

# Seniors to Parks

## 2016 Breeding Fund Summary



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 funding from this program came from an endowment from the Breeding family. This report details the successful programs held throughout the state in 2016.

## 2016 QUICK SUMMARY

- 25 Total Tours
- 416 Total Participants

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Budget Allocated</b> | <b>\$ 25,360.00</b> |
| <b>Amount Spent</b>           | <b>\$22,087.27</b>  |
| <hr/>                         |                     |
| <b>Remaining Balance</b>      | <b>\$3,272.73</b>   |

## KANSAS CITY Seniors to Parks

Number of Tours: 6  
Total Participants: 62

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Budget Received:</b> | <b>\$ 5,500.00</b> |
| <b>Transportation:</b>        | <b>3,114.00</b>    |
| <b>Tour Fees</b>              | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>Meals</b>                  | <b>905.19</b>      |
| <b>Misc.</b>                  | <b>56.35</b>       |
| <b>Seasonal Worker</b>        | <b>0.00</b>        |

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**Total Expenses** **\$4,075.54**

### TRIPS

#### Mark Twain State Park – May 18 and May 19

Wishing to relieve childhood camping trips we had an overnight trip at Mark Twain State Park in their group camp. The group camp has cabins with bunk beds, showers and a dining hall to cook our meals. Activities included a campfire, s'mores, fishing, birding and games. On the second day we visited the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site and went through the museum.

#### Weston Bend State Park – May 17

Spring is an active time at Weston Bend State Park. Two migration flyways merge along the Missouri River. During this time many birds use Weston as a rest stop on their journeys. The birds are also in full breeding color at this time. Unfortunately, on the day of the trip there was light rain and few birds were able to be seen. The participants enjoyed getting out and just being at the park.



#### Missouri State Museum – August 18

The Missouri State Museum is where visitors go to immerse themselves in the history of the Show-Me State. The group looked around the museum and took a tour of the Capital. There is a mural on the Capitals walls done by Thomas Hart Benton, a painter from Kansas City.

#### Wallace State Park – October 6

Wallace State Park is an island of serenity just outside the hustle and bustle of Kansas City. Nestled in the rolling farmland of northwest Missouri, the Cameron Sportsman's Club and other citizens helped the state acquire a 121-acre section of land in 1932 to protect the area from being converted for agriculture uses. In the morning we had a historical program about the origins of fall traditions and the legend of the Jack o Lantern. Participants painted their own pumpkin to ward off 'Jack of the Lantern'. After lunch we spent the afternoon fishing in the park's six-acre lake and playing games in the shelter.

#### Battle of Lexington State Historic Site – October 13

The Anderson House located on Battle of Lexington State Historic Site was used as a hospital during the 3-day battle in 1861.

Participants toured the Anderson house and museum. The museum exhibits artifacts from that time period. We toured the battle field and downtown memorials before returning to Kansas City.




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## KATY TRAIL STATE PARK

### Seniors to Parks

Number of Tours: 4  
Total Participants: 64

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Budget Received:</b> | <b>\$ 3,500.00</b> |
| <b>Transportation:</b>        | <b>1,350.00</b>    |
| <b>Tour Fees</b>              | <b>56.00</b>       |
| <b>Meals</b>                  | <b>884.27</b>      |
| <b>Misc.</b>                  | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>Seasonal Worker</b>        | <b>0.00</b>        |

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**Total Expenses** **\$2,290.27**

### TRIPS

#### Hermann – September 8

Two tours were scheduled but due to very low registration for the afternoon tour, we consolidated both tours into one morning tour. The tour was very similar to last year's Katy Trail Senior Tour in Hermann and highlighted the rich German heritage of Missouri's Rhineland and the natural history of the Loutre and Missouri river valleys. The tour began at Deutschheim State Historic Site,

then participants were driven to the McKittrick trailhead. The tour continued on the Katy Trail across the historic railroad bridge over the Loutre River to Rhineland, then return via a road route. Messmer and Eitmann Senior Center handled reservations and sign-up. Cindy Brown and staff conducted the tours of Strehly House and House Winery at Deutschheim State Historic Site. Melanie Smith and Megan Kelly conducted the tours of Katy Trail State Park. Lunch was served at Miss Clara's Café at the Messmer and Eitmann Senior Center in Hermann.

### Boonville – September 22

Two tours were held, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The tour was very similar to last year's Katy Trail Senior Tour in Boonville and highlighted the colorful Missouri River, Santa Fe Trail and Civil War history of the surrounding area. The tours featured the Boonville Depot, Boonville Visitor Center, the lift-span bridge over the Missouri River, and accessed the trail at Kingsbury Siding. Tour participants got to see the site of Old Franklin, the railroad roundhouse at Franklin, and the new Santa Fe monument at New Franklin. The tour continued on Highway 40 to the clay tile elevator at Pearsons and then



on to Rocheport, where participants were given the opportunity to walk through the historic railroad tunnel before returning to Boonville. Boonville Tourism Center handled the reservations and sign-up, as well as gave a quick tour of the Boonville Visitor Center. Melanie Smith and Megan Kelly conducted the tours of Katy Trail State Park. Lunch was served at the Farmers' Buffet at the Isle of Capri Conference Center.

### Sedalia – October 5

Two tours were scheduled but due to very low registration for the afternoon tour, we consolidated both tours into one morning tour. The tour was very similar to last year's Katy Trail Senior Tour in Sedalia and highlighted Sedalia's railroad, agricultural, and military history. The tour included a tour of the historic Katy Depot with an oral presentation by local historian Kathleen Boswell, then the tour traveled along the "Whiteman Corridor", which is an auto tour featuring the home and gravestone of 2nd Lt. George Whiteman, and finally a tour of the grounds of the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The tour began at the depot, drove past the location of the railroad shops at the intersection of Hancock St. and US-50, continued under the new Katy overpass over US-50, and followed a street route before getting on the Katy Trail at W. 13th St.

The tour then continued on the Katy Trail through Sedalia, and on to the Missouri State Fair's fairgrounds in which the tour continued on a street route throughout the fairgrounds. Wendy Falconer, Executive Director of the Missouri State Fair Foundation,

led the fairgrounds' portion. Before leaving the fairgrounds, tour participants explored the new Trail's End Monument.

After the Missouri State Fairgrounds, the tour returned to the depot via a street route that included notable buildings and historic features in Sedalia's downtown, such as the WPA ball field, which is significant in being a WPA project and the first lighted ball field west of the Mississippi, as well as the Sedalia's 1910 library, which was one of the many libraries funded by Dale Carnegie.

## ST. LOUIS Seniors to Parks

**Number of Tours: 5**  
**Total Participants: 147**

**Total Budget Received: \$ 7,750.00**  
**Transportation: 3,250.00**  
**Tour Fees 546.00**  
**Meals 1,489.00**  
**Misc. 1,250.00**  
**Seasonal Worker 1,200.00**

**Total Expenses \$7,735.00**

### TRIPS

#### Washington State Park – February 18

In celebration of African American History Month, we traveled to Washington State Park for a guided bus tour of the work of CCC Company 1743. We arrived around 10:30 a.m. and greeted by park staff with coffee and hot chocolate around a campfire before the tour. A naturalist led the group around the park visiting several of the CCC structures built by African-American men primarily from the St. Louis area and worked in the park from 1934-1939. Lunch

convened in the Thunderbird Dining Hall with a special power point presentation. Washington State Park was fortunate to receive originals of the CCC photos in this presentation. In April 2015, they were donated



to the park by Ms. Mary Owen Mears, granddaughter of J.A. Owen who was a foreman with Company 1743 at Washington State Park. The bus tour continued after lunch to the overlook gazebo another CCC structure where we could observe another area of the park.

#### Scott Joplin House State Historic Site – March 24

A historical journey of the past began at The Griot Museum to pay a quick visit of African Americans with a St. Louis connection who has

contributed to the growth of the community near the Scott Joplin House that interprets the beginning of his domestic life in St. Louis. Participants had the opportunity to take a guided tour of this modest walk-up flat or view a video depicting the 1902 historic apartment followed by ragtime music played on the antique player piano. A Victorian tea and lunch was served in the New Rosebud that included various finger foods and desserts. Concluding the visit, seniors took part in a musical illustration and composition using several different percussion instruments led by performing artist Glenn "Papa" Wright.

**Onondaga Cave State Park – April 13**

One of the objectives for this tour was to have seniors outside, engaged and connected through physical activity by walking. The cave tour was just under a mile long and lasted about 75 minutes. Most of the seniors had heard of Meramec but not Onondaga an underground masterpiece and interesting history and also a registered natural landmark. Following the tour we ate box lunches on the deck of the visitor center. On the trip back we stopped a Shaw's Nature Reserve to see more spectacular scenes of wildflowers, a burn and to walk the trails through the gardens. It was a nice and sunny day, great to be outdoors!

**First Missouri State Capital State Historic Site – September 14**

When the group arrived they were instructed by the staff that they would be helping to prepare lunch. They began cutting up the vegetable for the chicken and dumplings. Next the group took a guided tour of the first state capitol. Participants who could not access the second floor of the capitol watched a film. After the tour the group visited various stations that included butter churning and a tour of the vegetable and herb gardens. After lunch and a few yawns, the trip concluded with a leisurely walk on the Katy Trail along the Missouri River to Frontier Park located in the heart of historic St. Charles.



**Route 66 State Park – October 19**

Participants arrived at the Visitor Center and given the history of the visitor center which was the former Bridgehead Inn built in 1935, the town of Times Beach and the Route 66 highway. Seniors were then allowed to tour the exhibits and visit the souvenir shop. Next they travel by bus on a tour through the park traveling a section of the historic 66 to see the former site of Times Beach.

After returning back from the bus tour part of the visitor center was transformed into a diner where they were served grilled hamburgers and hotdogs cooked by Brian Stith, sample vintage

sodas, made root beer floats with the famous Ted Drew ice cream custard located on historic route 66.

The last stop on our tour was to the Missouri History Museum for a special exhibit on Route 66: Main Street Through St. Louis.

**NEW REQUESTS Seniors to Parks**

**Number of Tours: 10**  
**Total Participants: 143**

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Budget Received:</b> | <b>\$ 10,840.00</b> |
| <b>Transportation:</b>        | <b>5,382.50</b>     |
| <b>Tour Fees</b>              | <b>410.00</b>       |
| <b>Meals</b>                  | <b>1,381.40</b>     |
| <b>Misc.</b>                  | <b>674.87</b>       |
| <b>Seasonal Worker</b>        | <b>137.70</b>       |

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**Total Expenses** **\$7,986.47**

**TRIPS**

**Scott Joplin House State Historic Site and Felix Vallé House State Historic Site – April 14**

Scott Joplin House State Historic Site staff along with 32 seniors traveled back to Missouri's early French roots at Felix Vallé House State Historic Site on April 14, 2016. The 64 mile bus trip was enjoyable and all were eager for the adventure. Seniors toured the American-Federal style Vallé house, saw a host of artifacts that showed the American influence on the French community of Ste. Genevieve after the Louisiana Purchase.



After the tour, seniors were treated to a Tea Luncheon at the Bauvais-Amoureux House, built in 1792, one of the historic homes in the site, in historic Ste. Genevieve. Seniors made a small gourd birdhouse from French colonial times.

**Ha Ha Tonka State Park and Bennett Spring State Park April 20 and October 20**

I worked through two local senior centers in the lake area – The Camdenton Senior Center and the Westside Senior Center. The directors of both of these centers had a sign-up list at their locations and advertised these trips in their monthly newsletter to seniors. I contacted the Bennett Spring Dining Lodge and arranged

a lunch costing \$8.50 a person. Each participant had a choice of soup and turkey sandwich or soup and salad. The price included a beverage and tip. I did not include a dessert, but we suggested they go to the park store after their meal, to shop and could get a sweet



treat there. Our after-lunch portion of the tour started from this location. No funding was planned for salaries.

Ha Ha Tonka provided a knowledgeable seasonal staff to ride along the entire trip. At the beginning of the trip she gave each participant a bag containing information about MPA, the Parks and Soils Sales Tax,

Missouri Parks Celebrating their 100th Birthday brochure, and park brochures of the two parks they would be visiting. At Bennett the group was met by Park Superintendent Gabe DuMond and on the second trip by Park Naturalist Pat Chambers. The Department of Conservation at Bennett Springs Fish Hatchery also provided a tour at no charge.

#### **Dr. Edmond A. Babler Memorial State Park – May 9**

Two buses arrived from the Friendship village assisted living center and unloaded 30 people at the park visitor center where park intern Matt Evens and assistant superintendent Richard Love met with the group. Matt and Richard gave the group a tour of the parks visitor center and let them watch the parks interpretive movie. After the tour of the visitor center Richard and Matt talked with the group about the CCC and took the group on a tour around the park making stops at many of the CCC buildings throughout the park. The assisted living center used their own transportation and Matt provided some refreshments. But no money was spent from the Missouri Park Association fund.

#### **Prairie State Park, Battle of Carthage State Historic Site and Harry S Truman State Historic Site – September 9**

We found that Mercy Seniors in Springfield turned out to be a terrific partner for recruiting seniors to participate in our tour. This ended up shifting our funding, which was initially estimated based on departing from Joplin rather than Springfield.

The tour started watching a movie on tallgrass prairies as they rode from Springfield to Carthage. They met park staff at the Carthage Civil War Museum where a guide described the Battle of Carthage and showed a short film. Participants had some time to look around the museum. The tour continued at the Battle of Carthage State Historic Site where some participants got off the bus to tour the grounds, despite the rain. The final morning stop was at Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site. Since the tour had only 25

participants (plus bus driver), they had plenty of time to explore downtown Lamar before lunch. The catered lunch was held at the Thiebaud Auditorium in downtown Lamar. The trip concluded at Prairie State Park near Mindenmines. The park naturalist rode the bus to talk about how the park manages the tallgrass prairie. Participants had time to explore the nature center and watch the Battle of Island Mound movie while they had snacks. Mercy Seniors in Springfield handled reservations, sign-up, and lunch.

#### **Washington State Park and St. Francois State Park September 13 and September 15**

Two tours were given to senior groups from the areas surrounding Washington State Park and St. Francois State Park. Participants were transported from their local senior center to St. Francois State Park, where they learned about the natural resources of St. Francois State Park and its role in Ozark history. The natural recreational opportunities were highlighted, including hiking, horseback riding, and the access to Big River. Following the tour, participants were then transported to Washington State Park's Thunderbird Lodge. There they enjoyed lunch provided by the park's concessionaire, Missouri Park Adventures.

They also viewed a slideshow about the history of Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1743 (the only African-American



company of the C.C.C. to work in Missouri State Parks) and their work at Washington State Park. After lunch, the participants were led on a guided tour of Washington State Park and its natural and cultural

resources, including the Native American petroglyphs and the C.C.C. era structures. After the tour, participants were transported back to their local senior center.

Each participant received a Missouri State Parks Centennial Window Cling, Missouri State Parks magnet, Washington State Park souvenir cup, and information on Missouri State Parks and the Missouri Park Association. Two local senior centers coordinated reservations for the trips and helped with promotion. The directors of these centers were very enthusiastic to have such an opportunity for their seniors at no cost to the centers. All participants enjoyed the trip and the chance to visit these parks along the Big River.

#### **Knob Noster State Park – September 30**

The visitors arrived at the park where Daniel Brigman and Theresa Ramsey gave an introduction to the park, as well as outlined the plan for the tour. The participants were made aware that the tour is celebrating the park's 70th anniversary.

We visited the park's WPA day-use area, campground, and Buteo Day-Use Area. We spoke about the park's history, which included a heavy influence of the WPA on the reasoning behind the park's original purpose. We spoke about the National Register listings, such as Camp Shawnee and the stone bridge.

We then stopped at the stone entrance bridge to talk about the recent bridge restoration work and took a group picture. We then traveled to Camp Bobwhite and toured the grounds of the facility. From Bobwhite, we traveled to the McAdoo Trail's trailhead to discuss the role of equestrian usage in the park, as well as touched upon the RTP grants that we received to create the trailhead and to maintain/improve the trail itself.

From the trailhead we traveled to Camp Shawnee. We spoke about the historic nature of the entire camp, as well as future possibilities for additional use of the facility. We toured the interior of the dining hall to allow the visitors to glimpse what visitors from the park's origins would have seen. From Camp Shawnee we traveled back to the Visitor Center to eat the provided lunch and gave the visitors several souvenirs.



Throughout the trip, we also spoke about the park's natural resources. The woodlands, grasslands, and lakes were mentioned. Photos of the area from the past were used to compare the areas they were seeing today. Prescribed burn management areas, and exotic species control were also briefly touched upon. After lunch, the group departed for Whiteman Air Force Base.

Participants expressed their interest in the park's history and asked about managing the facility. They were surprised at the quality of the structures despite their age.

At Whiteman Air Force Base the group was given a quick base tour that included seeing the B2 in a hangar, several types of planes along the roads, and a brief history of the base. Then we went to visit the Oscar site for a tour. The group was fascinated by the size of the underground area and the description of all the concrete and rebar that was used to secure the site. One of the tour participants actually worked at Whiteman AFB during the time the missiles were in operation and added an interesting side notes to the tour. Theresa mentioned that there was a cable like the guide talked about connecting the missile sites together that runs through our park, and that a small portion of our park was used for a firing range when WAFB was called Sedalia Army Air Field Rifle Range.

The group was brought back to the park, and everyone expressed their gratitude for the trip and were invited back to the park.

## Scott Joplin House State Historic Site and Katy Trail State Park October 15

This ride was for persons 55 years old and up that could ride distances without assistance.

Scott Joplin House State Historic Site staff along with 32 seniors traveled 38 miles to Defiance, MO for a bike ride along the beautiful Katy Trail. We begin with check-in at the Scott Joplin House where seniors were able to borrow a helmet for the day and load up on breakfast and energy bars and juice for our journey. We rode by charter bus to Katy Bike Rental in Defiance, Missouri, where seniors were fitted with a bicycle for our scenic ride along the Katy Trail to Augusta, MO. We were able to meet the bikers at several stops along the 7 mile ride to Augusta to give water and check if a rider (4) could not make the entire trip. If



riders could not make the entire trip, their bike was picked up and they rode the bus. Upon arrival to Augusta box lunches awaited the riders. After lunch an hour visit in Augusta took place, where seniors enjoyed the various wineries and antique shops. The return bus ride back to the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site found seniors pleased with their accomplishments of the day and excited about future rides on the Katy Trail, since none had experienced the this State Park trail before.

## Deutschheim State Historic Site – December 6

Deutschheim's tour was held on December 6 touring the Pommer-Gentner House's Weihnachtsfest, a German Christmas Celebration, and also our special exhibit at the Feldmann Stark House, "German Immigrant Abolitionists: Fighting for a Free Missouri". We had a morning and an afternoon group with a total of 21 participants. The groups were picked up at the Messmer Senior Center by a chartered coach seating 15, participated in our event and tour, with lunch at Miss Clara's between the tour times. Many recalled childhood memories of Christmas, often with German traditions, and related personal stories of their own Christmas celebrations, including traditions that they did not know were of German immigrant origin. The Hermann mayor and his wife were on the morning tour and he was most impressed with the senior in parks program and with the event, promising to write about it in his upcoming bi weekly column in the local paper. We had excellent response and comments with none of these participants having been to the site before.



**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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