



Lafayette Park Conservancy

2024 Annual Report





Lafayette Park Conservancy Board of Directors

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MICHAEL BUSHUR
Executive Director

Our Mission

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.

The Lafayette Park
Conservancy is a 501(c)(3)
Nonprofit

From our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Lafayette Park,

As I reflect on 2024, I'm filled with gratitude for the remarkable progress we've made together in Lafayette Park. This year was one of significant growth, new ideas, and renewed commitment to preserving the park's historic legacy while ensuring a beautiful and welcoming public space for all visitors today.

We took bold steps forward with projects that enhance both the beauty and the integrity of the park - from conserving the Washington Statue and repairing sections of historic fencing to planting new trees that will shade generations to come. We also embraced new traditions, launching events like the Spring Field Day and Fall Festival, which brought neighbors and visitors together, creating a sense of community and activity in the park.

Long-standing events in the park like the Presidents' Day Ceremony and Summer Concert Series continued to thrive, reminding us that Lafayette Park is not just a historic landmark, but a place where community life flourishes.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated supporters, volunteers, partners, and neighbors. Your generosity and passion sustain our work and ensure that Lafayette Park remains a place of beauty, history, and connection.

Thank you for being part of our mission. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2025.



With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Bushur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Bushur
Executive Director

2024 Projects

In 2024 the Conservancy significantly increased investment in projects and ongoing maintenance. From preserving historic assets to planting new trees and enhancing gardens, each project reflects our mission to make Lafayette Park a beautiful and welcoming place for all.



Washington Garden Renovation

In 2023 the Conservancy removed overgrown and mismatched shrubs surrounding the 1859 cast of Jean Antoine Houdon's statue of George Washington. We replaced the irrigation system, planted a new boxwood hedge, and hydrangeas to anchor the design. In 2024 we began the renovation of the four circle gardens surrounding the statue, removing overgrown and dying shrubs and decorative trees, and replacing them with new shrubs.



Washington Statue Conservation

Expert conservationists performed maintenance to repair damage to the Washington Statue. The experts used dry-ice to delicately remove the existing coating, treat the damaged area, and apply a new coating.



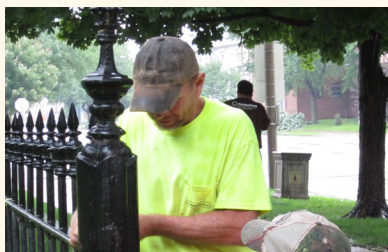
Tree Pruning, Removals, and Planting

The Conservancy hired private arborists to remove 11 dead trees, and prune another 12. This work was made possible through a cost-sharing grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Conservancy will plant new trees to replace all removals.



Central Lake Fence Repair

Perpetua Iron completed the restorations of two sections of the Central Lake fence. One section had been crushed by a tree limb. The other section had been missing for decades before being discovered in a scrapyard. Conservancy Board Member Ward Buckner negotiated the return of that section, and it was repaired and reinstalled.



Perimeter Fence Repair

In June 2024 Empire Fence restored six sections of the 1869 perimeter fence to the original design. Over the past decade the Conservancy has worked with various engineers and foundries to develop a long-term solution to restore the structural integrity of the fence. This project was a continuation of the initial five test sections completed in 2019. The completion of the additional sections verified the viability of our planned solution for the fence and allowed us to develop a more accurate cost estimate for restoring the remaining 200+ sections (over \$2 million).



Gardening

Volunteer gardeners continue to be the backbone of all gardening and landscaping in Lafayette Park. All gardens in the park are maintained by volunteers who devote thousands of hours to making Lafayette Park beautiful. In 2024 the Conservancy significantly increased investment in new plants and irrigation systems.

2024 Events

Lafayette Park is more than just a beautiful landscape, it's a gathering place that brings neighbors, families, and visitors together. In 2024, the Conservancy built on the success of longstanding traditions while introducing new events that welcomed even more people into the park.

Visit www.lafayettepark.org/events for info on upcoming events in Lafayette Park!



Presidents' Day Ceremony

A standing room only crowd attended the 60th annual Presidents' Day event in Lafayette Park hosted with the Cornelia Greene Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The event featured wreath laying ceremonies at the Washington Statue and Revolutionary War cannon.



Spring Field Day

The first ever Lafayette Park Spring Field Day attracted over a thousand visitors of all ages. The event featured field day races, balloon artists, crafts, tree planting, music classes, a food truck, and cash bar with craft cocktails.



Summer Concert Series

The Lafayette Park Conservancy is a proud sponsor of the Summer Concert Series held by the Arts Council of Lafayette Park. The series of eight concerts attracts thousands of visitors from across the region to Lafayette Park every other Saturday June through September.



Annual Lecture Series

The 2024 series featured three lectures:

- Exploring St. Louis's LGBTQIA+ History
- Vandeventer Place, Gilded Age St. Louis
- Mapping St. Louis, A History of the Gateway City in 40 Rare Maps



Soiree for the Park

In October, over 100 supporters gathered for the second annual Soiree for the Park, hosted at one of the most incredible homes in Lafayette Square. The event raised over \$10,000 for the Conservancy, and attracted many first-time donors.



Fall Festival

Following the success of the Spring Field Day, we debuted a fall version to meet the resounding demand for free, all-ages community events in Lafayette Park. The Fall Festival featured the same events as the Spring Field Day, as well as a Pumpkin Patch and Fall Market featuring local vendors.

2024 Donors

The generosity of our donors and community partners makes everything we do in Lafayette Park possible. Each gift helps preserve the park's historic character, enhance its natural beauty, and ensure it remains a welcoming place for all. We are deeply grateful for the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who supported Lafayette Park in 2024.

Lafayette Society (\$1,000+)

Frank & Barbara Absher
Tosha & Trevor Anderson
Doug & Debbi Audiffred
Jacqueline & Dan Bullard
Jeffrey & Carolyn Bushur
Glenn & Pat Eckert
Scott & Tara Evans
Jill & John Farmer
Mike & Joan Gerard
Nicole Burlison & Michael Knepper
Tony & Kara Krawat
Lauren Plummer & Thomas Larson
Bazel & Sandra Meek
Ben Sharp & Kathy Miller
Missouri Department of Conservation
Kimberly & Roy Peterson
Miroslav Petrzal
Catherine Pitinga
Hannah Krigman & Jon Ritter
Christina & Stephen Ryan
Joseph & Kenneth Sandoval-Bushur
Patricia & Dale Spence
Andrew Jorgensen & Mark Stuart-Smith
Ron Taylor

Benton Society (\$500-999)

Gary Seeman & Brad Abrams
Susan & Robert Allen
Phillip Holland & Mallory Arnston
Pat & Terry Barber
E Wardwell Buckner
Michael Bushur & Geoff Bullard
Kristin Byrne
Jeremy Oria & Brittany Estrada
Holly & Marc Fine
Janice & Bill Forsyth
The P. Wayne & Jane B. Goode Foundation
Michael Quinn & Jason Frichtl
Diana Gray
Catherine & Patrick Hamacher
David & Lisa Hammon
Christopher & Paige LaRose
Lafayette Square Neighborhood
Association
Anne Gendler & David Lieb
Paul & Julia Mahoney
Bill & Martha McCreery
Lisa Nielsen & Michael Moehn
Sam Moore
Elizabeth & William Odell
Linda & Ron Pallmann
Hilary Powles & Michael Parker
Rajeev & Britney Ramgopal
Melinda Hendrickson & Steve Rutherford
Genevieve Cortinovis & Thomas Schmidt
Ameer Gado & Alexandra Solaro
Jeffrey Baird & Ryne Vickery
Gwen & Otis Williams
Jim & Carolyn Willmore
Michael Peterman & Bobby Wolf

Preservationist (\$300-499)

Brian Gonner & Jennifer Arp
Robyn & Jason Bittle
Elizabeth Cooley & Erich Blaufuss
Clementine's Creamery
Catherine & Greg Deutsch
Jeff Depew & Linda Drysdale
Alice & Joe Eggleston
Kevin & Lisa Fritz
Tyler Fraum & Karishma Furtado
Stephanie Gabathuler
Kelly Garbin
Andrew & Valerie Hahn
Wayne & Cheri Jones
Tom & Lynne Keay
Jerome Molleston & Eva Klinman
Phillip Lamczyk
Christopher & Molly Lehmuth
Mark & Ellen Levine
Tara Spevack & William McCarthy
Sarah & Daniel McEvilly
Eric Meszaros
David & Cynthia Muren
Srijana & Christopher O'Connell
Sharee & Greg Paulus
David & Jill Peckinpough
Susan Pinker-Dodd
Connie & Mike Ponder
Mark Kapp & Lisa Roberts
Aldo Martinez & Myron Schaffer
Sarah Fenske & John Schoemehl
William Seibert
Joe & Dian Seria
Mary Walsh & Patrick Shea
Graca Shepperson
Sarah Duffy & Edward Smith
Kelly Lott & Serge T aylor
Daniel & Christina Walsh
Kate Wasem
Reo & Heather Weeks
Donald & Marit Withrow

Historian (\$150-299)

Clark & Gaby Affholder
April Morgan & Donovan Bardega
Haley Black
Adam Boessen
Matthew Negri & Creighton Brinson
Michael & Jessica Butler
Lisa Ceddia
Jennifer Chickey
Jayne Winner & Eric Christensen
Erica Young & Chase Cribbet
Tom & Merry Dahms
John Cournoyer & Everett Dietle
Benjamin Havrilla & Jenna Ehrle
Edna Gravenhorst
Michael Schneider & Michael Havenar
Diana & William Haydon
Michael Hein
Roger & June Herman

Gary Hicks
Ryan Hilliard
Karen & Robert Howard
Sarah Hurst
Matthew Brazelton & Jeff Jensen
Dennis & Rhonda Kaiser
Susan Kenkel
Corry Kessel
Bary Klevene
Mark Kalk & Mark Lammert
Kimberly & Charlie Leonard
James Lesch
Sue Linhardt
Jennifer Whitter & Ty Lipe
Anthony Malench
Julia Marsh
Carolyn & Mike McAvoy
Ken & Ellen Meierotto
Christopher & Stephanie Mendenhall
Robert & Joan Morrissey
Chris Salinas & Lydia Padilla
Ian Pearson
Mark & Shari Perry
Mary Lou & Richard Ponder
Randall Nacke & David Prosser
Colleen & David Richardson
Myra Rowan
Paul & Susan Sauer
Sarah Armstrong & Daniel Schuette
Laurel & John Short
Betty & Michael Skinner
George Soscia
Nicholas Scholz & Natalie Standley
Sharon & Richard Stockmann
Dorothy Strasser
Manuela Mejia & Benjamin Strnad
Kevin Stunkel
Austin Swires
Skip Kincaid & Michelle Tegethoff
John Tennant
Andrea & Roger Ugalde
Vince Volpe
Linda Weiner
Eric Lemmo & Laura Wiley
Clarkson Carpenter & Rita Alice Winters
Kara Wurtz
Michael Boyd & Susan Young
Lauren Young
Anita & Andrew Zimmerman

Botanist (\$75-149)

Paul Anderson
Cheryl & James Andrews
Michelle Benoit
Timothy Brennan
Miriah Broeker
Albert & Barbara Bronsky
Marlane & Christopher Budde
Maureen & Greg Bulgrin
Patty Carleton
Robert Grant & Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
Daryl & Cathy Coleman
Caitlin Winey & Wesley Dagestad
Shiloh Deitz
Kathy & Jerald Ferrell
Toni Schneider & Katie Finch
Kenneth Champion & Cathy Schmaltz
David & Alice Galt
Austin Gray
Kalie Gustafson
George Cooper & Richard Gutierrez
Hannele Haapala
Sarah & John Hartwig
Douglas Lerner & Hirokazu Hasegawa
Rachel Hauck
Diana O'Brien & Matthew Hayes
Steven & Julie Healey
Patricia & Charlie Hoffman
Warren & Sharon Hoffmann
Anne Longtine & Mackenzie Hafford
Amanda Florez & Trevor Hughes
Mitch & Devyani Hunt
Caroline Jamry
Lacy & Jason Jerome
Marijan & Maria Juric
Jo Ann McNaughton-Kade & Cristopher Kade
Kira & Matt Kamp
Lindsey Kingston
Christopher Palmero & Peter Lambert
Paul & Stacie Lambert
Brad Liebman
Sarah Lohmeyer
Jacob Malina
Shaun Tooley & John Marshall
Craig & Leslie McClure
Gillian & Robert Meyer
Patricia & Paul Midden
Judith Nesbit
Kaitlin Hayes & Cody Neuenschwander
Gail Cassilly & Joan Newman
Bob Davidson & Beverly O'Mara
Ian McCormack & Frances van Oost
Jim Roche & Cheryl Rossman
Martin Sandor Scharf
Mary Schleiff
Katherine Schroeder
Terrance & Karen Sell

Tracy Sell
Alexandria & Ankoor Shah
Theodosia Stavroulaki
Darra & Timothy Steele
Brian Till
Dennis Watson
Tom Sehr & Margaret Wayne
Jessica Bailey & Andrew Wheaton
Michael Williams
Joanna & Tom Wingbermuehle
Phyllis Young
Fanny Chang & William Young
Lon D. Zimmerman

Friend (\$35-74)

Andy Bartling
Carole & John Beere
Katherine Farley & Matthew Bliven
Marisa Omori & Adam Boessen
Gregory Brewer
Christine Burke
Jillian Capps
Paul Casey
Sam Casey
Daughters of The American Revolution
Cornelia Green Chapter
Luke Wegenka & Ellie Cobb
Madeline & Brian Connolly
Kyle Damron
Marie Davies
Ann Roberts Divine
Mary Sue & Peter Ercoli
Nichole & Jon Fink
Dr. & Mrs. William M. Fogarty
Barbara & Robert Forrest
Pamela Fournier
Rebecca Stout & Patrick Fowler
Dorsa Ghoreishi
Bonny & Robert Giovanni
Esley Hamilton
Kathleen Hartnett
Adam Jones & Grace Havis
Annette Zobel & Bryan Hettenbach
Lydia Hohenstein
Jennifer Toll & Mark Hoofnagle
Dr. Alvin & Mrs. Marilyn Horst
Gary Hutchinson
Connor & Lexi Jude
Harold & Karen Karabell
Moira Killoran
Linda Koenig
Viveca Lane
Lynn & Lanis Lenker
Jim Clardy & Lori Levine
Owen Lloyd
Julie Logan
Jane & Ivan Martin
Connor McWhinney
Catheryn & Jason Miller

Lois Nowlin
Matt Obermark
Kathleen & Justin Olson
Marcella Petzchen
Cindy Pillow
Beth Ann & Kevin Prewitt
Alex Shero & Christian Radich
George & Kathy Richardson
Robert Riggins
James Rounds
Elizabeth Schofield
Rhonda Sciarra
Anabel Selby
Linda Soderlind
Bethany Spaulding
Lisa Steuby
Sheila Tarter
Terry Tobin
James McCarter & Rosalie Truong
Zach & Hailey Tusinger
Frances Vinnacombe
Mary & Dave Visintainer
Beverly Whittington
LaRhonda Wilson
Vanessa Woods & Brian Witkin
Jane Wood
Mary Zimmer

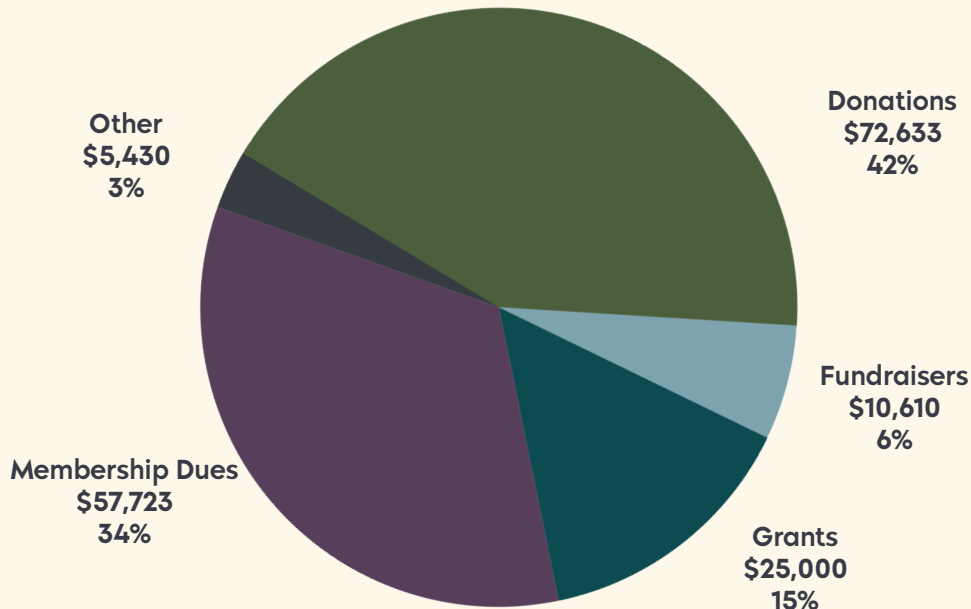
**SCAN OR VISIT
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TO GIVE TODAY!**



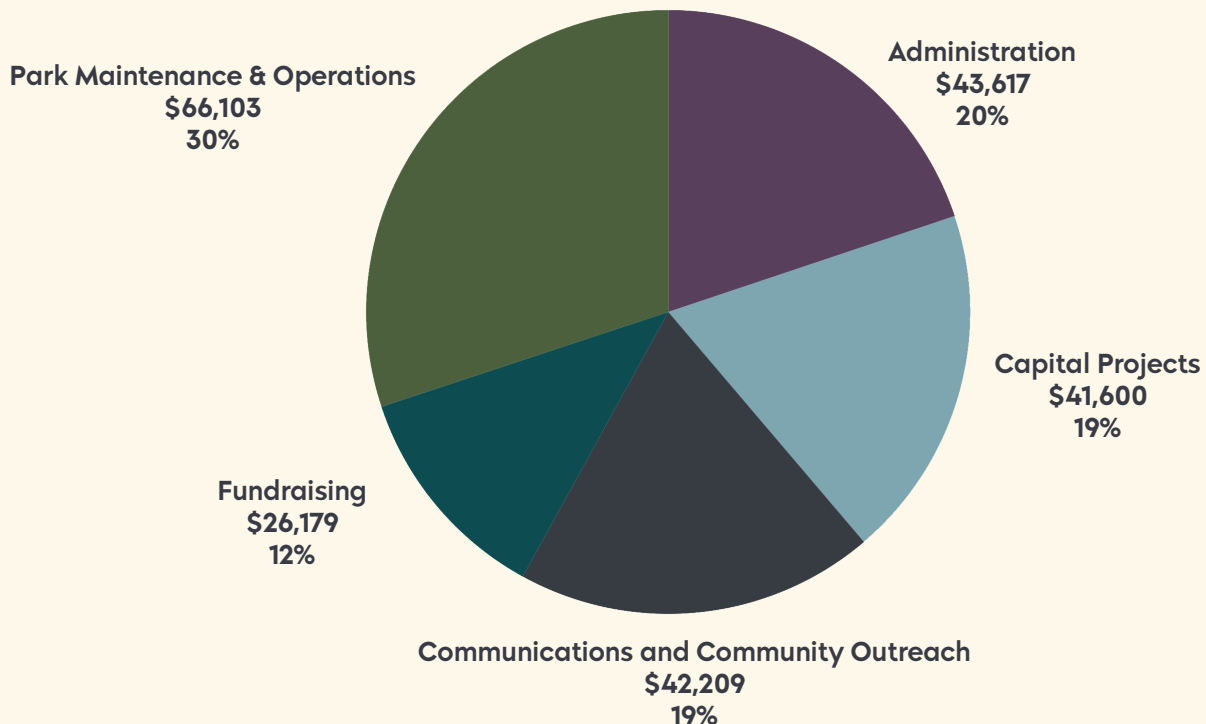
2024 Revenue and Expenses

In 2024, we continued to strengthen our fundraising efforts, achieving growth across all revenue categories. We also completed our second annual independent financial review and received a clean report, underscoring our commitment to sound financial management. Throughout the year, we maintained sufficient cash reserves to meet all of our financial obligations and ensure the continued stability of our operations. A copy of the independent financial review is available upon request.

2024 REVENUE - \$171,395



2024 EXPENSES - \$219,708



Upcoming Projects

As our work in Lafayette Park continues to evolve, 2025 will bring targeted improvements that address both immediate needs and long-term care. From specialized restoration work to essential maintenance, these projects reflect our ongoing stewardship and careful planning.

Projects

Kern Bathroom Door Replacement

The plain laminated exterior bathroom doors on the Kern Pavilion have deteriorated rapidly over the past year. The Conservancy has engaged St. Louis Sash to build custom solid-mahogany doors that will match the other doors and windows of the Kern Pavilion, reflecting the building's historic character.

Kern Pavilion Acoustic Treatment

The Conservancy has received a grant from the Whitaker Foundation to install acoustic treatment in the Kern Pavilion. Fabric-wrapped panels will be added between the ceiling joists in a way that preserves the historic appearance of the building. This acoustic improvement will create new opportunities for hosting indoor events in Lafayette Park.

Tree Removals, Pruning, Treatments

In 2024, we worked with a Master Arborist to update our tree management plan, identifying 50 trees in need of priority pruning and 25 requiring removal. The total estimated cost for deferred tree maintenance is \$115,000. For 2025, we have prioritized eight removals at a total cost of \$28,750. While a significant backlog remains we are in a far better position than when our tree program began in 2021, and we are optimistic about continued progress.

In 2025, the Conservancy will partner with Arborjet to protect the park's ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. Arborjet and SiteOne are providing the materials and equipment, while local arborists are volunteering their time to treat the 19 remaining ash trees in the park. To date, Lafayette Park has lost no ash trees to Emerald Ash Borer, and these 19 trees continue to provide valuable benefits to park visitors. The value of the donated materials, equipment, and labor for the 2025 treatment exceeds \$10,000.

Ongoing Maintenance - Gardening, Irrigation, and More

The Conservancy will continue to provide all gardening and landscaping in the park. Volunteers will devote thousands of hours collectively to tending Lafayette Park's gardens. In 2025, the Conservancy plans to begin hiring paid landscaping support to supplement the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. We have also engaged a private irrigation company to handle the full annual cycle of irrigation maintenance, allowing systems to be brought online earlier each year.

The Conservancy will also continue to address countless small but meaningful maintenance tasks. From replacing missing bench slats and repairing leaking gutters, to painting rusting urns and keeping dog waste dispensers stocked, these ongoing efforts add up to make a significant impact throughout the park.



Volunteers

Volunteers have always been at the heart of Lafayette Park's care and restoration. Their work keeps the park beautiful, functional, and welcoming for all who visit. From individuals lending a hand in the gardens to corporate groups tackling larger projects, there's a place for everyone to help make a lasting impact.



Volunteers play a crucial role in caring for Lafayette Park. From planting and maintaining gardens, to supporting events, to helping preserve historic structures, their efforts help keep the park well-maintained and welcoming for everyone. Our volunteers ensure that Lafayette Park remains a place where history, nature, and community come together.

We're grateful for all who contribute their time and skills, whether as individuals or as part of corporate or community groups. Together, these volunteers complete important projects that the Conservancy could not accomplish alone. Their dedication helps protect the park's unique character and make it a valuable asset for the entire city.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, we welcome you to join our team of volunteers. We offer flexible opportunities for individuals and tailored sessions for corporate and community groups. Whether you have an hour, a day, or more to give, your help makes a real difference. **To get involved, email info@lafayettepark.org**





THANK YOU



LAFAYETTE PARK
— CONSERVANCY —