

## **SIoux PASSAGE PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

The confluence of the Missouri River and Mill Creek was a favored campsite for Indians of the late woodland and Mississippian periods. The area featured good hunting and fishing. A source of flint for the manufacture of tools and weapons was readily available. An easily accessible spring provided all-important drinking water. The area provided the needs of the early inhabitants. It is possible that Indians of the Middle Woodland period inhabited the area as early as 100 A.D. The Sioux Passage Park Archaeological Site, listed in the National Register in 1974, is located in the park.

Early explorers passed the present parksite on their treks up the Missouri River to the unknown West. Reference is made in the Journal of Zebulon Pike to camping in an area in close proximity to present day Sioux Passage Park.

During the 1820s and 1830s, side-wheeled, single-engine river boats passed through the chute located north of the park. One such vessel, the Car of Commerce, foundered and sank in this arm of the Missouri River in 1832. Thus, the chute was named.

The park land was purchased in 1965 with Bond Issue money. Sioux Passage was dedicated on October 29, 1967.

The shelter and barbeque pit were constructed in July 1988 with 1986 bond issue funds.

Sioux Passage Park is part of the Missouri River Greenway. The park is contiguous with Briscoe Park (Park #23).

### **EPSTEIN SHELTER**

William H. Epstein was appointed to the Park Advisory Board late in 1965 and served through 1972. He was chairman in 1970 and 1971. He died on June 25, 1987. His daughter Ellen is married to R. E. Lenox. Shortly after his death, his family gave the County Parks \$5,000 to create the William Epstein Memorial Prairie at West Tyson Park. There is also an Epstein

Shelter, named in his honor, at Sioux Passage Park.