recreation subsidized summer camp at the Armory, and Fun City Youth Academy

**Planned State Parks Visits:** Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

**Amount:** \$3,000 (\$1525 will carry over to 2023)

**Noteworthy:** Connor's Cave Tour, Natural Rock Bridge, Gans Creek, Spring Brook Trail, geological formations, using maps, finding and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates, identifying native plants and animals, hiking. Due to excessive heat warnings some field trips had to be canceled.

#### Joplin – Wildcat Glades Friends Group

**Number of Participants:** 57 youth and 6 YMCA staff

**Participating Organizations:** Missouri Department of Conservation, Chert Glades Master Naturalist Chapter, Ozark Gateway Audubon Society Chapter, Carthage Fair Acres YMCA

**State Parks Visited:** Roaring River State Park hatchery and Nature Center

**Amount:** \$3,000

**Program:** Learned about the reasons to not stack rocks, the different mushrooms growing around Roaring River, the different species of birds in the park, and fishing lures

#### Salem – \$1,500 grant from L-A-D Foundation for use in Ozarks split between two programs:

##### **Bonebrake Center of Nature and History – Field trips scheduled for October, 2022**

**Participating Organizations:** Oak Hill R1 Elementary School in Salem, Grades Pre-K through 8, 3 groups, 2 trips each

**Planned State Parks Visits:** Montauk State Park, Dillard Mill State Historic Site

**Amount:** \$1,500 (\$750 from L-A-D Grant matched with \$750 from MPA)

**Program:** Plans include learning about construction and operation of grist mills, tour of fish hatchery.

##### **I Can Too Learning Center**

**Number of Participants:** 41 children (15-17 per trip)

**State Parks Visited:** Babler State Park, Montauk State Park, Current River State Park, Echo Bluff State Park, Missouri Mines State Historic Site.

**Amount:** \$1,500 (\$750 from L-A-D Grant matched with \$750 from MPA)

**Noteworthy:**





**Wildcat Glades Friends at Roaring River State Park**



**Friends Of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park**

*Third graders give a thumbs up for the UPOP field trips!*