

NORMAN B. CHAMP PARK

PARK HISTORY

Forty-nine acres of this parksite was donated to the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation by Joseph C. Champ and Norman B. Champ, Jr. in 1971. The remaining 50 acres were added in 1976. By county ordinance 5651, adopted November 12, 1970, the property “shall be named and known as the Norman B. Champ County Park.” Norman B. Champ, the father of the donors, was the founder of Champ Spring Company and of Champ-Goodwood Farm in Elsberry, Missouri. The Village of Champ in St. Louis County is named for him. This area was open only for ecological study in the past, but now the east part has been developed.

JOSEPH C. CHAMP AND NORMAN B. CHAMP

The brothers Joseph C. Champ and Norman B. Champ grew up in the grand estate of Goodwood. The house and the building and land surrounding it were bought by eminent domain to make way for an expansion of Lambert Airport. The house was torn down in 1968. In 1971 Joseph C. Champ and Norman B. Champ donated 49 acres of land to the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, which subsequently became Champ County Park. Joseph C. Champ was vice president of Champ Spring Co. of St. Louis, and owner of the Champ-Goodwood Farms, a 3,500-acre dairy farm south of Elsberry on Missouri Highway 79. In 1992 Joseph and his wife Mary Elizabeth Champ died in an accidental fire in their house on the farm. Norman Champ earned an engineering degree from MIT and a business degree from Harvard. From 1994 to 2003 he was a member of the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission, and he served in many other civic capacities. He was appointed by President Carter to the National Council of the Arts and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. He died in 2005 at age of 76.