

# *Parks & Recreation* **FUN FACTOR**

*is everywhere in St. Charles County*

*From beautiful public parks to a host of fabulous outdoor recreational facilities, opportunities abound for residents to enjoy the great outdoors.*

## **Parks and Recreation**

From thousands of acres of pristine state parkland to indoor recreational facilities, the sheer variety of parks and recreation throughout St. Charles County never fails to impress longtime residents, newcomers, and visitors to the area.

For instance, St. Charles County's best kept secret is August A. Busch Memorial

Conservation Area, referred to by locals as "Busch Wildlife."

This 7,000-acre sanctuary, located three miles south of Highway 40/I-64 and South Highway 94, is ideal for those who love hunting, fishing and the outdoors. With 32 fishing lakes, 20 fishing ponds, over five miles of walking/biking trails, a shooting and archery range, and an area for dog retrieval training; there are enjoyable possibilities for the whole family.

Busch Wildlife is maintained by the Missouri Department of Conservation and has an Outdoor Education Center offering seminars on shooting, bow-hunting, outdoor cooking and survival skills.

The local area also boasts more than 50 municipal parks, extensive trails, and a comprehensive County Parks system with eight parks containing more than 2,000 acres of passive recreational areas, trails, and camping sites.

With more than 23,000 acres of total parkland and countless recreational facilities, the following are highlights from around St. Charles County.



*Enjoy an afternoon outside*

## **Recreational Parks & Facilities**

Quail Ridge Park opened July 2000 as the first county park and is located at I-70 and Highway 40 in Wentzville. The park has 250 acres of rolling prairie, a three-acre lake, walking/biking trails, picnic shelters, off-leash dog area, 18-hole disc golf course, and Lodge.

Quail Ridge Park is also home to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall of Fame. This unique complex is

operated by the New Melle Horseshoe Pitching Club, the largest pitching club in the nation. Over 30 pitching courts, inside and out, are a regular destination for both tournament play and public use; the complex also houses a museum of the sport and plaques honoring horseshoe pitching greats.

Youth Activity Park is geared for youngsters and teenagers and is located on Highway N just east of Highway 40 in the Dardenne Prairie area. This park features a 33,000-square-foot skate park with three skill levels and a street course, a BMX trick track for cyclists, batting cages, sand volleyball, outdoor basketball, open fields and activity center with climbing wall, arcade and concessions.

The St. Charles County Parks Department provides nearly 150 different programs for County residents and visitors each year, including guided hikes, bike and horseback rides, events for children, and a variety of educational lectures and activities.

More information about County Parks is online at [parks.sccmo.org/parks](http://parks.sccmo.org/parks)

# Parks & Recreation FUN FACTOR

When it comes to indoor recreation and competitive sports, the St. Peters Rec-Plex is the local flagship. Expanded in 2007 to 230,000-square-feet, the Rec-Plex has three indoor ice rinks, a renovated gymnasium, additional fitness and training areas, and a world-class natatorium. Located next to St. Peters City Hall on Mexico Road, the facility hosted national swimming competitions during the 1994 and 2004 U.S. Olympic Festivals.

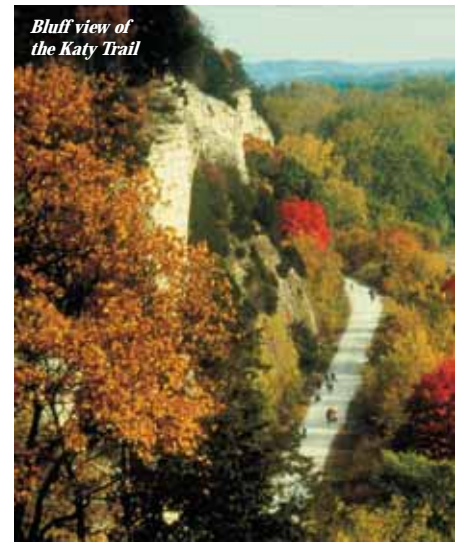
The City of St. Charles, in tandem with ShowMe Aquatics and Fitness, is planning to build a 120,000 square-foot facility off Veterans Memorial Parkway. Named the Community Freedom Center, it will be a recreation facility for people of every age and ability.

The \$38 million Center will offer a variety of programs and services for mem-

bers. Among its planned amenities: an indoor water park, a 16,000 square-foot fitness center, 4 multi-temperature pools, and the largest indoor track in the region.

## Other Public Sports Parks and Facilities:

- Blanchette Park
- Boonslick Park
- Brown Road Park
- City Centre Park
- Covenant Park
- Fireman's Park
- Founders Park Sports Complex
- Fox Hill Park
- Golf & Recreation Center
- Jaycee Park
- Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Park
- Laurel Park
- McNair Park
- O'Fallon Sports Park
- Old Town Park
- Ozzie Smith Sports Complex
- Progress Park



*Bluff view of the Katy Trail*



*St. Charles offers abundant parks and paths for cyclists*



*Zachary's playground*



*Boating in the Alton Pool*

- Rabbit Run Park
- Renaud Spirit Center
- Rotary Park
- Schneider / Kiwanis Park
- Shady Springs Park
- Spencer Creek Park
- Sports Center
- St. Charles Soccer Complex
- Wapelhorst Park
- Woodlands Sports Park

## Relaxing Scenic/ Trail Parks

Hideaway Harbor Park, just west of Portage Des Sioux in northern St. Charles County, is 49 acres of breathtaking views across the Mississippi River toward the Great River Road in Alton, IL. This park contains a lake, natural wetlands, and wooded areas and is one of the best places in the county to observe the winter

migration of the American Bald Eagle.

Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones—  
Confluence Point State Park, named for two avid supporters of the Missouri parks system, sits at the junction where two of the world's greatest rivers – the Missouri and the Mississippi – become one. Covering more than 1,100 acres of wetlands and bottomland forest, Confluence Park provides refuge to the white-tailed deer, beaver, and hundreds of species of birds, including great blue herons, bald eagles, geese, gulls, pelicans and various songbirds. Millions of birds can be seen migrating along the Mississippi River Corridor from this point each spring and fall.

Louis H. Bangert Memorial Wildlife Area is located on an island in the Missouri River. This 160 acre park is the result of a joint partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation and the St. Charles County Parks Department. Guests can enter the park from the Katy Trail entrance along Old South River Road in St. Charles.

A typical wooded Missouri River island, the land features 2.6 miles of natural surface trail for hiking and mountain biking. Wildlife abounds, offering opportunities for both viewing and pho-



Numerous golfing opportunities can be found in St. Charles

tography, and park guests may fish along the banks of the river that flows below the park. Hunting is prohibited; state fishing regulations apply.

#### Local Parks Include:

- Blanchette Landing Park
- Boulevard Park
- Broemmelsiek Park
- Brookmount Park
- Civic Park
- Dames Park
- Dardenne Greenway at BaratHaven
- Dardenne Park
- Fountain Lakes Park
- Frontier Park
- Ft. Zumwalt Park



Musicians entertain at the Lewis and Clark memorial

- Glen Travis Park
- Green Lantern Park
- Knaust Park
- Lone Wolff Park
- Matson Hill Park
- Oak Creek Park
- Paul A. Westhoff Park
- Portage Des Sioux Nature Area
- Schaefer Park
- Tot Lot Park
- Towne Park
- Weldon Spring Conservation Area Trails and Camping

## Trails and Camping

### KATY Trail State Park

The Katy Trail is a 225-mile scenic biking and hiking trail beginning at the St. Charles riverfront and ending on the western side of the state in Clinton, MO. Once the corridor of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, the Katy Trail offers a level path perfect for all cycling fitness levels, with the steepest grade at just five percent.

The trail also boasts more than 75 Bed and Breakfasts to choose from, ideal for relaxing after a long day's ride. And combine your time on the Katy Trail with a wine tasting tour, sampling some nationally-recognized selections in the surrounding hills of Missouri Wine Country.

### The River Ring

The River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trail being developed by Great Rivers Greenway, will encircle the St. Louis region, including St. Charles County and parts of southern Illinois. The ring will eventually comprise a 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways, parks and trails linking three

counties, joining two states and covering an area of 1,216 square miles.

### Klondike Park

Klondike Park offers diverse options for campers and those who love the scenic outdoors. This county park includes camper cabins, the Curt Loupe Conference Center, a fishing lake, boat ramp to the Missouri River, natural areas, basic and primitive campsites, biking and hiking trails, access to the Katy Trail, picnic areas and playground. There is also a breathtaking observation cliff area with tremendous views of the Missouri River and surrounding forests and farmland in three counties.

### Lakeside 370 Park

In fall 2009, construction began on Lakeside 370 Park in St. Peters, and the first phase is expected to open by mid-2010. A focal point of the park will be a 140-acre recreational lake which will be surrounded by a pedestrian trail and have a public beach, fishing and non-motorized boating. Eventually, Lakeside 370 will encompass 300 acres, making it the largest in the St. Peters City Park system. Long-term plans envision an RV park, a floating general store/boathouse, pavilions, playground, dog park, primitive camping and trails throughout.

Boasting more than 23,000 acres of parkland and a diverse range of recreational facilities, St. Charles County offers much to be experienced by residents and visitors alike.