



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW PARK PROPERTY TO BRING GREATER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – In March, the St. Charles County Parks Department closed on the purchase of 7.73 acres of land between Kampville Drive and Huster Road along the Mississippi River.

Formerly the site of the privately-owned Riverside Harbor, the County envisions that this property will be used to promote outdoor recreation on the Mississippi River and Dardenne Creek, such as kayaking, canoeing, boating and other water sports, as well as camping, fishing and hunting. This segment of the Mississippi River, known as Alton Lake, is 40,000 acres and 38 miles long and is a popular summer destination close to home.

The new park property with existing boat ramp will be known as Riverside Landing and will reopen to the public in late summer. It will close this winter for a major renovation that will include camping (electric and full hook-ups), a pavilion, water play area and playground, new boat ramp and docks, kayak launch area and public restrooms. The St. Charles County Council will vote Tuesday, May 29, on a contract for design services for these new amenities. If approved, the planned schedule would result in the new park opening in 2019.

“We have discussed the possibility of constructing a ‘blue way’ with a kayak launching area at 370 Lakeside Park with the City of St. Peters,” says St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann. “This will provide residents and visitors the opportunity to float approximately two miles on Dardenne Creek to the Riverside Landing. And, we are looking at ways to connect to the Boschert Greenway and trails in the City of St. Charles. This will be a great park for those who want to explore the outdoors by boat, bike or foot.”

The St. Charles County Parks system began in 1997, late for a county parks system as most were developing in the early to mid-1900s. Voters elected that year to pass a dedicated use tax that created the regional parks system. Just 20 years young, the Parks Department still is acquiring park acreage to ensure that greenspace is protected in St. Charles County and that the regional county parks system that voters wanted continues to grow.

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About St. Charles County:

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.