



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
Parks and Recreation

Jeffrey Edison

jedison@stlouiscountymo.gov

314-213-0764

What You Need to Know

Bodies of Water

- Mississippi River – Runs north to south with major confluence points at the Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers
- Missouri River – Flows west to east with major confluence points at the Mississippi, Yellowstone, and Platte Rivers
- Ohio River – Flows east to west with major confluences at the Mississippi, Allegheny, Wabash, and Tennessee Rivers
- Kaskaskia River – Flows north to south through the interior of Illinois and connects to the Mississippi River

People Who Settled Here: Indigenous Tribes

- Cahokia
- Kaskaskia
- Kickapoo
- Ottawa
- Potawatomie
- Sac and Fox
- Shawnee

People Who Settled Here: Europeans

- British – Traders, military, and government officials
- French – Jesuit missionaries, traders, explorers, and enslaved
- Spanish – Government officials and military
- American – Explorers, settlers, military, government officials, and enslaved



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Early Wars: Seven Years War or French and Indian War

- British and French fight for control of the growing North American territories
- Ohio Valley and Canada see the bulk of fighting
- Fighting spills over into the Illinois Territory near Fort de Chartres and Kaskaskia
- Fighting occurs mainly with Indigenous tribes' assistance to either side

Early Movement: Treaties and Proclamations

- Treaty of Paris 1763 ceded French East of Mississippi lands to Britain excluding New Orleans
- Both retained control of various Caribbean islands for trading and settlement
- Treaty of Fontainebleau was a secret treaty made between France and Spain that ceded Louisiana to Spain
- Proclamation of 1763 which barred American colonists from crossing the Appalachian Mountains to settle in Native land
- Treaty of Paris of 1783 ended the American Revolution and ceded British lands east of the Mississippi to the United States

Fortifications

- Fort San Carlos – Near St. Louis
- Fort Don Carlos – Near Cold Water Creek on Missouri River
- Fort Kaskaskia (Mound Fort) – Along the Kaskaskia and Mississippi River Confluence Point
- Fort de Chartres – Along the Mississippi River in Southern Illinois and original French seat of government
- Fort Belle Fontaine – First American fortification west of the Mississippi and built near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers

Louisiana Purchase

- Expanding West with Expeditions:
 - Lewis and Clark Expedition – Map the Missouri River system and tributaries to find a route to the Pacific plus meet Indigenous tribes
 - Zebulon Pike Expeditions – Map the upper Mississippi River and explore the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains
 - Stephen Long Expedition – Explored the southwest regions including the Missouri, Arkansas, Red, and Platte rivers



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Territories

- Illinois Territory – Established in 1809 from the Northwest Territory and made into a free territory but had indentured servitude
- Missouri Territory – Established in 1812 and allowed slavery. The territory originally included: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma and parts of Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming

Notable People

- Pierre Laclède – fur trader who helped found St. Louis
- Chouteau Family – Co-founded the early settlement and were fur traders that made their wealth in the region
- Ninian Edwards – Territorial governor of Illinois and advocated for statehood as well as full slavery in the state. Led campaigns during the War of 1812
- Benjamin Stephenson – Held many positions within Illinois which included: sheriff, Receiver of Public Monies, militia recruiter during the War of 1812, representative to Congress, and helped found the first bank in Edwardsville, IL
- Nicholas Jarrot – Wealthy French citizen who lived in Cahokia and owned significant land which led to generational wealth
- George Rogers Clark – American Revolution veteran who led troops into the Ohio to defend against the British and Indigenous tribes, but he went into debt funding his forces
- Pontiac – Ottawa War Chief who wanted to confederate tribes in the Ohio Valley and Mississippi region due to European atrocities against Native peoples
- William Clark – Corps of Discovery Captain and territorial governor in Missouri
- Meriwether Lewis – Corps of Discovery Captain and Louisiana Territory governor