



Conservation Federation of Missouri

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Mossie Schallon
President

Tyler Schwartze
Executive Director

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Carol Comer, Director
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102

September 25, 2020

CC: Dru Buntin, Deputy Director
Mike Sutherland, Director of State Parks
Rich Germinder, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Eric Schmitt, Missouri Attorney General

Director Comer,

I am writing you on behalf of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The Conservation Federation's mission is to ensure the conservation of Missouri's wildlife and natural resources, and preservation of our state's rich outdoor heritage through advocacy, education, and partnerships. We represent over 100 organizations in Missouri, consisting of over 80,000 affiliated members within those groups.

Our members, representing a diverse constituency of Missourians, are deeply invested in our outdoors and natural resources. In the past five years, our members voted three times to adopt formal resolutions relating to Eleven Point State Park. Each time, the outdoorspeople of Missouri showed strong opposition to the sale of this land.

Because the broad constituency of Missourians who enjoy the outdoors are so invested in this important public land resource, we have been closely monitoring the related lawsuit, Van McGibney, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Defendant, Case No. 17AM-CC00021. On September 22, 2020, a judgment was rendered that directs the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to divest itself of those lands located within the bounds of the Wild and Scenic Easement.

As you will see in the attached resolutions, our constituents believe that Missouri State Parks are incredibly important as a natural resource, a recreation opportunity, and an economic engine. Furthermore, our members believe the lands associated with the Wild and Scenic Easement are a rare and valuable example of our pristine Ozark streams, and should not only be protected but should also be held as a public resource for all Missourians to enjoy. Keeping this land under the protection of Missouri State Parks can uphold the integrity of the Wild and Scenic Easement and would add to the legacy of protection for this unique stream.

The people of Missouri have spoken loud and clear: this land should remain in the State Park System and should be developed as a resource for public recreation. Time and time again the Missouri General Assembly has rejected proposals to sell this land. The cultural, environmental, and economic opportunities that would arise from Eleven Point State Park are untold, and the divestiture of this property would not be in the best interest of the people of Missouri.

On behalf of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and its more than 80,000 affiliate members, I would like to request that the Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State Parks, and the Attorney General of Missouri pursue the best interest of the people of Missouri by appealing the judgment of the court in order to retain all portions of the Eleven Point State Park Property.

Sincerely,

Mossie Schallon, President

"The Voice for Missouri Outdoors"

www.confedmo.org

Committee: Natural History, Parks & Wildlands

Author: Susan Flader, Missouri Parks Association

Defend Missouri State Parks

WHEREAS, more than 18 million people visit Missouri state parks and historic sites, generating more than \$1.1 billion annually in economic activity (2012 data); and

WHEREAS, the state park system is now utterly dependent on the Parks, Soil and Water Sales Tax (1/2 of 1/10th of 1%), for operations and maintenance, and the tax must be renewed by vote of the people in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Missouri State Parks through a planning process dating back to 1990 has acquired land and established new parks along the Sinking Creek tributary of Current River, the Eleven Point River, and the Rock Island Railroad to commemorate the 2017 centennial of Missouri State Parks; and

WHEREAS, a small number of members of the Missouri General Assembly have introduced more than a dozen bills moving rapidly through the legislative process that could damage the park system now and in the future, hobble the acquisition of new parkland, jeopardize renewal of the Parks and Soils Sales Tax, and hurt the economies of their own districts and the state—bills that would require the sale of the Eleven Point lands, mandate local hearings or concurrent approval of both houses for any proposed land purchases or donations, remove the tax exemption for state park land, allow ATVs on the Katy Trail, and cut funding for the park director's salary and core operations of certain parks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20th day of March, 2016, defend and encourage others to defend Missouri State Parks by: Staunchly opposing harmful state park bills (e.g., HB2187, SB682, SB683, HJR101, HB2047) and encouraging CFM affiliates and citizens to contact their legislators opposing the bills and asking for their support of the people of Missouri in their desire to support state parks; and supporting restoration in the senate of funds for state parks deleted by the house from HB2006; and vigorously supporting renewal of the Parks, Soil, and Water Sales Tax and using CFM communications capability and media access to encourage CFM members, affiliate organizations, and the general public to likewise support renewal of the tax.

Originating Committee: Public/Private Lands

Author: Kevin Roberson at the request of the Missouri Parks Association and Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Intended Recipient: Missouri Governor, Missouri State Legislature

**Support for Missouri's Four New State Parks and
The Eastern Segment of the Rock Island Trail**

WHEREAS, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Affiliates and members, understand and appreciate the importance of the Missouri State Parks to them and to the citizens of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri voters have overwhelmingly supported, through ballot initiatives and constitutional amendments, the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural resources that this great state has; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Federation of Missouri Affiliates and Members understand and appreciate the positive economic impact that State Parks have to the local communities and Missouri as a whole; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, on this 11th day of March, 2018, notifies the Missouri Governor and Missouri State Legislature that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, affiliates and members, support the acquisition and eventual development of four new parks: Ozark Mountain State Park, Bryant Creek State Park, Jay Nixon State Park, Eleven Point State Park and recommend acceptance of the donation of the eastern segment of the Rock Island Trail right of way from Ameren UE.

Searchable key words: State Parks, Ozark Mountain, Bryant Creek, Eleven Point, Jay Nixon, Eastern Segment of the Rock Island Trail

Expires: March 11, 2023

Conservation Federation of Missouri
2019 Resolutions

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Committee: Public/Private Lands Committee

Author: Richard Orr

Intended Recipients: Governor Mike Parson, Missouri General Assembly

Support Eleven Point, Bryant Creek, Ozark Mountain and Jay Nixon State Parks

WHEREAS, new Missouri state parks, Eleven Point, Bryant Creek, Ozark Mountain, and Jay Nixon were established in 2016; and

WHEREAS, these new state parks were closed to public visitation by the previous administration for an indeterminate period pending regional public DNR hearings and comment periods as to their desirability as parks; and

WHEREAS, public hearings that were held showed an overwhelming amount of support for keeping the parks; and

WHEREAS, these properties all have a high degree of suitability as parkland and are important examples of unique ecosystems, highlighting the biology and geology of the different geographical regions of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to acquire large tracts of lands such as these again by the state for new parks are infrequent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10th day of March, 2019, asks Governor Parson and members of the Missouri General Assembly to ensure these parks are subject to the conceptual development planning process or be opened for limited use by the public pending final development.

Searchable Keywords: State Parks, Bryant Creek, Ozark Mountain, Jay Nixon, Eleven Point
Expires March 10, 2024