

CHAPTER 1

MISSOURI ALMANAC



Guides at Big Spring State Park
photo courtesy of Missouri State Archives

A Day at the Park

by Bill Bryan, Director of Missouri State Parks



Capaha Park, Cape Girardeau
photo courtesy of Missouri State Archives

Missourians love parks. We are blessed to have awesome state parks and historic sites, city parks, ballparks, dog parks, water parks, theme parks and skate parks. Our parks help us live happier and healthier lives, make our communities more beautiful and livable, preserve our cultural and natural heritage, provide opportunities for fun and learning and contribute to our economy. Who among us doesn't enjoy a day at the park?

A day at the park means different things to different people, but despite those differences, there is much common ground when it comes to parks. A park belongs to all of us and each of us. It is a place for friends and families to gather. A park is a place for fun. It is a place like no other.

Missourians have always been leaders when it comes to parks. In 1876, St. Louisans opened their beloved Forest Park, and Kansas Citians followed soon after with the ever-popular Swope Park. After more than 125 years, these Missouri masterpieces are still two of the nation's most outstanding urban parks. Each is nearly twice the size of New York City's famed Central Park and offers many different opportunities for city residents and visitors to enjoy their leisure time. It wasn't until later that Missourians looked outside of cities and saw the potential and need for state parks. When they did, they again helped lead the nascent state park movement in America.



View from the 1,000th Mile Trail at Harry S Truman State Park, named in honor of the state park system's milestone achievement of 1,000 miles of trails.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

Public interest in a state park system first began to blossom in Missouri in 1907. After years of public conversation, state legislators introduced a bill to create a state park system. Although the bill did not pass, interest continued to grow, and seven years later, a committee of six senators travelled four days by train, automobile, wagon and on foot, evaluating proposed sites for parks. One of those special places was the site of what is now Ha Ha Tonka State Park, which was established 60 years later. In 2015, Ha Ha Tonka State Park was recognized as one of the five best state parks in America.

In 1916, U.S. Congress established the National Park Service. On April 9, 1917, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation creating the state park fund and Missouri had a state park system. In 1924, Missouri established Big Spring State Park, the state's very first. Over the next several years, the park system grew rapidly and Missourians were excited about the movement. When Meramec State Park opened in 1928, the park's dedication drew 10,000 visitors.

In the 1930s, the Missouri state park system went through its most significant period of change and development. Beginning in 1933, under the direction of President Franklin Roosevelt, Con-



Stonemason from Company 1743 of the Civilian Conservation Corps, building a structure at Washington State Park in the 1930s.

photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

gress authorized many federal public works programs to help alleviate the unemployment problem associated with the Great Depression.

The program that meant the most to Missouri's state park system was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an organization providing jobs for



Stone structure built by Civilian Conservation Corps, still in use today.

photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

young men between the ages of 18 and 25. By 1934, some 4,000 men were employed in Missouri to complete both conservation and construction work in national and state

forests and state parks. Projects ranged from construction of dining lodges, picnic shelters, cabins and campgrounds, to installation of sewer lines. Today, the legacy of the CCC lives on thanks to State Parks

Youth Corps (SPYC), a nationally recognized jobs initiative created by Governor Jay Nixon in 2010 to enhance Missouri's 87 state parks and historical sites. The program challenges young people to "think outside" by working at parks and historic sites throughout the state.

The state park system has continued to grow and represent the major natural and cultural heritage themes of Missouri. As Missouri entered the 1980s, the state's economy declined as the entire nation experienced a recession. This recession led to reduced state revenues and mandatory cuts in the budget for the state park system. At this same time, federal revenue sharing and Land and Water Conservation Funds important to state and local parks also were being greatly reduced. A solution was needed to meet the impending fiscal crisis.

In 1984, Missouri voters again showed their support by approving a sales tax to be used for state parks and soil and water conservation efforts in Missouri. Funds from the one-tenth-of-one-percent sales tax are divided equally between the two programs, both of which are administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The



2015 Trout Season Opener at Bennet Spring State Park.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

tax has been renewed three times and will expire in 2016 if not re-authorized by voters. The sales tax has made our state park system the envy of the nation.

Today, Missouri's state park system contains 87 state parks and has been repeatedly ranked as one of the top four systems in the nation. With more than 145,000 acres available to the public, the state park system has something to fit everyone's needs.

A total of 1,000 miles of trail provide opportunities for hikers, backpackers, bicyclists, equestrians and even kayakers. There are campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches and boat ramps for water access for fishing and boating. Lodging facilities, restaurants, stores and visitor centers make visits more convenient and memorable, and are located in some of Missouri's most spectacular landscapes of deep forests, sunny prairies and refreshing lakes and streams.

In 2015, Governor Nixon announced that Missouri State Parks had record attendance, with more than 18.5 million guests, representing a nearly 25 percent increase since 2008. Parks also noted a 5.1 percent increase in camping occupancy at the 40 state parks and historic sites that offer almost 3,600 campsites. The park system noted an important increase in youth camping. A total of 26 percent of campers who stayed the night in a state park were under 18. This strong growth trend is evidence that people love our parks and that we are doing a good job taking care of these treasures, thanks to innovative programs, a dedicated and

talented staff and Governor Nixon's unparalleled support for state parks.

Even with outstanding programs and beautiful facilities, not everyone has the "outdoor bug." Fortunately, our state and local parks also preserve our rich cultural heritage as well as natural landscapes. Historic sites allow people to experience history—not just read about it. There is no better way to understand our culture than to see it firsthand. Visitors learn about prehistory at places like Mastodon State Historic Site, experience the American Indian Cultural Center at Van Meter State Park, better understand the Civil War at places like Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site, explore the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and learn about a favorite son of Missouri at Thomas

Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site. Our culture is diverse, and so is the history interpreted in our state, private and local parks.

Parks aren't just limited to those who enjoy time on land. Many formative memories are created drifting down a river on a canoe or raft. From the

Ozark's pristine floating streams, to large, man-made lakes, water recreation is an important part of spending time outdoors in Missouri. Our crys-



Sitting around the campfire.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

tal-clear waterways provide opportunities for visitors of all ages to paddle, boat, fish and swim.

Missouri's park legacy goes far beyond state parks, and includes nearly every city and town in the Show-Me State. Whether you live in a big city, small town or the country, chances are you've been to the ballpark. If not to see the Royals or the Car-

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Autumn color on the bluffs above the Katy Trail, at Katy Trail State Park.

photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

dinals, then to enjoy watching a son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild play ball. There's not a bad seat in the house at the local ball diamond.

Long before taking the field, for many of us, the playground at a local park provided opportunities to grow stronger, acquire socialization skills and simply enjoy the day. Parks are more than just a place to play: They are important community elements that help make us better people. No matter your age, a day at the park will make you happier and healthier.

In fact, there is medical evidence that is well-established and convincing—a park a day can help keep the doctor away. Spending time outdoors relieves symptoms of anxiety and depression, improves mood and elevates a person's psychological well-being. A walk in the park increases strength, endurance and agility, reducing problems associated with obesity, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Parks are essential to a healthy Missouri.

In addition to local and state parks, there are also private parks operated by non-profit foundations and some maintained by businesses. Six Flags, Worlds of Fun and Silver Dollar City provide opportunities for family fun that can't be found anywhere else. While adventure can always be found in a park, it doesn't have to be a roller coaster. If you're looking for excitement, it can be found in parks all over the state. Zip-lines, high ropes courses, archery tag, paintball, skateboarding and mountain biking opportunities are increasingly easy to find in Missouri. City, state and

county parks, as well as places like the Two Rivers Mountain Bike Park near Ozark, provide many choices for mountain biking for different skill levels. Zip-lines also can be found around the state in local and private parks. The Internet is a great way to find relevant recreation alternatives that may help someone you know enjoy a day in the park, regardless of their interest. One of the challenges for parks is to remain relevant as our society evolves: Providing new recreation choices is critical to the future of parks.

Another challenge is to develop more parks to provide additional opportunities for all Missourians to enjoy the benefits of spending time outdoors. Unlike most states, Missouri does not charge an admission fee to enjoy a state park. This means that our park system is far more accessible to all Missourians than most states. In fact, a park is democracy at its finest. No matter who you are or where you live or work, you are always welcome in Missouri state parks.

There still are obstacles for some, however, and solutions are needed to better ensure social equity and provide access to everyone, regardless of their ability. Building the park

estate is one way to provide greater access to these critical public services and the inherent benefits. Programs that provide transportation to a park, teach people how to enjoy parks and encourage visits by people who haven't used parks before are also important strategies to ensure that parks serve all Missourians.



Kayaks at Finger Lakes State Park.

photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

One of the challenges for parks is to remain relevant as our society evolves: Providing new recreation choices is critical to the future of parks.

Since taking office in 2009, Governor Nixon has made increasing access to state parks for Missouri families a priority. This means expanding the state park system. Examples of these efforts range from developing the property formerly known as Camp Zoe into a new state park, to efforts that are on pace to complete the extension of the Katy Trail from Windsor to Pleasant Hill through Rock Island Trail State Park in 2016.

Parks are critical to the future of our state. Parks are a public service, every bit as vital as livable roads and streets, effective wastewater treatment and safe drinking water. Parks add immeasurably to the quality of life we enjoy. Instead of thinking of parks as a luxury or amenity, we need to value them for the multitude of vital public service benefits they provide to us. As our population continues to grow and become increasingly urban, parks become even more important to our general welfare. Most of us do not have the resources to build and maintain our own park system, but collectively, we own the nation's very best system of state and local parks. The benefits we enjoy from parks far outweigh the cost of having parks in our communities. Indeed, we cannot afford life without a day at the park.

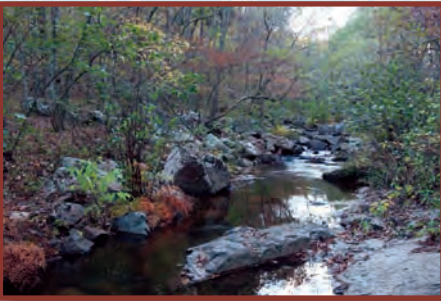


Graham Cave State Park.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks



Sandy Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

Parks are a public service, every bit as vital as livable roads and streets, effective wastewater treatment, and safe drinking water.



Creek at Hawn State Park.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks



Bison at Prairie State Park.
photo courtesy of Missouri State Parks

2015-16 OFFICIAL MANUAL PHOTO CONTEST

A DAY AT THE PARK!

No matter where you live in Missouri, you've likely visited one of our many state and local parks, explored state historical sites or spent a fun afternoon at a sports or theme park. Some of my favorite memories growing up were spent at local sports parks playing Little League.

In celebration of Missouri's fantastic state and local parks, this year's state-wide photo contest asked amateur and professional photographers alike to capture the beauty and tranquility offered at our many parks. A committee from the secretary of state's office narrowed down hundreds of outstanding entries from all over the state to three photos in each category:

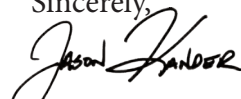
State and Local Parks

Sports and Theme Parks

State Historical Sites

Thousands of Missourians weighed in to choose the final winners. You'll find in the following pages, that this year's strong entries show the amazing diversity and beauty of our state and its residents. Thank you to all the Missourians who submitted photos, and congratulations to those whose entries were selected for printing in this historic volume.

Sincerely,



Jason Kander

State & Local Parks



**FIRST PLACE—
Ha Ha Tonka Overlook
Kelly Creech, Jefferson City**





SECOND PLACE—
Canoeing at Missouri Conservation Area, Millstream Gardens
Ron Berry, Jefferson City



THIRD PLACE—
Evie and Caroline enjoy the swings at Avery Family Park
Vicki Griffon, Troy

Sports & Theme Parks



FIRST PLACE—
Silver Dollar City entrance at Christmas
Barbara Phifer, Springfield



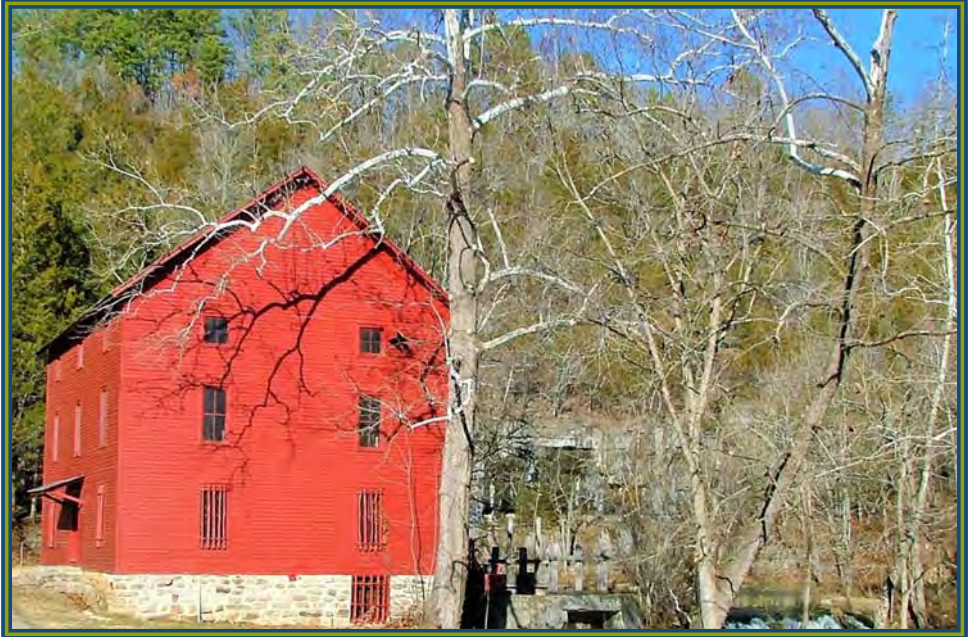


SECOND PLACE—
St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium
Kelly Creech, Jefferson City



THIRD PLACE—
Danny Duffy pitching for the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium
Cheryl Sloan, Cameron

State Historical Sites



**FIRST PLACE—
Alley Mill and Spring on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Barbara Romines, Houston**





SECOND PLACE—
A doe wanders Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
Linda K. Behrens, St. Louis



THIRD PLACE—
Union Covered Bridge at Union Covered Bridge State Park
Janice Poole, Hallsville

State Symbols of Missouri



THE GREAT SEAL OF MISSOURI

The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1822. The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government. On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and a silver crescent moon. The crescent symbolizes Missouri at the time of the state seal's creation, a state of small population and wealth which would increase like the new or crescent moon; it also symbolizes the "second son," meaning Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzlies on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," which means, "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state.

The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's status as the 24th state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri." (RSMo 10.060)

MISSOURI DAY

On March 22, 1915, the 48th General Assembly set aside the first Monday in October each year as "Missouri Day," due to the efforts of Mrs. Anna Brosius Korn, a native Missourian. In 1969, the 75th General Assembly changed the date to the third Wednesday in October. Missouri Day is a time for schools to honor the state and for the people of the state to celebrate the achievements of all Missourians. (RSMo 9.040)



THE STATE FLAG

Nearly 100 years after achieving statehood, Missouri adopted an official flag on March 22, 1913. The flag was designed by the late Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver, wife of former State Senator R.B. Oliver. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. These represent valor, purity, vigilance and justice. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms, circled by a blue band containing 24 stars, denoting that Missouri was the 24th state. The Oliver flag embraced national pride, and at the same time expressed characteristics of Missouri and Missourians.

The three large stripes were symbolic of the people of the state—the blue stripe represented vigilance, permanency and justice, the red represented valor, and the white stripe symbolized purity. The Missouri coat-of-arms appeared in the center of the flag, signifying both Missouri's independence as a state, and its place as a part of the whole United States. Having the coat-of-arms in the center of the national colors represents Missouri, as it is—the geographical center of the nation. By mingling the state coat-of-arms with the national colors of red, white and blue, the flag signified the harmony existing between the two. Twenty-four stars surrounded the coat-of-arms, representative of Missouri's position as the 24th state admitted to the Union. (RSMo 10.020)



THE STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

On March 16, 1923, a bill was signed naming the **white hawthorn blossom** the official state floral emblem of Missouri. Known as the "red haw" or "white haw," the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) is a member of the great rose family, which resembles the apple group. The hawthorn blossoms have greenish-yellow centers and form in white clusters. More than 75 species of the hawthorn grow in Missouri, particularly in the Ozarks. (RSMo 10.030)

THE STATE BIRD

On March 30, 1927, the native **bluebird** (*Sialia Sialis*) became the official state bird of Missouri. The bluebird, considered a symbol of happiness, is usually 6½ to 7 inches long. While its upper parts are covered with light blue plumage, its breast is cinnamon red, turning rust-colored in the fall. The bluebird is common in Missouri from early spring until late November. (RSMo 10.010)



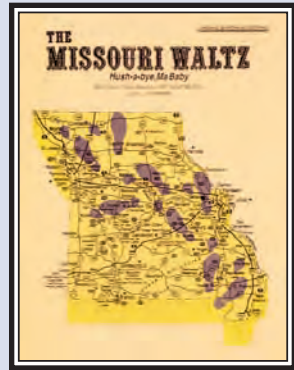
THE STATE TREE

On June 20, 1955, the **flowering dogwood** (*Cornus Florida L.*) became Missouri's official tree. The tree is small in size, rarely growing over 40 feet in height or 18 inches in diameter. The dogwood sprouts tiny greenish-yellow flowers in clusters, with each flower surrounded by four white petals. The paried, oval leaves are olive green above and covered with silvery hairs underneath. In the fall, the upper part of the leaves turn scarlet or orange

and bright red fruits grow on the tree. (RSMo 10.040)

THE STATE SONG

The "Missouri Waltz" became the state song under an act adopted by the General Assembly on June 30, 1949. The song came from a melody by John V. Eppel and was arranged by Frederic Knight Logan, using lyrics written by J.R. Shannon. First published in 1914, the song did not sell well and was considered a failure. By 1939, the song had gained popularity and six million copies had been sold. Sales increased substantially after Missourian Harry S Truman became president. (RSMo 10.050)



THE STATE MINERAL

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the major source of lead ore, and the recognition of this mineral by the state legislature was to emphasize Missouri's status as the nation's top producer of lead. Galena is dark gray in color and breaks into small cubes. Mining of galena has flourished in the Joplin-Granby area of southwest Missouri, and rich deposits have been located in such places as

Crawford, Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties. (RSMo 10.047)



THE STATE ROCK

Mozarkite was adopted as the official state rock on July 21, 1967, by the 74th General Assembly. An attractive rock, mozarkite appears in a variety of colors, most predominantly green, red or purple. The rock's beauty is enhanced by cutting and polishing into ornamental shapes for jewelry. Mozarkite is most commonly found in Benton County. (RSMo 10.045)

THE STATE INSECT

On July 3, 1985, the **honeybee** was designated as Missouri's state insect. The honeybee, (*Apis Mellifera*) yellow or orange and black in color, is a social insect which collects nectar and pollen from flower blossoms in order to produce honey. The honeybee is common to Missouri and is cultivated by beekeepers for honey production. (RSMo 10.070)



THE STATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The **fiddle** became the state's official musical instrument on July 17, 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle quickly became popular. The instrument was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many commu-

nities and held a position of great respect in the region. (RSMo 10.080)

THE STATE FOSSIL

The **crinoid** became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989, after a group of Lee's Summit school students worked through the legislative process to promote it as a state symbol. The crinoid (*Delocrinus missouriensis*) is a mineralization of an animal which, because of its plant-like appearance, was called the "sea lily." Related to the starfish, the crinoid which covered Missouri lived in the ocean more than 250 million years ago. (RSMo 10.090)



THE STATE TREE NUT

The nut produced by the black walnut tree (*Juglans Nigra*), known as the **eastern black walnut**, became the state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The nut has a variety of uses. The meat is used in ice cream, baked goods and candies. The shell provides the soft grit abrasive used in metal cleaning and polishing, and oil well drilling. It is also used in paint products and as a filler in dynamite. (RSMo 10.100)



THE STATE ANIMAL

On May 31, 1995, the **Missouri mule** was designated as the official state animal. The mule is a hybrid, the offspring of a mare (female horse) and a jack (male donkey). After its introduction to the state in the 1820s, the mule quickly became popular with farmers and settlers because of its hardy nature. Missouri mules pulled pioneer wagons to the Wild West during the 19th century and played a crucial role in moving troops and supplies in World Wars I and II. For

decades, Missouri was the nation's premier mule producer. (RSMo 10.110)

THE STATE AMERICAN FOLK DANCE

The **square dance** was adopted as Missouri's official American folk dance on May 31, 1995. Square dances are derived from folk and courtship dances brought to the United States by European immigrants. Lively music and callers are hallmarks of square dancing. The caller directs the dancers by singing the names of figures and steps to be performed. (RSMo 10.120)



THE STATE AQUATIC ANIMAL

The **paddlefish** (*Polyodon Spathula*) became Missouri's official aquatic animal on May 23, 1997. Only three rivers in Missouri support substantial populations of the paddlefish: the Mississippi, Missouri and the Osage. They are also present in some of the state's larger lakes. The paddlefish is primitive, with a cartilage skeleton, rather than bone. They commonly exceed five feet in length and weights of 60 pounds;

20-year olds are common, and some live 30 years or more. (RSMo 10.130)

THE STATE FISH

On May 23, 1997, the **channel catfish** became the official fish of Missouri. The channel catfish (*Ictalurus Punctatus*) is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. The catfish does not rely on sight to find its food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. (RSMo 10.135)



THE STATE HORSE

On June 4, 2002, the **Missouri fox trotting horse** became Missouri's official state horse. Missouri fox trotters were developed in the rugged Ozark hills of Missouri during the early 19th century. Bloodlines can be traced from early settlers to Missouri from the neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. The distinguishing characteristic of the fox trotter is its rhythmic gait, in which the horse walks with the front feet and trots with the hind feet. This gait

gives the rider a smooth gentle ride. (RSMo 10.140)

THE STATE GRAPE

On July 11, 2003, the **Norton/Cynthiana grape** (*Vitis Aestivalis*) was adopted as the official state grape. This adaptable, self-pollinating variety has been cultivated since the 1830s and is likely North America's oldest grape variety still commercially grown. Norton/Cynthiana has long been prized by Missouri vintners for its hardy growth habit and intense flavor characteristics, which produce lush, dry premium red wines of world-class quality and distinction. (RSMo 10.160)



THE STATE DINOSAUR

Hypsibema missouriense is a type of dinosaur called a Hadrosaur or "duck billed" dinosaur. It was an herbivore with jaws that contained more than 1,000 teeth. Hypsibema had evolved specialized teeth to handle the tough, fibrous vegetation of the time. Hypsibema lived in Missouri during the Late Cretaceous Period. Hypsibema was first discovered in 1942 by Dan Stewart, near the town of Glen Allen, Mo.,

and became the state's official dinosaur on July 9, 2004. (RSMo 10.095)



THE STATE AMPHIBIAN

On June 5, 2005, the **American Bullfrog** (*Rana catesbeiana*) became the official state amphibian. The bullfrog is the largest frog native to Missouri and is found in every county. Most Missourians are familiar with the deep, resonant “jug-of-rum” call, which is typically heard on warm, rainy nights between mid-May and early July. The idea for the bullfrog designation came from a fourth grade class at Chinn Elementary School in Kansas City. (RSMo 10.170)

THE STATE GAME BIRD

The **bobwhite quail** (*Colinus virginianus*), also known as the northern bobwhite, became the official state game bird on July 13, 2007. The northern bobwhite is found throughout Missouri in a variety of habitats. In the fall and winter, northern bobwhites form loose social groups better known as a covey. A covey will generally contain 10 to 12 quail, but can have as many as 20 or 30 birds. The familiar two- or three-note “bobwhite” whistle is made by males in the spring and summer to attract females. (RSMo 10.012).



THE STATE INVERTEBRATE

On June 21, 2007, the **crayfish** (also known as crawfish and crawdad) became the official state invertebrate. Crayfish are an important food source for Missouri fishes. Missouri supports more than 30 species of crayfish (including seven species that occur nowhere else in the world). Crayfish are found in every county of the state and contribute to our unique biodiversity and conservation heritage. The nomination of crayfish for state invertebrate came from Mrs. Janna

Elfrink’s elementary school class in Reeds Spring, Missouri. (RSMo 10.125)

THE STATE REPTILE

On June 21, 2007, the **three-toed box turtle** (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) became the official state reptile. Most Missourians are familiar with this land-dwelling turtle. Three-toed box turtles, as their name implies, typically have three hind toes. The hinged bottom shell allows the turtle to retreat inside as if enclosed in a box. Males have red eyes and females have brown eyes. (RSMo 10.175).



THE STATE GRASS

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) was designated as Missouri's stategrass on June 11, 2007, as a result of efforts by the fourth-grade class at Truman Elementary School in Rolla. Big bluestem is native to Missouri and occurs throughout the state, with the exception of a few southeastern-most counties. It is a major component of Missouri's tallgrass prairies where it impressed the first explorers by sometimes growing tall enough to hide a person on horseback. The name bluestem comes from the bluish-green color of the leaves and stems that turn an attractive reddish-copper color in autumn. (RSMo 10.150).



THE STATE DESSERT

The **ice cream cone** became the state of Missouri's official dessert on August 28, 2008. The 1904 World's Fair in St Louis was the birthplace of the treat and has become a staple at many community events across the state, such as the State Fair. The University of Missouri–Columbia has played a large role in the development of ice cream products for over a century. Missouri presently ranks tenth in ice cream production. (RSMo 10.180).

Louise and Omar Putman Collection, photograph by Louise Putman—Missouri State Archives

THE STATE SYMBOL FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

The **blue ribbon** became the state of Missouri's official symbol for child abuse prevention on August 28, 2012. It is a symbol of efforts to increase awareness of the prevalence and warning signs of child abuse and the prevention methods and measures available to reduce the incidence of child abuse in Missouri. (RSMo 10.185).



THE STATE EXERCISE

The **jumping jack** exercise was invented by Missouri-born Army General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing as a training drill for cadets when he taught at West Point in the late 1800s. The idea for the jumping jack designation came from students at Pershing Elementary School in St. Joseph. (RSMo 10.115)

Missouri at a Glance

General Information

Entered the Union: August 10, 1821 (24th state).

Capitol: Jefferson City.

Present Constitution adopted: 1945.

Motto: “Salus populi suprema lex esto” which is Latin for “The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law.”

Nickname: The Show Me State.

Origin of state name: “Missouri” is most likely a French rendition of the Algonquian word meaning “town of large canoes.”

Land area in square miles (national rank): 68,741.52 (18).

Number of counties: 114 with one independent city (St. Louis).

Largest county: Texas—1,177 square miles.

Smallest county: Worth—267 square miles.

Population

Ten largest cities:

Kansas City	465,005
St. Louis	318,727
Springfield	162,333
Independence	117,160
Columbia	113,155
Lee’s Summit	92,813
O’Fallon	81,978
St. Joseph	77,040
St. Charles	66,900
St. Peters	54,236

Missouri population 6,028,076

National rank 18

Male/female population (percentage) 49.0 / 51.0

Ethnic population (by percentage)

White	82.8
Black	11.5
Asian	1.7
Native American	0.4
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.1
Other / Two or More Races	2.4
Hispanic (not considering race)	3.8

Urban/rural distribution (by percentage) (2010 census) 70.4 / 29.6

Resident live births (Missouri Vital Statistics 2013) 75,244

Resident deaths (Missouri Vital Statistics 2013) 57,256

Total personal income and national rank (2014) \$252.4 billion (22)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Per capita income and national rank (2014) \$41,639 (31)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Median household income and national rank (2014) \$48,363 (37)
(American Community Survey)

Real Gross Domestic Product and national rank (2014) \$279.8 billion (22)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Geography/Climate

Highest point (in feet above sea level: Taum Sauk Mountain, Iron County) 1,722

Lowest point (in feet above sea level: St. Francis River, Bootheel) 230

Approximate mean elevation in feet above sea level (national rank) 800 (32)

Normal daily mean temperature 54.6°F

Percentage of full sunshine days per year 30%–est.