THE CHALLENGE

Safety first. MoDOT is committed to creating and maintaining bridges and roadways and keeping Missouri families safe by improving roads and bridges, creating smooth pavement, adding shoulders, adding edge-line rumble strips and providing better signage.

Roaring River State Park

Roaring River State Park General Manager David Waugh takes the importance of having safe, accessible roads and bridges more seriously after extensive flash flooding last July forced the evacuation of more than 300 park-goers.

“All of the roads were flooded, including the bridge on (Route) 112. A four foot wall of water came down the valley, so everyone had to move quickly. No one realizes how important good, safe roads are until you have to move people quickly out of harm’s way.”

Safe bridges are a necessity. “We would not have been able to evacuate people during the flooding without our bridges,” Waugh said. Not only did they provide safe passage for flood victims, but they also allowed park users to avoid traveling through rough terrain including cliffs and swift waterways. But according to Waugh, some of the bridges in the park are starting to deteriorate, and the current facilities aren’t able to cope with the number of pedestrian visitors crossing the busy highway to get from one side of the park to the other. Waugh believes a pedestrian foot bridge for both bicycle and foot travel is a real need for the park, and would ensure better safety for visitors.

Waugh points out that there are multiple manufacturing plants in surrounding areas, which bring heavy truck traffic from Arkansas right through the park. This makes for a very dangerous situation for pedestrians as they walk along the same highways and bridges the big trucks use. Waugh says that bridges are not wide enough for two-way traffic, let alone the additional pedestrian foot traffic. Waugh predicts that in the not so distant future, if the bridges in the park are not widened and/or enhanced with safety features, someone could be hurt, or worse.