

## **OHLENDORF PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

The original 4.5 acre tract for the Spring Drive Parksites was purchased with funds from the 1959 Bond Issue, and the Park was developed and opened in the early 1960's. Because of heavy use, efforts were made to expand the park. In 1969, Howard and Irma Ohlendorf donated funds for the purchase of two tracts of 4.5 acres of additional land and another small tract in 1974. His donations resulted in the renaming of the park.

Neither the Ohlendorks nor any of the sellers placed any restrictions on the property.

### **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.