



A public partnership to preserve history, conserve nature, and provide outdoor recreational spaces.

Lost Valley Trail

The beginning of this hiking and biking trail follows the former Muschany Hollow Road that ran from Marthasville Road (Highway 94) to the town of Howell. While the structures are not visible today, the Lost Valley Trail passes the former homesites of several Howell residences and a small African American community and school. Later, the area housed a scout camp called Lost Valley Lodge. The town of Howell was located just north of the trail, on the current U.S. Army Reserve Training Center.



Hamburg Trail

The Hamburg Trail follows the route of a railroad spur connecting the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway to the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works. From the 1980s to early 2000s, this path was part of the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project. The Hamburg Trail was a haul road used to bring waste and clean clay soil to the disposal cell site. During cleanup, when this trail was a road, it was common to see green dump trucks hauling waste from the quarry. In 2006, the former haul road reopened as the Hamburg Trail, honoring one of the lost towns.



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

After the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works closed in 1947, the Missouri Department of Conservation purchased what would become the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area from the federal government. Today, remnants of the ordnance works are still on the property. The acreage was immediately to the north of the main TNT and DNT

production area and housed storage magazines — today there are still 100 magazines on the property. While this extensive area was never used to capacity, the storage magazines held surplus material for the ordnance works. Records show that in January 1943, near the end of the ordnance works production period, the magazine stock held 4.4 million pounds of explosives.

Today, the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area is a popular recreation area where visitors enjoy hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing.



Weldon Spring Conservation Area

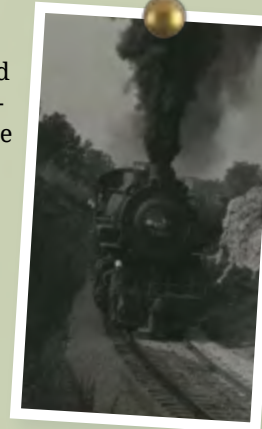
The University of Missouri acquired 7,900 acres for the Weldon Spring Experimental Farm in 1949 after the closure of Weldon Spring Ordnance Works. In 1978, the Missouri Department of Conservation purchased the land from the University of Missouri, creating the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. The area includes two fishing lakes, hiking trails, and the Weldon Spring Hollow Natural Area. The 8-mile Lewis Trail and the 5-mile Clark Trail offer scenic Missouri River vistas and opportunities to catch a glimpse of wildlife. In 1995, during the Weldon Spring Site cleanup, clean fill soil was taken from a small section of the conservation area to use in the disposal cell's base.

Prior to soil removal, the land was assessed for threatened and endangered species and wetland areas. DOE signed an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation authorizing the creation of a wetlands area within the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area to mitigate wetland loss in the borrow area.



Katy Trail

The Katy Trail, a 240-mile hiking and biking path, used to be the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway. The nickname "Katy" comes from the phonetic pronunciation of "KT," a short form of the railroad's abbreviated name: MKT. The MKT railroad finally came to this part of Missouri in 1893 and was one reason the U.S. government chose this area for the ordnance plant during WWII. Railroad spurs were built from the MKT line to the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works plant; TNT and DNT powder were shipped from here to other plants around the country for packing in artillery shells and grenades. The MKT railroad operated until 1986 when severe flooding washed away large portions of the rail. In 1986, Missouri State Parks acquired the railway through legislation allowing abandoned railways to be used for recreational trails. In 1990, Missouri State Parks officially opened the first section of Katy Trail State Park.



Busch Greenway

The Busch Greenway, part of the larger Great Rivers Greenway network, connects the Katy Trail to the Weldon Spring Conservation Area across the Daniel Boone Bridge. During the Weldon Spring Site's TNT production era, sections along this trail were used as officer barracks and as an administration area where Francis Howell High School now stands. Some of the officers' homes still exist as private residences in the Weldon Spring Heights neighborhood.



Busch-Weldon Greenspace



Enjoying Nature

at the Weldon Spring Site

The Weldon Spring Site and Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center are open to the public and are excellent examples of beneficial reuse. Where once a World War II explosives manufacturing plant and a Cold War uranium metals processing facility brooded, now bird watchers, native-plant enthusiasts, hikers, and mountain bikers enjoy nature's beauty.

Visitors can walk up the disposal cell stairway and take in the panoramic view overlooking St. Charles and St. Louis counties. The 150-acre native prairie is rich with flowering forbs, grasses, and wildlife. A former haul road was converted into the Hamburg Trail, connecting the Weldon Spring Site to neighboring Missouri Department of Conservation public lands, the Great Rivers Greenway trail network, and Katy Trail State Park.

Weldon Spring Site TIMELINE



1941-1945: Atlas Powder Company, under contract with the Department of the Army, operates the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works. The ordnance works is the largest manufacturer of explosives in the country, and possibly the world, during World War II, producing almost 750 million pounds of TNT and DNT.

1986: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) establishes a project office on-site and extensive site characterization and remediation begins. The project is known as the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project.



1993: Construction planning for an engineered disposal cell begins.



1997: Construction begins on the disposal cell.

2002: DOE begins planting native prairie grasses in the 150-acre Howell Prairie. The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center opens to the public.



2003: The Office of Legacy Management is established as a new DOE program office to monitor and maintain federal remediated sites previously used for producing atomic weapons.

2022: The current interpretive center opens and provides opportunities for tours, educational programs, and community meetings.



1940

1960

1980

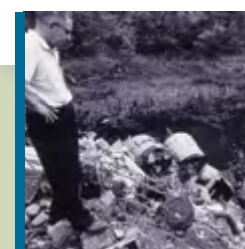
2000

2022



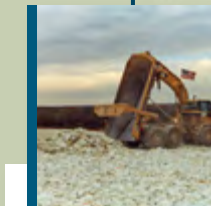
1940: The U.S. Department of the Army, under a state of emergency, acquires 17,232 acres of land in St. Charles County, Missouri, to produce the explosives trinitrotoluene (TNT) and dinitrotoluene (DNT), supporting World War II. The acquisition permanently displaces the people in the three small towns of Howell, Hamburg, and Toonerville. While the towns may be gone, remnants of the townspeople's time here still exist along the trails. You can find building foundations, non-native flowers from old gardens, and 24 cemeteries.

1942-1969: Contaminated debris from various Department of the Army and U.S. Atomic Energy Commission operations is dumped into the Weldon Spring Quarry.



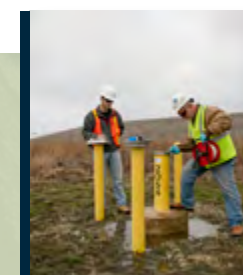
1955-1966: The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission acquires 205 acres of the property from the Department of the Army to build a uranium feed materials plant, later known as the Chemical Plant. Operations include processing uranium ore and a small amount of thorium ore.

1987-1989: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) places the Weldon Spring Quarry on the National Priorities List as a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, site because of the perceived threat to drinking-water wells less than a mile away. The EPA later adds the Chemical Plant site to the National Priorities List.

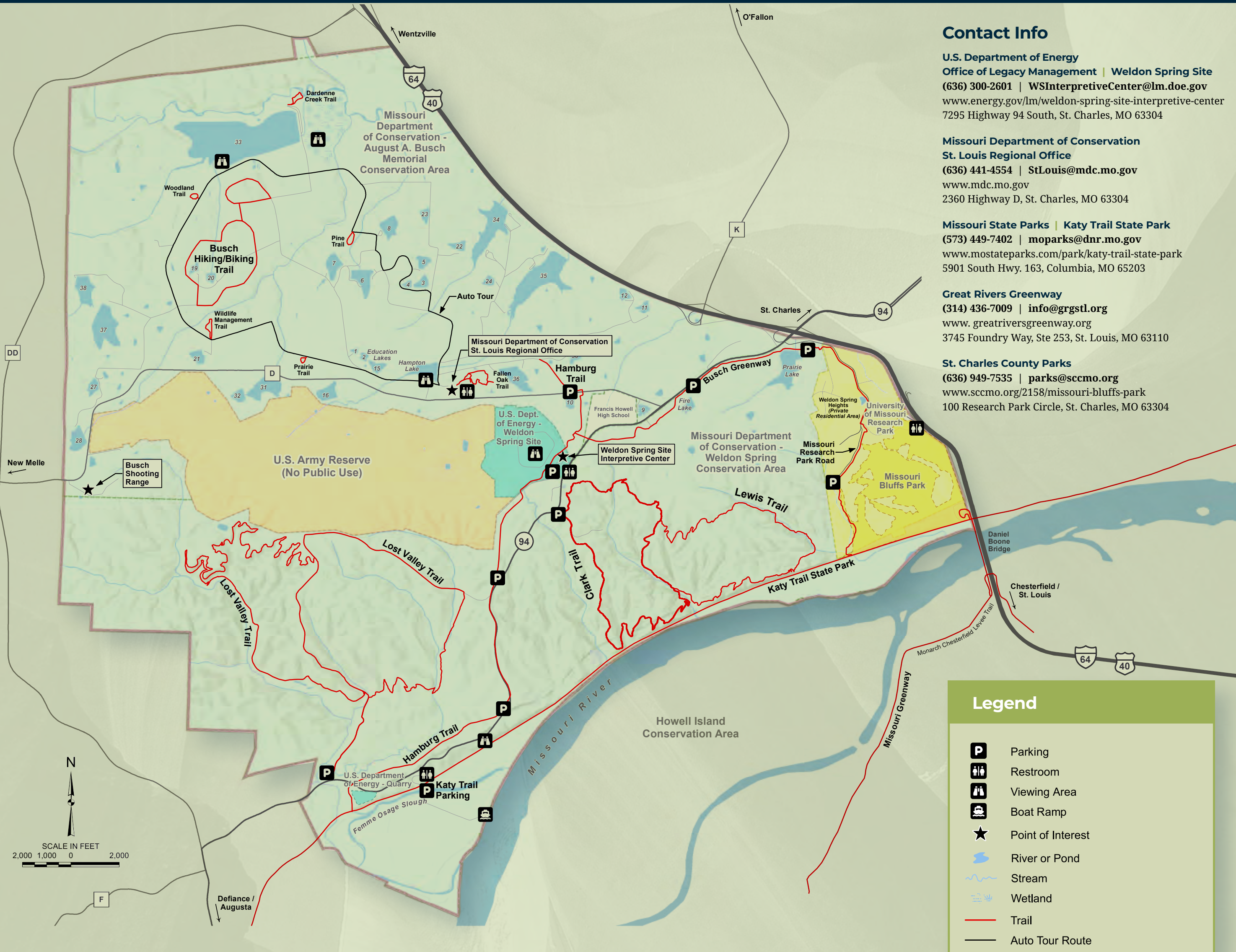


2001: On October 23, 2001, the last rock is placed on the disposal cell.

2004: The Record of Decision for the final remedial action for the Groundwater Operable Unit is approved. The Office of Legacy Management takes over long-term maintenance and stewardship of the Weldon Spring Site.



Busch-Weldon Greenspace



Contact Info

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management | Weldon Spring Site
 (636) 300-2601 | WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov
www.energy.gov/lm/weldon-spring-site-interpretive-center
 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

Missouri Department of Conservation
St. Louis Regional Office
 (636) 441-4554 | StLouis@mdc.mo.gov
www.mdc.mo.gov
 2360 Highway D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Missouri State Parks | Katy Trail State Park
 (573) 449-7402 | moparks@dnr.mo.gov
www.mostateparks.com/park/katy-trail-state-park
 5901 South Hwy. 163, Columbia, MO 65203

Great Rivers Greenway
 (314) 436-7009 | info@grgstl.org
www.greatriversgreenway.org
 3745 Foundry Way, Ste 253, St. Louis, MO 63110

St. Charles County Parks
 (636) 949-7535 | parks@sccmo.org
www.sccmo.org/2158/missouri-bluffs-park
 100 Research Park Circle, St. Charles, MO 63304

Legend

- Parking
- Restroom
- Viewing Area
- Boat Ramp
- Point of Interest
- River or Pond
- Stream
- Wetland
- Trail
- Auto Tour Route
- Interstate
- State Highway
- State Route
- Local Road
- Busch Public Roads
- Approximate Boundary of the Original Weldon Spring Ordnance Works
- Department of Energy
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- U.S. Army Reserve
- University of Missouri Research Park
- St. Charles County Parks

Trail Key

LOST VALLEY TRAIL	11 MI.		BUSCH HIKING/BIKING TRAIL	3 MI.	
CLARK TRAIL	5 MI.		WOODLAND TRAIL	0.2 MI.	
LEWIS TRAIL	8 MI.		PINE TRAIL	0.3 MI.	
HAMBURG TRAIL	6 MI.		DARDENNE CREEK TRAIL	0.3 MI.	
FALLEN OAK TRAIL	0.7 MI.		BUSCH GREENWAY	3.7 MI.	
PRAIRIE TRAIL	0.1 MI.		KATY TRAIL STATE PARK	5.8 MI.	
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TRAIL	0.3 MI.				

*Connections available to off-site trails

