

# Doe Run Backgrounder

## St. Joe State Park

The Doe Run Company's connection to St. Joe State Park in Park Hills goes back decades. In 1976, St. Joseph Lead Company (a Doe Run predecessor company) donated land that previously housed mining and milling operations to Missouri. Today, the 8,238-acre popular state park attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and historically has generated millions in tax revenue for the state<sup>1</sup>.

[St. Joe State Park](#) is located in a region known as Missouri's Old Lead Belt, about 60 miles southwest of St. Louis. Naturally occurring metals drew settlers to this southeast Missouri region nearly 300 years ago, and the minerals mined there contributed to the nation's industrialization. Today, the repurposed park property continues to provide economic and recreational benefits to its community, drawing more than 600,000 visitors annually.

St. Joe State Park is currently owned and managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). It's one of Missouri's most popular state parks with 2,000 acres for off-road ATV riding, swimming beaches and lakes, bike and equestrian trails, and campsites. Old mill buildings from St. Joseph Lead Company and an ASARCO subsidiary still stand nearby and house the [Missouri Mines State Historic Site](#).

### THE RECLAMATION PROCESS

The U.S. EPA regulates remedial activities for historic mine properties, like those in the Old Lead Belt of St. Francois County, to ensure protection for human health and the environment.



*Each historic mining site has a specific remediation plan tailored to its needs, which can include hauling in new soil or rock as cover material.*

In December 2009, more than \$9 million from the ASARCO bankruptcy was placed into a trust account to be used for cleanup of the St. Joe State Park site. Some of those funds were used towards remediation efforts needed to address the impacts of ATV usage at the park, and included hauling in tons of additional rocks and gravel to cover historic mine tailings in these recreational areas.

Work took place over several years as crews replaced beaches in swimming areas with clean sand, removed chat from campsites and replaced it with clean gravel, planted vegetation, and stabilized the tailings dam and other areas.



*Crews also built water retention basins and a new drainage swale that control water runoff and erosion while conveying water through the park.*

Remediation work at St. Joe State Park was completed in 2014. MDNR manages the continued operation and maintenance of the park site.

<sup>1</sup> 2008 analysis by independent research firm, Development Strategies.