

FORT BELLEFONTAINE WEST PARK

PARK HISTORY

The land was purchased by the St. Louis County Department of Public Works with funds from the 1955 Bond Issue. The area at that time was named Wade Site Landfill. The land was transferred to the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation in 1971 and was renamed Fort Bellefontaine County Park. The park was named after Fort Bellefontaine which was the first military post west of the Mississippi River. The park at one time was a rock quarry and then a landfill.

Ten acres of the park were leased to Organic Resources Management Inc. (ORMI) in 1993, which established the Fort Bellefontaine Compost Center. The lease was renewed for 15 years beginning April 2001. Effective March 7, 2001, the St. Louis County Department of Planning issued a Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.), which includes numerous requirements for review of development plans and requires the Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing at five year intervals “with regard to the overall operation and term limit of this facility,” at which time “the Commission may choose to not renew the C.U.P.”