



ParkNotes

a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy

Issue 18

Spring 2016

We Love Gardening Volunteers in Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park is lucky to have a core of neighborhood volunteer gardeners who maintain the many beautiful gardens in the park. Marilyn Lane leads the effort around the Washington monument. Susan Pinker-Dodd, Mark Kalk and Carolyn Willmore take care of the Grotto gardens. Vicki Houghton is in charge of the rock garden on the west side of the park. Sue Linhardt has been volunteering in that garden for many years along with as many other neighborhood gardeners. Rob Forrest maintains the carved stone urn on the Missouri side of the park. Gwen Williams tends the garden on Park across from Benton Place. The Lafayette Park Conservancy is responsible for the upkeep of these gardens.



Mark Kalk, Sue Pinker-Dodd, Marilyn Lane in the Parks Department greenhouse growing plants for Lafayette Park.

This year, the Park House gardens moved under the wing of the LSRC. Matt Negri, Linda Pallman, Kelli Lovejoy-Dailey and Jennifer Henderson tend these gardens. The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park is a great support for Lafayette Park Conservancy. Tender plants are overwintered in the City's greenhouse, and bedding plants are grown from cuttings and seeds. A couple of times during the growing season, FCFP volunteers and greenhouse workers spend a morning in Lafayette Park planting, weeding, mulching and pruning. Thanks go to Anabeth Weil and Joe Clinton for their continued support.

Volunteers from local businesses and schools are another great resource. Thanks go to to Brightside St. Louis for arranging the following work days. On April 4, eighteen teachers from Mary Institute Country Day School spent 2 ½ hours gathering 50 large trash bags of gumballs, pruning, weeding garden bed and raking leaves. At \$10.00 an hour, the 45 hours of volunteer work was equivalent to \$450.00- important information for grant applications. On May 24, a group of employees of US Bank Community Development Corporation volunteers will work in Lafayette Park, prepping gardens for House Tour.



Faculty from Mary Institute Country Day School removing gumballs from the park.

We are always looking for volunteer gardeners to join our ranks.

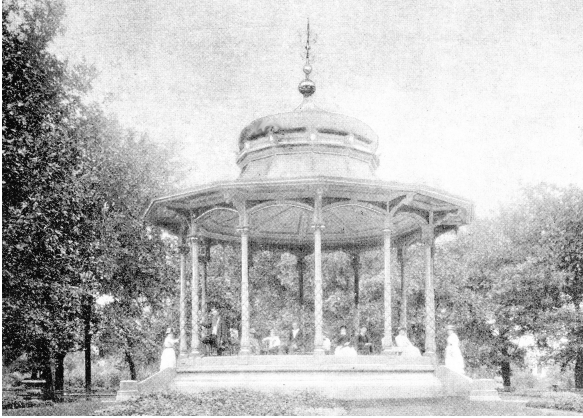
Contact Susan at doddsp@swbell.net

or

Carolyn at cgwillmore@gmail.com

1876 Bandstand Update

The bandstand project is making progress. A survey has been conducted giving us accurate information on elevations and surrounding topography. These data made it possible to consider, plan, and sketch numerous layouts. The goal is to achieve accessibility while maintaining the beautiful historical integrity of the 1876 music



The Bandstand as it appeared before the 1896 tornado.

pavilion. There are many alternatives to achieve accessibility but each one has sacrifices of one form or another. We hope to be able to present an optimum plan for the community to review in early June. The project is getting close to being able to submit a site plan for preliminary reviews with the various City of St. Louis departments also hopefully in early June.

We are currently working with funds donated by Lafayette Square residents that will keep us going for a short period, but financial help is needed. When construction drawings are done our coffer will be diminished. If there are folks out there that are familiar with the grant writing process, please consider joining the team. This is a project costing many dollars, but it needs to be done. The music pavilion was, in its day, one of the finest park structures in the Midwest and it can be again.

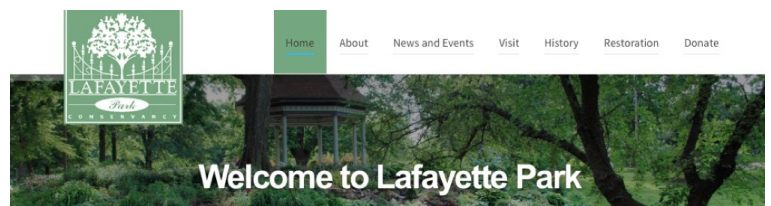
Please consider joining the team and/or donating to the project. If you want further information, just drop into the Forrest Gallery (1916 Park Avenue) and ask for Rob.



Sons of American Revolution Color Guard assemble in snowy Lafayette Park for procession to the Washington statue.

President's Day 2016

The weather cooperated with the Cornelia Greene Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's wreath laying ceremony this year. Although snow covered the ground, the day was clear. The LPC held a reception in the Park House before the ceremony. Historic costumes were worn by the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard. Changes to this year's event included having the main speaker's presentation inside. Another feature was the participation of Freemasons in the ceremony. Prayers were led by Rev. Darrell Curtis of the Olive Branch Lodge of Freemasons.



New Park Website

This summer the LPC will roll out a new website. The new site will feature photos of the park in every season. The biggest addition will be a greatly expanded history section that will display historic postcards, maps and photos under the headings of Civil War, 1896 Tornado, Structures, Monuments, Baseball and Birds. In addition to being the oldest developed urban park in the Louisiana Purchase Territory, Lafayette Park served as a parade ground during the Civil War and is the site of the first piece of public art in St. Louis - the Thomas Hart Benton statue installed in 1868. Be on the look out for the new site by visiting our current site at: www.lafayettepark.org

The Lafayette Park Conservancy Annual Meeting is:

Sunday, November 13, 2016 at the Kern Pavilion in the park. Time to be announced.

Revolutionary War Guns Update

Preparations are underway for the return of the two Revolutionary War guns from the British Man of War, HMS Acteon. In 2008, the first of the guns was restored. Zymo Sculpture Studio built a new carriage for the gun. It was installed on a masonry platform built by Delahanty Construction Services.

Last autumn, the remaining two guns were removed for conservation. Zymo Sculpture is building another carriage for one of them. The middle gun, a carronade, was sent to a conservation lab in Maryland for treatment to prevent further deterioration. The masonry pad created for the first restored gun has been enlarged to hold all three guns. This April, a cement base was poured. Tim Delahanty, Larry Dodd, Ward Buckner, Ron Taylor, Sue Linhardt, Jim McGuire and others spent sever-



Ron Taylor, Tim Delahanty and Larry Dodd lay bricks.



Cubs from Pack 314 plant the urns in front of the Benton Statue.

Boy Scouts Earn Badges in the Park

Cub Scouts from Pack 314 visited Lafayette Park. To achieve the rank of Wolf, Cubs must visit a historic place. Historic photos offered a view of Lafayette Park in its early years. A walking tour emphasized three monuments, Washington statue, Benton statue and the Revolutionary War guns. Before leaving, the boys planted the Benton urns with red, white and blue flowers.

Beneficial Benches

Wouldn't it be nice if there were a lot more benches scattered around the park? There are plenty of quiet corners and places with nice views where visitors could just take a seat to rest or eat a quick lunch or do nothing at all except enjoy the day.

The benches we have installed are heavy-duty steel benches with mahogany or ipe wood slats and are mounted on concrete pads. They are expensive to buy but they have been virtually maintenance free for at least ten years.

The Conservancy would like to add more of them. Perhaps several people could jointly buy a bench for the park and select a location for it. For details about benches and places for them, please contact the Conservancy by leaving a note in the Park House.

Watering Trough

A recent accident in the park shed light on the origins of the circular planter by the Park House. An unidentified vehicle hit this heavy planter with such force that it was pushed several feet off its base, revealing a brick-lined cistern. The truncated water pipe sticking out of the wall supports the theory that the planter was originally a horse watering trough.

A photo from 1874 shows it was already in use as a planter. By that time, Lafayette Park was a strolling park, so there was no need to provide water for horses. The City repositioned the planter on the stone base in April.



Moving the urn back into place over the old cistern.

The mission of the Lafayette Park Conservancy is to restore and preserve the historic legacy of Lafayette Park, the first developed urban park in the Louisiana Purchase Territory, and to raise funds for those purposes.

I want to begin or renew my membership to the Lafayette Park Conservancy

Membership Level:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> \$35 - Friend | <input type="radio"/> \$300 - Preservationist |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50 - Family | <input type="radio"/> \$500 - Benton Society |
| <input type="radio"/> \$75 - Botanist | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 - Lafayette Society |
| <input type="radio"/> \$150 - Historian | <input type="radio"/> My company will match my gift |

Benefits at all levels: Notice of special events and projects in the Park • Invitations to Conservancy events • Newsletter via postal delivery and/or email • Volunteer opportunities to work in the Park on restoration projects or events.

Memberships are tax-deductible to the extent allowable under IRS regulations. The LPC is a 501(c)3 organization.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to:

Lafayette Park Conservancy, 2023 Lafayette avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104

Or make a donation online using your credit card by visiting us at:

www.lafayettepark.org

Need a program for your group?

The LPC offers "The Man Who Made St. Louis Beautiful" and "The Fascinating History of Lafayette Park".

To schedule a program, contact Carolyn at cgwillmore@gmail.com



Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

Saint Louis, Missouri 63104

www.lafayettepark.org

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