

## **LONE ELK PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

The park acreage was once a part of the 2,400-acre Tyson Valley Powder Plant used for the testing and storage of ammunition during WWII. After the War, the area served as a County Park, and in 1948 herds of elk and bison were established. The land was re-acquired by the Federal Government during the Korean War, and for safety reasons the wildlife herds were destroyed in 1958. However, one lone bull elk survived.

In 1964 St. Louis County acquired 405 acres of the original tract from the General Services Administration for \$60,787, and in 1966 the name was changed from Tyson Park to Lone Elk County Park. Six additional elk were obtained from Yellowstone National Park in 1966 through the efforts of the children of the Rockwood School District and West St. Louis County Lions Club.

Construction of the park's lake was done by Fred Weber at no cost to the County. The park was officially opened to the public on October 17, 1971. Six bison were acquired from the St. Louis Zoo in July 1973. Pens have since been rebuilt to a high standard.

In 1986 the World Bird Sanctuary, formerly the Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project, took over the Visitor Center. The facility returned to the Department in 2003.

The Williams Creek Archaeological District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, is adjacent to the east side of the park and includes the tract owned by Simpson Sand and Gravel that has been promised to the park. About 145 acres of this site is leased from Simpson Sand and Gravel.

Lone Elk Park is included in the Meramec River Greenway.

### **RALPH FOLEY SHELTER**

Ralph Foley was born on March 22, 1921. Before working for the Parks Department he spent many years working for the U. S. Army and Air Force. He joined the Parks Department in 1964 as a maintenance man. He

was then promoted to Parks Construction Foreman. He died in 1971 in a three-car collision on St. Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton. He is buried at Jefferson Barracks. He left a wife and two children, Pamela and Michael. A shelter at Lone Elk Park has been dedicated in his memory.