

1904 WORLD'S FAIR HISTORICAL TRAIL

10-Mile Circular

Rated for: Webelos, Scouts and Venturers

Historical Note

This hike through Forest Park has been established to help tell the story of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis in 1904. Although most of the structures were demolished shortly after the close of the Fair, a few physical reminders remain that help us capture the spirit and charm of the largest exposition ever held.

At the turn of the twentieth century civic-minded businessmen of St. Louis, hoping to reinforce the city's development, wanted to attract one of the many expositions being promoted in the latter part of the century. The Columbian Exposition of 1893 had been inviting, but the city was not equipped with adequate hotel facilities and so this exposition went to Chicago. Energetic construction followed with the hope that the hundredth anniversary celebration of the Louisiana Purchase might become the 1903 International Exposition held in St. Louis. Every effort was made toward developing the interest of the population and enlisting the cooperation of the fourteen states and territories comprising the Louisiana Purchase area. St. Louis agreed to raise ten million dollars and the states agreed to support all efforts to obtain a grant from Congress for five million dollars. In March of 1901 the bill became law and the wheels began to roll. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company was formed and David R. Francis was elected president.

The site chosen for the Fair was the western half of Forest Park. Acquired in 1874, the area originally covered about 650 acres, but it soon became evident that much more space would be needed for the type of exposition planned. Additional land was added to the original plot resulting in about 1275 acres. By contrast, the four largest expositions this nation had seen previously covered 1319 acres all together! Preparations for the Fair consumed several years, the early ones used for arousing the interest of the nation and foreign states; the later ones concerned with the actual physical work. The 1903 opening seemed more and more impossible as time passed. Postponement was needed, and the city sighed with relief when Congress granted the request for a year delay to 1904. The opening date was set—April 30, 1904.

Covering the 1275 acres were numerous buildings, erected both by this nation and by foreign states. The area today occupied by the St. Louis Zoo was the Plaza of States, where many states erected large houses, which served as gathering places for visitors. Missouri, the host state, constructed a building made entirely of native materials. Designed as a permanent structure, not only was it large and very ornate, but also it had a cooling system as well as a heating system. On November 19—just two weeks before the close of the Fair—the building was destroyed by fire. Naturally, no attempt was made to replace it at such a late date, but after the Fair a pavilion was erected near the site to memorialize the Fair. The pavilion has been known as the World's Fair Pavilion ever since. Near the World's Fair Pavilion was the Bird Cage, and exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution. This is the largest structure of its kind ever built.

Before the fair could come to Forest Park, much work had to be done to make the chosen location as desirable as the grandeur of the Fair demanded. Peninsular Lake had to be reshaped; its bounds were irregular and it had a few islands in it. Lagoons with other lakes connected the lake, with a new name—The Grand Basin—. The Grand Basin was the focal point for all-important activities. Boat parades celebrating various events were held almost daily. Boats were also a good way for sightseers to view the main features of the Fair, as lagoons and waterways flowed between many of the exhibition buildings.

Just south of the Grand Basin was located the Art Palace, which was a permanent building. This building was used to house the valuable art objects lent to the Fair by twenty nations. After the Fair, the Exposition Company donated the Art Palace to the city of St. Louis and it is now the present St. Louis Art Museum. In front of the Art Museum stands the statue of St. Louis, which was located at the main entrance gates during the Fair. Since the statue was not made of permanent materials, the Exposition Company had it recast in bronze at a cost of \$40,000 and relocated it on its present site.

Several buildings on the Washington University campus remain from the Fair. The administration building, now Brookings Hall, was used for official meetings and the reception of guests. Conventions and congresses, meeting almost continuously during the seven months, had their headquarters in the Hall of Congresses, now Ridgley Library, on the campus. The most notable among the 186 meetings, which convened at the Fair, was the National Democratic Convention of 1904. The western end of the campus was the location of an elaborate physical culture program, as well as the Olympic Games of 1904. Francis Gymnasium and Francis Field are still in use today, and by their names, honor Exposition President David R. Francis. Other buildings of interest on the campus are Karl D. Umrath Hall, formerly Tower Hall, which was paid for by the rental money from the Fair, and Bixby Hall, which houses many of the ornate interiors from the Exposition British Building.

From the early days of the Fair's planning, a sentiment was expressed that some large, enduring monument should result. Thus, in 1909, President Francis requested the United States Government to participate with the City of St. Louis and the Exposition Company in constructing a memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The proposition was well received, and Congress decreed that the Exposition Company should erect a monument to cost not less than \$200,000. The cornerstone was laid on May 1, 1911, and the Jefferson Memorial was completed in 1913.

The Fair lasted all through the autumn of 1904, and still the crowds came. In all, 20 million people came to the Fair! The Exposition closed at midnight on December 1, 1904. As the midnight hour approached, Fair President Francis expressed appreciation to all who had helped make the Fair a success. He then threw a switch and total darkness covered the grounds. Suddenly the air was live with the light of fireworks. "Farewell" was spelled out in bright colors on a wall, "Goodnight" on another, then the features of Mr. Francis was seen in blazing outline, and the universal Exposition of 1904 came to an end.

Interested hikers can walk through the St. Louis Art Museum (free admission) and the Jewel Box (\$1.00 admission). It is suggested that hikers also walk through the Jefferson Memorial, now the Missouri History Museum, (free admission) to view the World's Fair exhibit in the west wing of the building.

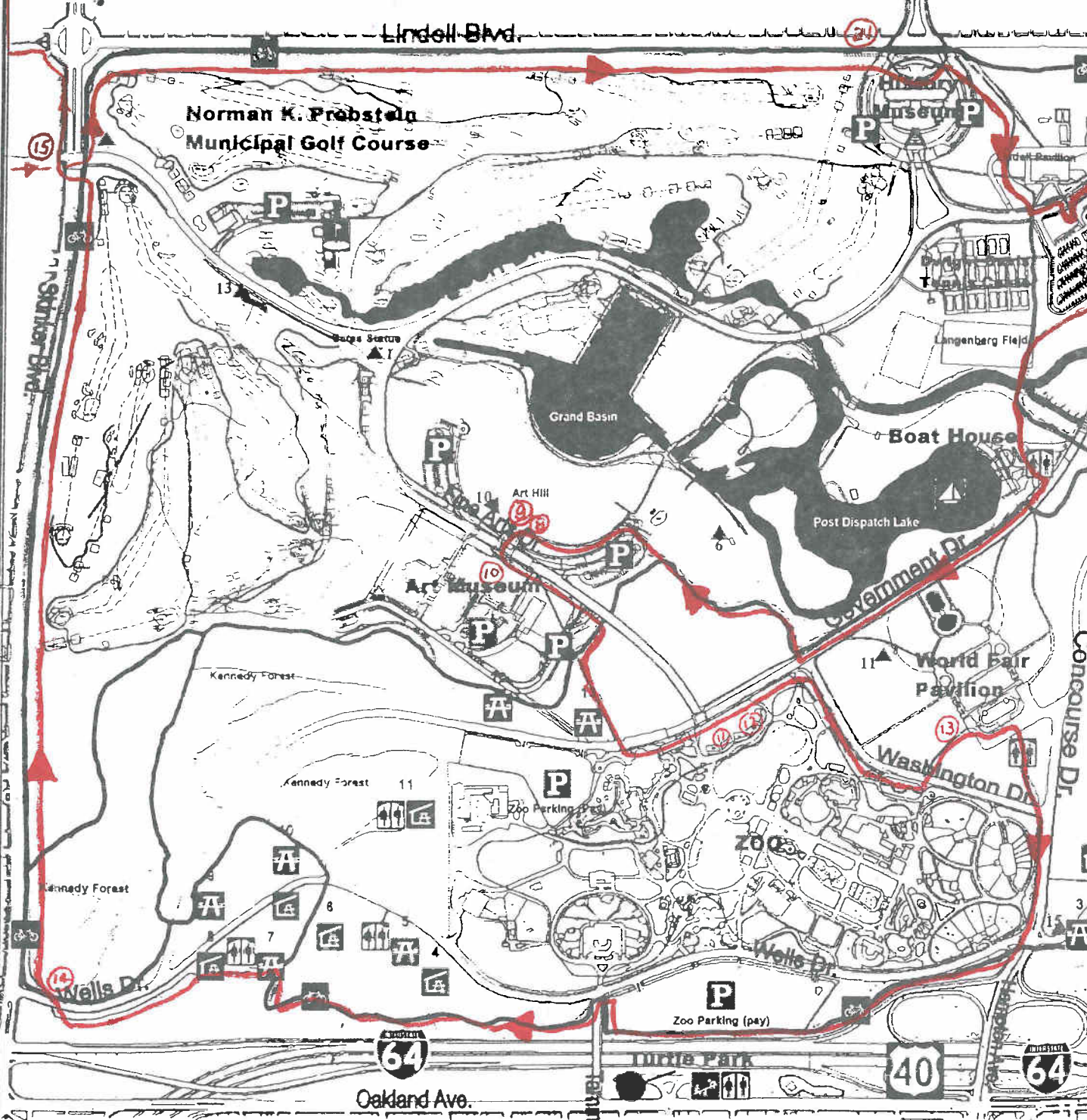
Trail Information

The hike begins and ends at the parking lot across Grand Drive from the Visitors Center, just east of the Missouri History Museum. There is ample parking available at this point. Hikers should use sidewalks, foot trails, or bike trails rather than hike on park/streets. The trail on the park map is in red. Hikers should be alert for cyclists and inline skaters while on bike trails and should yield the right of way to them. Walk in single file lines at all times, especially while on bike trails. Enter and leave the Washington University campus by crossing Skinker Boulevard at the Skinker-Forsyth intersection, as indicated on the trail map. There is a traffic signal here, which will permit a safe crossing. Do not attempt to cross Skinker, at the Lindell traffic circle just to the north, where there is no traffic signal. Be careful crossing Washington Drive at the east end of the Bird Cage and just west of Concourse Drive at the NE corner of the zoo. Trashcans are located throughout the park; please don't litter.

Public restrooms are available at the Visitor and Education Center (which is north across the street from the parking lots near the start-end) and inside the Zoo Living World building.



Fores



Prepared By:
 City of St. Louis Forestry Division
 1415 N. 13th Street
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 9-19-2002
 9-22-2003 (revised)
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The Forestry Division does not guarantee the accuracy of this map. Map may not be reproduced without title plate to left

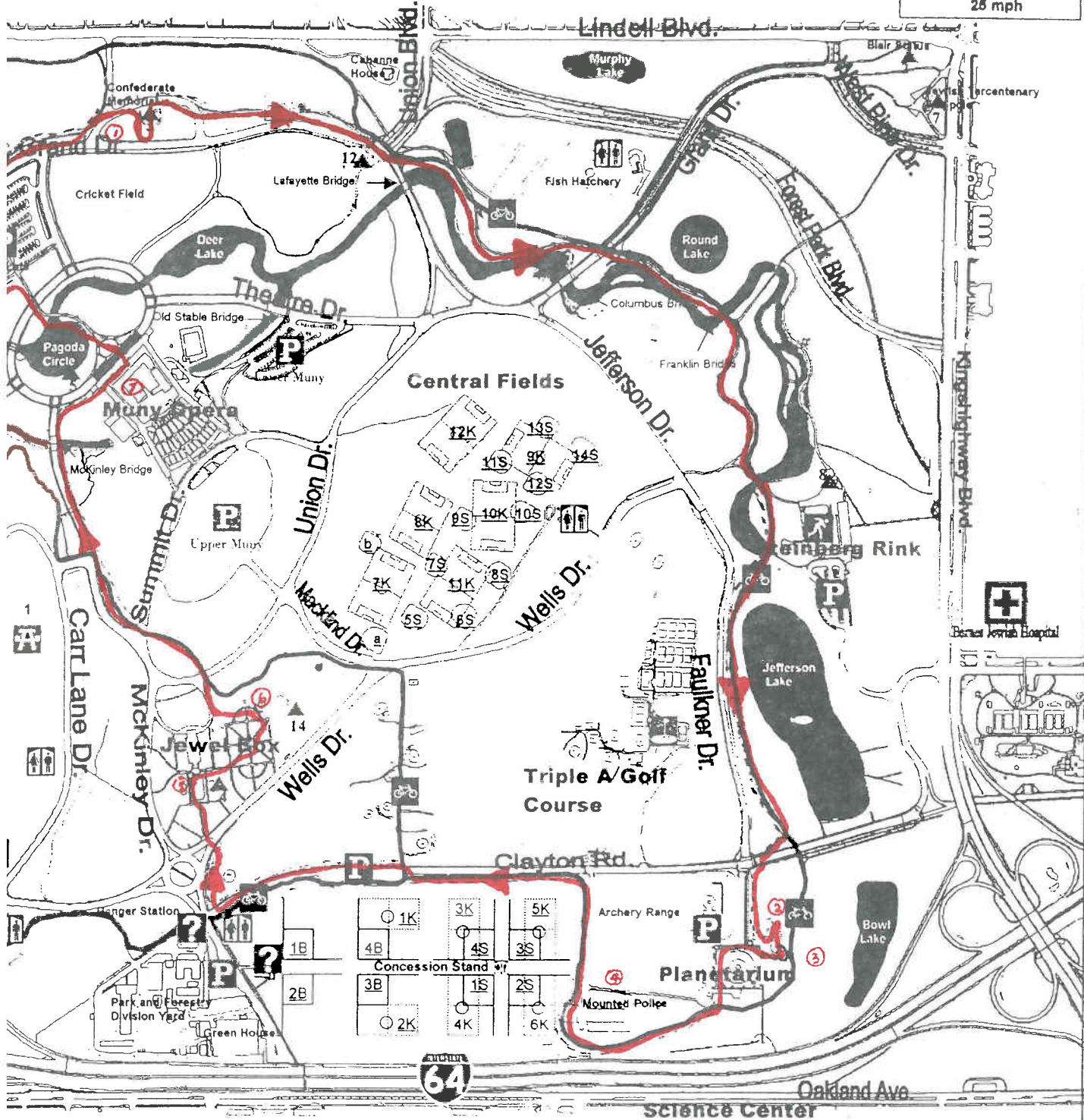
Key	
	Parking
	Public Parking
	Park Information
	Bike Path
	Playground
	Hospital
	Picnic Area
	Golf Course

Forest Park

Please Drive Carefully

**SPEED
LIMIT
25**

Park Speed Limit
25 mph



picnic Area



Comfort Station



Baseball (B) / Softball (S)

Clubhouse

Soccer / Football



Park Information and
Directions Available
At These Locations

Call (314) 289-6300
(M-F 8-4:30pm) for
Forest Park information.
PARK EMERGENCY: (dial) 911

Monuments & Statuary

- 1 Edward Bates, 1876
- 2 Frank Blair, 1885
- 3 Confederate Memorial, 1914
- 4 St. Francis of Assisi, 1962
- 5 Nathan Frank Bandstand, 1926
- 6 Friedrich Jahn Memorial, 1913
- 7 Jewish First American Settlement, 1956
- 8 Joie de Vivre, 1962
- 9 Musician Memorial, 1925
- 10 Apotheosis of St. Louis, 1906
- 11 St. Louis Award, 1965 & 1975
- 12 General Franz Sigel, 1908
- 13 Cascade, 1938
- 14 Vandeventer Place Entrance, 1950
- 15 Native American, 1976

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QUESTION SHEET

1. Who was the sculptor of the Confederate Memorial?
2. How many feet between the Whisper Dishes in the Science Park?
3. What large animals are lurking east of the St. Louis Science Center (Planetarium)?
4. What animals are quartered in the building west of the Science Center (between the Science Center and the ball fields)?
5. In what year was the Jewel Box erected?
6. How many names are on the Korean War Memorial—Army, Marines, Air Force, and Navy?
7. Who was the first president (chairperson) of the St. Louis Municipal Opera?
8. Who gave the statue of St. Louis to the City of St. Louis? What does the statue commemorate?
9. To whom was the Art Museum dedicated, and in what year (look over entrance)?
10. How many animals are found on the rock/fountain outside the north entrance to the Living World building at the zoo?
11. What kind of animals is in the large cage?
12. Approximately how long is this cage?
13. How many arches are there on the two long sides of the World's Fair Pavilion?
14. What American president is commemorated on the boulder at this point?
15. What poet does the statue at this point honor and when was it erected?
16. How many steps lead up to Brookings Hall?
17. Whom does the memorial seal in the floor at the Brookings Hall entrance honor?
18. Did the Ridley Library exist at the time of the Fair? (See date on shield high over the main entrance.)
19. What important event occurred at Francis Field in 1904?
20. Who was Francis Field named for?
21. When was the Jefferson Memorial (now the Missouri History Museum) dedicated?

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1. George Julian Zolney
2. 98 feet – edge to edge, 100 feet—center to center
3. Two dinosaurs – triceratops and tyrannosaurus rex.
4. Horses for the St. Louis Mounted Police.
5. 1936
6. Army—198, Marines—48, Air Force—10, Navy—2
7. Henry W. Kiel (1919-1924)
8. Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company; Universal Exposition of 1904
9. 1903, “to art” (MDCDIII)
10. There were at least 28 on 2/15/94. There were 37 at one time but at 9 have been removed.
11. Birds
12. About 220 feet
13. 7 on each side—14 total
14. John F. Kennedy
15. Robert Burns – 1928
16. 47 plus 8 in Brookings Archway
17. William Greenleaf Eliot
18. Yes
19. The 1904 Summer Olympic Games
20. David Roland Francis, President of Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company
21. April 30, 1913