

Park Place



St. Charles County Park News

Park Construction



Sections of Broemmelsiek Park near Wentzville are closed due to construction. Hiking, biking and equestrian enthusiasts should be aware that some trails may be re-routed due to the renovation of Betty's Lake. The 13-acre lake is being engineered to maxi-

mize the fish and wildlife habitat living in the water. When completed, Betty's Lake will be the largest lake in St. Charles County Parks regional system, fully stocked with bluegill, bass, and catfish.

In addition to the Broemmelsiek Park site construction, some improvements to the Klondike public boat ramp in August are nearly complete. The new ramp, which has access to the Missouri River, is expected to open sometime in September and available for public use.

Fire Restrictions Lifted



The temporary camp fire ban has been lifted at camping facilities within St. Charles County Parks. Campers staying at Klondike Park near Augusta and the Youth Group Camp Area at Indian Camp Creek Park near Wentzville may once again burn wood fires. The fire ban, which was enforced in June because of excessive dry conditions, has expired. It was put in place to ensure the safety of park guests.

To reserve a cabin, primitive or basic camp site, or the Youth Group Camp Area, contact the St. Charles County Parks Department at (636) 949-7535 or visit www.stccparks.org.

Paws in the Park



The St. Charles County Parks Department will play host to the 9th annual Paws in the Park celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at Broemmelsiek. The event will be held inside the unique Off-

Leash Dog Area of the park, which features a large pond for dogs to splash around and play in. Pet lovers from across the region will attend this fun, free off-leash dog festival packed with contests, prizes, sponsor giveaways, and K-9 and obedience skills demonstrations.

This year, from 10:30 - 11 a.m., enjoy exciting performances by Gateway DockDogs. Handlers Sally Peyton and Katrina Lindmeier will show off their dogs which will be performing a variety of tricks off the temporary dock at the park. Beginning at 11:30 a.m., two specially trained dogs from the St. Charles County Sheriff K-9 Unit, Janko and Enzo, will conduct a drug search with a seized car, followed by obedience skills demonstrations by their handlers, Deputy Doug Warmann and Deputy Gary Schmitt. And at 1 p.m., dog owners may begin signing up their furry friends for the best trick and fastest pond ball retrieval contest. Top dogs will be awarded with debit gift cards compliments of First State Bank.

Other activities going on throughout the day include: \$10 micro-chipping provided by the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center, free dog nail trims offered by Westinn Kennels, free pet tattoos courtesy of Paws and Relax Pet Spa, free dog food samples provided by PetCo, a \$1 raffle for a chance to win a free week at Harpers Doggie Day Care valued at \$100, a BBQ fundraiser benefitting needy St. Charles County Families by the Guardians Auto Club and much more! PetSmart is also providing a special giveaway for the doggie goodie bags that will be given to the first 100 guests arriving at the event.

Towne Park Fall Fun



Join the St. Charles County Parks Department for a few afternoon's of FREE fall festivities at the historic 1830s homestead at Towne Park, 100 Towne Park Dr., off Highway 61 near Wentzville. Park guests can

explore the art of blacksmithing, the craft of wood-working and experience a 19th century fall harvest picnic at two upcoming scheduled demonstrations in the park. The former "Pink Plantation" homestead will also be open for tours.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, blacksmithing expert Ken Jensen of Butcher Creek Forge in Moscow Mills will be demonstrating metal working from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Learn a variety of blacksmithing techniques while watching Ken make useful metal objects and forged items. Also learn about 19th century wood-working while craftsmen shape pieces of a Windsor chair and create a child's wooden rocking chair.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, experience a fall harvest picnic at Towne Park from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., and watch St. Charles County Parks staff cook up a batch of old fashioned apple butter and apple cider. Learn about the importance of a fall harvest and farm orchards and how they shaped the diets of our ancestors in early 19th century St. Charles. Children will be entertained by playing period games and making corn husk dolls and corn cob crafts.

Contact the Parks Department for more information about programs, events and volunteering at the historical homestead at Towne Park.

New Duck Nest Boxes



Jonathan Bostic, 13, from St. Peters recently built and installed seven wooden duck nest boxes at Broemmelsiek Park, as part of his Eagle Scout project. He wanted to create a unique habitat for ducks to nest in our

area. With the help of his father and some additional Boy Scouts, the new duck boxes can be seen around the lakes within the park. The Eagle Award is the highest Boy Scout honor and Jonathan should be receiving it sometime this fall.

Serving In Our Parks



Barat Academy students are partnering with the St. Charles County Parks Department again to fulfill their freshman service learning requirements for the year. The students will be involved in a substantial plant-

ing project at the Youth Activity Park, beginning in September.

Also, nearly 50 members of Calvary Church will be sprucing up Indian Camp Creek Park, Quail Ridge Park and Towne Park on Saturday, Oct. 13, as part of the Calvary Day of Service. The church volunteers will be involved in a variety of projects that day. As part of the service work, the certified Nature Explore Classroom at Towne Park will be closed on Oct. 13 -14 and will reopen on Oct. 15.

Run Wild In The Woods



The 11th annual Wild in the Woods Trail Run Series begins with a 7M race, Saturday, Sept. 29, at Klondike Park. The race course features a variety of terrain with runners traveling over hard surfaced- trail,

park roads, crushed stone trail and single -track natural-surfaced trail. Pre-register for the first race before Sept. 20 deadline and pay a \$25 fee. After the deadline, fees increase to \$35. The first 90 pre-registered participants receive a different giveaway item at each race.

Additional races will be Oct. 13, with a 10M at Indian Camp Creek Park and Nov. 3, with a 5M at Broemmelsiek Park. Pre-registration deadlines apply to these races also.

Registration fee for the Series is \$65, prior to the Sept. 13. After the deadline, participants pay \$85.

New this year, the top four male and top four female runners from the Series will be offered an opportunity to register for the annual Pere Marquette Endurance Run in Illinois, Saturday, Dec. 8, which is already at sold out.

Night of Fright



Be afraid...be very afraid at the annual Night of Fright going on from dusk – 10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Youth Activity Park, 7801 Highway N in Dardenne Prairie. Children and their

families are invited to experience this spook-tacular Halloween celebration at one of St. Charles County's most unique parks.

For only \$5, dare to take a trip through the Haunted House nestled inside the recreation facility of the park. The house of horror, created by park staff, is specifically designed for children ages 8 – 16. Enter at your own risk...there's a spooky surprise around every corner!

After the scare, skateboard or rollerblade in the 33,000-square-foot skate park. An activity waiver must be completed for all guests using the skate park or rock climbing walls. Helmets are also required while skating.

For more information about Night of Fright, contact the Youth Activity Park at 636.561.4964.

Mountain Biking Event



Children, ages 8 - 14, are encouraged to get outside and celebrate the seventh annual Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Broemmelsiek Park. This fun, free, family event offers

skills clinics, guided trail rides, bike safety inspections and demo bikes for day of use. Co-sponsored by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Gateway Off-Road Cyclists (GORC), and several area bike shops, the special event is limited to the first 250 children registered. Early registration is recommended. The first 100 children enrolled receive a free goody bag. In support of the Let's Move Initiative, this nationwide event is expected to get 30,000 children participating in 300 cycling events across the nation. Contact the St. Charles County Parks Department to pre-register your child today.

Fall Hayrides Begin



Enjoy an old-fashioned hayride with family and friends at Broemmelsiek Park, weekends beginning Sept. 21 through Nov. 18. Groups and individuals of all ages are welcome to enjoy the fun of a hayride with-

out traveling miles from home.

Two tractor pulled wagons take guests on a 45-minute ride through tree-lined fields of the park. Afterwards, participants can enjoy sitting around a glowing bonfire for an hour to roast their own treats. Guests may also bring non-alcoholic beverages, but glass containers are prohibited on the wagons or at the campfire site.

Advanced reservations are required. The cost is \$125 a wagon with a maximum of 20 people per wagon. Hayrides may be reserved for 6, 7, and 8 p.m. on Fridays and 5, 6, 7, and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition to the group hayrides, individual families and small groups can also join in the fun of a Hayride Hoedown at Broemmelsiek Park on Friday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 27. Guests will experience a 45-minute wagon ride through the park, along with a campfire dinner, s'mores, and the foot-stomping, knee-slapping performance of Babaloo, a one-man musical comedy act suitable for all ages.

Cost for the event is \$10.50 per person and advanced reservations before Oct. 19 is required. Sessions are offered at 6, 6:45 and 7:30 p.m., and are limited to 40 participants per session. To register for the Hayride Hoedown, contact the Parks Department.

Mosquito Protection

Even though fall has arrived, don't forget to protect yourself from mosquito bites while out in the parks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there have been confirmed cases of the West Nile Virus reported in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The St. Charles County Health Department wants to remind park guests to use an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus whenever outdoors. Wearing long-sleeves shirts and pants outside can also make a difference. For more information about mosquito control, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>.