

## **ROSALIE TILLES PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

In 1932, C. A. Tilles donated his farm to the City of St. Louis to be used as a public park. The land was donated in memory of his mother, Rosalie Tilles. Park facilities were constructed beginning in 1938 by the City using funds from the WPA (Works Progress Administration). The project was published nationally at the time, and is one of the best preserved WPA construction projects in the region. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1957, St. Louis County purchased the park from the City for \$429,000. At that time, the City created a new Tilles Park on Hampton at Fyler. With funds from the 1969 Bond Issue, the road and parking areas were improved and a new playground constructed.

One of the best known of the County's parks, Tilles is a favored location for picnics. It has traditionally been the location of special Department activities such as the former Spring and Fall Art Fairs, the Haunted Forest and the Winter Wonderland light display which began in 1986 that is still going strong.

Windegger Shelter was built and the lake renovated in 1979 using funds from the estate of Mr. Tilles in memory of his good friend Ms. Windegger. Skow Shelter and the adjacent playground area, as well as the adjacent access road, were renovated and improved in the spring and summer of 1989 with 1986 Bond Issue funds. The ballfield was improved in 1990 with funds from the 1986 Bond Issue. In 1998 the Main restroom by the playground was renovated to comply with ADA standards. The electrical services in the park were also upgraded to accommodate Winter Wonderland. Another addition to the park in 1998 was the installation of a fountain in the Tilles Park lake. The fountain was donated by the Ohlendorf Family.

### **ANDREW TILLES**

“Captain” Andrew Tilles was born in St. Louis in 1865, the son of Louis and Rosalie Peek Tilles. He attended public schools in Fort Smith, Arkansas, as well as the University of Arkansas. He began working for the wholesale cigar and tobacco business at Fort Smith, and then for the Missouri Cigar & Tobacco Co. until 1896. He then worked in brokerage and real estate. In 1932 he donated his farm to the City of St. Louis for use as a

public park. The land was donated in memory of his mother, Rosalie Tilles. He died in 1951. In 1957 St. Louis County purchased the park from the City.

### **WINDEGGER SHELTER**

Jeanette L. Windegger was born in St. Louis in 1894, and remained here until her death in 1991. She is best remembered for her support of various charities and organizations. In the 1950s she helped the St. Louis Society for Crippled Children build a summer camp in St. Charles County. She was head of the Easter Seal Society in the mid-1950s, and supported the Salvation Army and the St. Louis Art Museum. In 1982, she established foundations at St. Louis and Washington universities to provide grants and scholarships. She was also responsible for the establishment of a library at St. Louis University. In the late 1970s the Windegger Shelter at Tilles Park was named in her family's honor for her contributions to the park.

### **SKOW SHELTER**

Charles R. Skow was born in 1913 and married to Dorothy Preiss Skow. He worked for the city of Brentwood for many years, serving as council chairman, alderman, and mayor. He was elected to the St. Louis County Council in 1950 and was council chairman in 1953. The next year he was appointed civil defense director and in 1955 he was appointed administrative assistant to the county supervisor and secretary to the County Park Board. He is perhaps best known as St. Louis County's first park commissioner, which he was appointed to in 1957. He died in 1962 from a heart ailment at the age of 49. Shortly after his death the St. Louis County Parks Advisory Board recommended changing the name of Tilles Park to the "Charles R. Skow Memorial Park," which received great opposition. Instead the Skow Memorial Shelter at the park had been dedicated in his honor.

### **GLORIA ROGERS SHELTER**

Gloria Holland Rogers was born in Brentwood and graduated from Harris-Stowe State College. She began her career as a community center and playground director in St. Louis. She went on to head the Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department for 16 years, and was a recreation manager with St. Louis County Parks for 19 years. She was the first female president of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, a trustee of the National

Parks and Recreation Association, a former board member of the American Recreation and Parks Society and a fellow of the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. She married Gerald Rogers in 1970, and they had two daughters. Gloria Rogers died from cancer in 1996, at the age of 65. A shelter in Tilles Park was dedicated in her memory, as well as a trail in Brentwood City Park.