Loose Park is one of Kansas City's most beautiful parks. The 74-acre park was given to the city in 1927 by Ella Loose to honor her husband Jacob, a businessman and philanthropist. Located south of the Country Club Plaza, Loose Park offers elegance, exercise and history.

The elegance of the park stems from the famous Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden (dedicated in 1939) and the classic walkway and garden that leads to it. As spring arrives, more than 4,000 roses -- in 125 varieties -- burst to life in the circular garden courtyard. Fountains, statues, large verandas and pathways make this one of the most romantic spots in the city. The rose garden is a popular place for weddings.

Exercise opportunities are available, with a jogging and walking path encircling the entire park. Tennis courts can be found west of the rose garden. The gently rolling hills in the middle of the park, are perfect for flying kites, playing catch, walking the dog or just relaxing under a tree. A lake sits at the east edge of the park. Benches, bridges and small nooks allow for a restful stop.

There are also significant connections to history at Loose Park. Markers along the southern edge of the park describe the Battle of Westport, part of which was fought in and around these grounds.

The Stanley R. McLane Arboretum in Loose Park, was established in 1972 to honor Stanley R. McLane. He served as president of the Garden Center Association of Greater Kansas City and was the landscape supervisor for J.C. Nichols Company. The arboretum has over 4,000 trees with new additions being added yearly.