

## **JOHN D. BRISCOE PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

John D. Briscoe donated this property to St. Louis County on July 22, 1998. In return, the county agreed to name the tract “John D. Briscoe County Park” and to lease it back to him for the duration of his life. Mr. Briscoe, who was born in Sullivan, Missouri on September 24, 1913, died on February 27, 2002, and the property was turned over to the county in July 2002.

Briscoe and his wife, Mary, paid \$7,650 for the property in 1951. They bought the property from the nine children (and their spouses) of Mrs. Briscoe’s grandfather, John C. Hughes, who had owned the tract since the turn of the century. Some of the three barns and five other outbuildings on the property may have dated from the Hughes era or earlier. The Briscoes farmed the property, and Mr. Briscoe also had a private business fashioning hand-made prosthetic limbs. The couple built a brick ranch-style house about 1956. The Briscoes had no children, and after Mary Briscoe’s death, John decided to give the property to the County.

### **JOHN D. BRISCOE**

John D. Briscoe was born in Sullivan, Missouri on September 24, 1913. Briscoe and his wife Mary, bought the 37.68 acres at 17860 Old Jamestown Road in 1951, paying \$7,650. The sellers were the nine children (and their spouses) of John C. Hughes, who had had owned the tract since the turn of the century, but who had died in 1934. Hughes and his 19<sup>th</sup>-century predecessors had been farmers, and some of the eight farm buildings in what is now John D. Briscoe Park may date from the Hughes era or earlier. John and Mary Briscoe built a new brick ranch-style house about 1956 and over the years added several modern farm buildings. The Briscoes had no children, and after Mary Briscoe’s death, John decided to give the property to the county. He donated this property to St. Louis County on July 22, 1998. In return, the county agreed to name the tract “John D. Briscoe County Park” and to lease it back to him for the duration of his life. Mr. Briscoe died on February 27, 2002, and the property was turned over to the county that July. The remainder of the estate, over \$800,000, was divided among the Briscoes’ 18 nieces and nephews.

