

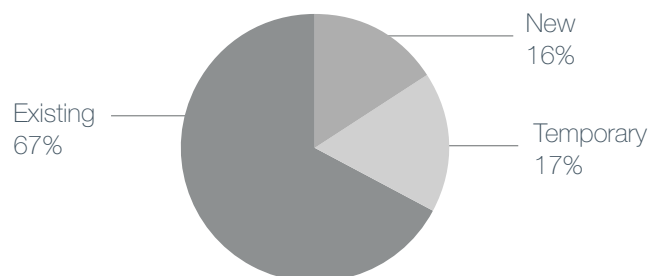
> ST. LOUIS 1904 VENUES



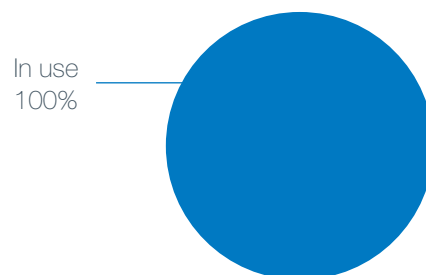
OVERVIEW

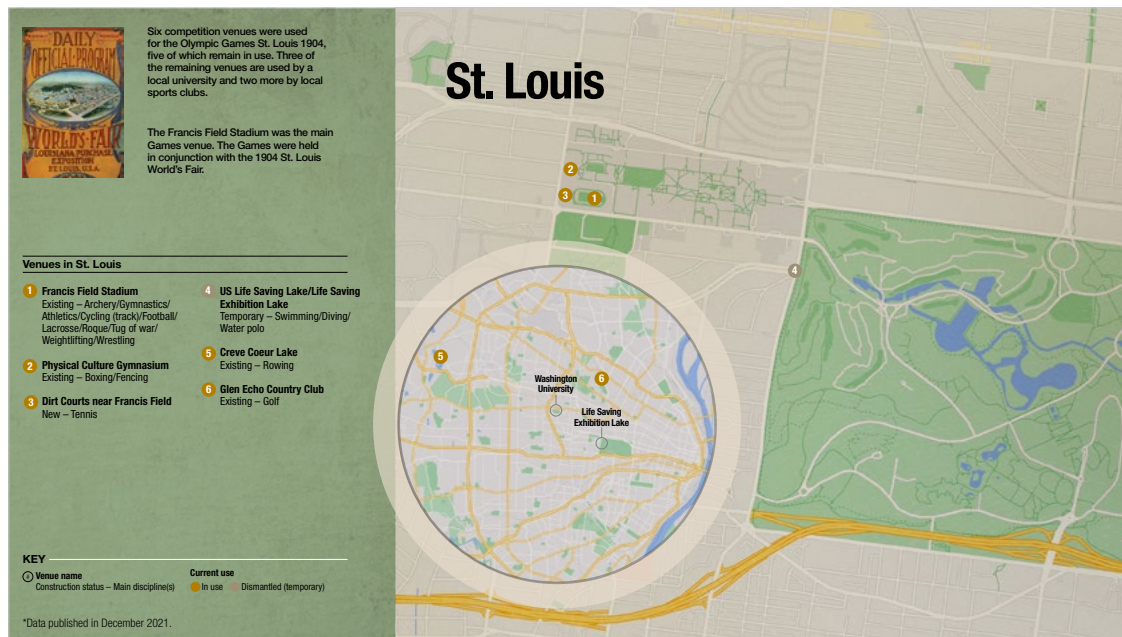
Six competition venues were used for the Olympic Games St. Louis 1904, five of which remain in use today. Four of the competition venues were existing, one was new and one was temporary. Three of the remaining venues are used by a local university and two more by local sports clubs. The Francis Field Stadium was the main Games venue. There was no official Olympic Village. The Games were held in conjunction with the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, also known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

VENUE CLASSIFICATION



CURRENT USE (PERMANENT VENUES)





ST. LOUIS 1904 VENUES AT A GLANCE

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
Francis Field Stadium	Existing	Archery, gymnastics, athletics, cycling (track), football, lacrosse, rogue, tug of war, weightlifting, wrestling	In use
Creve Coeur Lake	Existing	Rowing	In use
Glen Echo Country Club	Existing	Golf	In use
Physical Culture Gymnasium	Existing	Boxing, fencing	In use
Dirt Courts near Francis Field	New build	Tennis	In use (rebuilt)
US Life Saving Lake / Life Saving Exhibition Lake	Temporary	Swimming, diving, water polo	Dismantled (temporary)

> THE VENUES UP CLOSE

VENUES IN USE

FRANCIS FIELD STADIUM

Built in 1902, Francis Field became the home of the Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) Bears American football team after the Games. In 1984, the stadium underwent its first major renovation, with the original cinder track replaced by a 400-metre artificial track. The seating capacity of its original reinforced concrete stands was also reduced to 4,000. The stadium was further refurbished in 2003 and 2004, when an artificial pitch was installed. By this time, Francis Field was also home to the university's women's and men's soccer, track and field, and cross-country teams.

Francis Field Stadium is the oldest Olympic stadium still in regular use for official sporting events and is also a registered historic landmark. In September 2018, a structure featuring the Olympic rings was erected nearby to provide a permanent reminder of the stadium's Olympic status, a function also performed by the ornamental wrought-iron gate installed after the Games at the east entrance to the stadium. A year later, the venue was renamed Francis Olympic Field, to recognise its place in Olympic history.

CREVE COEUR LAKE

One of the largest natural lakes in the state of Missouri, the venue has been the permanent base of the St. Louis Rowing Club since 1983, though the club has been racing on it intermittently since the early 1900s. A competitive racing club that also offers recreational rowing, it runs junior and adult programmes. The lake, which is also used by the community for recreational activities such as paddle boating and sailing, is part of the Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park, which is itself part of the St. Louis Urban Oases Important Bird Area.

GLEN ECHO COUNTRY CLUB

Fourteen of the golf course's holes are still laid out exactly as they were when it hosted the Olympic golf competition in 1904. Opened in 1901, Glen Echo Country Club was St. Louis' first complete 18-hole golf course and organises competitions for women and men throughout the season. Its grounds and clubhouse also host weddings, galas and private social functions.

PHYSICAL CULTURE GYMNASIUM

The venue was handed over to the WUSTL Department of Athletics after the Games. Since known as Francis Field House, it was converted into a modern, energy-efficient fitness, recreation and athletic centre in 2016. The building, which was also extended to incorporate new facilities, was renamed the Gary M. Sumers Recreation Centre.

During its renovation, parts of the original gymnasium were demolished. Some elements were retained, however. These include the gym's original maple flooring, which was relaid in a bridge section connecting the existing and new parts of the facility. Among the centre's many exercise spaces is the Olympic Studio, which celebrates the venue's Olympic past and whose walls are lined with photographs from the 1904 Games. The venue has also played a part in recent US political history, providing the setting for five presidential and vice-presidential debates since 1992.

DIRT COURTS NEAR FRANCIS FIELD

The area that the courts once occupied is part of the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, which is home to the Olympic Stadium and the Gary M. Summers Recreation Center. There are tennis courts just to the east of these buildings, and this is most likely the original location of the Olympic courts used in 1904.

TEMPORARY VENUES

US LIFE SAVING LAKE/LIFE SAVING EXHIBITION LAKE

The venue was an oval-shaped man-made lake in St. Louis' Forest Park and was created by the organisers of the 1904 World's Fair to allow the US Coast Guard to demonstrate their life-saving manoeuvres on the water. Modifications were made to the lake to create a course for the swimming events at the 1904 Games. These included the installation of a small pontoon dock from which competitors could dive into the water. The lake was emptied and refilled with soil after the Games. The site is now occupied by a golf course.

> DID YOU KNOW?

Washington University in St. Louis built Francis Field Stadium for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which was held to celebrate the centenary of the USA's purchase of the state from France. The event was held in conjunction with the 1904 Olympic Games, which were originally scheduled to take place in Chicago but were moved to St. Louis.

To commemorate the 1904 Olympic Games, the Olympic flame visited Francis Field during the torch relays held for Los Angeles 1984, Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004.

Francis Field House and Francis Olympic Field are named after David Rowland Francis. An 1870 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, he went on to become a governor of Missouri, the president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, and a US ambassador to Russia.