



TERRY R. DOPSON  
PARKS & RECREATION  
ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING

# SWOPE PARK

Swope Parkway and Meyer Boulevard  
Kansas City, Missouri



www.kcparks.org



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Kansas City, Missouri Parks, Recreation and Boulevards  
 4600 East 63rd Street  
 Kansas City, Missouri 64130  
 www.kcparks.org



# SWOPE PARK

**SWOPE PARK**  
 Swope Park was donated to the people of Kansas City by real estate tycoon Thomas H. Swope in 1896. Swope Park is Kansas City's biggest and one of the largest municipal parks in the United States, containing 1,805 acres of natural beauty. Today Swope Park is home to the Southeast Community Center, Kansas City Zoo, Starlight Theatre, Swope Memorial Golf Course, Heart of America Golf Course, Lakeside Nature Center, campground, 10 shelter houses, numerous picnic areas and athletic fields. For more information about Swope Park or one of the other 218 parks in Kansas City, Missouri, call 816-513-7500 or visit our website at [www.kcparks.org](http://www.kcparks.org).  
 Intersection: Meyer Blvd. & Swope Parkway

## Athletic Fields

Swope Park has fields for baseball, T-ball, football and soccer. For information about field reservations, sports leagues, and other activities call 816-513-7500.



## Battle of Westport Museum

The Battle of Westport Visitors Center and Museum is home to the stories, letters, and journals of the casualties, survivors, and those who bore witness to this page of history. They will engage and inspire the 21st century visitor.



## Camp Lake of the Woods

Camp Lake of the Woods offers activities during the summer months. Arts and crafts, nature walks, swimming and horseback riding are just a few of the activities at the 360-acre camp. For additional information call 816-513-8960.



## Kansas City Community Gardens and The Beansstalk Children's Garden

The Kansas City Community Gardens provides self-help and educational assistance to low-income people, children and community groups in the metropolitan area to grow their own nutritious fruits and vegetables. For more information, call (816) 931-3877 or visit [www.kccg.org](http://www.kccg.org).



## Disc Golf

Swope Park boasts one of the nation's top-rated 18-hole disc golf courses. This course is located at the corner of Gregory Blvd. & Elmwood. Open to the public and free; just bring your own flying disc.

## Earth Riders Trails Association (ERTA) Trail

The first two phases of the planned 16 mile trail features many rock outcroppings, spectacular views of the surrounding parkland and two small waterfall sections. For more information, visit [www.swopetrails.com](http://www.swopetrails.com)



## Golf

There's plenty of golf in Swope Park! Swope Memorial Golf Course, an 18-hole course, features wooded hills and challenging greens. It is considered the premier municipal course in the Kansas City area. For general information, please call 816-513-8910.



The Heart of America Golf Course is ideal for beginners. It offers a 9-hole 35 par course and a 9-hole par 27 course.



## Lakeside Nature Center

Discover a world of nature in the heart of Kansas City. Lakeside Nature Center exhibits native wildlife, including snakes, birds of prey, mammals and amphibians. Interactive displays and beautiful graphics fascinate the visitors. Staff naturalists teach a wide range of programs about our natural world using live animals and the trails that meander through 350 acres of upland forest.

Lakeside Nature Center is the only wildlife rehabilitation center in western Missouri. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers care for injured and orphaned Missouri wildlife and every effort is made to nurse each animal back to good health and release it back into the wild.

Nestled in the nearby woodland are sites available for organized groups to spend the night and hike the trails. A facility that easily seats 100 people is available for family reunions, receptions, and corporate retreats.

Lakeside Nature Center visiting hours: Tuesday thru Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday and some Holidays Closed  
 Call 816-513-8960 for information about the center, programs and facility or visit [www.kcparks.org](http://www.kcparks.org)



## Lake of the Woods

Explore the beauty and relax at the Lake of the Woods. Sit back and enjoy watching the variety of birds living around the lake. If you're lucky, you may see a parade of water turtles sunning themselves on a log. Picnic facilities are nearby.



## Kansas City Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden

The 6000 sq. ft. demonstration garden at the Southeast Community Center features a split walking path meandering through its nearly 200-foot length. The pathways allow visitors a close-up view of the many species of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals as well as providing working space for gardeners. Plants of Merit, which grow well in the area, along with All American Selections are a focus of this demonstration garden. While serving as a visual tool, the garden is also a catalyst for classes, demonstrations and events.



## Picnicking

You can picnic just about anywhere in Swope Park. Tables and grills are available throughout the park. Many are close to comfort stations, water fountains and playgrounds. Our shelter #9 is on a first come first serve basis, all other picnic shelters including the Band Pavilion, may be reserved for a fee. Please call 816-513-8931 for shelter reservation.



## Southeast Community Center in Swope Park

Bringing families and friends together is the goal of the new Southeast Community Center in Swope Park. The 46,755-square-foot center has a full-sized basketball court, meeting rooms, game room, lot drop-off, craft room, therapy pool, recreation pool with play features and fitness area with weights and cardiovascular equipment. A variety of aerobics classes are offered, and a track is installed above the gym so members can walk or run. For more information, call 816-513-0632.



## Swope Pool

Take the plunge and cool off in the Swope Park Pool. The pool is Olympic-sized and features a diving area and children's spray ground. Swope Park Pool is open Memorial Day through Labor Day. For more information about swimming lessons and other pool activities call 816-513-7500 or visit [www.kcparks.org](http://www.kcparks.org)

## Swope Park Off Leash Dog Park

The dog park sits on five acres, divided into two areas—one for smaller and one for larger dogs. Pups under 30 pounds (or elderly or handicapped dogs) have one-acre fenced off while big dogs have four full acres. Both areas have dog/people water fountains.

## Loose Memorial Flagpole

The 178 feet flagpole was a gift to the city by the late Jacob L. Loose. The stone base weighs 65,000 pounds and was quarried from Green County, Missouri.

## American Legion Memorial II

A memorial to our soldiers who fought so valiantly for their country. The bronze panel illustrates American soldiers entering a ruined French village, wounded French soldiers and refugees.

## Alfred Benjamin Memorial

Alfred Benjamin established a foundation for Jewish Charities in Kansas City. He gave funds to build the Alfred Benjamin Dispensary, a medical clinic. He also helped to establish a camp for Jewish children.

## Kansas City Zoo

With more than 202 acres nestled inside valleys and rolling hills, the Zoo hosts more than 1,000 animals. The Zoo is divided into several sections: The Polar Bear Passage, Australia, Tiger Trail, Kid Zone that includes the Discovery Barn, Peek-A-Boo Tree and an Endangered Species Carousel, a 100 acre-Africa Plains exhibit and The Tropics is an indoor rainforest. The New Helzberg Penguin Plaza opened the Fall of 2013. Zoo Visiting Hours: 9:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Years Day. For information and special events, call (816) 513-5800 or visit [www.kansascityzoo.org](http://www.kansascityzoo.org)

## Sporting Kansas City Training Facility

Four training fields equipped with different types of grass to handle all seasons are fronted by a 7,000 square-foot main structure that contains many features including offices, a locker room, a players' lounge, a treatment room and a training room with weights and cardio equipment. Visit [www.sportingkc.com](http://www.sportingkc.com)

## Swope Memorial

The Colonel Thomas H. Swope mausoleum has recently been refurbished and overlooks the park from atop a wooded hill. The mausoleum features a carved frieze supported by 12-fluted granite columns guarded by a pair of sculpted lions.

## Tennis

Tennis anyone? Swope Park has two hard-surfaced tennis courts located just outside of The Southeast Community Center near Shelter #2.

## Starlight Theatre

Starlight is the second largest professional outdoor theatre in the United States and Kansas City's home for summer entertainment. Since 1951, the majestic 8,000 seat outdoor amphitheater has entertained over 12 million people. Starlight annually features five Broadway musicals with star entertainers, and numerous concerts by top national performers. Starlight Theatre is Kansas City's largest and oldest performing arts organization. The 14-acre complex includes a restaurant for season ticket holders, a beverage deck, seven concession stands, and the Shirley Bush Helzberg Garden of the Stars. For tickets or other information, call (816) 363-7827 or call toll free at 1-800-776-1730. Visit [www.kcstarlight.com](http://www.kcstarlight.com)