

Background (Preamble):

St. Louis County's proposed 2012 budget disproportionately cuts the Parks department budget. Of the \$10 million the County Executive wants to cut, 43% comes from the Parks budget. The County Parks serve more than 15 million people each year, what other organization in Missouri can say that? This will result in the closure of nearly 40% of the parks in our system! The County Executive has also suggested the sale of Park Land as a possible way to make money. After cutting \$4.3 million in 2012, the COO and County Executive have already said they want to cut another \$4 million in 2013. This will leave approximately 3-4 regional parks county-wide and almost no budget to staff, maintain or secure them.

Petition:

Sign this petition if you OPPOSE gutting the St. Louis County Parks System. This petition will show our elected County Representatives that Parks are a necessity, not a luxury.

Parks raise property values, enhance our quality of life, reduce costs for stormwater management and flood control, attract businesses and new residents and provide much needed habitat for wildlife. Our parks are the only place you can get educational, recreational, environmental and social activities for free or at low cost.

Sign the petition to tell St. Louis County Administration that the Parks are not theirs to destroy, they are OURS to enjoy!

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