



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### ST. CHARLES COUNTY PARKS ANNOUNCES NEW FOUNDATION, BOARD

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – The St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department has announced the establishment of a foundation to assist with the department’s mission of protecting and conserving the county’s natural and historic resources. Named the St. Charles County Parks Foundation, it is led by an eight-member board that will secure land donations, charitable contributions and promote volunteer activities.

The board members, who will serve either one-, two- or three-year terms, are eligible to serve up to nine years. The group had its first meeting in June. Members are as follows:

- Ruth Mellor, chairman
- Nancy Matheny, Klaris Thomson & Schroeder, vice-chairman
- Tony Caruso Cracchiolo, Bike Shop Café
- Hanh Nguyen, Krilogy Financial
- Robert Pecoraro Jr., Lindenwood University
- Debra Erickson, retired, Bi-State Development Agency
- Ashley Ling, Mueller Porst, LC, treasurer
- Tom Borich, Edward Jones

“We are fortunate to have a group of such dedicated, knowledgeable professionals to serve on our first St. Charles County Parks Foundation Board,” says Parks Director Ryan Graham. “This foundation is the key to our future growth and development as a regional parks system, and we couldn’t have asked for a better group of leaders.”

Goals of the foundation are to create to heightened awareness of County parks and entities, advocate use of the parks, create and support a sustainable coalition of partners, nurture an appreciation of a healthy lifestyle and outdoor recreation, and provide financial support for parks developed and operated by St. Charles County.

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. The need for a Foundation to secure additional property and donations is evident as the county continues to grow and the Parks Department seeks to acquire park acreage to ensure that greenspace is protected for the regional parks system voters wanted.

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## NEWS RELEASE

Parks Foundation, p. 2

There currently are 12 County parks in operation with three more opening this year. The newest parks are Riverside Landing, between Kampville Drive and Huster Road along the Mississippi River in Portage des Sioux; The Park at New Melle Lakes in Wentzville; and Veteran's Tribute Park, between Kisker and Pitman Hill roads off Highway 94 in Weldon Spring.

The new foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and must abide by the requirements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit corporation with a charitable purpose. All donations received by the foundation support the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department and are used to develop new and exciting recreational amenities for the County's parks. To learn more about the foundation and how you can become involved or donate, call the St. Charles County Parks & Recreation Department at 636-949-7535.

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### **About St. Charles County Parks & Recreation**

The St. Charles County Parks & Recreation Department offers unique parks, diverse facilities and a broad range of programs and special events for all ages. The County currently operates 12 parks, including a Youth Activity Park and The Historic Daniel Boone Home. Veterans Tribute Park, our newest park development between Pitman Hill and Kisker roads is expected to open in 2018.

For more information and specifics about each park, visit [www.stccparks.org](http://www.stccparks.org).

### **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 Citi, MasterCard Worldwide, Boeing and General Motors. 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 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](http://www.sccmo.org).