

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER



Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

**Vol. 6 No. 3
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ARBOR DAY: CELEBRATION OF TREES



Mayor John Dennis, the WL Tree Friends, and children from Brookshire Learning Center celebrated the planting of 12 young street trees along Lindberg Road on April 26. The festivities began with Mayor Dennis' Proclamation of Arbor Day. He stressed the importance of our urban forest for its role in sustaining clean air and creating vast root systems which capture vital rainfall. Dan Dunten, Lilly Nature Center Director, emphasized to the children that they were a part of something special - they could be proud to watch the trees they helped plant grow as they themselves grow! To view TV 18's coverage of the event, click on the following: <https://www.wlfi.com/content/news/Trees-planted-near-Lindberg-Road-in-honor-of-national-arbor-day-509129411.html>

Educating today's youth about the value of trees and the wonders of nature can enhance their lives now and lead to a lasting legacy of support for green spaces and healthy environments. Google "Kids Love Trees" for a variety of appropriate websites



I SPY WAY UP HIGH...



Spring blossoms - what a welcome relief from winter's grays and whites! We love seeing the colors of spring, spring flowers, ornamental blooming trees, and the natural understory trees, such as Redbuds and Dogwoods. This is not the whole story! Our own state tree, the Tulip Poplar (a member of the magnolia family - Magnoliaceae), has a beautiful bloom. But, you need to look up to see it! Sometime in mid-May when you're strolling in Happy Hollow Park, the Celery Bog, or along Navajo just past the fire station, look up. You will be rewarded with a beautiful bell shaped greenish-yellow and orange blossom! Happy spring to our beautiful state tree!



Speaking of rewards, here are links to two interesting articles about nature and stress reduction:



<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/stressed-new-study-says-you-simply-need-a-20-minute-nature-pill/#.XMRmwOBpzd4.mailto>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/1524314/forest-bathing-reduces-stress-and-strengthens-your-immune-system>

MEET A TREE FRIEND BECKY FRY - DEDICATED TO TREES



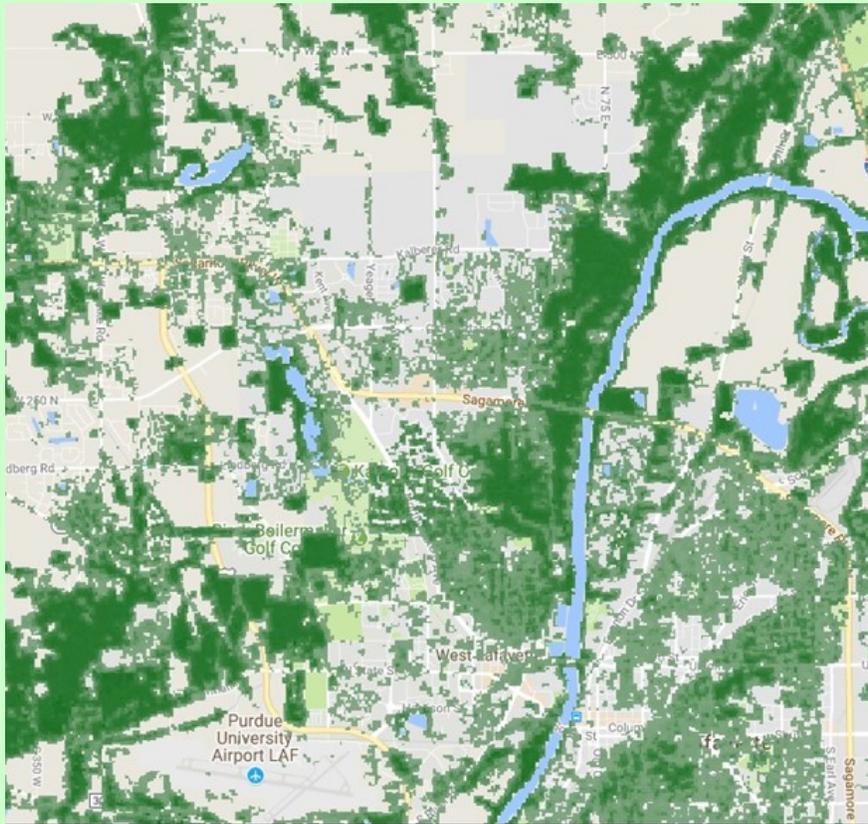
The Tree Friends welcomed Becky Fry as a member in 2018. Her enthusiasm and love of nature and trees emerged immediately as she began team-pruning WL street trees. Her dedication to maintaining our urban forest progressed as she took on the chairmanship of the Tribute Tree program.

Becky and her husband of 48 years, Don, have a long history of interest in trees. They have owned a 100-acre varietal tree farm in Vigo County since 1980. They enjoy weekends in their simple apartment housed in their new barn; reveling in and maintaining the forest surroundings.

Becky graduated from Purdue in Organizational Communication. She and Don have three children, Jenny, Anne and John, plus 6 grandsons. Becky retired in 2017 after a 24-year career in Purdue University Development. In addition to her time spent

with the Tree Friends, she volunteers at the Lilly Nature Center. Thank you, Becky, for your contributions to trees and the West Lafayette community.

HALF OF THE URBAN FOREST IS IN YOUR YARD



Existing tree canopy in West Lafayette (iTree).
Dark green indicates highest density.

When we hear the term, "urban forest," we might picture city streets lined with oaks, elms, and honeylocusts. However, the urban forest is not solely street trees, but all trees in an urban and suburban setting. That's right! Your tree in the backyard, shading your patio or porch, is also part of the urban forest. Trees on private property help act as mini-reservoirs, slowing and reducing stormwater runoff from entering our storm sewer system. For instance, the U.S. Forest Service reports that one hundred mature tree canopies intercept roughly 100,000 gallons of rainfall per year. Trees in your yard or neighborhood also increase residential property values by an average of 7%, compared to those properties with no trees. Trees moderate temperatures during the summer and winter, saving on heating and cooling expenses and energy consumption. Saving energy in your home helps lessen the community's energy consumption.

Trees also have social benefits that affect communities and neighborhoods. A study conducted in Chicago showed that apartment buildings with an average amount of greenery and trees had 42% fewer crime rates than those properties without trees and greenspace. Hospital patients recovering from surgery who had a view of trees and greenspace required less pain medication and had a quicker recovery rate. Studies also show that when surrounded by trees, physical signs of personal stress, such as muscle tension and pulse rates are measurably reduced.

Help West Lafayette's urban forest by planting and caring for trees on private property. Properly prune trees while young, water during droughts, and plant trees correctly. Here is a great video by Urban Forestry Extension Specialist Lindsey Purcell, who will walk you through how to plant your next tree: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5rUgd7BmiA>. In addition, check out West

Lafayette's Tree Manual, which cites city approved trees, gives tips on planting, and lists tree-related regulations: https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/documents/1525697525_01463.pdf. Enjoy the green spaces you, the city, and WL Tree Friends continue to create. For more information, contact Bryce Patz, Neighborhood Vitality and Greenspace Administrator at bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov.

DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Tree Friends do a lot more than fund raising, but the funds we raise make it possible to provide matching funds for grants and to purchase and plant street trees.

Our donations for 2018-2019 began in November 2018. Click [here](#) for a list of donors to date.

Some gifts last more than a lifetime! Your donations help us plant and maintain the West Lafayette Urban Forest.

Please help us keep our urban forest healthy and growing. To donate online, click [here](#), or send a check to Parks and Recreation Department, 1200 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette 47906. Attention: West Lafayette Tree Friends.



THANK YOU TO ANONYMOUS DONORS

The WL Tree Friends were again invited to participate in the Earth Day Recycling Event sponsored by the Russell Company and Reliable Insurance on Saturday, April 27. Community residents were able to drop off electronics, medications, paper, and eyeglasses. They were also invited to donate to the WL Tree Friends, and the donations totaled \$765.00!

Thank you to the donors and to the Russell Company and Reliable Insurance!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Saturday, May 18 | MindBOGgling Event
Celery Bog Park
10:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| Sunday, May 19 | Grand View Cemetery Walk
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm |
| Wednesdays | Through October
WL Farmers Market
Cumberland Park
3:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Visit the W L Tree Friends booth on May 29 |
| Saturday, May 25 | Round the Fountain Art Fair
Courthouse Square
9:00 am - 4:30 pm |
| Tuesday, June 11 | WL Tree Friends Meeting |

- Happy Hollow Complex (1200 N. Salisbury)
11:00 - noon
Please join us!
- Saturday, June 22 Art in Bloom
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 9 WL Tree Friends Meeting
Happy Hollow Complex (1200 N. Salisbury)
11:00 - noon
Please join us!
- Saturday, July 13 Riverfest
Tapawingo Park
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**INSATIABLY CURIOUS?
ON TWITTER? CHECKOUT [@TREES FOR CITIES](#)**

[#streettrees](#)



The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from the account "Trees for Cities" (@TreesforCities). The tweet text reads: "We ❤️ #streettrees! Research has shown a staggering 60% reduction in particulates from car exhaust fumes on streets lined with trees. Are you lucky enough to live on a leafy street?". Below the text is a photograph of a long, straight asphalt road lined with tall, mature trees on both sides, creating a canopy effect. The road has a yellow double line down the center. The sky is blue with some light clouds.



Find previous issues of *Urban Leaves* [here](#).

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