



# ParkNotes

*a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy*

Issue 20

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## Our Carronade Is Back



Walter & Jacob Hauck at Zymo Sculpture inspecting the carronade. This type of weapon was used for a short period of time and few, if any, original examples are left.

The carronade is back in St. Louis. It was shipped from the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in St. Leonard, MD in early May and is at the Zymo Sculpture Studio on North Broadway. It was at the lab for more than a year submerged in a tank of chemicals so it could be deionized. The treatment finally stopped the metal from deteriorating any further. The next step is to build a carriage for it so it can be returned to the Revolutionary War Monument in the park.

The carriage for a carronade is very different from the standard naval gun carriages which Zymo made for the first two guns. All naval guns recoil after being fired but standard guns and carronades handle the recoil in different ways. Walter and Jacob Hauck will have to create one based on photographs of replicas in naval museums.

## Another Pair of New Gates

Two more gates are on the way. The LPC signed a contract with Perpetua Iron, LLC to make pair of gates to replace the ones missing from the mid-Lafayette entrance to the park. The center pair has been missing for decades.

This will bring the total of replacement gates to four. The other two are at the Park & Mississippi entrance. There are four small gates at that entrance and two large ones. Two of the small ones had been missing for decades. Perpetua replaced them, then sand-blasted, repaired and painted the remaining two and replaced all four broken iron posts with new ones late last year.

Our goal is to replace all of the missing gates. The Lafayette & Missouri entrance will be our next priority.



The Mid-Lafayette Avenue entrance gate

## New Trees in the Park



Beautiful, isn't it? This Red Buckeye is one of several trees recently planted in the park by Linda Pallman and the Forestry Division to start implementing the Planting Plan which SWT Design, LLC made for our park. I know of at least seven others donated to the park since then and there must be more.

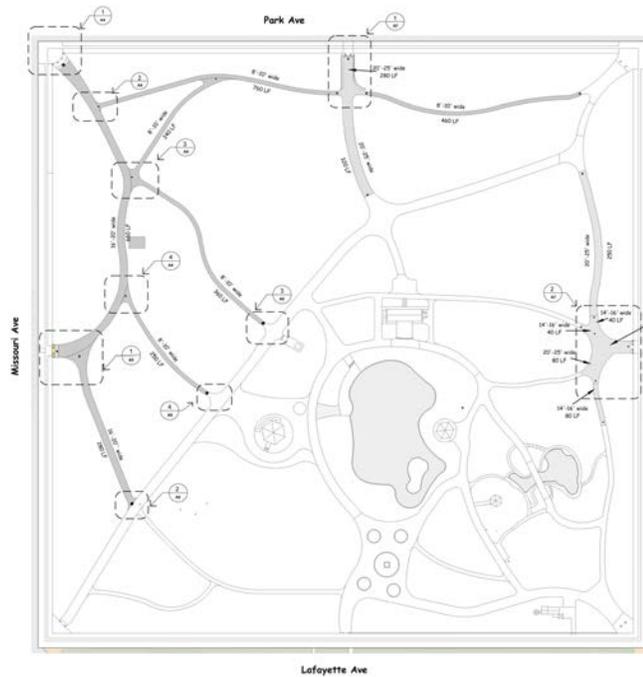
SWT's plan was paid for by the Conservation Department's T.R.I.M. grant won by Linda on behalf of the LPC. The plan recommends a wide variety of mostly native trees to diversify the tree inventory. It also recommends a location for each new tree.

We lose several trees every year and you can help get new trees planted by calling Forestry at 613-2700 and ask for a "Tree-Membrance" form or you can also web search "Tree-Membrance Program" and download a form.

Fill it out and send \$150 for each tree you want planted. It's a great way to honor or remember someone and your tree will be tagged listing the variety, donor and the person honored or remembered.

The form asks you to choose one of three categories: deciduous, evergreen or flowering tree. Forestry will select the variety and location. If you want to see the list of varieties on the SWT plan, I will give you a copy. Email me at [ewbuckner@yahoo.com](mailto:ewbuckner@yahoo.com).

## Other Park Happenings



Shaded areas are scheduled for resurfacing this year.

Pathways on the Park and Missouri sides of Lafayette Park are scheduled to be repaved this year. This improvement will use the remainder of funds generated by the 2014 Arch Park Bond issue for improvements to Lafayette Park. Thanks go to 7th ward Alderman Jack Coatar for helping fund the improvements. The paving should be completed by mid to late summer. With the exception of the 1876 bandstand area, the resurfacing of the park's paths will be accomplished.



Thanks to the St. Louis Parks Department, the old playground surface was replaced this spring. The old surface had shrunk and deteriorated. Recycled tires are used to create this cushioned surface. The Parks Department's Neighborhood Parks Fund paid for the improvement.

## Missing Features of Lafayette Park

by Carolyn Willmore

In 1836, Mayor Darby reserved 30 acres of the St. Louis Common as a Public Square. In 1851, the Board of Aldermen dedicated the area to park purposes, naming it Lafayette Square. The name was changed to Lafayette Park in 1864. A wooden plank fence was built around the park to keep free-roaming cattle out. Our beautiful iron fence replaced it in 1868.



The Superintendent's Cottage was the first building in Lafayette Park. It was the residence for a series of caretakers charged with keeping the grounds in order. Since there was little or no money for a salary, the caretaker was allowed to farm 2 acres in the center of the park and live in the cottage. It later served as comfort station. In 1911, the old keeper's lodge was demolished.



Eastern lake with iron bridges and pavilion, postcard courtesy of Felicia Foland

After the 1896 tornado, two ornate iron bridges were built to replace the demolished rustic ones. The badly damaged "summer cottage" was replaced with a more formal gazebo. Today, the smaller bridge is gone. The remaining bridge was recently restored and the ornate scrollwork railing replicated. The second gazebo was restored and renamed the Elizabeth Cook pavilion.



Boehl and Koenig's view 197, "Boat Riding On the Lake", courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden Archives.

1867 saw the construction of a small police station at the southeast corner of the park and the first music stand located on the east side of the central lake. The photo above shows the music stand after 1870, when a swan boat was purchased. This bandstand was lost in the tornado of 1896.



Western lake, postcard courtesy of Felicia Foland

An extensive rockery was built near the west central gate in 1870. The mineral blossom rocks contained a large pool of water featuring 3 fountains and a cascading waterfall. The popular water feature depicted in the postcard above later became a lily pond. In 1944, the lily pond was converted to a wading pool. Today, all that remains of the lake is the blossom rock. A beautiful garden now grows on the site.



Boehl and Koenig's view 191, "Musician's Stand", courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden archives. The 1876 music stand was located west of the central lake.

The elaborate Turkish dome was toppled by the 1896 tornado, but it was restored. Over the years the bandstand fell into disrepair. The dome was demolished in 1951. Only the base remained, topped with a simple pipe rail. The LPC is developing plans to restore the bandstand.

*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)**

## Washington Statue Wreath Laying



Regent Betty Swing of the Cornelia Green Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Color Guard of the Sons of the American Revolution participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Washington Statue on President's Day. Unusually balmy weather marked the event.



## Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

Saint Louis, Missouri 63104

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

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