



ParkNotes

a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy

Issue 20

Winter 2017

The Guns of Lafayette Park St. Louis' Monument to the Revolutionary War



Wardwell Buckner removed the South Carolina flag from the restored carronade after the Lafayette Park Conservancy annual meeting, Nov. 12, 2017. Sons of the American Revolution flank the granite marker. The monument was gifted to Lafayette Park in 1897 by MOLLUS.



Revolutionary War Monument restoration. The LPC funded project took 9 years and about \$30,000.

After many years of fundraising and working with restoration companies, the Revolutionary War Monument in Lafayette Park was completed by the Lafayette Park Conservancy. As a reminder this is a trophy monument consisting of three guns from the Acteon, a British Man-of-War sunk during an attempt to seize Charleston, South Carolina in 1776. An organization of former Union military officers purchased the guns at an auction in 1887 and presented them to the park in 1897. The wooden carriages deteriorated over the years and the guns were in need of restoration due to years spent in saltwater.

Conservation of the Revolutionary War Memorial was a 3-phase project. Phase 1 was the restoration of one gun from the HMS Acteon, a new historically accurate carriage and a new brick covered platform. In Phase 2 the matching gun was restored and the platform expanded to hold all three guns. The carronade was sent to Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory for deionizing. Phase 3 was installation of the carronade. Funds were raised by private donations and at the 2015 Trivia Night.

Does your organization need a presentation program? We have three programs including a new one on the Revolutionary War Monument. Our programs are:

“The Fascinating History of Lafayette Park”

“The Man Who Made St. Louis Beautiful”

“The Guns of Lafayette Park: St. Louis' Monument to the Revolutionary War”

For information, contact the Lafayette Park Conservancy at:

secretary@lafayettepark.org



LPC Annual Meeting for 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Lafayette Park Conservancy was held on November 12th. Coincidentally, the City Council of Saint Louis approved the creation of our park 166 years ago on November 12, 1851.

The meeting was held in the Kern Pavilion. Guests were invited to view informational displays of this year's finished projects, learn about the proposed bandstand project, make a cannon related craft and enjoy refreshments. Guests also received a brochure with a brief history of the Revolutionary War Memorial. The booklet "The Guns of Lafayette Park" was available for purchase.

LPC President Wardwell Buckner opened the meeting. A brief report was given on park improvements completed in 2017 such as completion of the pathway project, playground resurfacing, installation of two pedestrian gates, and renovation of the Revolutionary War Memorial monument. A slate of proposed Board members was presented and approved for the 2018-2019 term. Wardwell Buckner, Susan Pinker-Dodd, Rob Forrest and Carolyn Willmore will be continuing as Board members. Larry Dodd presented the Treasurer's report and the meeting soon adjourned.

After the official meeting Ward Buckner presented a slide presentation entitled, "The Guns of Lafayette Park: St. Louis' Monument to the Revolutionary War". Following the program, the gathering moved outside to the Revolutionary War Monument. Ward removed the South Carolina flag covering the carronade. Douglas Niermeyer of the Missouri chapter of the Most Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) placed a wreath at the site. The guns were a gift from MOLLUS in 1897.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Monday, February 19, 2018:

LPC reception and President's Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Spring 2018 (Date TBA):

The Great Tornado of 1896 and Severe Weather Program

Park's Paths Paved!

This summer the remaining pathways in Lafayette Park were paved, completing the Lafayette Park Conservancy's goal to improve the aging pathways. This final phase used Arch/Park Bond funds allocated to Lafayette Park and our 7th Ward Alderman Jack Coatar offered additional funds, if needed.

This summer's final phase addressed paths on the Missouri side of the park, the mid-Park Avenue entry and areas missed during earlier paving projects. Most spectacular was the mid-Missouri gate. The 4-inch drop in the pavement inside the gate is gone, making it a safer entrance. Gentle curves that graced path intersections in the 1800's were reproduced at the mid-Park Avenue gate. Before paving, Forestry removed several storm and age damaged trees lining these paths.

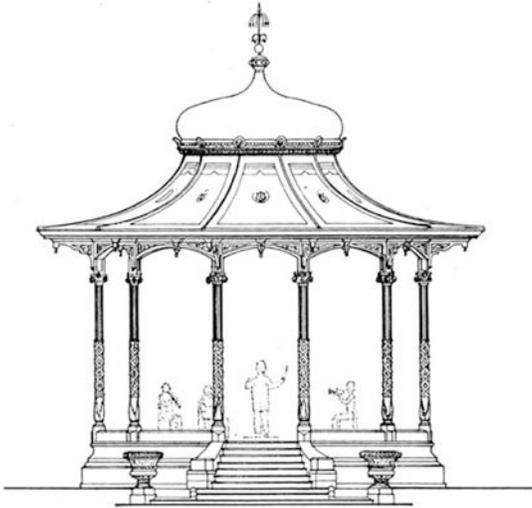
The Lafayette Park Conservancy funded earlier paving projects with a Whitaker Foundation grant in 2012, funds from Alderwoman Phyllis Young, and a Darden Foundation grant in 2013 via the "Great American Trails Program". LongHorn Steak House is the local Darden representative.

Take a stroll or a roll on the new paths and check out the many features of the park such as the Kern Pavilion, statues, lakes and gardens.



Paving machinery at work in Lafayette Park this summer. The final phase of the park pathways paving project was completed.

Lafayette Park Music Pavilion



The rebuilding of the 1876 Lafayette Park Music Pavilion is heading into an exciting phase. The bandstand was a centerpiece of early St. Louis social gathering. It is a huge part of St. Louis history. When it was inaugurated, over 8000 people were in attendance. It was one of the most ornate park structures ever built in the United States.

A devastating tornado tore through St. Louis in 1896, destroying much of Lafayette Square, the park, and toppling the bandstand. The bandstand and community fell into decline until urban pioneers brought the park and the neighborhood back to life. The bandstand is yet to be restored. Help us rebuild this historic jewel. The detail and ornamentation of this structure was nothing short of amazing.

The current phase is the preparation of foundation drawings and elevations and the formation of an estimating team which will yield a more accurate project cost. Our goal is to rebuild the bandstand as close to the original as possible while attending to ADA requirements. This will also enable us to pursue grant funding.

Please consider donating, all donations are tax deductible under the LPC's non-profit 501(c)3 designation with the IRS. If your tax year needs more deductions, please consider this project.

Donations can be made by check, credit card, PayPal at the LPC website (designate the 1876 Bandstand as the project) or at the Forrest Gallery at 1916 Park Avenue. Tax receipts will be provided.

Celebrate, Participate and Donate

We've Gone MADD!

Saint Louis University once again provided volunteers to work in Lafayette Park on Make a Difference Day (MADD) this October 14th. This year's volunteers were alumni, graduates of the last 10 years. Gardens in the Grotto, Washington Statue area and the mid-Missouri rock garden were readied for winter.

Weeding, cutting back spent foliage and pruning produced huge mounds of debris. Several large piles of mulch were applied to flower beds and around trees. Other volunteers helped Linda Pallman finish planting trees purchased by the Lafayette Park Restoration Committee (LSRC).



The St. Louis Greenhouse Plant Society, a local non-profit, donated \$500 worth of plants to the park this spring. Many of the plants were perennials and we expect they will appear again next spring.

The St. Louis Greenhouse Plant Society is housed in 10,000 square feet of greenhouse space on the campus of the South Technical High School. The organization grows over 15,000 plants which are then donated to local gardening organizations or sold at an annual plant sale. Proceeds of the plant sale are then donated to local gardening groups. Unsold plants are also donated to local organizations.

Check out their website at:

www.greenhouseplantsociety.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.

**We are always looking for
volunteer gardeners to join
our ranks.
Carolyn at
cgwillmore@gmail.com**

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



Lafayette Park Conservancy
 2023 Lafayette Avenue
 Saint Louis, Missouri 63104
www.lafayettepark.org

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