

OHLENDORF WEST PARK

PARK HISTORY

Howard C. Ohlendorf donated the property to St. Louis County in 1971 and 1976. No deed restrictions exist. In 1985 the entrance road and parking lot were constructed. Funding was from the County's Transportation Funds with the intent that the parking lot could function as a Bi-State Park and Ride site in addition to its normal park uses.

It should be noted that Mr. Ohlendorf has been very generous in his gifts to St. Louis County, including this park and the procurement of the Forest Park Highlands Merry-Go-Round for St. Louis County.

In 1997 a new playground was constructed.

In 2011, a memorandum of understanding was signed to build a new Emergency Communication Commission building. In 2012, the Emergency Communications Commission's (ECC) made special appropriations of \$350,000 to pay for improvements at Ohlendorf West Park for playgrounds and trails in response to residents' concerns.

Ohlendorf West County Park master plan/construction was completed in August 2014. The new park now has a new ADA rubber surfaced playground which incorporates new swings, climbing arch, ADA multi use circular swing, saddle spinners, shade structures, new ADA/dog drinking fountain, new concrete sidewalk which connects to the neighborhood to the west, and a new 1 mile long wood chip nature trail with exercise equipment located along the trail.

HOWARD C. OHLENDORF

Howard C. Ohlendorf was born in Chicago and came to St. Louis at the age of 3 after his parents died. He went to work for Al Broker making acrylic braces for orthodontists and was able to purchase the company after four years, renaming it Ohlendorf Orthodontic Labs. He was active in many civic activities, including the founding of the St. Louis Community College, the McDonnell Planetarium, and the Museum of Transportation. He ran for Congress twice on the Republican ticket and said later that the voters had given him an overwhelming mandate to stay home. Howard and his wife Irma made many gifts to the County park system, including some of the land for both Ohlendorf Park and Ohlendorf Park West. He purchased the St. Louis Carousel in 1965 from the old St. Louis Highlands Amusement Park and gave it to the County for Sylvan Springs Park and then 15 years later contributed

generously toward having it restored and moved to Faust Park. He also donated the fountains for the lakes at Tilles and Queeny Parks as well as for Carondelet Park in south St. Louis. Ohlendorf died April 15, 2002 at the age of 86.

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