



# Urban Leaves

*"Tree News You Can Use"*

SUMMER ISSUE 2021



Vol. 8 No. 3



## NURSERY TIME

The West Lafayette Tree Friends has launched its most ambitious project to date—a tree nursery. This expanded capability will allow the organization to lower costs and plant more trees in the community.

There is no better time to start this project! This year, 2021, is the **30th** year West Lafayette has been designated by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA®. This year, 2021, is the **40th** anniversary for West Lafayette Tree Friends. So, we are growing for the future by raising **\$50,000** to build a municipal nursery. Hence the logo, 30-40-50!

The nursery will have a 102' x 300' production area specifically for growing trees. Tree species will be primarily native, with a few cultivated species for urban areas. Fully planted, the tree nursery will have over 700 trees! Thus, the City and Tree Friends can replace and plant trees at a lower cost with less dependence on purchased trees. A portion of trees will be grown in a pot-in-pot system, enabling us to grow container trees "in-ground." Trees can then be more easily moved for planting. Finally, the nursery will boast a greenhouse to grow native trees, shrubs, and plants from seed.

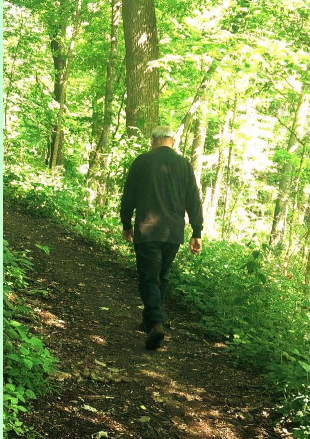
We hope you will join us in support of this campaign by visiting <https://wltreefriends.org/donate/>.

You may also look at the video: [https://youtu.be/c\\_EoYLGfwQc](https://youtu.be/c_EoYLGfwQc)

## BENEFITS OF TREES AND WOODLANDS (The 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series celebrating trees)

We know how important trees are in providing fresh air (releasing oxygen); and in cooling and cleaning the air we breathe. Here are some other benefits of trees:

- Tree leaves and roots hold rainwater and decrease overflow of untreated waste into streams and rivers.
- Trees absorb greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.
- Trees help clean our drinking water.
- Trees give shelter and food to the wildlife we so enjoy.



- Trees have a calming effect, reducing stress and enhancing relaxation.
- Studies have shown that a view of trees can reduce stress at work and even speed up healing for hospitalized patients.
- Trees improve property value by adding beauty while cooling our homes, streets, and neighborhoods.

So, give your brain a break from technology, deadlines, and the many stresses of daily life. Imagine a walk along a cool path at the Celery Bog or sitting in the shade of a tree in your yard and just breathe.

### **CELEBRATE TREES FOR THE MANY BENEFITS WE ENJOY!**

[www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/build-healthy-cities/cities-stories/benefits-of-trees-forests](http://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/build-healthy-cities/cities-stories/benefits-of-trees-forests)



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## **BRYCE PATZ COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND GREENSPACE MANAGER**



As a graduate of Purdue University in Public Horticulture, Bryce started with the West Lafayette Department of Development in 2016, as Neighborhood Greenspace and Vitality Manager. He worked with community coalitions and volunteers (WL Tree Friends), to beautify West Lafayette. A recent grant to expand West Lafayette's urban forestry program resulted in Bryce's promotion to Community Forestry and Greenspace Manager.

Bryce's goals in this new position include continued management and care of West Lafayette's street trees, leading volunteers as they prune and plant, supervising new landscape installations, and overseeing the development of a cost-saving municipal nursery (30-40-50 Project with WL Tree Friends).

Bryce is uniquely qualified for this new position because of his expertise in horticulture, as well as his connections with the Purdue Arboretum, the WL Tree Friends, and neighborhood coalitions. His connection to trees and parks is no surprise since his mother was property manager for several state parks during his youth. Forests were, indeed, his "backyard." Even Bryce's rescue dog, Harley, can enjoy Bryce's love of trees and forests as they visit arboreta, gardens, and parks.

Thank you to West Lafayette Tree Friends City liaison, Bryce Patz, whose leadership and enthusiasm help make West Lafayette healthier and more beautiful.

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# 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EARTH DAY EVENT

West Lafayette Tree Friends was invited to participate in the 8th annual Earth Day Event on April 17, organized by the Russell Company and Reliable Insurance Solutions. The event offered document shredding, recycling of electronics, and drop-off of old prescriptions to the West Lafayette Police Department. WL Tree Friends were excited to raise awareness of our urban forest and to accept donations to help plant trees in West Lafayette. We were deeply gratified by the generosity of participants, as over \$1,600 was raised! Donations went directly towards our spring planting in 2021. A huge thank you to our supportive donors and to the organizers of this important event!



## 2021 URBAN LANDSCAPE STEWARDS



West Lafayette's Urban Landscape Stewards, Molly and Ian, have been working hard this summer to maintain the City landscapes. Their projects to date are landscape beds on State Street and River Road, including the roundabout on River Road; as well as the newly installed planters and plantings on River Road, Farmers Market, and Wiggins Street. They also prune trees in the public right of way, along with West Lafayette Tree Friends volunteers. Their work is vital, as our greenspaces help manage stormwater, increase ecological function, and beautify the city. If you see Molly and Ian in the "tree truck," give them a wave! For questions or comments about the program, contact the Community Forestry and Greenspace Manager, Bryce Patz, at [bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov) or 765-775-5170.



## SPRING/SUMMER TREE CARE

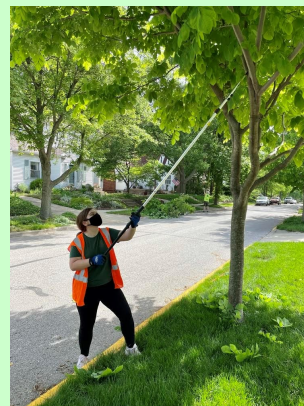




## SPRING PRUNING

West Lafayette Tree Friends and City staff completed our annual Spring pruning session from mid-April through the end of May. We pruned over 638 young street trees, pulled 15 stakes, and collectively contributed 90 volunteer hours to our growing urban forest. Though it was hard

work at times, we had a blast! Want to join in on the fun this Fall? Have no experience pruning? No problem! Contact us at [chair@wltreefriends.org](mailto:chair@wltreefriends.org) or [city@wltreefriends.org](mailto:city@wltreefriends.org) for more information.



For pruning your own trees, Google "Purdue Extension Tree Pruning."



## WATERING IN SUMMER

The heat of summer is often unkind to the urban forest and landscapes, especially newly planted trees. Prolonged drought can result in damage or death to part of or all of a tree.

- Watch for dry, wilting leaves as a sign of drought stress.
- Water when rain is less than an inch a week.
- Replenish mulch to conserve moisture, discourage weed and grass growth, and cool the soil (aiding in root growth). Mulch should be 5 inches away from the tree trunk and no more than 2-4 inches deep.

For more complete information, Google "Purdue Extension Tree Watering."

***Save young street trees and your own plantings with a frequent drink!***

**Visit our Website**



**DONATE**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

West Lafayette Farmers Market Cumberland Park	Wednesdays Through October	3:30 – 7:00
WL Tree Friends Open Meetings In-person at WL City Hall OR virtual	August 10 September 14 October 12	12:00 – 1:00 12:00 – 1:00 12:00 – 1:00

(Call Bryce Patz at 765-775-5161 to arrange for online connection)

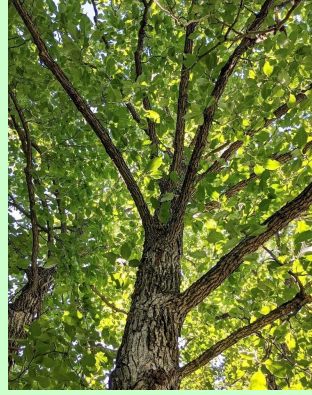
## IN CLOSING...

The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life.

Rabindranath Tagore, 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature



## LET'S PLANT MORE TREES !!



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*Finally, a favor to ask. If you like this newsletter we send you, would you forward it to a few friends who perhaps don't know about it? They can sign up to receive it themselves [right here](#). Thanks.*

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

Show your appreciation for someone with a Tribute Tree, and make a contribution to the health and beauty of West Lafayette. [For more information](#)