



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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We want to pause to reflect on 2024, and to say thank you to our many community members who donate, volunteer, and contribute in numerous ways to help our community.

First, we want to thank our Tree Lafayette members and supporters. Your financial support, along with that of local non-profits, businesses, municipal organizations, and neighborhood associations is vital to creating a sustainable urban forest for our community's benefit.

We work closely with our city government and we thank Mayor Roswarski for his continuing support. We thank Mike Perry, Garrett Gaskins, and the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department for being so helpful in our projects. We also thank the Street Department who assists us by collecting our pruning debris and Lafayette Renew who helps us fulfill our mission.

Throughout 2024, third grade classroom presentations and planting of trees at elementary schools in the Lafayette School Corporation continued. Seventeen classroom presentations were held and the third grade students helped plant trees in their school yards.

In April, we held our annual Earth Day Celebration. Volunteers planted 15 trees in Armstrong Park with Subaru of Indiana Automotive (SIA) sponsoring the event and tree planting.

We held our annual Arbor Day Celebration and tree planting on South 26th Street where community volunteers planted 59 trees.

Throughout the year, Tree Lafayette planted trees along North 19th Street, Charles Street, North 18th Street, Vinton Street, Washington Street, and in the center median of North Sagamore Parkway. We also planted at Battle Ground Golf Club. With your help, we planted a total of 312 trees in 2024 — it was a very successful year.

If you are new to Tree Lafayette, or if you want to get more involved, we have opportunities! Planting trees and maintaining them is much of what we do, but we also need people in grant writing, social media and communications, classroom presentations, and project management. We are also looking for a Development Committee Chair and a Marketing Committee Chair. If any of this interests you, we invite you to join us. We think you'll find it rewarding!

**The City of Lafayette continues to be recognized as a Tree City USA city and as a Tree Cities of the World city.**

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & GET UPDATES

Get updates, news, and information from Tree Lafayette, including upcoming events. Sign up to receive our emails by scanning the QR Code or go to [www.TreeLafayette.org](http://www.TreeLafayette.org).



## WAYS TO GIVE

Donations are accepted through our website using PayPal or credit card at [www.treelafayette.org/donate](http://www.treelafayette.org/donate) or mailed to Tree Lafayette, 1915 Scott Street, Lafayette, IN 47904

## QUESTIONS?

Email: [info@TreeLafayette.org](mailto:info@TreeLafayette.org)

Tree Lafayette is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with all volunteers. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

## OUR MISSION

*Tree Lafayette promotes a healthy community by providing education, leadership and inspiration in planting and caring for trees.*

## OUR VISION

*is a sustainable urban forest providing the benefits needed by our community.*

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

## 312 Trees Planted

Planted by volunteers, Restoration Nursery and Custom Cuts Landscaping.

## 5,381 Trees Watered

## 1,181 Trees Pruned

Structural pruning, limbing up, remove dead wood and pruning for clearances for sidewalks, streets and signs.

## 383 Trees Re-mulched

But it's also more than just the numbers. It is the many benefits of trees, the value to residents, better neighborhoods, improved community, and the betterment of the environment.

Continue reading about our 2024 story...

**Tree Lafayette has now planted more than 4,600 trees since 1993.**



# EARTH DAY

This spring, Earth Day was celebrated and volunteers planted 15 trees in Armstrong Park. The event was sponsored by Subaru of Indiana Automotive (SIA). Thanks to SIA for their continued support.

Earth Day is widely observed around the world, marked by more than one billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes.



Sponsored by:



# ARBOR DAY



On Saturday, April 27th, community volunteers planted 59 trees on South 26th Street.

**Arbor Day** is a celebration of trees and also a call for each of us to do our part in protecting and caring for our existing trees and forests, and planting more trees.



# THIRD GRADE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tree Lafayette's purpose in our community rests in "providing education, leadership, and inspiration in planting and caring for trees." By now, people have begun to notice our 30+ years of plantings to improve Lafayette's urban tree canopy. The education part is less visible, but no less important. Did you know every year, every third grader in the Lafayette School Corporation personally participates in a classroom presentation by a Tree Lafayette volunteer about the myriad of benefits of trees and the importance of proper care of young and existing trees? They also participate in a tree planting on their school grounds. Tree Lafayette realizes that equipping children with the information needed concerning tree stewardship will also encourage them to be proactive in their communities in later life.

Seventeen classroom presentations to third grade students at Cole Elementary, Miller Elementary, Miami Elementary, Glen Acres Elementary, Oakland Elementary, Edgelea Elementary, Earhart Elementary, Vinton Elementary, Murdock Elementary, and St. Mary's Elementary Schools. The students planted trees in their schoolyards after the classroom presentations to gain some hands-on experience in planting trees. The students and volunteers have fun planting the trees.



**Teaching children the value of trees in our schools and neighborhoods and giving them hands-on experience in planting a tree!**

# WABASH RIVERFEST & BATTLEGROUND GOLF CLUB TREE PLANTING

Tree Lafayette participated in the Wabash Riverfest with a booth aimed to entertain and educate children. The children enjoyed creating leaf rubbings with leaves, paper, and crayons. It was a great day for all to enjoy the river setting.

Additionally, volunteers planted 31 trees planted at the Battleground Golf Club. The golf club reimbursed us for all of the tree purchase costs.

## ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS

The annual meeting was held on November 12, 2024, at the Lafayette Country Club.

Amanda Estes was the keynote speaker and gave a great presentation on the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT). TICT is a partnership organization created to address the issue of invasive species in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Partners include government agencies, non-profits and local citizens. TICT prevents, controls and reduces the impact of invasive species in Tippecanoe County through community education and action.

The business meeting was held with Board member elections, a financial review, and the annual awards presentation.



### Volunteer of the Year Award

**Allyson Steselboim**

For her enthusiasm and dedication in helping Tree Lafayette with the Tree Committee.



# AWARDS CONTINUED

## Environmental Award

### Bowen Engineering

As we go about our day-to-day routine, many times we do not see work that goes on behind the scenes that impacts and improves our environment. Since 2000, Bowen has been the general contractor for the city's wastewater treatment plant update and expansion. Bowen worked on three phases of the city's combined sewer overflow long term control plan. All of the projects have greatly reduced the number and volume of CSOs and have had a positive impact on the environment and the Wabash River.



## Preservation Award

### City of Lafayette Engineering Department

For preserving trees, when possible, during sidewalk/curb replacement and utility upgrade projects. For planting trees, when possible, during street installation, rehabilitation, and widening projects. There are circumstances when it is not possible to preserve or plant trees with a project. The idea is to value trees, which seems to be the case.



## President's Award

### Pam Ferguson and Bill Oldham

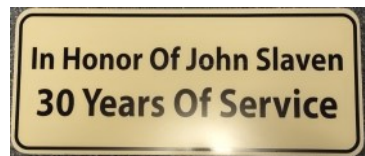
For promoting trees, tree stewardship and neighborhood beautification, including setting an example for the Washington Street neighborhood, watering and clearing weeds around the young street trees as well as other trees, and doing trash pickup.



## 30 Years of Service Recognition

### John Slaven

The shingle was hung on the Tree Lafayette sign on Creasy Lane.



# RECOGNITION

The brass plaque that was presented to Tree Lafayette by the City of Lafayette has been mounted on a rock in Columbian Park. The displayed plaque is an honor.



## RECOGNITION PROGRAMS FROM THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

### Tree City USA:

Lafayette  
West Lafayette



### Tree City of the World:

Lafayette  
(3 in Indiana)



### Tree Campus K-12:

Edgelea Elementary School  
Vinton Elementary School  
James Cole Elementary School



### Tree Campus

### Higher Education:

Purdue University

### Tree Line USA (Utilities):

Duke Energy Indiana  
Tipmont REMC

### Tree Campus Healthcare:

None



# FALL & SPRING PLANTING

## SPRING 2024

We planted trees on Charles Street and North 19th Street in the spring.

Sponsored by Tipmont REMC EnviroWatts.

## FALL 2024

We planted trees on Vinton Street in the fall.

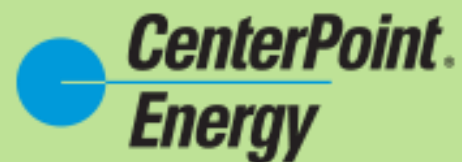
Sponsored by the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) and Duke Energy.

## SPRING 2025

We plan to plant trees on Elk Street and Perrine Street in the spring.

Sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and 1st Source Bank.

## SPONSORS



# VOLUNTEERS



We couldn't do what we do without our great volunteers. Tree volunteers did tree care on Wednesday mornings and pruning on Saturday mornings throughout the season. Thanks to all of our volunteers. Additional thanks to volunteer groups from Caterpillar who helped prune.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

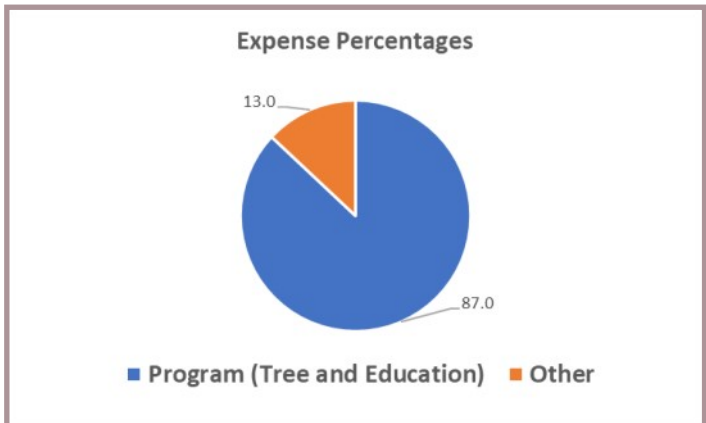
We love our volunteers! The Tree Committee needs help with planting, watering, mulching, and pruning trees. Join us to get in some exercise and lots of fresh air. Let us know if you are interested!

Visit <https://www.treelafayette.org/get-involved/> to get involved!

# 2024 INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

Income		Expense	
Support	30,934.21	Development	145.25
Grants Restricted	46,379.22	Tree	69,784.40
Grants Unrestricted	14,535.00	Education	2,259.96
Reimbursement	3,747.11	Marketing	6,530.15
Interest	3,646.41	Governance	<u>4,118.90</u>
Misc. Income	<u>0.00</u>	<b>Total Expense</b>	82,838.66
<b>Total Income</b>	99,241.95		

Opening Balance 1/1/2024      \$91,867.83      Closing Balance 12/31/2024      \$108,271.12



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Tree Committee:** Bill Skrobitt - Chair, Larry Rose, John McGraw, Bob Massey, Arlan Stavneim, Pat Rosebrock, Shirley Sterling, Sam Biederstedt, Gene Kroeschen, Barry Bruce, Bill Arthur, Bruce Bresnahan, Rich McDaniel, Dick Murray, Jim Vahle, Tom Walsh, Bill Bombassaro, Ryan Stumph, Kate Kollman, Cliff Sadof, Zach Nemeth, Caroline Kester, Connie Shoemaker, Greg Shaner, Allyson Steselboim, Chase Fisher, Jenelle Rotar, Andy Plank, Bob Gump, Eve Neuman, Brad Joyce, Garrett Gaskins, and Kris Brown

**Marketing Committee:** Gene Kroeschen - Chair, Jessica Townsend, Larry Rose, Jeri Massey, Bob Barker, Ibrah Bilah, Andrew Smith, and Bob Gump

**Development Committee:** Gene Kroeschen - Chair, Mickey Penrod, Larry Rose, Bill Arthur

**Education Committee:** Pat Rosebrock - Chair, Mickey Penrod, Larry Rose, Shirley Sterling, Connie Shoemaker, Allyson Steselboim, Cheryl Talley, and Bob Gump

### Help Wanted!

**Marketing Committee Chair:** Do you have a background in marketing, advertising, social media, graphic design or publishing? The Marketing Committee manages these and more.

**Development Committee Chair:** Do you have a background in development, grants, or fundraising? The Development Committee manages these and more.

Let us know if you are interested.

# WE THANK OUR MANY SUPPORTERS!

## Companies, Foundations, Organizations

### Platinum Sponsors

Wabash River Enhancement Corp.  
 Duke Energy Foundation  
 Tipmont EnviroWatts  
 CenterPoint Energy Foundation  
 Subaru of Indiana Automotive  
 Bennett's Green House, Inc.  
 Lafayette Life Foundation, Inc.  
 1st Source Foundation  
 Fairfield Township

### Gold Sponsors

Risk Family Foundation  
 Highland Park Neighborhood Assoc.  
 USDA Forest Service  
 LWLUFE  
 Henry Poor Lumber Company  
 Mariner Finance, LLC  
 Old National Bank  
 Republic Services  
 Southwire Corp  
 Walmart

### Silver Sponsors

Cross Creek Lakes HOA  
 United Way of Greater Lafayette  
 Huston Electric

### Bronze Sponsors

The Mitchell Agency, Inc.  
 Ed Lausch Photography  
 Happy Hollow Garden Club  
 Fisher Funeral Chapel and Cremation  
 Greater Lafayette Convention & Visitors Bureau  
 Scholer Corporation

## Individual Donors—Operations

William & Eileen Arthur  
 Robert & Ellen Barker (Endowment)  
 George & Rita Berninger  
 Elaine Bold  
 Kathrine Boyer  
 Gary L. Brouillard  
 Barry D. & Jerrie S. Bruce  
 Esther Chosnek  
 Samuel C. Curtis III  
 Raymond & Christina DeCarlo  
 Dennis DeMay  
 Robert & Mary Beth Downing  
 Edward & Sue Eiler  
 Robert E. & Carol Galbraith  
 Michael E. Gery  
 Julie Ginn  
 Matt & Ashley Green  
 Bob Gump  
 Wilbur & Beverly Hancock  
 Emily Hanstra  
 Michael O. & Phyllis J. Hunt  
 Martin & Patty Jischke

Annemarie Kaufman  
 Kristel Kaye  
 Caroline Kester  
 Frank & Judith Koontz  
 Gene & Ronda Kroeschen  
 Amy Krzton-Presson  
 Orvin A Lindell  
 David William & Carol Andrews Luhman  
 Mark S. Lundstrom  
 Robert & Jeremy Massey  
 Rich & Becky McDaniel  
 George R. McKinniss  
 Lawrence & Helen Mock  
 Richard D. & Cindy L. Murray  
 Zach Nemeth  
 Paul A & Julie K Nourie  
 Samuel J. O'Connor  
 Rob & Kathy Pahl  
 Danielle Pennington  
 Mickey J. Penrod  
 Andrew Plank  
 Doug Poad

Mary Jillaine Riemenschneider  
 Larry & Marianne Rose  
 Patricia Rosebrock  
 James W. Ross, Jr. & Marylin M. Howland  
 Sean & Jenelle Rotar  
 James R. & Lisa Schrader  
 Daniel Shaw  
 Gabriela Sincich  
 William B. and Melissa M. Skrobbutt  
 John T. & Jane M. Smith  
 James J. & Liz Solberg  
 Arlan N. Stavnheim  
 Shirley Sterling  
 Allyson M & Alex Steselboim  
 Brad & Cheryl Talley  
 Jane A. Turner  
 Gary W. and Barbara G. Tyner  
 Brigitte M. White  
 Ronald & Sonja L Wiegand  
 David Windhorst

## AWARDS FOR YEARS OF DONATIONS (presented at the Annual Meeting)

### 5 Years

Gary Brouillard  
 Robert and Jeremy Massey  
 Sean and Jenelle Rotar  
 William and Melissa Skrobbutt  
 Gary and Barbara Tyner  
 Bridgette White  
 Lafayette Life Foundation

### 10 Years

Norbert and Carolyn Fisher  
 Kristel Kaye  
 Frank and Judith Koontz  
 Gene Kroeschen  
 James Ross and Marylin Howland  
 Wabash River Enhancement Corp.  
 Laf. - West Laf. Urban Forestry Endow.

### 15 years

Edward and Sue Eiler  
 Fisher Funeral Chapel and Cremation  
 Risk Family Foundation

### 20 Years

Raymond and Christina DeCarlo

**2025 Board of Directors:**

Shirley Sterling, President  
Caroline Kester, Vice President  
Bill Arthur, Treasurer  
Pat Rosebrock, Secretary  
Barry Bruce, Past President  
Doug Poad  
Zach Nemeth  
Cheryl Talley  
Gene Kroeschen, Exec. Director

**2025 Committee Chairs:**

Bill Skrobbutt, Tree  
open, Marketing  
Pat Rosebrock, Education  
Gene Kroeschen, Development  
Shirley Sterling, Governance

**Advisors, etc.:**

Kris Brown, City Forester  
Orvin A. Lindell, CPA  
Bob Barker, photographer  
Mickey Penrod  
Greg Shaner  
Larry Rose

We are looking forward to a great year in 2025 and to plant at least 250 trees. We will need your help to accomplish this. We will continue our elementary education program and hopefully hold adult education events again this year. It will take our entire team of volunteers and supporters to make this happen. Please help us make a difference—donate or volunteer today! Please tell your friends about the importance and need for trees. To get involved visit <https://www.treelafayette.org/get-involved/>.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**EARTH DAY:** April 25 at 10:00am at McCaw Park

**ARBOR DAY: Volunteers needed!** May 3 at 9:00 am on Pipers Glen Drive. Register online.

For details, check our website at [www.TreeLafayette.org](http://www.TreeLafayette.org) or email [info@TreeLafayette.org](mailto:info@TreeLafayette.org)

**Scan to Donate**



Planting and Promoting  
a Healthy Community



Tree Lafayette  
1915 Scott Street  
Lafayette, IN 47904

