The 1976 addition of the 360-acre Jerry Smith Park was made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Smith. Mr. Smith was a Kansas City civic leader and philanthropist who used his life to help others, especially children. He owned and operated Jerry Smith Buick from 1950 until his retirement in 1974. His antique toy and car collection, said to have been the largest in the world, was nationally renowned. Mr. Smith served on the board of many charitable organizations and received many awards, including being named Mr. Kansas City.

From 1977 until 1984, KC Parks maintained the park for educational purposes as a working farm with hayfields, fruit trees, a garden and livestock. It was managed by Jewel and Phyllis Loveland who worked the farm and demonstrated farming methods. Presently the park supports equestrian and walking trails and provides access to a rich variety of flora and fauna. Jerry Smith Park contains the largest remaining tracts of remnant prairie on the Missouri side of the metro and the only one in the city limits of Kansas City, MO.

These two contiguous tracts contain remnant native prairie—the only remnant prairie on public land left in Jackson County. An approximately 40-acre area has been the subject of intense restoration efforts since 1998 involving tree removal, prescribed burning and control of sericea lespedeza. Kansas City Power & Light has contributed equipment and labor for large-scale tree removal. The site contains the largest population in Missouri of the state-listed eared false foxglove. Prairie forbs grown at Powell Gardens from locally collected seed have been planted here at KC WildLands public workdays in recent years.

The east prairie of Jerry Smith Park was cleared of woody invasive encroachment and the newly opened prairie underwent its first prescribed burn in the fall of 2004. The emergence of several species of conservative prairie forbs in the spring of 2005 indicate this a very biologically diverse remnant prairie!