

JAMES S. MCDONNELL PARK

PARK HISTORY

Originally referred to as the Adie Road parksite, the site was purchased with 1977 Bond Issue funds and declared a County Park in 1978. On October 19, 1980 an ordinance was passed that officially changed the name to James S. McDonnell Memorial County Park in honor of the late founder of McDonnell Douglas Aircraft. The house in the southeast corner of the park was purchased on November 14, 1983 and is the Area Manager and Ranger office. Total cost of buying the land and house was \$1,697,250. Two grant awards, totaling \$900,000, were received from the National Park Service through the State of Missouri, Department of Natural Resources for land acquisition and initial park development. Land and Water Conservation Fund 6 f) restrictions apply to this park.

Removal of dioxin was found to be necessary in a part of the park that had formerly been a private horse arena. A new playground was completed in 2003 using St. Louis County Metro Park funds.

JAMES SMITH McDONNELL, JR.

James Smith McDonnell, Jr. was born in Denver, Colorado on April 9, 1899. He earned a B. A. from Princeton in 1921 and an M.A. in aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1925. He spent the early years of his career working for aircraft firms, and from 1933 to 1938 he served as chief project engineer for the Glenn L. Martin Company in California. By 1939 McDonnell was able to form the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis. In 1967 the company merged with Douglas Aircraft, creating the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, which soon became the nation's largest government contractor. James McDonnell served as chairman and chief executive officer for the corporation. He stepped down as CEO in 1972, although he remained chairman of the firm. Before his death in 1980, McDonnell received many awards and honorary degrees. Shortly after his death the Adie Road Park in St. Ann was changed to the James S. McDonnell Memorial Park in his honor.

LINDBERGH SHELTER

Charles A. Lindbergh was born in Detroit and grew up on his parents'

farm in Minnesota. He learned to fly in 1922 and moved to St. Louis in 1926 to join the city's leading aviation firm, Robertson Aircraft Corporation. He also became an officer in the Missouri National Guard, and it was during this time he began to think of crossing the Atlantic alone. He obtained the support necessary to make the trip from St. Louis businessmen, and its' name, The Spirit of St. Louis testifies to his connection to the city. On May 20, 1927 he left from New York and landed the next day in Paris. His success made him an international hero. He married Anne Morrow in 1929, and with his newfound wealth the couple was able to travel the world. Following the tragic kidnapping and murder of their first son in 1932, the couple grew increasingly resentful of the intrusion of the press into their lives, and subsequently spent three years living in England. After returning to the United States Lindbergh fought against United States involvement in the Second World War. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his autobiography in 1954, and avoided the public spotlight for the remaining years of his life. He died in Maui in 1974. The Lindbergh Shelter at McDonnell Park is named in his honor.