

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Note Change in Time and Location

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mari E. Macomber, City Manager
SESSION DATE: May 20, 2013
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
PLACE: 1000 Hills Marina

AGENDA:

- **TOUR OF FOREST LAKE**
- **REVIEW NEWSLETTER – May 17, 2013**
- **REVIEW COUNCIL AGENDA**

TOUR OF FOREST LAKE

For the next two Council Study Sessions we will be touring both of our city lakes (Forest and Hazel Creek Lakes). The lakes were established to serve primarily as water sources but have developed into much more for our community and this area of the state.

For Monday we will tour Forest Lake. The lake is located three miles west of Kirksville and consists of 583 surface acres of water. Its watershed consists of 8,831 acres which includes 1000 Hills State Park. The lake is used as both a water source and a recreation area.

The lake was developed by the City back in the 1950s. It is surrounded by park lands that were given to the State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources by the City. The park consists of a little more than 3,200 acres. The central feature of the park is the lake which offers recreational opportunities of swimming, fishing, boating and skiing.

The Council recently made a change to allow boats larger than 90 horsepower operating at idle speed. The Council also changed the cost of boat permits.

Our purpose for Monday will be to 1) discuss how the City would handle water rescues; 2) meet the concessionaire of the park and learn about this aspect of the recreational amenities offered at the lake; 3) learn how Missouri Department of Conservation works with the City at the lake; 4) receive information on a recent change that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has made concerning the swim beach at the lake; and 5) consider the condition of the lake (docks, retaining wall, sediment, lake levels etc.) and how they might affect the City.

In addition to the Council, media and city staff, we will have Mike Anderson – Missouri Department of Conservation with us on the tour. Mike has graciously obtained the pontoon for our use and will be with us on our tour of Hazel Creek later in the month.

Jeremy Kolb is the son of long time Concessionaire Steve Kolb. Jeremy, his wife and mother are no strangers to the operations of the concessionaire working with Steve over the years and is currently in charge of the operations.

Recommendation: This is an opportunity to learn more about this important water source. If we have time once we get back to City Hall we will review the Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER REVIEW – May 15, 2013

REVIEW COUNCIL AGENDA

- Staff Report – Water Rescue
- General Park Information
- Map of the Park
- Pictures from State Park Site
- Big Creek Brochure from MDC

KIRKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: Water Rescue (Forest Lake)

STUDY SESSION MEETING DATE: May 20, 2013

CITY DEPARTMENT: Kirksville Police Dept.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hughes, Police Chief

Over the last few years there have been few incidents where the Lake Officer (or others) rescued victims from the water. Those that have occurred have, for the most part, been minor. This does not include the victim who suffered a medical event and submerged his car in the lake.

Most true rescues are time critical and are handled by on scene personnel and equipment. Those most likely to assist, depending on time of year, include the City's Lake Officer, Park Ranger, Lake Staff and other boaters.

One significant event, in the last 10 years, involved a recovery of a drowning victim. A number of local and outside resources were collected to assist with this event.

The Police Department has a boat that is on the water from Memorial Day through the triathlon in September. It is available for any agency to use in an emergency. Public Works has a boat on a trailer that is water ready virtually 12 months out of the year. In addition, the Marina has boats (including pontoon boats) that are available (not to mention any number of private craft on the water and at the Marina).

The Fire Department typically runs rescue operations from shore. This includes life vests and a number of devices that can deliver rescue ropes as far as 300 feet out into the water. KFD also has a water rescue suit for ice and cold water rescue. The Fire Department trains biannually on shoreline rescue techniques and immobilizing victims in pools and lakes.

In 2005 several Police employees (including the officer scheduled to work the lake in 2013), and other local emergency responders, successfully completed a deep water rescue class.

General Information

at **Thousand Hills State Park**

Thousands of Hills

Looking over the landscape of northern Missouri, it's easy to imagine why residents refer to the area as "thousand hills." Gently rolling hills and steep, rugged inclines can be found in this patchwork of woodlands and grassy meadows.

The formation of this landscape began millions of years ago when the area was covered with glaciers that flattened the land and covered it with a thick layer of rich soil. The multitude of ridges and valleys were formed as many rivers and streams cut down into the earth, dissecting the land and forming "thousands of hills." Running through this landscape is the Grand Divide. A divide is an area where the surface water drainage is separated by higher ground.

Archaeologists believe the area was once part of an ancient ceremonial ground used by the Native Americans that inhabited Missouri as many as 1,500 years ago. Ancient rock carvings of images such as crosses, arrows, snakes, thunderbirds and other animals, which were made by chipping and rubbing into the sandstone rock, can be found at the petroglyph site. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By the 1950s, Kirksville officials were concerned about an adequate water supply for the expanding population. Heirs of Dr. George M. Laughlin, a longtime supporter of a city reservoir, provided a 1,100-acre tract of land for the building of a lake, and additional acreage was purchased. In 1951, construction of the lake began with the damming of Big Creek, a tributary of the Chariton River. Construction was completed the next year, and the 573-acre Forest Lake was completely filled by 1956. The land was given to Missouri as a state park in 1953. Today, the park offers opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating and dining.

Water recreation is a highlight of the park's outdoor activities. The lake and its 17 miles of shoreline make it popular for fishing, water skiing, paddleboating, canoeing and motorboating. A fully equipped marina offering boat rentals and supplies is located on the lake, which is stocked with crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. For visitors who want to dip into the cool waters, there is a pay swimming beach along the shore. Nearby is a beach house with dressing rooms, showers and a snack bar.

Scattered among the oak and hickory trees are numerous campsites, many of which have electrical hookups. There are water fountains, dumping stations, modern restrooms and hot showers available

in the camping area. In addition, seven duplex cabins overlook the lake's shoreline near the modern dining lodge. Picnic sites are located throughout the park and along the lakeshore. There are four open shelters and one enclosed shelter with electricity that can be reserved in advance.

Several hiking and mountain bicycling trails wind through the forest. Thousand Hills Trail was developed as a cooperative project of the Community Betterment Association of Kirksville, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The trail traverses both the Big Creek Conservation Area and Thousand Hills State Park.

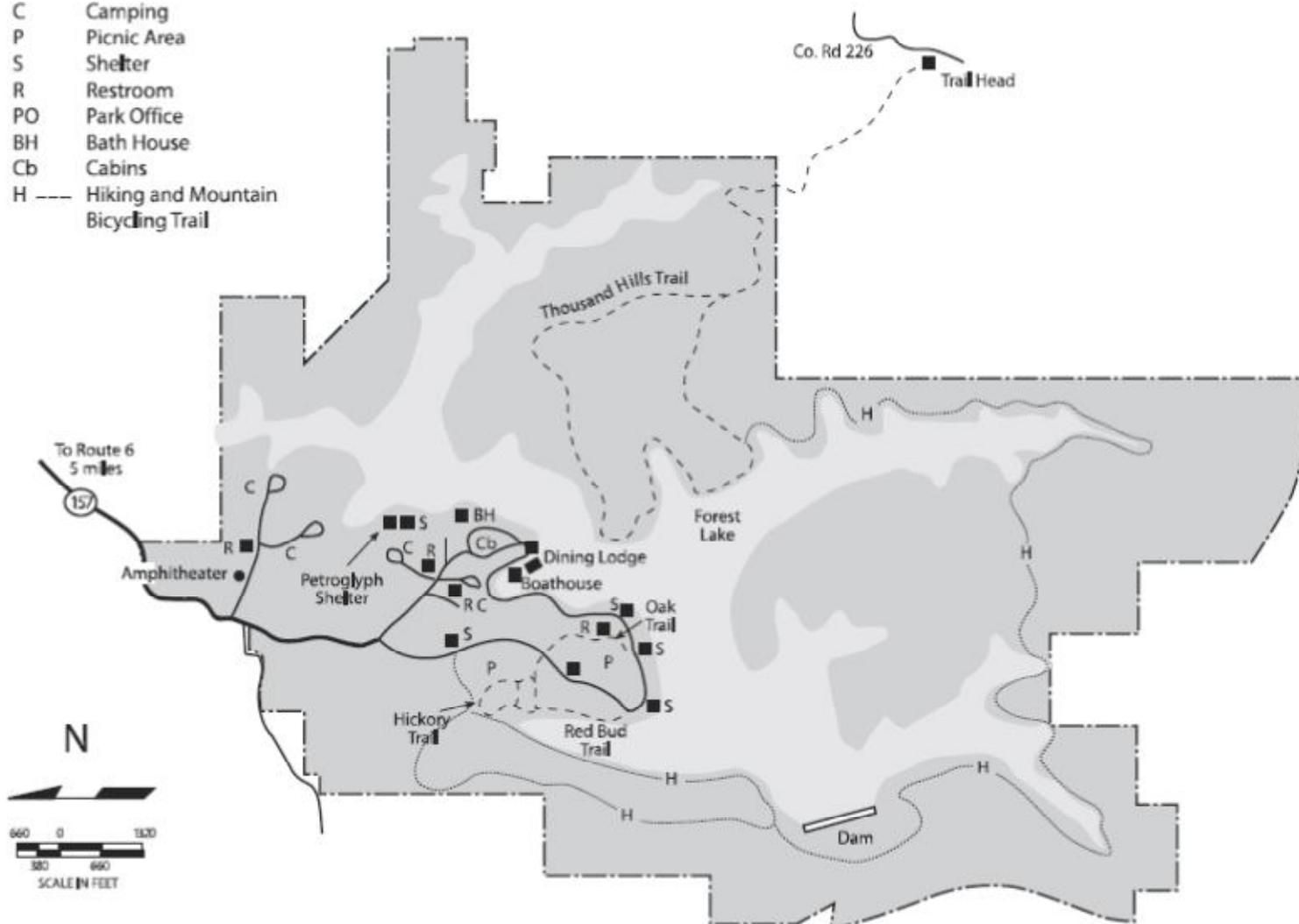
The natural beauty of the area can be seen in the rolling upland areas of the park, which are covered with second-growth forests of white oak, northern red oak and shagbark hickory with an understory of mulberry, redbud and ironwood. Swamp white oak, silver maple, cottonwood and sycamore can be found in the bottomland along the Chariton River. Wildlife includes white-tailed deer, wild turkey, beaver, raccoon, red fox, Canada geese and turkey vulture.

More than half of northern Missouri was once covered in native grasses and savanna, but only remnants remain today. Several of these remnants can be found at Thousand Hills State Park. Controlled burning and selective cutting of some woody vegetation encourages the restoration of savanna and prairie species such as big bluestem, Indian grass, rattlesnake master, blazing star and several goldenrods.

THOUSAND HILLS STATE PARK

LEGEND

- C Camping
- P Picnic Area
- S Shelter
- R Restroom
- PO Park Office
- BH Bath House
- Cb Cabins
- H ——— Hiking and Mountain Bicycling Trail





Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting –
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities. Parking or storing watercraft or commercial vehicles on department areas during closed areas is prohibited.

- No littering.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to graveled roadways and parking areas.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles.
- Bicycle riding is permitted on roads open to vehicles and trail that connects with Thousand Hills State Park.
- Camping is allowed on or adjacent to all area parking lots. No unattended open campfires allowed. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit. Stays are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period.
- Walk-in camping is allowed, EXCEPT during all firearms deer and turkey seasons, when camping is only allowed on or adjacent to all area parking lots.
- No target shooting allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. Daily and possession limits are:

| | Area Ponds | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Daily | Possession |
| Largemouth bass | 6 | 12 |
| Channel catfish | 4 | 20 |
| Crappie | 30 | 60 |
| All other fish combined | 20 | |

- On all area ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- Only electric motors are permitted on impounded waters.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations.

The following special regulations also apply.

- Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and methods except: only archery and muzzleloading methods may be used.
- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address of the user or conservation number and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

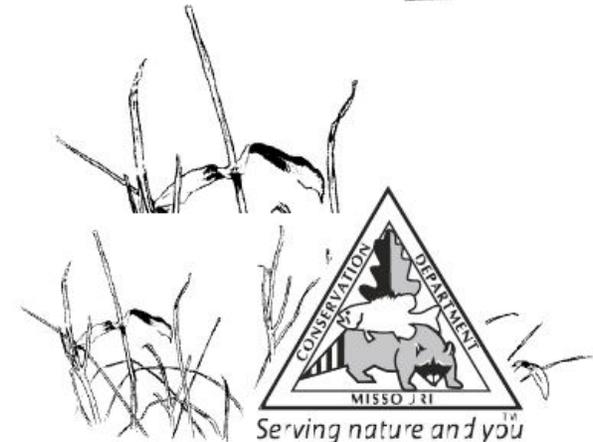
For local information, contact:
Missouri Department of Conservation
(660) 785-2420

04/2013

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.mdc.mo.gov/adrules/circurrent/Scot/Scot.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Big Creek

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION