

director's comment



and protect these outdoor spaces through parks, forests, preserves and trails the public could enjoy for years to come.

“The wonder of Nature is the treasure of America. What we have in woods and forest, valley and stream, in the gorges and the mountains and the hills, we must not destroy. The precious legacy of preservation of beauty will be our gift to posterity,” according to Lyndon Baines Johnson, our 36th President of the United States.

Johnson signed into law the National Trails System Act in 1968, which established national recreation, scenic and historic trails.

Last month, Missouri proudly accepted the title of Best Trails State, given by the American Trails, a national, nonprofit organization working on behalf of the nation’s hiking, biking and riding trails. The national award is presented every two years to the state that has made tremendous contributions to promote and improve their trails system.

Our Missouri State Parks offers almost 1,000 miles of managed trails and 2,900 acres of motorized riding

areas. Missourians can walk, hike or bike on incredibly diverse trails throughout its 87 state parks and historic sites. Exploring our trail system not only provides us with great adventure, it also provides us with an opportunity to improve our overall health and well-being.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson was correct when she said, “A beautiful America will require the effort of government at every level, of business, and of private groups.” Missouri’s award-winning trail system would not be possible without the financial commitment and support of many agencies, businesses, organizations and, most importantly, the public.

We hope all Missourians will help us celebrate this honor by enjoying one of our spectacular trails this summer, perhaps on June 1 during National Trails Day. Check out mostateparks.com for additional details about events near you. Happy hiking!

Sara Parker Pauley
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

I count myself among those that consider time spent outdoors as not only good adventure, but good for the soul. Whether it is working in the garden, walking the dogs or meeting dawn’s first light while awaiting the magical sound of a gobbler, many of my fondest memories were created outdoors.

There are many great leaders who also appreciated the time they spent in nature. They were determined to create a legacy that would preserve

MISSOURI resources

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is to protect, preserve and enhance Missouri’s natural, cultural and energy resources.

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