



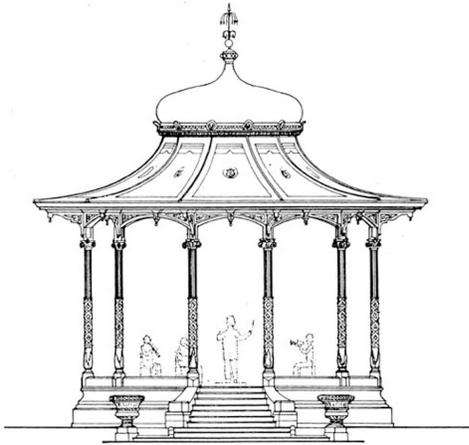
# ParkNotes

*a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy*

Issue 19

Winter 2016

## 1876 Lafayette Park Bandstand Project



Changes are coming to the area around the bandstand soon. The old dilapidated pavement surrounding the bandstand is scheduled for removal in early December. The remaining walkway will be repaved in the spring, with more space allowed for landscaping and shaping. We hope to have a site plan ready for submission in the near future.

We received a very generous donation that is going to go a long way in financing the early phases. If you are interested in making a donation or in joining the team, please contact Rob Forrest at [forrestgallery@msn.com](mailto:forrestgallery@msn.com).

All of the profits from special edition holiday or winter notecards will go toward the rebuilding of the 1876 Music Pavilion. These special edition notecards are available for purchase at Forrest Gallery until Christmas eve. They are a reproduction of the watercolor painting "Mississippi Snow" by Barbara Forrest and are available with or without a message inside. They are on attractive natural paper with an envelope and sell for \$2.50 each.

Limited quantities available at Forrest Gallery, 1916 Park Ave, open 11:00 - 6:00 Wednesday through Saturday.

## President's Report

The lyrics from one of Carly Simon's hit songs sum up the way this year's park projects have been going. Do you remember these lyrics: "anticipation, anticipation is making me late, is keeping me waiting"? A lot of the things that have been about to happen all this year, and even part of last year, are happening now. Finally.

The fence is back. It has some problems but we will straighten them out before we start working on the next sections. The missing gates and iron work at the Park and Mississippi entrance are being replaced now. The second gun and its new gun carriage are on their way back to the Revolutionary War Monument. Excess asphalt around the 1876 Music Stand will be removed after Thanksgiving and replaced with topsoil to improve the pathway system. We have a committee working on plans to build a new Music Stand. We have smaller projects too. Your contributions, memberships, positive thoughts and support make all of this possible. Thank you for your interest in the park and in the work of the LPC.

### "Fixing the Fence!"

That has always been the most popular project the neighborhood wants the LPC to work on. It is also the most expensive. You might notice that the six newly restored sections from Mississippi to the Park House are taller. That's because the base plate was left off during the 1970's restoration. We will add the base plate when the design is worked out. When all of the details are sorted out, we intend to redo additional sections beginning at the Park house and moving west down Lafayette.

## Lafayette Park in the 21st Century

In the early 2000's, several restoration projects were undertaken by other organizations. The Lafayette Square Restoration Committee restored the Park House in three phases: exterior, interior and gazebo addition. The Lafayette Park Conservancy began a memorial park bench program in 2004. To date, 15 benches and 2 picnic tables have been installed.



The LPC raised \$54,000 through private donations and the "Hats Off to Hattie" gala and symposium to restore, in 2011, the Harriet Hosmer statue of Senator Thomas Hart Benton with the work being done by Russell-Marti



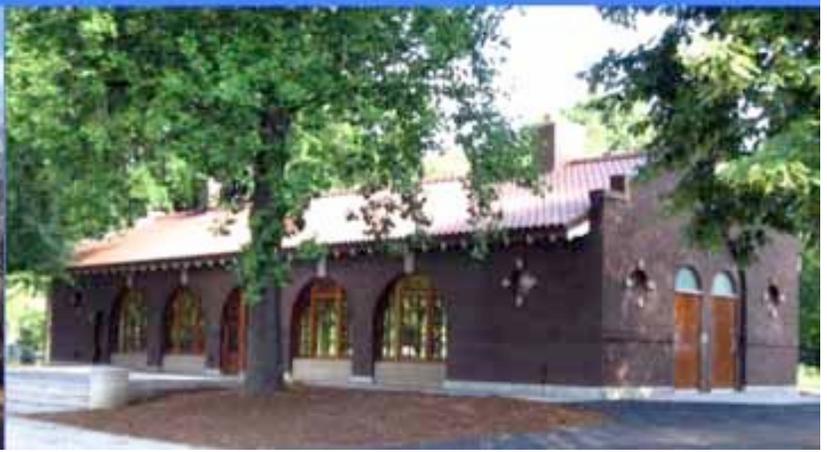
Phase One of the restoration of Lafayette Park's signature iron fence was funded by the Near Southside Improvement Corporation. A section of fence from Mississippi to the Park House gate was sent to Robinson Iron of Alabama. This test section was restored in November.



Conservation of the Revolutionary War Memorial is a 3-phase project. Phase One: Restoration of gun from the HMS Acteon, new historically accurate carriage and new brick covered platform. Phase 2: Restoration of matching gun by Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory for de-ionizing, and expansion of platform to hold all three guns. Phase 3: installation of carronade. Funds were raised by private donations and at the 2015 Trivia Night.



In 2000, the Grotto bridge had rudimentary pipe sides and the urns were missing. The mold was created to replicate the original urns using a \$12,000 donation from Nicholson. In 2008, donors paid to install the urns. In 2012, a \$75,000 grant from the Whitaker Foundation enabled pathway renovations in the southeast quadrant of the park. Most of the funds were used to repair the 100 year old bridge. Alderman Phyllis Young financed the installation of ADA paths to connect the bridge to the existing park path system. The 2014 Park/Arch bond issue paid for the final phase of the bridge restoration. Using old photos as a guide, the rails closely replicate the original ones. Safety requirements mandated the rails be 42" tall with no openings larger than 4 inches. The Park/Arch Bond issue also funded sidewalks and park pathway resurfacing.



In 2012 we saw the restoration of the Boathouse roof. The composition roof had deteriorated so badly that , the roof leaked and the eaves were rotted. A 2005 Holiday Tour special event raised \$35,000 to restore the Boathouse. This money enabled Phase One: stabilizing the building and applying a new roof. The project cost about \$160,000. The remaining funds were provided by Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderman Phyllis Young, Ameren UE, Near Southside Improvement Corporation and St. Louis Park's Department. Phase Two of the boathouse restoration included reproducing the original windows following the 1908 blueprints. Other improvements included new HVAC system, ADA approved restrooms, catering kitchen and a patio with stairs leading to the lake. The name of the building was changed to the Kern Lakeside Pavilion in honor of Max Kern, the German American Landscape Gardener that designed Lafayette Park and Forest Park. The Near Southside Improvement Corporation funded this project.

Through the efforts of Linda Pallman, Lafayette Park received three \$10,000 T.R.I.M. grants from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The T.R.I.M grants pay 75% of the cost of a project and the LPC pays the remaining 25%. The 2009 grant produced a tree inventory and evaluation of the park's trees. St. Louis Department of Forestry removed damaged trees. The 2011 grant addressed trimming and maintenance of trees. The current grant created a master plan for planting trees. City Forestry planted 25 trees this spring. More trees were planted this fall by the Conservancy. This month, two memorial trees for Ruth Kamphoefner were planted by her family.

Playground improvements include a new play area by a grant written by Julie Stone for the LSRC. An ADA approved water fountain was funded by the 2013 Conservancy Trivia night. A UPS Employee Grant of \$5000 helped fund 2 picnic tables and 2 park benches.

In 2015 we saw the installation of a Civil War informational sign making Lafayette Park a stop on the U. S. Grant Trail of Missouri Civil War sites. The Conservancy researched and funded this project.

Fourteen of the park's heavy iron gates have been missing for decades. The Conservancy began the project to replace them by selecting Perpetua Iron, LLC to fabricate replicas. The corner entrance at Park and Mississippi Avenues was selected as the place to start because it is highly visible and receives so much heavy foot traffic in and out of the park.



The St. Louis Ambassadors conserved the Washington statue in 2002, replacing Washington's missing walking stick.

Two of the four pedestrian gates and all four of the iron fence posts flanking them are missing there. Perpetua has fabricated the gates. One of them was on display at the 2015 annual meeting of the LPC. Robinson Iron has delivered the four fence posts and the process of assembling the parts has begun. New anchoring bolts have been set to hold the posts in place. We have discovered that some of the gates have been moved around and do not quite fit in their new locations. Sometimes solving one problem uncovers another one.

### 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](mailto:cgwillmore@gmail.com)

*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:

- \$35 - Friend (one named member)
- \$50 - Family (two named members)
- \$75 - Botanist (two named members)
- \$150 - Historian (two named members)
- \$300 - Preservationist (two named members)
- \$500 - Benton Society (two named members)
- \$1,000 - Lafayette Society (two named members)
- My company will match my gift (include a matching form from your employer)
- In addition to my membership, or instead of, I'd like to make a special donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward restoration of the Park fence.
- In addition to my membership, or instead of, I'd like to make a special donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward restoration of the 1876 Bandstand.

*Memberships are valid for one year from date of joining and 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 return with check or money order payable to:**

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

**Or make a donation online using PayPal at: [www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org)**

## Remembering Ruth Kamphoefner



Ruth Kamphoefner passed away on October 26<sup>th</sup>, she was 90 and had lived with Parkinson's disease for many years.

Ruth Mayer moved from Minnesota to St. Louis and entered Washington University. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree, graduating *summa cum laude*. Her first teaching job was at Emmaus Lutheran School in South St. Louis. Ruth married Edgar Kamphoefner in 1950. After Edgar's death in 1964, Ruth resumed her teaching career.

In 1970, she moved her family to Lafayette Square, becoming a founding member of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee. Starting with a shell of a house on Mississippi Avenue, she eventually helped restore 18 houses and became known as the "Mother of Lafayette Square". Her published memoir of these times is titled "Lafayette Square Comes Back."

In her later years, Ruth helped restore the lagoon and gardens in Lafayette Park as a founding member of The Lafayette Park Conservancy. Her work was recognized with a bench and plaque in the lagoon and a City of St. Louis Proclamation. Ruth was ahead of her time in her dedication to conservation and recycling. She used "found" objects in her house renovations. Furniture rescued from the alley would get a facelift with brightly painted designs. She was equally at home creating art with a pen, paintbrush, propane torch, power saw or soldering iron.



## Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

Saint Louis, Missouri 63104

[www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org)

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