

TOWER GROVE — PARK —

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



# **ANNUAL HIGHLIGHT**

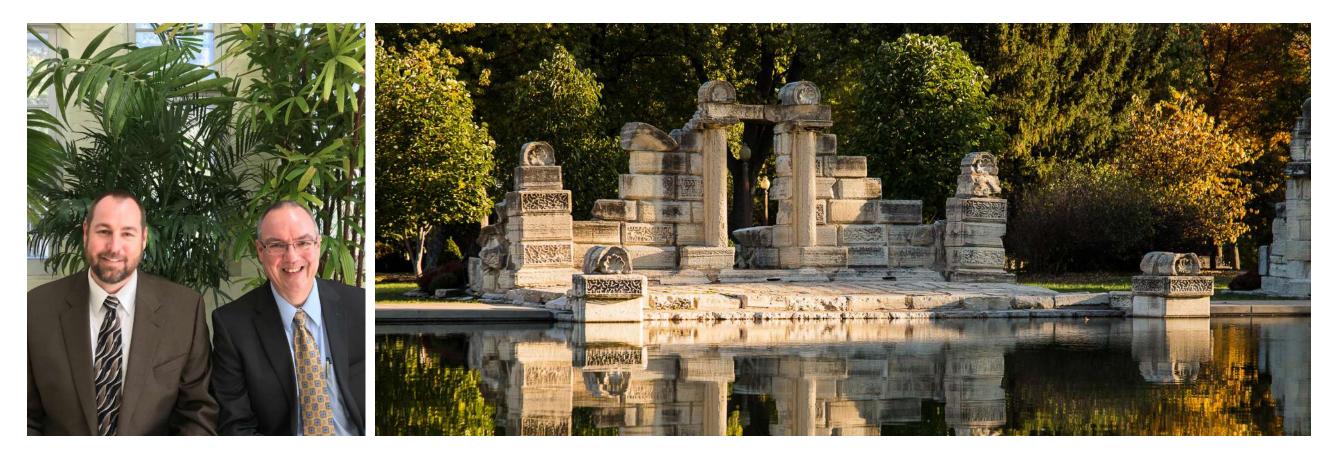
In 2018, Tower Grove Park was named a Level-II Arboretum by ArbNet, the international accrediting agency. The ranking is considered a prestigious indicator of the size, quality and care of the tree collection and its education programs. There are only 74 Level-II Arboretums internationally.

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# From Our Leadership

The role of the public park is to support conservation and community, and to provide and preserve critical green space and natural resources.

True to the philosophy behind the Park, Tower Grove Park connects people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities to accessible programs, facilities and outdoor spaces. All our initiatives support recreation, public engagement, and sustainability in combination with historical preservation of our unique Victorian setting. The 2018 fiscal year was rich in achievements that would not be possible without our members, donors, partners and visitors.

Our urban forest was named an accredited arboretum in March 2018. With over 7,000 trees, ranging from saplings to historic trees over a century old, Tower Grove Park officially became one of only 74 Level-II Arboretums in the world. Our 2.5 million annual visitors can attest to the vast collection and care of the trees, which make our Park a treasured resource for the community.

Partnering with the Atlanta Botanical Garden and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our Arboriculture Team launched a species recovery project to prevent the extinction of critically endangered *Torreya taxifolia*, a species of cedar. We will monitor the cedar trees' growth

and progress with our best practices. Our new arboretum status makes it easier to collaborate with renowned institutions on plant science initiatives.

Built in 1870 and one of the oldest buildings in the Park, our historic stables received grand renovations due to an anonymous donation of \$485,000. The preservation project included rebuilding portions of the deteriorated walls, adding a modern electrical system, and salvaging the original wood paver flooring.

Our expanding science education program welcomed school groups for field trips and workshops. Gradeschoolers learned from our experts about urban gardening, the functionality of a greenhouse, and the environmental impact these things have on our ecosystem. We will continue to cultivate the young minds of future environmental stewards.

Signature and featured events and festivals received over 200,000 visitors. The Park hosted numerous cultural festivals including Festival of Nations, Tower Grove Pride, Pagan Picnic, and the annual Tower Grove Farmers' Market. Our signature events, including Flower Power, Progressive Pavilion Party, Martinis at the Mansion, Terror at Tower Grove Park, and Tower Trot 5K, raised over \$100,000 that support preservation of our historic features. We had over 4,850 rentals of the pavilions, venues, and fields, which provide affordable gathering spaces to neighbors in our growing community. With 12 historic pavilions, three indoor venues, the fountain ruins, and fields, visitors had safe, accessible spaces for events and activities.

It was a busy and eventful year at Tower Grove Park. As we review our progress and accomplishments, we take a moment to admire the majesty and history before us. Donated over 150 years ago, the land holds trees and structures older than us all. Our goal is to ensure the natural and historic features endure for another century, so that future generations can experience the great outdoors and appreciate the public park.

Sincerely,

William Reininger

William E. Reininger, Jr. *Executive Director* 

A.M.M.

Steve Kidwell President of the Board of Commissioners

Left: Bill Reininger, Executive Director and Steve Kidwell, President of the Board of Commissioners.

Right: The ruins and fountain pond.

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# Tower Grove Park is a historic urban park and arboretum

The mission of Tower Grove Park is to be an exemplary, well-preserved and well-presented, wooded Victorian park of international significance that provides important recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for the public in a way that is compatible with its unique and historic character.

Tower Grove Park's landscape of grassy meadows, streams, woodlands with 7,000 trees, and many varied flowerbeds make the Park an important urban green space. The Park is a premier urban and historical destination and is maintained through an annual maintenance program, an urban forest renewal program, and an array of free and low-cost educational, recreational, cultural and social opportunities for schools, neighboring communities, and the St. Louis region.

We hope you enjoy reading about the Park's 2018 accomplishments in community, preservation, conservation, events, education, and more. Thank you for your continued support.

"[Parks serve] not only as ornaments to a great city, but as conducive to the health and happiness of its inhabitants and to the advancement of refinement and culture."

HENRY SHAW (1800-1889) TOWER GROVE PARK'S FOUNDER



Community & Preservation

8

# that joins conservation and community.





Events & Festivals



# Education & Volunteers

14

# Community & Preservation

As a public park and arboretum, we serve the community. Our neighbors and visitors from the region rely on us to provide an important resource— safe, accessible outdoor space. Not only do we offer spacious outside areas, but we have one of the oldest collections of Victorian architecture in the country. Maintaining, preserving and restoring the pavilions, buildings, and structures for public use is a top priority. In the last year, we provided over 4,850 rentals to our community.

One highlight of our last fiscal year was the renovation of our historic stables, one of the earliest buildings at the Park. Thanks to the generosity of the anonymous donor and hard work from Trivers Associates and Hof Construction, this historic structure has been fully and painstakingly restored to its historic glory. The entire exterior was tuck-pointed with appropriate materials and stone replacement, including the rebuilding of the bell gable. New roof, windows, and doors were installed, and architectural lighting added. The building now has all-new electric, plumbing, ventilation, and heat. A horse washing station was added, and the adjacent restroom was renovated. The site was graded to improve drainage for both the stable yard and paddock. Finally, great care was taken to salvage and re-install the original wood paver flooring. The end result is a magnificent renewal of this rare Victorian structure, as well as a more comfortable and accommodating space for both horses and humans.

The Music Stand, a popular pavilion for rentals and private events, had begun to deteriorate from age and weather. The decorative elements of the centerpiece needed replacing. With the help of a grant from Norman J. Stupp Foundation our staff restored the scrolls at the top and the finials on the corners. These pieces were copied using a 3D scanner and re-created using modern machinery.

# <image>

48.000+

social network

followers

12

historic, internationallyacclaimed pavilions

# 44

recreation sites for children and adults

# 2.5 million

annual visitors from St. Louis and around the world







Left: Built in 1872, the historic Music Stand is one of our most popular venues for weddings and gatherings.

# Conservation & Arboriculture

As the second largest urban park in St. Louis, Tower Grove Park sets a leading example for conservation and sustainability. In early 2018, the Park was named a Level-II Arboretum by ArbNet, the international accrediting agency. The ranking is considered a prestigious indicator of the size and quality of the tree collection, its care and education programs. There are only 74 Level-II Arboretums in the world.

Tower Grove Park is home to a large and diverse mature urban forest displayed across 289 acres with over 7,000 trees and more than 300 different tree taxa, including two State Champion trees, a swamp privet (*Forestiera accuminata*) and bigtooth aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Every tree is digitally labeled on a GPS-enabled map viewable on our interactive website, towergroveparkmap.org.

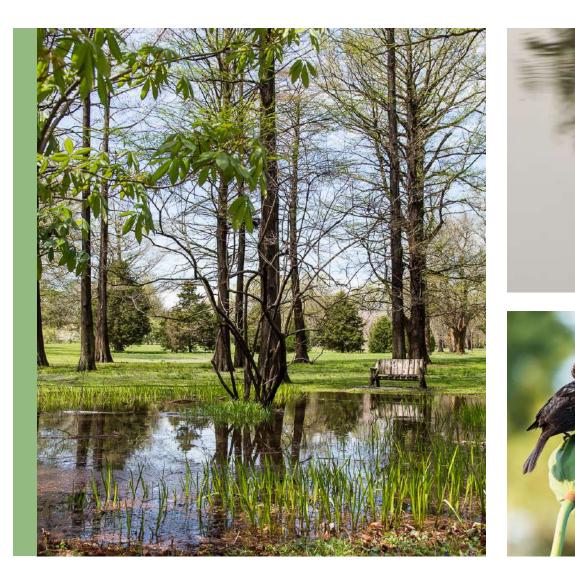
Other highlights include a partnership with the Atlanta Botanical Garden and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to launch a species recovery project to prevent the extinction of critically endangered *Torreya taxifolia*, a species of cedar. Our team of arborists will grow the trees as a safeguarding collection that will be used as a seed orchard for future conservation work. Our new arboretum status makes it easier to collaborate with renowned institutions on plant science initiatives.

In 2018, the Park was awarded a grant to support the Gaddy Wild Bird Garden and prairie restoration projects through the St. Louis Audubon Society's Cathleen Creley Memorial Conservation Fund. Our team can use seed mixes to sustain a healthy herbaceous layer on the forest floor as well as to continually replenish its neighboring prairies. The introduction of new plants will provide diverse habitat for the 200 species of birds that use the Mississippi Flyway.

# — **7,000+** trees in Towe Grove Park

# 300+

different tree taxa, or type



# 200 +

recorded resident and migrating bird species

# 289

acres of woodlands, prairies, and streams







The waterlilies have grown in the Park pond for over 100 years with many different varieties.

# Events & Festivals

Tower Grove Park welcomes neighbors from our growing, diverse community and from around the world. In 2018, we hosted six new, first-time events in the Park, which brought over 20,000 new visitors. All new events were non-ticketed and free to attend, except one. Between our busiest months of April-November, there were 23 events or festivals.

Our signature and featured events received over 200,000 visitors. We hosted numerous cultural festivals including Festival of Nations, Tower Grove Pride, Taste of Black St. Louis, Pagan Picnic, and the annual Tower Grove Farmers' Market. Our signature events, including Flower Power, Progressive Pavilion Party, Martinis at the Mansion, Terror at Tower Grove Park, and Tower Trot 5K, raised over \$100,000 that supported preservation of our historic features.

In partnership with Tower Grove Farmers' Market, we helped open a new mid-week market every Tuesday from mid-April to early October. This was in conjunction with the annual Saturday morning market, which is the largest farmers' market in St. Louis and welcomes hundreds of regional farm and food vendors.

Every year, we offer a variety of free programming to children and seniors, including the Summer Children's Concert Series (ten weeks), Musical Mondays with the Compton Heights Band (seven concerts), St. Louis Symphony Concert in Piper Palm House (twice a year), and Senior Chair Exercise Classes (twice a week, year-round).

# - **200,000**+ at<u>tended</u>

signature and featured events

# \$100,000+-

raised from signature events



# 10+

free annual programs for the community, children and seniors

# 120,000+ -

Most people in Park for single event: Festival of Nations, August 25 & 26







Charlie Raiser and Jane Gleason at Flower Power, the annual spring fundraiser in the Park.

# Education & Volunteers

An initiative of our Strategic Plan is to grow our science education program for children and adults. We want community and school groups to learn the crucial importance of conservation and science education in engaging and meaningful ways— from observing forest critters and aquatic life, to learning easy ways to recycle, to growing organic vegetables in your backyard.

In the spring, we tested our field trip program with two school groups, a thirdgrade class and a fourth-grade class. A total of over 150 students, ten teachers, and additional parent chaperons participated in these field trips. The school groups learned about horticulture and arboriculture, including the importance of pollinators and the different types of plants and wildlife in the Park. Our goals are to cultivate the young minds of future environmental stewards and teach the importance of sustainability.

In addition to field trips, our Horticulture Team works with Tower Grove Christian Academy to offer an ongoing greenhouse class, where six-grade students learn from our experts about urban gardening, the functionality of a greenhouse, and the environmental impact these things have on our ecosystem.

In partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT), we offer guided educational tours of the Park to docents, student educators, and volunteers.

With over 625 hours of volunteer help valued at over \$15,000, Tower Grove Park was able to plant 15,000 bulbs for the spring. Four corporate volunteer day projects with Monsanto, Trivers, 4 Hands Brewing, and our Board of Commissioners, as well as two youth service learning projects from students at MOBOT and the International Mom's Club, provided important resources the Park could not have otherwise afforded.

# 160+

students or teachers participating in educational programs

# 15,000+

spring bulbs planted by staff and volunteers





hours of volunteer and community service help

# 30

Free birding kits available for school groups

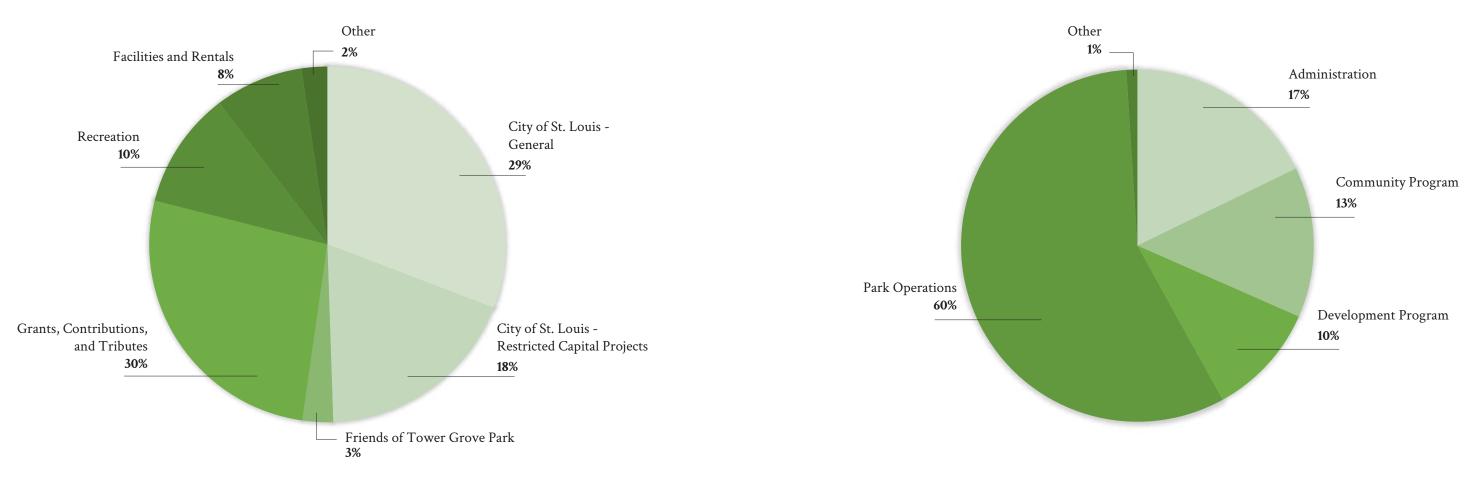






Children from local schools participate in our educational classes and field trips.

# Operating Revenue



2018 OPERATING REVENUE	Fiscal	Fiscal Year: July 2017-June 2018	
PUBLIC SUPPORT			
City of St. Louis - General	29%	\$725,000	
City of St. Louis - Restricted Capital Projects	18%	\$439,321	
PRIVATE SUPPORT			
Friends of Tower Grove Park	3%	\$65,300	
Grants, Contributions, and Tributes	30%	\$746,917	
EARNED REVENUE			
Recreation	10%	\$250,949	
Facilities & Rentals	8%	\$189,133	
Other	2%	\$55,008	
TOTAL	100%	\$2,471,628	

# 2018 OPERATING EXPENSE

Administration Community Program Development Program Park Operations Other

# TOTAL

# Operating Expense

Fiscal Year: July 2017-June 201	
17%	\$393,342
13%	\$305,318
10%	\$229,330
60%	\$1,425,696
1%	\$22,208
 100%	\$2,375,894

# Thank you to our contributors

July 2017-June 2018 Includes gifts made to the Friends of Tower Grove Park.

# TOWER GROVE PARK SOCIETY

Members of the Tower Grove Park Society have made a special commitment to the sustainability of the Park through annual gifts of \$1,250 or more between July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

#### **Director's Circle**

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Ms. Rose Newport

Members of the Tower Grove Park Legacy Society support the Park through planned gifts.

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## **Progressive Pavilion Party** June 9, 2018

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## INDIVIDUAL, FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE GIVING

The following individuals, foundations, or businesses generously supported Tower Grove Park with gifts of \$50 or more between July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

#### \$125,000 Emerson

## \$25,000-\$99,999

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July 2017-June 2018 Includes gifts made to the Friends of Tower Grove Park.

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