

EDGAR M. QUEENY PARK

PARK HISTORY

Queeny Park was once part of the estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Queeny. Mr. Queeny was the former president and chairman of the board of Monsanto Chemical Company, which was founded by his father. Jarville, the house at 1723 Mason Road, was built about 1854 by Hyacinth Renard, and is one of the best surviving examples of the Greek Revival style in Missouri. It was renovated by architect William Crowell of the firm of Mauran, Russell & Crowell following the Queeny's acquisition of it in 1931. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

A second historic house on the property is the Henry Weidman House off Weidman Road. It is customarily leased to park employees.

The Queenys sold their property to the American Investment Company Realty Corporation in 1964, giving the proceeds to Barnes Hospital. St. Louis County purchased the property from the American Investment Company in March, 1970 for \$3,310,000 from 1969 Bond Issue funds.

Ethel Queeny contributed \$1 million towards the completion of the family recreation complex. Edward Greensfelder, who represents the Albert P. Greensfelder Foundation, also donated \$1 million for the project, along with an additional \$50,000 for landscaping.

Construction of the Greensfelder Memorial Complex began June, 1972 and was dedicated in September, 1974. Architect for the complex was Sverdrup and Parcel & Associates, Inc. The main building houses a regulation size ice skating rink, skate rental and sharpening, concession area and lockers. In addition to the ice rink, the main structure is a multi-purpose building with 22,500 square feet that can accommodate special events. The original tent structure which covered 14,000 square feet, including the ice rink and seating, was completed in August of 1978, designed by Jones/Mayer & Associates, Inc. The tensile cover was designed and assembled by Birdair Structures, Inc. of Buffalo, New York. After 16 years of use, the tent was replaced by a pre-engineered metal canopy in June of 1994. Funds were contributed from Midwest Sport Hockey Inc. and Perry Turnbull, a former St. Louis Blues hockey player. This facility was enclosed in 1998 with private funding.

The playground, completed in September 1974 and featuring a supervised, innovative strategy, was designed by Roland W. McFarland through a bequest by Ethel S. Queeny.

In 1987, the Dog Museum moved to the Jarville House from New York City. The County added a large addition connecting the house to the circa 1931 garage in 1990, designed by Hastings & Chivetta Architects, Inc. of St. Louis.

EDGAR MONSANTO QUEENY

Edgar Monsanto Queeny was born in St. Louis in 1897, the son of John Francis and Olga Monsanto Queeny. When Edgar was four years old his father founded the Monsanto Chemical Company, originally a small chemical company which manufactured saccharin. Edgar Queeny earned an A. B. degree in chemistry from Cornell University in 1919. After graduating he married Ethel Schneider and began working at his father's company. He was made vice president in 1924, and president in 1928. Queeny became a crusader against the involvement of government policy in business and industry, writing *The Spirit of Enterprise* in 1943, which described his beliefs. In addition to his business interests, Queeny had a passion for nature and animals. He wrote two books on wildlife, and conducted safaris to Africa to film animals in their natural habitat. In 1964 the Queenys sold their property to the American Investment Company Realty Corporation, giving the proceeds to Barnes Hospital. St. Louis County purchased the property from American Investment in 1970, and created Queeny Park.

ROBERT J HALL CORPORATE SHELTER

During his career Robert J. Hall worked as the Director of Parks and Recreation for Kirkwood, a Board member of the American Parks and Recreation Society, President of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, as well as a variety of other distinguished positions. In 1999 he retired from his position as Director of the St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department. The Robert J. Hall Corporate Shelter at Queeny Park is named in his honor.

GREENSFELDER RECREATION COMPLEX

Albert P. Greensfelder was born in St. Louis in 1879. Greensfelder graduated from Washington University in 1901, and spent most of his career at various positions at Fruin-Colnon Contracting Company, including secretary, president, chairman, and consulting constructor. He married Blanche Younker, also of St. Louis, in 1909, and the couple resided on Lindell Avenue in University City. In his long career he served as vice chairman of the Missouri Conservation Commission, was a member of the Missouri, St. Louis County and University City Planning Boards, and was a member of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. At the time of his death in 1955 he was chairman of the St. Louis County Park Board, the County Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, and member of the board of trustees for Creve Coeur Memorial Park, which he helped the county obtain and establish as the first County Park. Greensfelder Shelter at Creve Coeur Park bears his name. In 1963 the St. Louis Regional Planning and Construction Foundation, which Greensfelder established in 1939, donated the land, which is now Greensfelder Park. The Albert P. Greensfelder Foundation funded Greensfelder Recreation Complex, in Queeny Park.