

## **FORREST STALEY PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

The Staley tract was purchased in February 1980 for \$110,000 with Land and Water Conservation Funds. By Order of the Circuit Court, May 9, 1980,

- A. The land shall forever remain a public park, and the plaintiff shall maintain the park as nearly as possible in its natural condition consistent with park operations and shall not permit the cutting of timber for commercial purposes nor the operation of off-the-road vehicles within the park boundaries except for the established roadways.
- B. The park shall be named “Forrest Staley Park.”
- C. A perpetual easement is reserved to the defendants, the trustees, for the use of the property for recreational purposes for day, overnight and long term camping by defendant Troop 98, Boy Scouts of America, and its successor and also for the same purposes for the Girl Scout Organization of St. Roch’s Parish in St. Louis, Missouri.

The trustees of Troup 98 acquired the property in 1944 for use as a campsite. They named it for Dr. Forest (not Forrest) H. Staley, who had died in 1941. Staley was an assistant professor of surgery at St. Louis University Medical School and was known regionally for his work in scouting. The spelling change in the name was apparently a typographical error in the court’s ruling.

It has been used as a camping area for Boy Scout groups who continue using the area for that purpose.

Forrest Staley Park is included in the Meramec River Greenway.

### **FOREST H. STALEY**

Forest H. Staley was born in Madison, South Dakota in 1885. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1909, and taught high school in Wisconsin. In 1914 he entered the Washington University School of Medicine and graduated in 1917. In 1924 he joined the faculty of the St. Louis University Medical School, leaving briefly to develop his own private practice. He wrote extensively on surgical

pathology and was considered an expert on snakes and snake poisons. He was also known for his contributions to the Boy Scouts, and in 1932 was awarded the highest award of the St. Louis Council of Boy Scouts, for his work as Scoutmaster of Troop 98 of St. Roch's Catholic Church. He died of a heart ailment in 1941. After his death Troop 98 named their camp, Camp Forest Staley. When the county condemned the property in 1980 for use as a public park, the court order accidentally misspelled the name as "Forrest Staley Park." The Park is presently undeveloped.