



# FOREST PARK • SAINT LOUIS • MISSOURI



Forest Park Forever · Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center  
 5595 Grand Drive in Forest Park · St. Louis, MO 63112-1095  
 (314) 367-7275 · [www.forestparkforever.org](http://www.forestparkforever.org)



St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry  
 5600 Clayton Road · St. Louis, MO 63110  
 (314) 289-5300 · <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/>

## FOREST PARK HISTORY

Forest Park was dedicated at a large public ceremony on June 24, 1876 — the year the nation celebrated its centennial anniversary. Ulysses S. Grant was President and, on the same afternoon, General George Armstrong Custer was massing his troops at a small Montana stream called the Little Big Horn.

At 1,371 acres, Forest Park is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S., surpassing New York's Central Park by 500 acres. It was designed by Maximillian G. Kern, one of the few European-trained landscape gardeners in the U.S. in the latter half of the 19th century.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition (also known as the 1904 World's Fair) used almost the entire western half of Forest Park and brought more than 19 million visitors to St. Louis. Of the many palatial World's Fair structures, only the Cass Gilbert-designed Palace of Fine Arts (now the Saint Louis Art Museum) and the Flight Cage (birdcage) in the Zoo were built as permanent structures. Other Fair structures were constructed with staff, a mixture of plaster and hemp, and were completely demolished after the Fair.

The River Des Peres, an original feature of Forest Park, was forced underground in a wooden channel to make way for Fair palaces and exhibits. In 1923, the river was moved underground permanently.

Between 1911 and 1930, Parks Commissioner Dwight F. Davis and his successors brought active recreation facilities into the fabric of Forest Park, and substantially increased Park usage. Later, new facilities such as the Jewel Box, Steinberg Skating Rink, the Boathouse and the Dwight Davis Tennis Center became popular destinations for Forest Park users.

Today, more than 12 million visitors use Forest Park annually, that's greater than Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon combined. It has long been the destination for important community gatherings, including the welcome home celebration for Charles Lindbergh, the peaceful gathering following the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the interfaith gathering following September 11, 2001. Hundreds of thousands take part in active recreation, including softball, football, cricket, rugby, tennis, golf, archery, lacrosse and soccer. They also ride bikes, ice skate and roller blade, jog, fish and boat.

Within Park boundaries there are forests, wetlands, prairies and savannas. Lakes and lagoons have been connected to create a flowing stream. Kennedy Forest is an exceptional location for bird watching, and each year plays host to more than 200 species of migratory warblers.

## ABOUT FOREST PARK FOREVER

With years of deferred maintenance and inadequate funding, it became apparent to City officials and neighborhood groups that increased funds were needed to repair the historic structures, recreational facilities and complex ecological systems within the Park.

Forest Park Forever, a private, nonprofit organization, was founded in 1986 to work in partnership with the St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry *to restore, maintain and sustain Forest Park as one of America's great urban public parks, for the enjoyment for all ~ now and forever.*

In 1993, the City of St. Louis began developing a master plan for the Park that would conserve its size, beauty and quality for future generations. Forest Park Forever and St. Louis City embarked on an effort to raise a combined \$94 million to restore the Park.

In addition to the master plan renovations, Forest Park Forever established a maintenance endowment along with education and outreach programs to engender Park stewardship. The "Voyage of Learning" Teacher's Academy instructs teachers in multi-disciplinary, experiential learning techniques to effectively use the Park as an outdoor classroom to learn science, history, art and social studies, and to develop an understanding of Forest Park's value as a unique cultural institution. Additional program offerings include birding workshops on the first Saturday of each month, volunteer-led walking tours during spring, summer and fall and self-guided iPod park audio tours.

Forest Park Forever offices are located in the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center. After an extensive renovation, the Lindell Pavilion reopened in November 2003 as the Visitor and Education Center, providing a number of new resources for Park users, including the Forest Park Café, locker room memberships, meeting / special event space and an accessible playground. Visitor information is provided by friendly and knowledgeable volunteers with the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. The Missouri Department of Conservation and OASIS also have offices in the facility.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Forest Park is owned and operated by the City of St. Louis.

Three MetroLink Stations provide access to Forest Park:

- Forest Park station is located at DeBaliviere Avenue and Forest Park Parkway, one (1) block North of the Missouri History Museum;
- Central West End station is located on Euclid Avenue, across from BJC Hospital, between Hospital Way & Children's Place;
- Skinker station is located at Skinker Blvd. & Forest Park Parkway, on the edge of the Park and Washington University.

The Hampton 90 Metro bus route travels through the Park and connects via the Forest Park MetroLink station.

Fishing is permitted in the lakes / lagoons in Forest Park, except where restrictions are posted. A valid Missouri fishing license is required.

Winter sledding is permitted on Art Hill, unless restrictions are posted.

For Park permits, including picnic pavilions, Jewel Box and World's Fair Pavilion rentals, athletic field reservations and special event permits, please call the Parks Department at (314) 289-5300.

***Thank you for observing the Park's 10:00 p.m. curfew & posted speed limit.***

## WEBSITES/PHONE NUMBERS - all phone numbers are (314) area code

BoatHouse ( <a href="http://www.boathouseforestpark.com">www.boathouseforestpark.com</a> ) .....	367-2224
Cabanne House ( <a href="http://www.stlouisamb.org">www.stlouisamb.org</a> ) .....	454-1488
City Cycling Tours ( <a href="http://www.citycyclingtours.com">www.citycyclingtours.com</a> ) .....	616-5724
Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry	
Parks Division:	
( <a href="http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestpark/">http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestpark/</a> ) .....	289-5300
Director's Office — Gary Bess .....	289-5310
Flora Conservancy .....	289-5323
Park Rangers (Security) .....	289-5350
Permits:	
Athletic Fields / Jewel Box Rental .....	289-5389
Picnic Shelters / Grounds .....	289-5330
World's Fair Pavilion Rental .....	289-5344
Dwight Davis Tennis Center ( <a href="http://www.dwightdavistennis.com">www.dwightdavistennis.com</a> ) .....	361-0177
<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	<b>911</b>
Forest Park Forever ( <a href="http://www.forestparkforever.org">www.forestparkforever.org</a> ) .....	367-7275
Forest Park Café (Visitor and Education Center) .....	361-4477
Great Forest Park Balloon Race ( <a href="http://www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com">www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com</a> )	
The Highlands Golf & Tennis Center	
( <a href="http://www.highlandsgolfandtennis.com">www.highlandsgolfandtennis.com</a> ) .....	531-7773
Jewel Box (see Parks Dept. site) .....	531-0080
Missouri Dept. of Conservation ( <a href="http://www.mdc.mo.gov">www.mdc.mo.gov</a> ) .....	877-1309
Missouri History Museum ( <a href="http://www.mohistory.org">www.mohistory.org</a> ) .....	746-4599
The MUNY ( <a href="http://www.muny.org">www.muny.org</a> ) .....	361-1900
Norman K. Probstein Golf Course	
( <a href="http://www.forestparkgc.com">www.forestparkgc.com</a> ) .....	367-1337
OASIS-Forest Park ( <a href="http://www.oasisnet.org">www.oasisnet.org</a> ) .....	367-5700
Police Station - Fish Hatchery .....	444-1290
Saint Louis Art Museum ( <a href="http://www.slam.org">www.slam.org</a> ) .....	721-0072
Saint Louis Science Center ( <a href="http://www.slsc.org">www.slsc.org</a> ) .....	289-4400
Recorded Information Line .....	289-4444
Saint Louis Zoo ( <a href="http://www.stlzoo.org">www.stlzoo.org</a> ) .....	781-0900
Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis	
( <a href="http://www.shakespearefestivalstlouis.org">www.shakespearefestivalstlouis.org</a> ) .....	531-9800
Steinberg Skating Rink ( <a href="http://www.steinbergskatingrink.com">www.steinbergskatingrink.com</a> ) ...	367-7465
St. Louis Aces ( <a href="http://www.stlouisaces.com">www.stlouisaces.com</a> ) .....	647-2237
St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission	
( <a href="http://www.explorestlouis.com">www.explorestlouis.com</a> ) .....	1-800-325-0612...or...421-1023
St. Louis Track Club ( <a href="http://www.stlouistrackclub.com">www.stlouistrackclub.com</a> ) .....	781-3926
Trolley Room Rental (in Visitor and Education Center)	
( <a href="http://www.cateringstlouis.com">www.cateringstlouis.com</a> ) .....	961-7588 x 221
1904 World's Fair Society ( <a href="http://www.1904worldsfairsociety.org">www.1904worldsfairsociety.org</a> )	

## KEEP ON KEEPING FOREST PARK. FOREVER.

For over 130 years, St. Louis has obeyed Chauncey Shultz's injunction when he opened Forest Park in 1876. He said, "Keep on the grass," and we have. Not to mention the lakes. And the paths. And the swings, too. Help make sure Forest Park continues to prosper. For you. For your family. And for generations to come.

Join Forest Park Forever on-line – [www.forestparkforever.org](http://www.forestparkforever.org).