



The weather was unusually cold for Earth Day 2015, when trees were planted in front of the Greenbush Cemetery as part of the restoration.

Our Urban Forest

Trees Temper Climate Change

Trees Have Many Benefits for Climate

Sitting under your favorite tree for some relaxing reading time or even to take a cooling nap, is much more than recreational.

Trees do provide extra shade, absorb water, and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These are all beneficial for the environment, and help control climate change.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, other ways to reduce carbon pollution are to embrace energy efficient homes and businesses, promote “clean energy,” such as wind and solar, and use green practices in industry. As noted

on the EPA website, “cleaning up carbon pollution protects our environment and supports a strong, clean-energy economy.” Climate change now dominates the global discussion on the environment, and trees are a natural resource we already have to help control it. Therefore, we must preserve them, and plant more trees when the opportunity is ripe.

While trees beautify the landscape, it is easy to take them for granted. In fact, according to Tree Lafayette, since the beginning of civilization, half of the planet’s trees are gone.

Lafayette is an urban landscape lush with trees. It has more than 25 miles of trails that residents and visitors can enjoy.

“Tree Lafayette is a vital local partner within our trails system by making it possible not only for Lafayette to increase sustainability efforts, says Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski.

The community health includes preserving our trees to help control climate change, which has affected Greater Lafayette as elsewhere. The EPA reports on its website that “average annual temperatures have increased over several decades in the Midwest, and downpours occur more frequently.” Trees

The Paris Climate Agreement signed by the United Nations in December of 2015 wants more trees planted in the cities to fight Climate change.

Arbor Day This Year at Columbian Park

Arbor Day this year is in an exciting new location: Columbian Park, 1915 Scott St., in Lafayette on Saturday, April 30th.

This is a great activity for families. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

If possible, we ask that you sign up to volunteer ahead of time by visiting our website, www.treelafayette.org, and following the prompts to volunteer for Arbor Day. Thank you in advance!



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Matt Green Takes Over as New President, Coogan Leaves

Both play valuable role in organization

Matt Green is the new President of Tree Lafayette as of January 2016. He takes over the position from Denise Coogan, who is leaving Lafayette to take a new post with Subaru of America. She will be based in Cherry Hill, N.J. As environmental partnership manager, she will be working with the National Park Service to make the agency zero landfill, which means that none of the waste is sent to landfills. Everything is recycled or reused in some way.

Coogan, who was an environmental advocate in both her professional work at SIA (Subaru of Indiana Automotive), and with Tree Lafayette, says she will miss everything here.

"Everyone with Tree Lafayette is so passionate," she says. "It is a labor of love for trees. They are a wonderful, giving, group."

Coogan was with Tree Lafayette for more than eight years, serving as chairman of the Marketing Committee, and as President.

Matt Green, 2016 president, is currently operations manager at Heritage Interactive Services, a company that helps organizations achieve zero landfill and improve recycling and reuse of products and materials. He has been a volunteer with Tree Lafayette since 2012. As president, he says his main goal is to "increase volunteer opportunities and the number of volunteers."

Tree Planting Update

Tree Lafayette had a very productive 2015 with 297 trees planted, and 18 shrubs, according to the organization's annual report. The robust tree planting is consistent with its mission statement, "promoting a healthy community by providing education, leadership, and inspiration in planting and caring for trees."

Tree planting locations for 2015 included Arbor Day at Jefferson High School, Earth Day in front of the Greenbush Cemetery, the Sterling Height neighborhood, the Columbian Park neighborhood, Earhart Elementary School, and North Ninth Street. 55 trees were planted in various places throughout the city where they were needed most.

Memorial—Founding Member, Keith Shaw

Tree Lafayette lost one of its most cherished board members in 2015 with the passing of Keith Shaw. He was one of the "founding fathers" of the organization, volunteering when it was still called the Lafayette Tree Fund in 2002. He later served as treasurer. He loved Tree Lafayette, and was able to attend this past Arbor Day at Jeff High School. Our most sincere condolences to his family and wife of 70 years, Anita.

"How To" Water Trees by Greg Shaner, Chairman, Tree Committee

When Mother Nature fails to provide sufficient water for trees, especially those newly planted, extra watering is required. How often should you water, and how much? A general rule is that trees need the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall each week during the growing season. Most trees used for landscaping today would require about eight gallons of water to provide the equivalent of one inch of rainfall.

Too much water can be harmful to trees, as too little can, so it is a good idea to check the soil moisture before each watering. The easiest way to do this is to scrape away the mulch, feel the soil, and make your own judgment.

By the fourth year a tree has been planted, it should be able to fend for itself, except during prolonged drought.



Matt Green, pictured here, is the new President of Tree Lafayette for 2016. Green has served Tree Lafayette in many capacities, including as Arbor Day Project Manager for 2015, when he was also Master of Ceremonies. **Photo by Bob Barker**

Want to help prune trees and water trees? Then Tree Lafayette needs you! It is an excellent chance to get outside, meet some new people, and help the environment. Contact: Tree Committee Chairman, Bill Skrobutt at the following e-mail address: bill.skrobutt@treelafayette.org.

Planting and Promoting a Healthy Community

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