

C I T Y O F S A I N T L O U I S , M I S S O U R I

# LAFAYETTE PARK MASTER PLAN

M A Y 2 0 0 4

**H3** STUDIO

P R E P A R E D F O R

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The City of St. Louis  
Lafayette Square Restoration Committee  
The Lafayette Park Conservancy

Adopted as an amendment to the Lafayette Square Neighborhood Urban Plan by the Saint Louis City Planning Commission

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1874 Grotto Bridge - Benecke



Carriage rides through the park



Walkers on perimeter sidewalk

## INTRODUCTION

**LAFAYETTE PARK** is located just south of Downtown St. Louis and is the focal point of the Lafayette Square neighborhood. The Park is 30 acres in size, nearly square in shape and serves the approximately twenty-five thousand people who live within a 10-minute driving distance. The Park was established under ordinance in 1836 and formally dedicated as “Lafayette Square” in 1851. Within the City of St. Louis’ park system, Lafayette Park is unique for its history verdure, features and character as a Victorian picturesque walking park.

**NOTWITHSTANDING** the commitment and volunteerism of the local residents, Lafayette Park is showing signs of deterioration. As a result, the Lafayette Square neighborhood with the help of the City of St. Louis Park Department expressed a desire to complete a comprehensive master plan for the restoration of the park.

**IN FEBRUARY 2003**, the City of St. Louis began the process of developing the Lafayette Park Master Plan with the intent to conserve and enhance the beauty and quality of the park while satisfying the needs of park users. The park designers and community recognized the importance of understanding the park as a Victorian strolling park with a series of distinctive gardens, features and spaces that unfold as a person moves through the Park. As a result, the plan outlines a long-range vision for the restoration of the park’s various gardens while retaining a balanced approach to the needs of other park users.

**THE PLAN** also outlines a series of short-term actions to ensure the immediate needs are addressed, and suggests the establishment of an Implementation Advisory Committee to continue the community input in the restoration of Lafayette Park.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

**DEVELOPMENT** of the Master Plan followed a logical and carefully thought-out sequence through a series of goals and principles to guide the design process. The end result was a set of specific recommendations on changes, modifications and improvements for each area in the park. The planning sequence is summarized on the adjacent page. This master plan addresses all aspects of the park, and, when fully implemented, will ensure that the park is a destination in the city and a compelling place for all.

## ORGANIZATION & SCOPE OF THE PLAN

**THE MASTER PLAN** begins with a history and profile of the park. After an in-depth analysis of Lafayette Park (included in a separate appendix), this master plan addresses the vision, goals and detailed design recommendations for the park gardens and amenities that when fully implemented will ensure a unique, strolling park with a Victorian flavor. Finally, attention is turned to the implementation of a vision by outlining a series of governance, management, maintenance, and funding strategies.

## PLANNING SEQUENCE

1. An analysis of the existing conditions of each of the park systems to provide a baseline of understanding of the park's infrastructure & needs
2. An analysis of the historical evolution of the park
  - Public Workshop: of Issues & Ideas
3. A vision statement that describes the role, character and importance of Lafayette Park
4. A set of goals that, when achieved, will ensure a diverse, multi-purpose, and environmentally sound park that is responsive to the needs and desires of its users
  - Public Workshop: Vision & Goals
5. A series of design principles, which provide more guidance on the site specific manner in which to realize the vision and goals
  - Public Workshop: Goals & Principles
6. Specific recommendations for improvements to Lafayette Park that are integrated into geographically specific proposals
  - Public Workshop: Schematic Design
7. An Implementation Strategy including governance, funding, operational and maintenance recommendations
  - Public Workshop: Draft Master Plan
8. Vote by the Lafayette Park Neighborhood
9. Approval by the City Planning Commission



Master Plan



Public Meeting tables



Public Meeting participants working on a survey



Summer house above the Grotto - Boehl & Koenig

## PARK HISTORY

**THE LAND** bounded by Park, Mississippi, Lafayette and Missouri Avenues known today as Lafayette Park was originally part of the St. Louis Common. When the Common was divided by an ordinance entitled “Concerning the Common,” approved March 25, 1836, this 29.95 acre tract of land was reserved for general and unspecified use as a “public square, subject to such rules and regulations as the mayor and board of alderman may, from time to time, make, in relation thereto. . .” Lafayette Park was the first park to be developed by the City of St. Louis that had been formed from the Common. In 1851 the park was formally dedicated as a park under the name “Lafayette Square.” This name became associated with the neighborhood surrounding the park and has remained the name of the neighborhood even though the park itself was renamed “Lafayette Park” in 1864.



1896 Remains of the Music Stand

**THE ORDINANCE OF 1851** dedicated the land to park purposes and established a Board of Improvement to administer the Park. This board consisted of five members: the Mayor, who was chairman, the City Engineer and three citizens who owned property and resided in the vicinity of the park. The Board was authorized to employ a manager for the park, to prescribe rules and regulations concerning use and control, and to adopt plans to enclose and improve the park. Under the administration of this independent board, the park was transformed from a nearly treeless, unfenced and underdeveloped tract of land into a sophisticated urban park which was furnished with trees, extensive landscaping, buildings, lakes, pavilions, gas lighting, public monuments and an extensive system of paved walks and roadways. A monumental iron fence and stone gates were added which typified the importance the general public gave to urban parks **during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup>** century. The first professional superintendent of the park was Max G. Kern, one of the first landscape architects in the United States. He developed a master plan for the Park that was documented in 1874 Report of the Board of Improvement of Lafayette Park. Sometime between 1874 and 1905, the Board of Improvement was dissolved and management of the park became the responsibility of the City Parks Department, where it remains today.



1954 Playing cards in the Park

**LAFAYETTE PARK** has a wonderful and diverse history spanning over one hundred and fifty years. Today the Park is a series of layers laid upon each other over time. After the tornado in 1896, features and landscaping were rebuilt within the Park and alterations were made. Two key points in time for Lafayette Park are the 1920's and 1950's. Changes to style and location of elements in the park were primarily altered during these two time frames. Park features developed during the original Park plan which remain today in their current location include: the framework of the Park path system, Central Lake, the Grotto and the Benton Monument. By 1920, a number of the original features had been replaced and altered while still following the original Park plan such as the landscaping of Washington Statue, alterations to the path system and the construction of formal gardens. In the 1950's, along with many other parks in the St. Louis area, the primary use of the Park was changed through the addition of active-use amenities. The addition of the soccer and baseball fields resulted in the change of the land form in the northwest are of the Park from gently sloping hillside to a plateau shape that exists today.



1876 Original Plan



1920 Map



1956 Map



1978 Map



1875 Compton & Dry drawing of Lafayette Park



Children playing on the slide in the playground



Grotto Bridge

## LAFAYETTE PARK TODAY

“Great Parks are the key to more livable neighborhoods. If they are not well-designed & managed – then they are not properly used -If they are not properly used – they are not in people’s minds, souls and pocketbooks...they simply go away and cease to be public spaces except for the few.”

### PROFILE

**LAFAYETTE PARK** is unique in its location in the city with the surrounding neighborhood and the population it serves. The park forms the center of a historic neighborhood that is currently undergoing substantial revitalization. The park is used by residents of the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods as well as the city as a whole for events and recreation. People bike, walk and drive to the park to enjoy the interior walking paths, the exterior sidewalk loop, the playground and to attend events in the park. Visitors to the Park enjoy concerts at the Betsy Cook Pavilion, start neighborhood holiday tours at the Park House, watch the Gateway Cup professional bike race around the Park, shop at the Antique festival along the exterior Park sidewalk and watch the St. Louis Perfectos play vintage baseball. Historically, the Park was alive with people day and night throughout year.

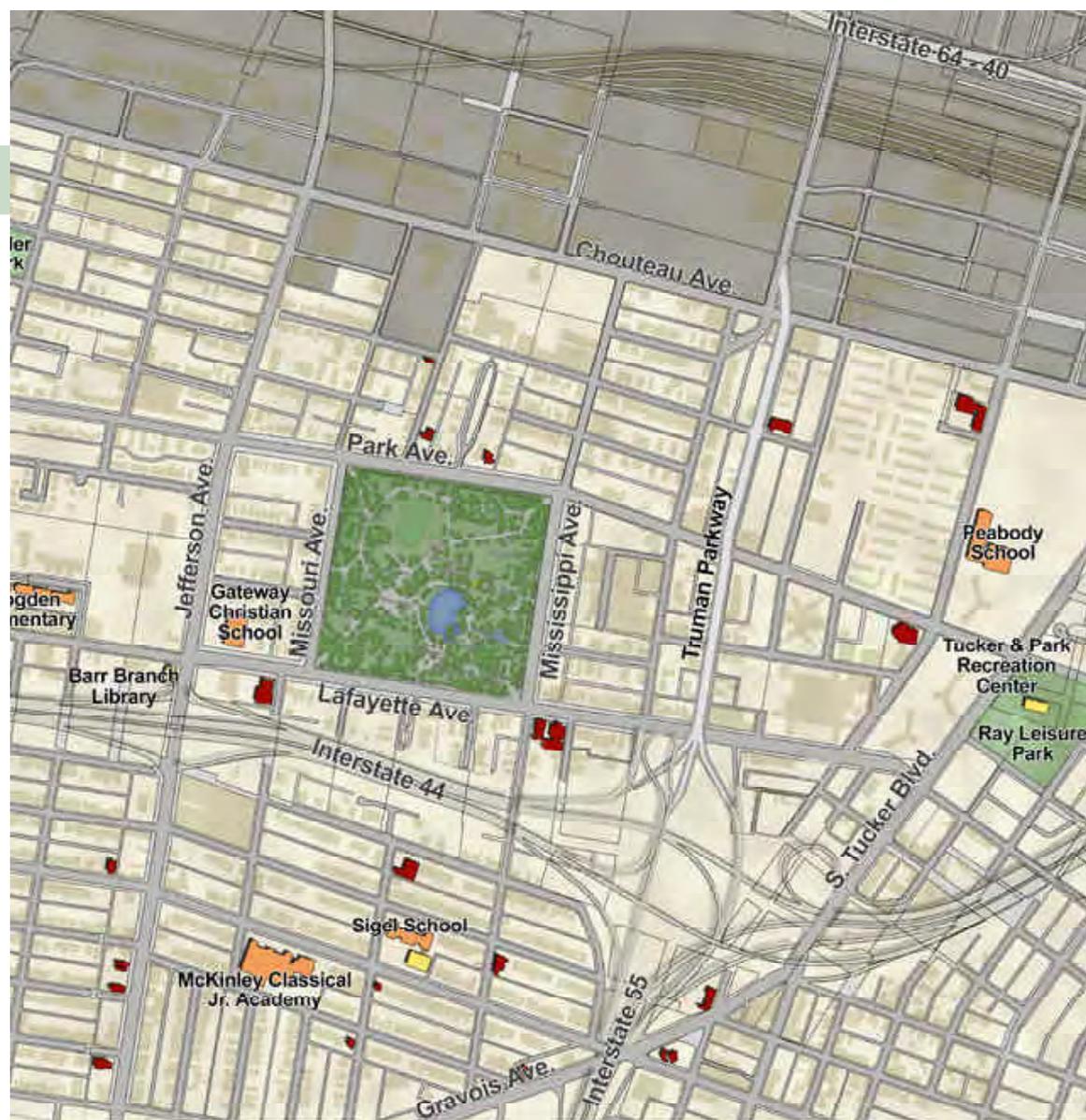
**LAFAYETTE PARK** serves nearly twenty thousand people residing within a fifteen-minute walking distance to the park. Over twenty-five thousand city residents are located within one mile of the park. Approximately 147,000 people are located within a three-mile radius of the park. As such, Lafayette Park has the potential to be a destination park accommodating a wide range of neighborhood and citywide uses and amenities.

**AS A CITY PARK**, Lafayette Park is the thirteenth largest park in the City’s parks system. Lafayette Park is well served by the regional and citywide access system. It is connected to the city arterial road system by its surrounding streets – Missouri, Mississippi, Lafayette and Park Avenues. These streets also provide links into the adjacent neighborhoods. Regional access is provided by Interstates 44, 55 and 64/40. Metro provides public access with bus stops along the northern edge of the park. Options for the future expansion of MetroLink would run north of the park with a potential MetroLink station within four blocks of the park.

**AS A POLITICAL ENTITY**, Lafayette Park is located within the 6<sup>th</sup> aldermanic ward and is bounded on the southeastern edge by the 7<sup>th</sup> ward. Lafayette Park is located entirely within the Lafayette Square Neighborhood. The Lafayette Square Neighborhood is surrounded by eight neighborhoods, these being: Midtown, Downtown West, Peabody Darst Webbe, LaSalle, Soulard, McKinley Heights, Fox Park and the Gate District neighborhoods. A number of schools and other institutions are located in the area surrounding the park, including five public and private schools, the Buder Recreation Center and the Tucker and Park Recreation Center. There are six other parks within a mile of Lafayette Park: Buder Park, Leisure Park, Fox Park, Terry Park, Fremont Park, and Compton Hill Reservoir Park. Of those, only Compton Hill Reservoir Park is comparable in size to Lafayette Park. The area around the park is primarily residential with some local commercial uses. Industrial uses are located north of the park in the corridor south of downtown.



Lafayette Square Neighborhood Plan



Neighborhood Context Map



View to the Downtown from Lafayette Square



Map Legend



Park entrances looking toward the neighborhood



Condition of the park after the tornado



Deteriorating paths around Washington Monument



Entrance Gates

## PARK CONDITION

### CONDITION

**THE CONDITION** of Lafayette Park varies greatly between the features, landscape, infrastructure and amenities. The tornado in 1896 had a great effect on what the park looks like today. Less than a handful of trees are over one hundred years old, which is due to the severe damage that the tornado had on the trees and features in the park. The rustic bridges over the Grotto and Music Stand were destroyed and the Park House was damaged by the tornado.

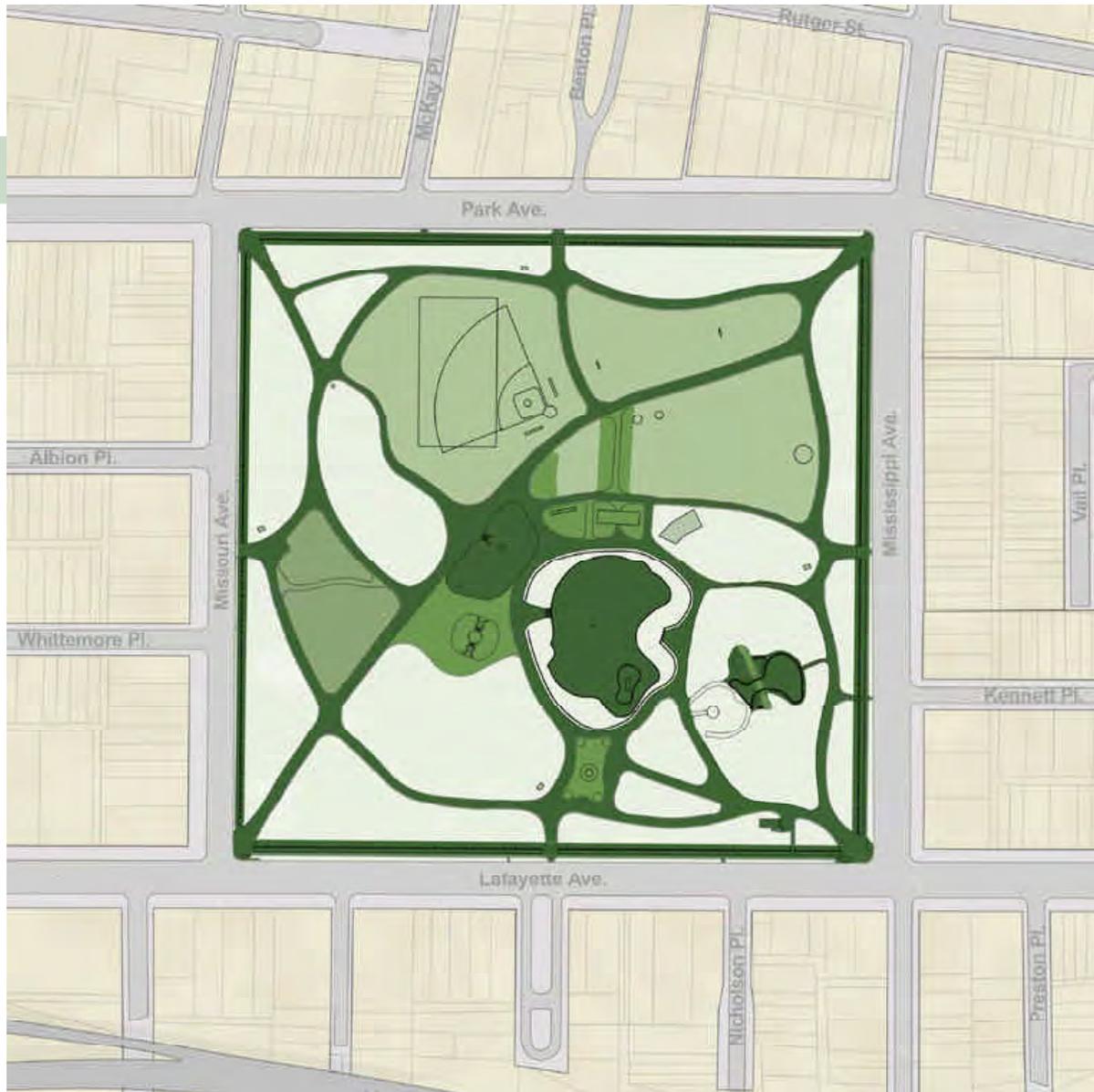
Today, the Park is highly underutilized for its size, location and position within the City Parks system. The park consists of a total of thirty acres and is centrally located within the City. At the center of the park is Central Lake, a one-acre water body which has stagnation and drainage issues. In the southeast corner of the Park is the Grotto, a unique water feature and garden area which also has issues of a crumbling infrastructure and water quality. Key buildings in the Park include the Boathouse and the Park House (Old Police Station) which are both in need of renovation. A number of monuments and public art pieces are placed throughout the Park. Many of these features have withstood many years of neglect during times of scarce funding while others have been taken care of by individuals or groups.

The landscape features of the park are primarily made up of trees with some planting beds and grass. The landscape conditions range from good to fair overall. During a review of tree conditions at the beginning of the planning process approximately ten percent of the trees were removed that were hazardous to public safety. Plantings in garden beds throughout the Park are well maintained by neighborhood volunteers. The general infrastructure of the park is aging quickly and many of the paths and utilities were last upgraded two, three or more decades ago. The fence, which last saw major repairs in 1978, has many serious structural issues including missing sections and gates.

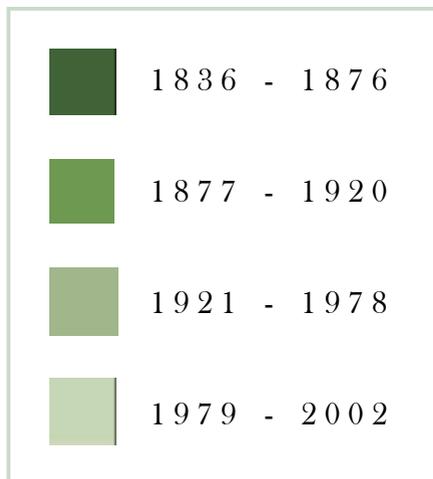
Within the park are various active recreational elements. The baseball field is highly underutilized and there are other former active recreational elements in the park including a four station exercise course that are in poor condition. The path system which is used by many as a walking circuit is crumbling in many locations and particularly along the path edges. Various poles and concrete pads remain from former recreational areas such as the tetherball and volleyball courts and are not longer used in the park.

### THE CHALLENGE

**THE CHALLENGES** facing Lafayette Park today are many. Parks departments around the country and here in St. Louis are facing budget shortfalls and are cutting down on the maintenance and upkeep of their parks. Private funding is being stretched and is harder to come by to make up the match with public funds. Compared with years past the steps to move towards implementation will be many and creativity will be needed. The facilities in the Park need to be updated to match the needs of the park users. The demand for multi-use facilities and parks in the region is shown through the construction and addition of community venues in city parks. Today with the help of this plan, the dedication of residents and volunteers and with the support of the City of St. Louis, the energy will build and multiply to make Lafayette Park even more vibrant and exciting.



1876 - 2002 Composite History Map



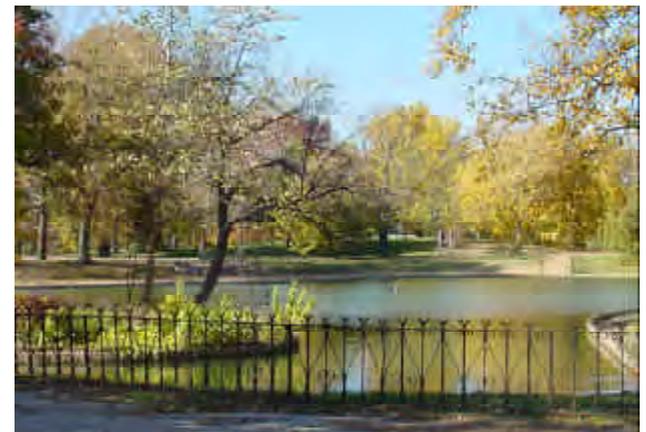
Map Legend



Washington Statue



Old Police Station/Park House



Central Lake



Boathouse



Central Lake and fountain - Boehl & Koenig

## VISION & GOALS

### VISION

**BEING ONE OF THE FIRST PARKS** west of the Mississippi River, Lafayette Park is a historically significant place and its revitalization is an acknowledgment & celebration of the manner in which parks have impacted and shaped the places in which we live. As such, Lafayette Park is the heart of the neighborhood and a destination in the city. Rooted in historical identity and always looking forward, Lafayette Park is an enduring and compelling place for all - a place of discovery, celebration & reflection.

### GOALS

The following Goals when accomplished should ensure a diverse, multi-purpose, environmentally sound future for the park and its users. The goals are:

- Lafayette Park will be a unique Victorian strolling park
- Lafayette Park will provide a safe, comfortable and varied experience for all park users
- Lafayette Park will respect the historic picturesque tradition of park design in its gardens, water features and park amenities
- Lafayette Park will primarily utilize a diverse array of low-maintenance native trees and plantings
- Lafayette Park will include a variety of different destination venues & outdoor rooms to create a vital and well-used park
- Lafayette Park will provide a significant number of special events that celebrates the diverse local and national culture, and history
- Lafayette Park will be well-managed, maintained, governed, & financed based upon an open and inclusive public/private partnership between the Lafayette Park Conservancy, the LSRC and the City of St. Louis
- The principles of stewardship, shared responsibility & volunteerism among all Lafayette Park entities and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods will govern the implementation of the Master Plan



Washington Statue - Boehl & Koenig



Kids playing on the historic cannons



Park fence



Trees in fall near the Music Stand



Antiques sale along the edge of the Park



Aerial Photo of Lafayette Park



St. Louis Perfectos playing a game of vintage baseball



People walking through the shade garden



Central Lake

## MASTER PLAN

“Lafayette Park is a gem of natural & artificial beauty, and is one of the handsomest pieces of landscape architecture to be found in the United States. It is not a driving park . . . And pedestrians only are given entrance. During the summer it is crowded with delighted visitors. . .and on the days set for music, delighted throngs of ladies & children are in attendance.”

-St. Louis Today 1889

**THE LAFAYETTE PARK MASTER PLAN** builds on the historic nature of the park and its character as a Victorian strolling park with highly developed gardens, landscapes and water features. Historically strolling paths were created which meandered past lush Victorian flower beds and alongside rock gardens with naturalistic plantings. Water features of differing characters were located throughout the park. Outdoor rooms were created through the use of multi-level plantings from ground cover to towering trees.

The park is made up of a series of gardens which wrap around Central Lake and the Boathouse. Each garden is developed as an individual feature which provides for multiple event locations throughout the park. Each landscape builds onto the next ranging from formal garden beds at the foot of Washington monument to the shaded bermed edge of the Multi-Purpose Recreation field. The primary feature in the park is the Boathouse which is located in the middle of the park and overlooking Central Lake. The path system connects the various gardens to one another through the primary loop path. Secondary paths connect the features to the primary path system. Each garden has its own distinct qualities and features that allow for a varied experience to neighborhood residents and visitors to the park.

The system of gardens is linked to key structures and pavilions in the park. Each location provides a place for events from an informal picnic to a wedding ceremony to occur. The outdoor spaces have been built on the feel of the historic framework of the park. The range of these locations are comfortable for small intimate events and large concerts in the park.



Park fence in fall



Antiques sale along the edge of the Park



The Boathouse



Greensfelder Field



Multi-purpose Recreation



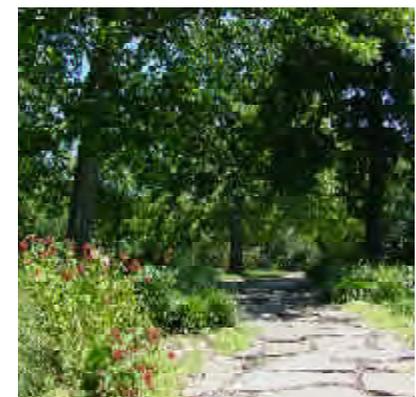
The Grotto



Central Lake



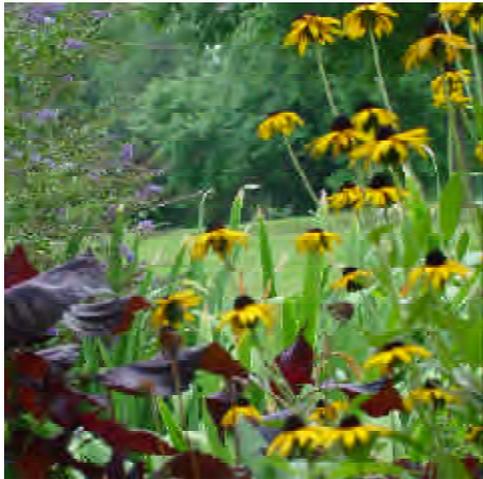
Music Stand and Field



West Lake



Garden Beds - Boehl &amp; Koenig



Flowers growing in the Park



Fall color

## GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

“... while young and old, forgetting for a time the cares of life, take up unconsciously the gentle lesson whispered to their hearts in the wavering of trees, the blossoming of flowers, the splashing of fountains, and return to their homes wiser and better citizens.” (1878)

- 1889 Tour of St. Louis

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**LAFAYETTE PARK** was originally designed as a highly colorful landscaped park with Victorian flowerbeds and gardens. Over time as the level of maintenance has changed so have the number of planting beds and a variety of plants within the Park. Volunteers have been maintaining a small number of beds in key locations in the Park, near entrances and monuments, over the last twenty to thirty years with the support of private donations, LSRC appropriations, and small grants. Thus, the gardens and landscapes within the Park are limited to a few key areas including the two primary northern entrances, the southeastern entrance and around the Park House, the Grotto, the rock garden, and around existing monuments. Neighborhood volunteers currently undertake maintenance and care of the plantings. Watering of the beds is undertaken in multiple ways from connecting multiple hoses together to hauling buckets from one location in the park to another. Basic maintenance of the grounds of the park is undertaken by the Parks Department.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Create a series of unique display gardens and landscapes that unfold as a sequence of outdoor rooms

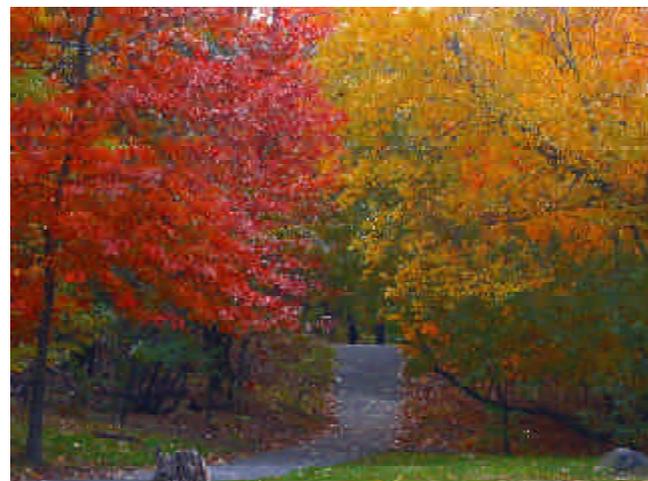
**THE GARDENS** will be developed based on the idea of the former Victorian gardens and landscapes that once graced Lafayette Park. The plan is envisioned as a series of gardens that encircle the activity center of the park - the Boathouse. Each garden has a distinct character and will be developed as a part of a cohesive and integrated park setting. **THE GROTTTO** is a unique area of the park that ties the landscape and water into one feature and will become the primary location for wedding photos and parties with it's distinct stonework and plantings. **CENTRAL LAKE** has always been a focal point as the largest water feature in the park. The area will once again hold the captivation of visitors with its continuous benches facing the lake, landings along the water's edge and landscaping area the lake and Washington Monument. **THE MUSIC STAND & FIELD**, will be reborn as the primary location for concerts in the park. The Music Stand will be restored with display gardens at its base and the field enhanced for viewing events. **THE WEST LAKE** garden builds on both history and more recent garden development. The area will include a small lake with a waterfall facing the western entrance to the park. This will build upon the existing rock and shade garden while expanding it to provide an area for strolling and sitting. **THE MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION** area, is the home field for the vintage baseball team the St. Louis Perfectos. The field will be developed as a pastoral setting with shaded viewing areas along the edges allowing for many events and games to occur. The historic water fountain pavilion and flag pole will be restored in the area as well. **GREENSFELDER FIELD**, a passive recreation area that includes the children's playground and a potential spray pool. **THE BOATHOUSE**, with its outdoor gravel garden and terraces leading down to Central Lake. The Boathouse itself will be a community facility with a catering kitchen that can be used year round for events and celebrations.



New Gardens Map



Example of flowering plants



Example of color

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

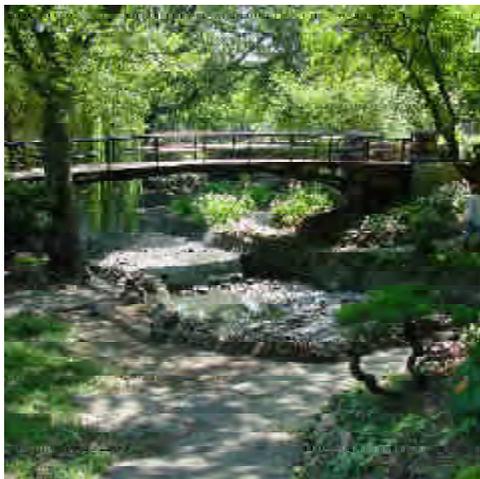
- Create biodiversity in plant type
- Specify plantings to address character, aesthetics and seasonal conditions
- Preserve all heritage trees
- Continue to use mid-canopy trees as informal backdrops along the Park edges and to frame key gardens and landscapes
- Use tree species to address diversity in canopy, view, and vistas
- Regrade for proper drainage and accessibility where necessary
- Link garden and landscape areas together through vistas, axial relationships and views
- Develop reforestation program
- Provide ornamental grasses on all steep slopes
- Provide irrigation for all key planting beds, gardens and landscapes
- Use informal landscaping around the open recreational fields
- Create small informal lawn areas to gather and sit
- Provide additional trees
- Replace or remove poor quality plantings and trees to open key views and vistas in the landscape.
- Consider planting trees adjacent to paths for shading designated seating areas
- Create a formal display garden around the Music Stand, Washington Monument & Benton Statue



Girl sitting on the Blossom rock at the Grotto



1956 Grotto Bridge in Winter



Grotto Bridge

## THE GROTTTO

“Talk about a Dreamland! There were gorgeous flowers; fountains playing; the grass like velvet; sweet music, and sitting or walking, the beauty and fashion of this grand old city, flitting in and out among the trees, rustic bridges and grottoes.”

-Stella, the fair visitor from Memphis, 1873 Missouri Republican

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE GROTTTO** is a key feature within Lafayette Park and seems to be the only remaining grotto in the St. Louis Park system. It is one of the few elements of the park that has retained its historic character. The shape of the grotto, a later version of one of the bridges, and the rock work remain from the original key features of the historic Grotto. It is in fair to poor condition with a deteriorating edge condition, poor water quality and problems with the current infrastructure. Water quality problems are in part due to an aging infrastructure that needs to be replaced or repaired and upgraded. Water stagnation and proper drainage also needs to be addressed in connection with Central Lake and the overflow pipe from the Lake. Currently the plantings are being maintained by neighborhood volunteers.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Renovate the Grotto as a themed garden and special events location.

**THE GROTTTO** will be a unique garden area with a combination of rocks and plantings to provide color and interest. Low level plantings and native plants will grow along the banks leading down into the Grotto and around the path at the water's edge. A series of terraced garden areas will be developed along the slope of the land to provide for substantial planting areas. The Grotto landscaping will be extended into the area between the Cook Pavilion and the Washington Monument. Flowering and seasonal color trees will be planted around the Grotto area that compliment the garden plantings.

**A NEW PATH** will connect the Grotto to the entrance at the corner of Mississippi and Lafayette. The path will also connect across the iron bridge and to the primary loop path system. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible path will provide visitors with access to both the iron bridge and the edge of the water. New stonework, matching the existing, will be used to repair the existing edges of the water and to edge the new paths around the Grotto. A waterfall connected to the Central Lake water system will provide circulation and help to improve water quality. The waterfall will carry water from a high point next to the Cook Pavilion down the slope of the bank and into the western edge of the Grotto. The iron bridge will be restored and for elements that are unable to be restored, replaced in a historically sensitive manner so as to match the existing structure.



The Grotto

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

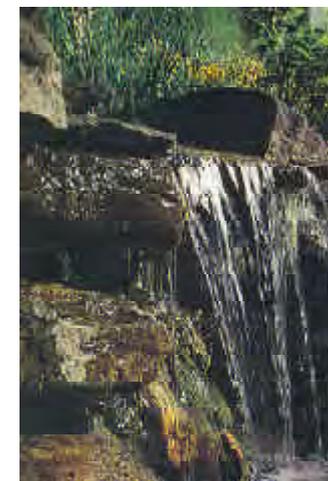
- Create a unique rockery garden using native plants
- Provide irrigation for planting beds and gardens
- Expand and match existing stonework to create a series of terraced gardens
- Expand the Grotto path system and integrate with surrounding paths
- Renovate the path along the edge of the Grotto
- Provide ADA accessible access to edge of Grotto and path system
- Create ADA accessible paths connecting to the bridge
- Restore or replace the existing bridge
- Replicate the smaller historic bridge
- Preserve specimen and heritage trees
- Provide a cascading waterfall from Cook Pavilion for increased water circulation
- Renovate the water's edge
- Renovate the water circulation system
- Clean lake of debris
- Consider bubbler in the southeastern section of the grotto



Example of plants among rockwork



Example of plants among rockwork



Example of waterfall



Example of uses for rock



Waiting for the Boat, Central Lake -Boehl & Koenig



1874 Bandstand next to Central Lake



Swan house on island in Central Lake

## CENTRAL LAKE

"There is a miniature lake with swans and ducks floating around; and for a five-cent fare you can take a ride in a pretty boat, three times around the lake."

- Sept. 1873 Missouri Republican

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**CENTRAL LAKE** is the primary water feature in Lafayette Park and is located at the center of the Park. It appears to have been formed from a number of sinkholes in the general location of the present day lake. Historically, the lake was the center of activity for the Park with boating and ice skating. Today, Central Lake is approximately one acre of water and is currently stocked by the Missouri Department of Conservation for recreational fishing. The infrastructure of Central Lake is currently in poor condition with a deteriorating edge condition, poor water quality and an insignificant fountain. Water quality problems are in part due to an aging water circulation infrastructure that needs to be replaced or repaired and upgraded. Water stagnation and issues with proper drainage also need to be addressed in connection with the Grotto.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Renovate Central Lake as a classic landscaped Victorian lake and rebuild the original Bandstand for use as a picnic pavilion.

**CENTRAL LAKE**, located in the middle of the Park, provides an area of focus with a signature landscape framing views to the water. The plan is to improve the condition of the water feature, while also improving the water quality. The fountain in the lake will be improved with a more expansive overall size and shape. Connections between Central Lake and the waterfall leading down to the Grotto will help provide better water circulation. The ability to provide better access to the water's edge is critical in further increasing the use and enjoyment of the lake. The concrete lake edge will be expanded around the lake in front of the Boathouse to provide access to the water's edge. Steps will connect the lake edge with the Boathouse terrace allowing for seating to spill out from the building. While still allowing fishing, the edge of the lake will be developed with plantings and stones. Additional stones will be provided along the edge for fishing. The improvements to the area provide much more to visitors to the Park.

**NEW CONTINUOUS BENCHES**, where they historically had been located, will provide places for people to sit and enjoy the water and views to other area of the Park. Singular benches will also be provided at key locations to take advantage of views of the Lake. A replica of the historic bandstand structure will be built in its original location on the eastern edge of Central Lake. The Bandstand will be developed for use as a picnic pavilion.



Central Lake



Washington Monument



Central Lake and fountain

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider Washington monument as key focal entry to Central Lake.
- Provide replica of Bandstand in historic location on axis with fountain
- Repair deteriorating infrastructure, fence and concrete edge around lake
- Renovate the Swan House
- Provide additional singular and continuous seating adjacent to the path system that takes advantage of the view to the lake.
- Provide irrigation for gardens and landscapes
- Maintain Washington Monument
- Develop signature landscape around lake & on island
- Provide seasonal color by varying varieties and species of plantings
- Preserve heritage trees in area
- Move path away from Heritage tree root system
- Improve drainage
- Improve water circulation & connect outlet to Grotto
- Expand the access to water's edge
- Preserve the visual and audible appeal of the water but limit access for fishing to three designated areas besides the promenade.
- Treat the edges of Central Lake near the playground as inaccessible edges with numerous dense plantings to increase safety for the younger users of that area.
- Provide natural grass and stone edges at Central Lake to invite fishing and other interactions with the water.
- Retain Missouri Department of Conservation status fishing lake and deepen lake for overwintering fish
- Provide a handicap accessible fishing platform along the northwestern end of Central Lake and connect it to the path system.
- Create a structured park path and plantings, where there is currently erosion along the northern slope of Central Lake.
- Renovate and improve the size and shape of the existing fountain



1873 Music Stand - Boehl &amp; Koenig

## MUSIC STAND & FIELD

"When the giant new music pavilion on the knoll west of the lake was dedicated July 27, 1876, about 10,000 people came to hear Professor Ben Vogel's band of 30 pieces."

- "Lafayette Park", Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Charles van Ravenswaay July 1958

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE MUSIC STAND** was a key historic feature and venue in Lafayette Park. The Music Stand was destroyed in the 1896 tornado and was rebuilt in a much less ornate style. The second Music Stand fell into disrepair and was torn down in 1951. Prior to falling in disrepair, the Music Stand was the primary event and concert location in the Park. The development of the Music Stand in that location was critical to the ability of many to enjoy the concerts and events that historically filled the Park. Today all that remains of it is a crumbling base and an excessive amount of paving. The base of the Music Stand is in very poor condition and will need to be evaluated to determine whether it can be renovated or will have to be replicated. The area surrounding the base includes excessively wide paths that are in fair condition. The fields to the south have some drainage issues that can be addressed through regrading.



1986 Drawing of Proposed Music Stand P. Cotton

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Regrade and landscape the existing field for special events seating area and rebuild or replicate the historic Music Stand.

**THE MUSIC STAND & FIELD** will become the primary location for concerts in the Park and large events. The Music Stand structure will be replicated based on historic images. The base of the historic Music Stand needs to be evaluated to determine if it can be restored or will need to be replicated. There will be a lower terraced area immediately below the Music Stand base that will provide an additional performance area and display gardens. This lower level needs to be developed to meet the necessary ADA requirements. Electrical service for both lighting and sound will be provided at the Stand to allow for large Park events and concerts. The paving around the base of the Music Stand is reduced to expand the adjacent field and provide a better relationship for pedestrian movement. Movable chairs will provide seating around the stand that can also be used as seating in different areas of the Park. The chairs can be used on the hard surface or grass areas throughout the park.

**THE FIELD** to the south of the stand will be regraded and landscaped to provide a seating area with views back to the Music Stand. The center of the field is free of existing trees and provides an open area with clear views to the Stand. The southern edge of the field will provide shaded areas beneath the trees. Flowering trees will provide color and shade around the path area adjacent to the Music Stand. Continuous benches will be located along the northern edge of the path behind the Stand.



Concert in the Park



Music Stand and Field

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add replica Music Stand
- Renovate or replicate existing Music Stand Base
- Provide ADA accessible lower terrace performance area
- Retain the current axial relationship with field
- Reduce existing paving by approximately 1/3
- Provide movable seating
- Provide additional trees for shaded viewing areas within paved area
- Create a display garden at base of Music Stand
- Provide irrigation for planting beds and gardens
- Create event seating and re-grade field to south of Music Stand for viewing and drainage
- Remove undergrowth and pine trees southwest of the Music Stand
- Provide additional trees at southern edge of field for shade, diversity, and backdrop
- Provide electrical service for lighting and sound system



Example of freestanding chairs in Central Park



Example of freestanding chairs in Central Park



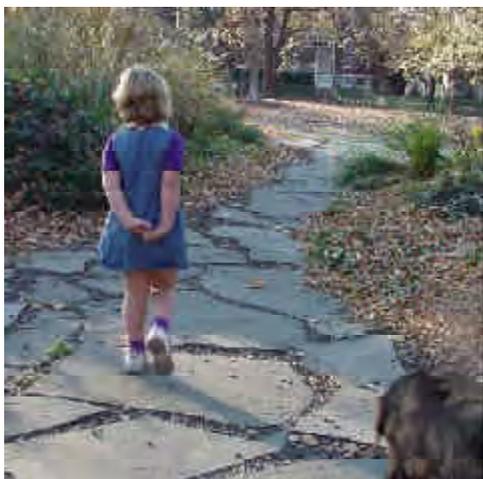
Example of field area as used for a concert



Historic postcard image of West Lake



Late 1940's West Lake changed into a lily pond



Child walking along the shade garden path

## WEST LAKE SHADE GARDEN

"Among the beauty spots in Lafayette Park was this rock garden, probably the most photographed area in the park. Erected in the 1870's, the rock garden, with its fountains and miniature waterfall, was pictured in publications throughout the country."

- 1949 Globe Democrat

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

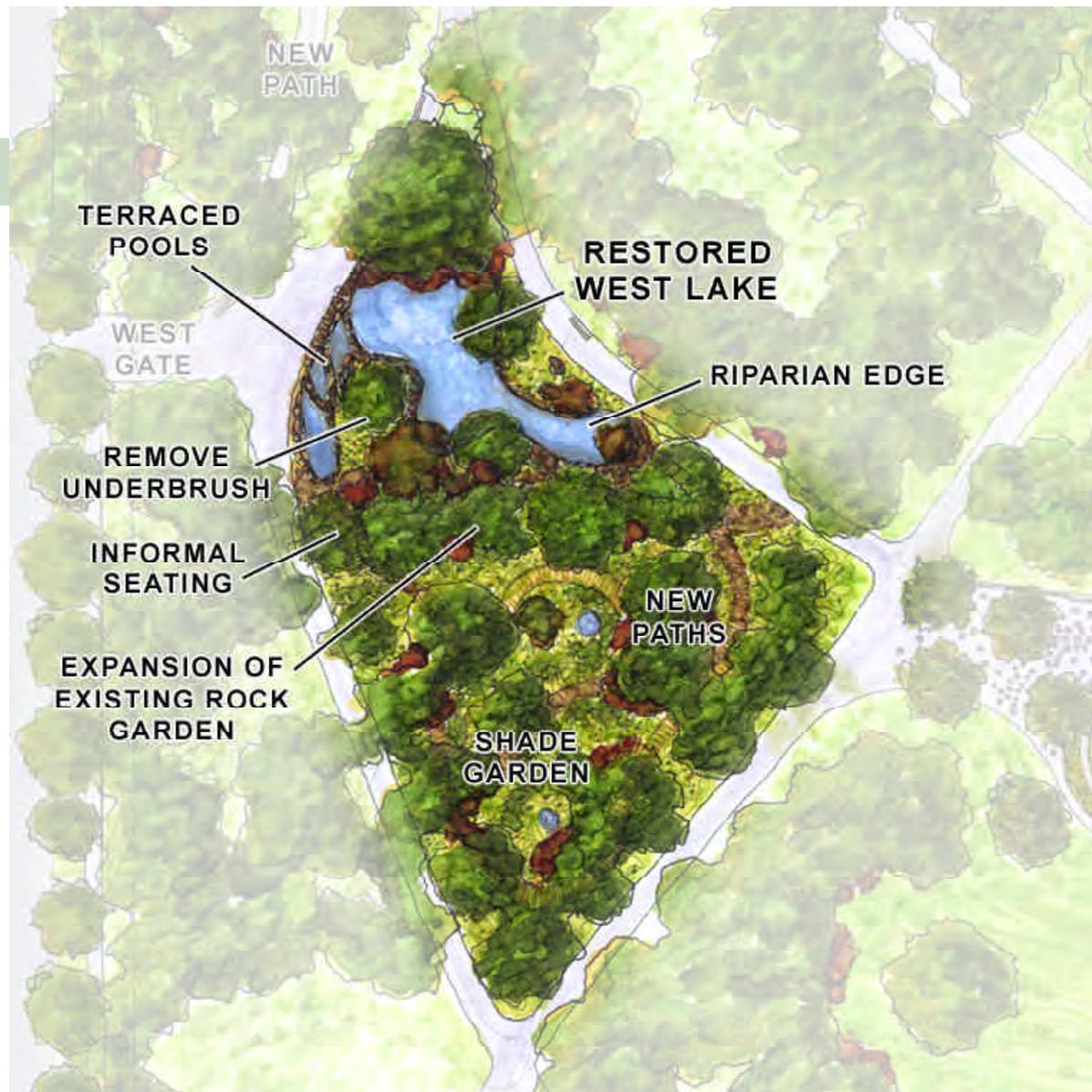
**HISTORICALLY** a water feature was located near the entrance along the Missouri side of the Park. The feature was built in the 1870's and originally had three fountains and a cascading waterfall. The lake took on many different forms and character over the years including a Victorian landscaped water feature and a lily pond. The West Lake lily pond was converted into a wading pool by the parks department in 1944. Eventually the pool was filled in with no trace of the water feature left. Over time, the area has become what it is today, a landscaped garden that is maintained and planted by volunteers in the neighborhood. The garden includes a rock edge to the slate path walk that matches the rockwork around the Grotto and perhaps the former lake itself. The plantings currently include some seasonal color and flowering varieties.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Restore the Historic West Lake Area as a themed rock and shade garden.

**THE WEST LAKE AREA** will build upon the current rock and shade garden located in the western edge of the park. A small lake with a waterfall will be recreated close to its historic location and provide a focus for those entering from the Missouri entrance into the park. The shape of the Lake will be formed to respect the existing garden and path system. The rockwork for the waterfall and path edging will match the existing rockwork and tie back to the Grotto area. Riparian and aquatic plantings will be used along the water's edge and in the terraced pools of the waterfall.

**THE GARDEN** area will provide a place for people to wander through shaded landscape beds and to sit and enjoy the birdlife. New seating areas will be developed with both formal benches and informal large stone seating areas. Plantings and birdbath locations will be used to encourage birdlife and wildlife to the garden. The canopy of new trees will provide shade to the entire expanded garden area. Irrigation will be installed to help with the maintenance and expansion of the garden. The new garden paths will be ADA accessible and connect to the primary path system.



West Lake Shade Garden

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop “new west lake” immediately adjacent to existing rock and shade garden
- Create form of lake to preserve existing path
- Create rockwork edge of lake to match existing rockery
- Modify and narrow parts of path to allow for transition terraces to lake
- Use riparian and aquatic plantings around water’s edge and in terraced pools
- Add a stepped waterfall from lake to the lower topography to address park entry
- Provide edge of the lower pool as informal seating ledges
- Create a unique rockery garden and match existing stonework type and character
- Create ADA accessible paths (existing and new) connecting areas of the garden and lake edge
- Create vista from west gate entrance into West Lake
- Connect historic lake area and existing stone path to southern field
- Extend paths throughout the garden
- Design path system to avoid heritage trees
- Create formal and informal seating areas
- Provide freestanding “birdbaths” among plantings and paths
- Provide irrigation for planting beds and gardens
- Remove invasive underbrush and plantings
- Expand existing shade & rockery garden to path’s edge
- Create a unique garden using native shade plants and rockery
- Add landscape and trees to provide shade
- Provide a diversity of plantings and trees to attract birds
- Provide plant diversity for seasonality
- Continue community endeavor for care of plantings



Example of water feature



Example of plants among rockwork



Currier &amp; Ives image of historic baseball field

## MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION

“ According to Shepard Barkley [sic], a judge on the Missouri Supreme Court, it was Jere Frain, a contractor, who introduced St. Louisians to the game. Shepard Barclay: ‘It was in the early fifties (1850’s) that Mr. Frain brought the game to St. Louis...on the field right where Lafayette Park is now’ ”

- The Spirit of St. Louis: A History of the St. Louis Cardinals and Browns, Peter Golenbock

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**UNTIL THE 1940’S** active recreation was not included in Lafayette Park. Over time a number of active recreational elements have been added and removed from the Park. The Park has not been known for its active recreational elements and many residents of the City are not aware that any active recreation exists. Usage of both the soccer and softball field have decreased over the years and many of the other active recreational elements are no longer used. The fields on the northern side of the Park currently include one youth soccer field and one baseball field that are permitted through the City of St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Permit usage of the field is currently quite low for both soccer and baseball. There are softball fields located within one mile of Lafayette Park that are currently not being used to their full capacity.



1874 Water Fountain Pavilion

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Regrade and landscape the existing soccer/softball field for multi-purpose recreation and replicate the historic Water Fountain Pavilion and historic flag pole.

**THE MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION AREA** will be developed to provide areas for multiple uses and users in the park. The field will no longer have official permitted times through the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. The existing backstops, benches and dirt infield will be removed and the grass area restored. The field is open and expansive enough to have a youth soccer game or a pick up game of football. At the same time, it will also provide an area where people can informally fly a kite or play a game of croquet. The edges of the field will offer shaded areas for viewing events. The northern and western edges of the field will have berms that allow for viewing of events on the field with areas in sun and shade. Mid canopy flowering trees will provide a visual back drop to the events and seasonal color. The pastoral setting will also provide a wonderful home field location for the vintage baseball team currently playing in Lafayette Park.

**THE FIELD** can also be used as a secondary event location when the Music Stand and field are in use. With the Boathouse in close proximity to the field, bathrooms and seating areas are available to users of the field. The historic Water Fountain Pavilion will be replicated and placed at it’s historic location on the edge of the field. The historic Flag Pole will also be replicated and placed adjacent to the field.



St. Louis Perfectos vintage baseball player



Multi-purpose Recreation

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove backstops and benches
- Add historic Flag Pole
- Add Historic Water Fountain Pavilion at original location
- Provide irrigation
- Re-grade field to provide proper drainage
- Create sculpted bermed viewing areas under the tree line
- Provide additional trees for shaded viewing areas and informally shape views and vistas
- Provide mid-canopy of flowering trees to provide a visual backdrop and seasonal color
- Develop a pastoral setting for multiple uses



People viewing a game from under the trees



Children enjoying the shade trees



People viewing a vintage baseball game



1956 Children at the Greensfelder playground

## PASSIVE RECREATION

“Workmen unload a 10-ton slide to be erected in Lafayette Park as a part of ‘Fantastic Toan.’ The slide is part of the playground apparatus provided for in the will of the A. P. Greensfelder estate “

- April 1956 Globe Democrat

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE GREENSFELDER PLAYGROUND AREA** has changed considerably over the years. The area included at different times horseshoe courts, tetherball poles, a paved game area, corkball fields, shuffleboard court, basketball courts and two playgrounds. The current condition of the Greensfelder field area is fair. Four deteriorating exercise stations are located at midpoints along the four edges of the Park. There are also a number of underutilized remnants of other recreational features left scattered around the existing Greensfelder field. The playground has recently undergone renovations with the replacement of the pea gravel playground surface with pour in place rubber surface made from recycled tires. This was made possible in part by a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The pea gravel under the swings was replaced by wood chips. The field area is quite barren and is only used at this time for occasional pick up games and dog walking.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Focus passive recreation at Greensfelder Field and playground and replicate the Chinese Pavilion.

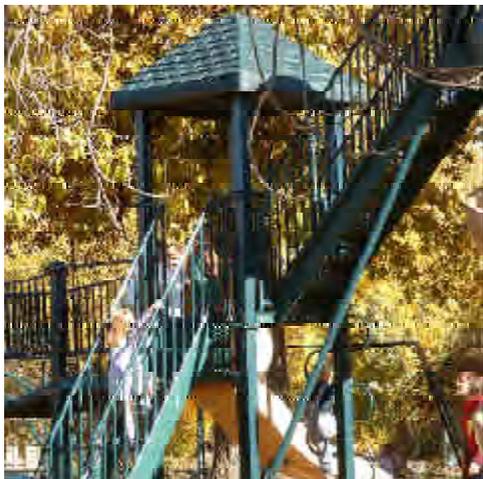
**THE GREENSFELDER FIELD** provides users of the park an area for informal passive recreation and picnicking. The field will also provide an overflow area for events from the Multi-purpose field and the Boathouse. A tent location has been identified for large events at the Boathouse. Additional trees will be provide shade for people viewing events and picnicking. Mid canopy flowering trees will provide a visual back drop and seasonal color around the edges of the field.

**THE CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND** is adjacent to the field. The playground has room to be upgraded with the possibility of future expansion. The frog and turtle sculptures will be maintained and the frog will be moved closer to the playground area. Additional seating, benches and picnic tables, will be provided around the playground and in the Greensfelder field area. There is potential for a spray pool to be located close to the playground providing a water feature for the area.

**THE CHINESE PAVILION** will be replicated and placed close to it’s historic location at the north eastern edge of Greensfelder field. The pavilion is on axis with the path that runs between the two areas of the field.



Chinese Pavilion - Boehl &amp; Koenig



Children at the playground



Greensfelder Field

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

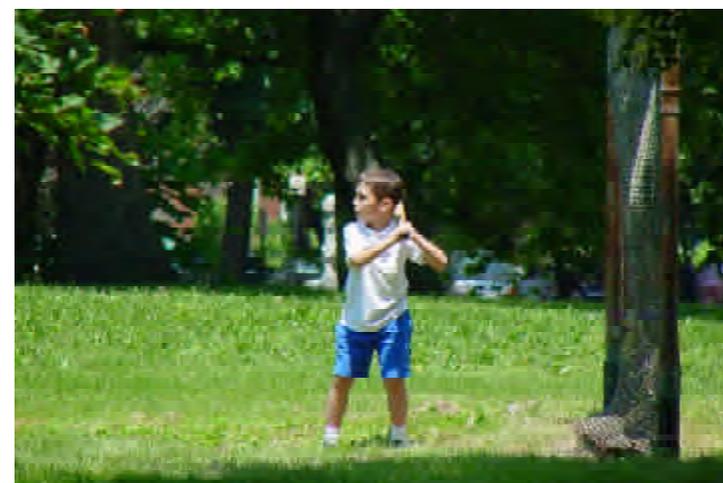
- Remove underutilized recreational elements: volleyball poles, corkball backstops, tetherball poles, exercise stations, shuffleboard court and existing spray pool
- Provide a new spray pool feature adjacent to the playground (optional)
- Upgrade playground and complete rubberized ground surface
- Provide seating adjacent to the playground
- Add Chinese Pavilion at original location
- Maintain turtle sculpture in current location
- Move frog sculpture closer to playground
- Provide irrigation
- Re-grade field to provide proper drainage
- Provide additional trees for shaded viewing areas and informally shape views and vistas
- Provide mid-canopy of flowering trees to provide a visual backdrop and seasonal color



Frog Sculpture by Bob Cassily



Children on the swings



Boy practicing hitting a baseball



1911 Boathouse and Central Lake



1956 Playing cards in the Boathouse



Boathouse today

## BOATHOUSE, TERRACE, & GARDEN

“The Lafayette Park Shelter is the backdrop for a daily winter scene of countless card games played by retired pensioners and off-duty workmen. Games are played outside when weather permits.”

- 1956 Globe Democrat

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE BOATHOUSE** has historically been the primary architectural feature defining Central Lake. Built in 1908 and named the Shelter House, the building has remained while other structures in the park have been demolished or disappeared over time. Known today as the Boathouse, the building has over time housed restrooms and provide a venue for events and gatherings. Features such as the Boathouse provide a framework and location for events and continue to provide interest for Park visitors. The Boathouse is in need of both interior and exterior renovation. The restroom facilities are currently not ADA accessible and are in need of an upgrade. The main room of the Boathouse has been subdivided by the insertion of mechanical facilities. The Boathouse is seldom used due to its current condition and lack of amenities.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Renovate and expand existing Boathouse, terrace and garden as a destination venue.

**THE BOATHOUSE** structure should be expanded to provide an indoor area of sufficient size and amenity level to support community events and functions. The master plan provides two options for the expanded facility. The primary option reuses the existing structure and adds two wings to the eastern and western ends. A catering kitchen, restrooms facilities and other service and storage uses will be located in the wings along with a room sized for events. The existing portion of the Boathouse will be used as a secondary event area with the renovated fireplace and doors that open to the north and south terraces. The secondary option assumes a new structure to be built in keeping with the historic character of the existing building. This option would provide similar uses as the first option and would be designed specifically as an events structure.

**TERRACES** to the north and south would be in both options and would have access to the gravel outdoor garden area to the west. The south terrace opens out onto Central Lake and the path connects to the stepped Lake edge. This provides connections down to the water's edge. The Boathouse garden to the west is adjacent to the Benton Statue and the historic cannons. These two features will be maintained and the area around them upgraded with landscaping. Formal and informal events could take advantage of both indoor and outdoor spaces and an additional tent space available in the adjacent Greensfelder Field. The selection of which option will be pursued should be based upon an economic feasibility study of a special events destination such as the one proposed. For the long-term healthy viability of the Park a destination venue is critical.



Boathouse, Terrace and Garden



Boathouse today



Option: Addition to existing Boathouse

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete a feasibility study to determine financial viability of:
  - Addition to the existing Boathouse
  - A new Boathouse structure
- Develop a gravel garden outdoor seating area to west of the Boathouse
- Provide an exterior area for a special events tent
- Align south entrance with axis of Central Lake
- Provide irrigation for plantings beds, gardens and landscapes
- Renovate historic cannons and setting
- Maintain Benton Monument
- Provide picnic tables and benches to serve the playground and Boathouse area
- Densify the landscaping surrounding the paths approaching the Boathouse in order to open up and dramatize the formal Boathouse space.
- Extend the existing paved terrace adjacent to Central Lake

### Option: Addition to existing Boathouse

- Add west wing with large dining hall, restrooms and north entrance tower
- Add east wing with catering kitchen, interior and exterior restrooms, mechanical and storage
- Remove existing trees to the west of the Boathouse structure
- Develop north courtyard as entrance
- Update existing boathouse facility to be ADA accessible and to meet BOCA codes
- Open North and South Façade with full light windows
- Preserve existing fireplace

### Option: New Boathouse structure

- All-weather facility with catering kitchen
- Replace existing Boathouse structure with a new building in keeping with the historic character of the park



1874 Police Station

## INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDINGS

”It was an age which admired vistas, and those in the park were enlivened with pagodas and shelters, all created in the spirit of the gingerbread age.”

- (1876) “Lafayette Park”, Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Charles van Ravenswaay July 1958

“A watermelon & fruit feast is enjoyed by members of the Berea Co-op Pre-School Tuesday as visitors toured the restored Old Police Station in Lafayette Park. The station is being reopened as a museum & information center.”

- May 1975 Globe Democrat



Entrance Gates

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS** located in Lafayette Park are in fair to poor condition. The Park House is in need of both interior and exterior renovation. The fence, with its posts recast in 1978, has a few key areas of severe disrepair due to accidents but in general is in fair to poor condition. Other elements in the park include the existing Benton Statue and the Washington Monument. All the structures currently provide nodes of interest within the landscape of the Park.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Preserve and renovate existing park structures, public art and infrastructure; rebuild key historic features; renovate and reuse the Old Police Station/ Park House.

**THE FENCE AND PARK HOUSE** are two key structures that will need to initially be stabilized to reduce the loss of either of these historic features. The fence will need to be restored or in the case of areas that cannot be restored, replaced in a historically sensitive manner to match the existing profile. Structural issues related to the fence and gates will also need to be addressed. The bottom section of the fence, which was removed in 1978, should be replaced to add further stability to the fence. The Park House is in need of extensive renovation. The exterior should first be stabilized and then the interior renovated for future uses. The Park House will be utilized as a visitor’s center, police sub-station, LSRC offices, Lafayette Park Conservancy offices or a park museum.

**THE UTILITIES** and basic infrastructure in the park need to have a detail assessment performed that will evaluate upgrades and a plan for implementation. As projects are underway the upgrades to the infrastructure will need to be scheduled to not disturb the new renovations. New historic light fixtures will be installed along the path system within the park and along the exterior perimeter sidewalk. Feature lighting will also be used to highlight structures and features within the park. Utilities will also need to be extended to new pavilions, the Boathouse and the Music Stand to allow for events and concerts to be held in multiple locations around the Park.



People sitting on benches outside the Park House



Master Plan

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete a detailed assessment of the utilities and infrastructure, and develop an implementation plan and program
- Rebuild key historic features including: Water Fountain Pavilion, Chinese Pavilion, Bandstand and the Music Stand

### Park House

- Renovate the Park House
- Interconnect all gardens and landscapes through adjoining exterior spaces

### Fence

- Restore or replace the Fence
- Restore or replace Park entrance gates
- Address issues of stability and anchoring of the fence



Example of historic light



Park fence



Park entrance gate



Old Police Station/ Park house



1904 Man sitting on a park bench



1880 Continuous benches line the paths



Water Fountain

## PATH SYSTEM & AMENITIES

“100 ‘Central Park’ benches were ordered from Thomas Howard and Co. at \$10.50 each – the first of many benches purchased.”

-(1867) “Lafayette Park”, Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Charles van Ravenswaay July 1958

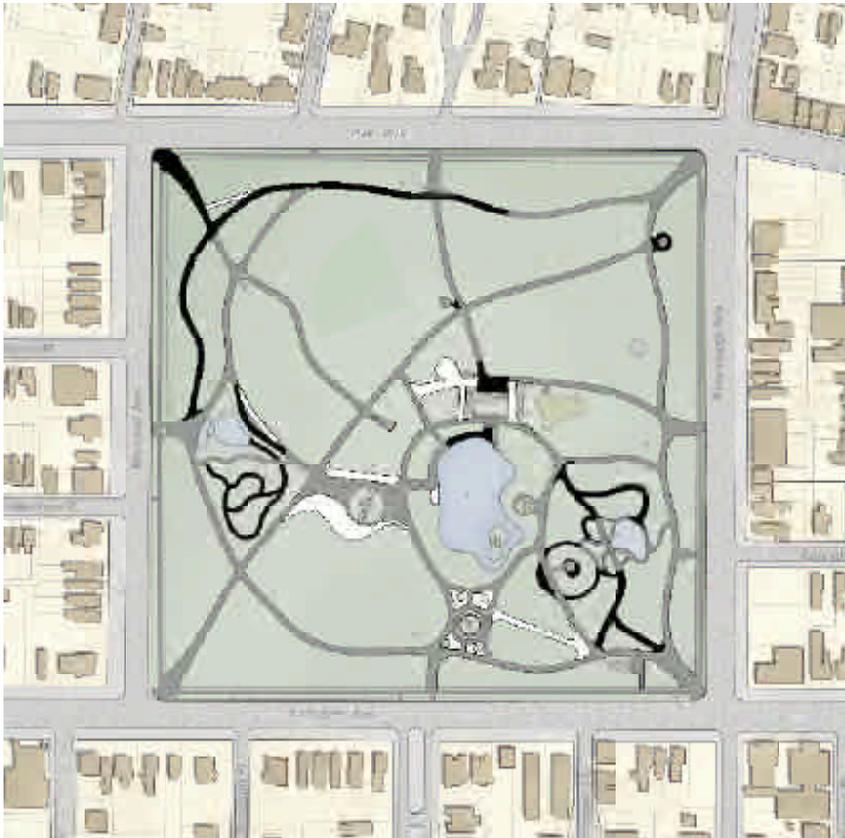
### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**THE PATH SYSTEM** in Lafayette Park provides the primary structure for the experience of the Park and basis for the location of pavilions and other park features. The original plan for the park included most of those paths existing today, and they were laid out in great respect for, and integration with, the land form. Historically, paths varied in width with major paths throughout the Park and minor ones in areas such as the Grotto. The paths were edged with culverts/drains that were made of stone and continuous benches lined many of the paths. A simplification of the path system has occurred over the years. The condition of the existing path system is in fair to poor condition. There is currently no consistency in the material, width or edge conditions of the paths in the park. The paths consist of large aggregate asphalt, smooth asphalt, gravel and dirt materials. The path widths range from five feet around the grotto area to as much as 102 feet around the base of the music stand. The four corner entrance paths range between sixteen feet and thirty-one feet. Many of the paths have deteriorating edge conditions and it is difficult to determine the exact location of the path edge. The paths are not properly graded in many places causing drainage problems and erosion of the areas adjacent to the paths and there are a limited number of amenities within the Park. The few existing amenities are primarily located near the playground and around Central Lake. One water fountain is located within the entire park and it is not consistently in working order. The seating opportunities are limited in the Park to a few benches and a couple of picnic tables.

### DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRINCIPLE:** Reconstruct the path system and provide additional park amenities.

**THE PRIMARY PATH SYSTEM** will be developed as a twelve-foot loop system connecting all key features in the Park. The path system will be completely replaced with a new limestone chip road oyl material. The path material allows for bicycles and pedestrians to travel on the paths while inhibiting high speed movement. The widths of the historic park entrance paths will remain and smoothly connect to the loop path system. The system will provide ADA accessibility to all key features in the park as well as the primary walking path loop system. Historic pedestrian scale lighting will be placed throughout the park. Other amenities such as water fountains, benches and picnic tables will be provided throughout the park. Continuous benches will be constructed around Central Lake reflecting the historic feel of the bench lined paths. Signage, both regulatory and interpretive, will be installed around the park and at key features. This will help orient visitors to the park and the features within it.



Path System



Amenities

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upgrade and expand service and support facilities/amenities throughout the park for users, including: seating, water fountains, and trash receptacles.
- Increase shaded amenities
- Reduce primary path widths to twelve feet
- Keep sweeping, curvilinear lines of original path design
- Remove excessive or obsolete paths
- Replace existing path materials with new limestone chip road oyl material
- All primary paths to be designed for the loading capacity of small trucks
- Renovate interior path from northwest entrance to be ADA accessible
- Modify primary “loop” path system to be ADA accessible
- Provide new paths to West Lake and the Grotto
- Provide new paths through gardens with soft or porous surface materials

### Amenities

- Provide 4-5 Drinking Fountains
- Provide approximately 20 Trash Receptacles
- Provide New Seating:
  - Continuous Benches
  - Single Benches
  - Chairs
  - Picnic Tables

### Signage

- Provide both regulatory and interpretive signage
- Develop a signage system that abides by ADA guidelines
- Develop guidelines for memorial tree or bench signage
- Adopt public art guidelines
- Old Police Station/Park House to be site for visitor information center



Planting around Washington Monument



Watering the gardens



Parks Department maintenance workers

# IMPLEMENTATION

## ADMINISTRATION

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Parks Recreation and Forestry currently administers Lafayette Park through its Parks Division as part of the overall park system. During the planning process, the need for and desire of interested individuals and groups such as the Lafayette Park Conservancy to be involved in the ongoing implementation of this Plan was clear. To ensure this ongoing participation, the Master Plan calls for the establishment of a Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Committee. The Committee is to monitor and review projects to determine compliance with the Master Plan. The Committee cannot revise the plan, but can submit recommendations for revisions to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Membership on this Committee, appointment by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, will include representation of the various interest groups, neighborhood groups, other park users and professionals.

## IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**THE IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** shall meet at least once a quarter, and more often as it deems necessary, to review, discuss and approve proposed projects that are consistent with the goals and principles of the Lafayette Park Master Plan. The Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Committee shall establish time frames for review procedures in order to ensure that the project approval process does not unduly slow the implementation of the Master Plan. Projects to be reviewed include major park projects that are both privately financed and publicly financed.

**PRIVATELY FUNDED PROJECTS** within the Master Plan will be brought to the Committee by the director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry once a donor has been identified and a project prospectus developed. The Committee will review the proposed project at this preliminary stage and provide written comments to the Parks Department. Once a preliminary design has been developed under the guidance of the Parks Department, the committee will again review the project and provide input. The Committee will have a final opportunity to review and provide written comments on the proposed project prior to final design and approval of the project by the director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. At each step of the process, the Committee can suggest seeking public input if it deems that such input is necessary.

**FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED PROJECTS**, the review and approval process is the same except that the project must also be reviewed and approved by the City's Board of Public Service and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry prior to the creation of a preliminary design. The Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Committee will have the responsibility to review the project at each stage of its development, seek public input as necessary, and provide written comments to the director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

**THE TERM** of all ex-officio members shall correspond to their respective official terms. Of the nine members appointed by the director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, three shall be appointed initially for a term of one year, three for a term of two years, three for terms of three years each. All members thereafter shall be appointed for terms of four years each.



Master Plan

### Responsibilities and Authority of the Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Committee

- Monitor implementation of and compliance with the Master Plan and provide ongoing community input about Lafayette Park
- Review significant modifications to the Plan
- Constitute a part of the public review process for major park projects
- Keep the public informed and advised of matters relating to the Master Plan
- The Board is not authorized and shall not have power to amend or change the Master Plan, but may recommend changes to the Master Plan for consideration to the Director of Parks
- The Board shall meet at least once each calendar quarter and give public notice as required by law and as determined necessary by the Board

### Members Appointed by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry:

The Committee Membership should be representative of the following up to a maximum of nine members:

- City Representation
  - Parks Department (x2)
  - Alderperson for Ward Six
  - Board of Public Service
- Lafayette Park Conservancy
- Neighborhood Representative at-large (x2)
- Landscape Architect/Arborist/Ecologist/Horticulturist
- Planner/Architect



Logo for the Lafayette Park Conservancy



Volunteer planting in the Park



Volunteer working at Benton Statue



Volunteers moving historic Urn



Volunteer mulching the Park

# IMPLEMENTATION

## FUNDING

Currently funding sources for Lafayette Park include the city's general fund. Funding for operating expenses for Lafayette Park come from City general revenue funds which are allocated on an annual basis. These funds are used to cover such expenses as grounds maintenance, facilities maintenance, tree care, utilities, and miscellaneous support services.

Additional funding for Lafayette Park should be raised through private funding sources, donations, and grants. It is recommended that the Lafayette Park Conservancy develop a funding strategy that is coordinated with the City of St. Louis to raise the necessary private funds. It is further recommended that the Lafayette Park Conservancy create a paid position for a specialist in funding, marketing and special events.

## MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Lafayette Park is currently managed and maintained through the Parks Division of the St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. It is recommended that the parks department complete a plan for the continued maintenance and management of Lafayette Park that recognizes the projects and changes that will occur in the park. In support of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Lafayette Park Conservancy should continue to develop their outstanding commitment to and program of volunteer gardens.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

### PHASE ONE

- Expand existing special events
- Develop marketing, funding and volunteer programs
- Create a paid position for a specialist in funding, marketing & special events
- Remove underutilized recreational facilities
- Complete an infrastructure implementation plan and program
- Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program
- Upgrade existing playground
- Complete improvement to Multi-Purpose Field, including: Removal of benches & backstop; Re-seeding; Tree planting; Regrade
- Complete Historic Water Pavilion and flag pole
- Complete Music Stand and Field
- Stabilize exterior of Park House
- Repair damaged areas of Fence

### PHASE TWO

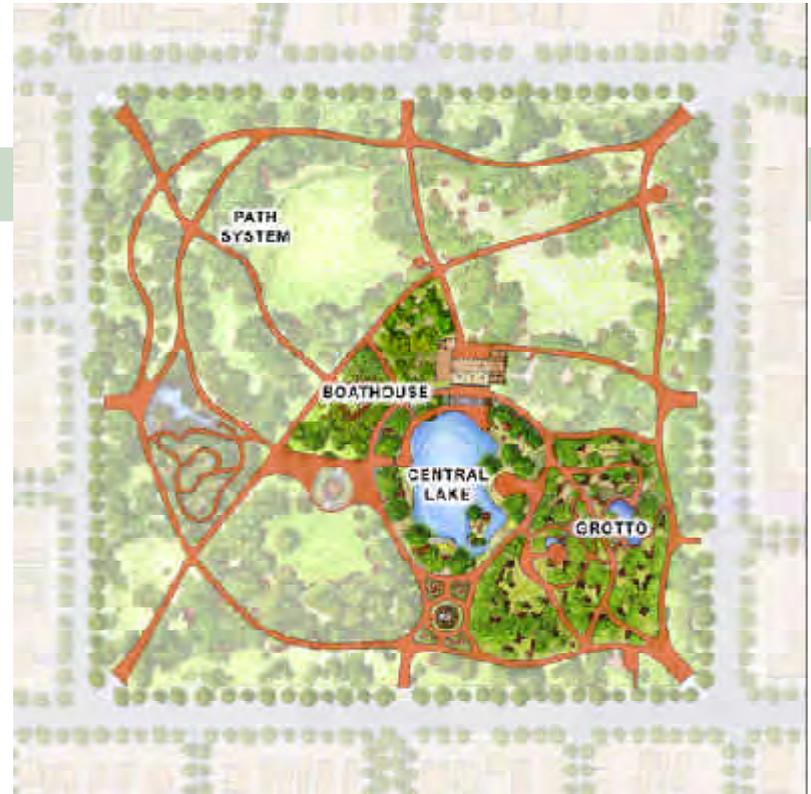
- Develop two new special events
- Renovate path system: lighting, seating, signage & amenities
- Washington Monument: landscaping and seating
- Renovate Grotto
- Rebuild Fence
- Complete financial feasibility study of Boathouse
- Complete improvements to the Boathouse & Central Lake
- Develop maintenance plan
- General landscaping of steep slopes
- Repair exterior sidewalk and add trees

### PHASE THREE

- Renovate Police Station
- Develop West Lake
- Provide Band Stand Pavilion
- Provide Chinese Pavilion
- Improvements to Greensfelder Field
- Ornamental grasses on steep slopes



PHASE ONE IMPLEMENTATION MAP



PHASE TWO IMPLEMENTATION MAP



PHASE THREE IMPLEMENTATION MAP



FINAL MASTER PLAN

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## RESEARCH & IMAGES

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