



**WEST LAFAYETTE
TREE FRIENDS**
Planters • Pruners • Protectors

Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

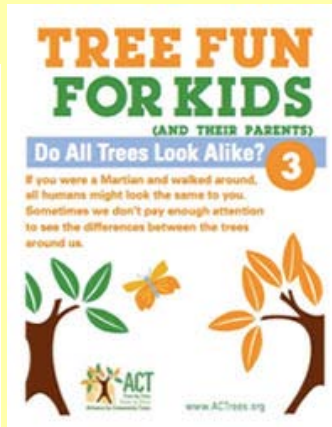
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Learning about Trees Helps Children to Learn

When children spend hours indoors with entertainment media, they are missing out on outdoor activities that are good for their bodies and brains. To encourage kids to learn about and enjoy the natural world, teachers, groups and others, such as Project Learning Tree, Kidzone, and ACTrees, have developed websites devoted to providing resources, activities, and lesson plans, many of which focus on learning about trees. These materials range from those appropriate for pre-schoolers through to those for high school students.

A sampling of some of the sites that are available:

- * [Project Learning Tree](#)
- * [Kidzone](#)
- * [ACTrees](#)



Why are these activities important? As explained on the Project Learning Tree website: "Studies show that curriculums with an outdoor learning component drastically improve overall student performance, particularly in science and math, including test scores." A good way to start exploring the outdoors is by learning about the trees all around us in West Lafayette, a Tree City.

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Quick Links

Fun tree things for kids

[Tree Jokes](#)
[KidZone Science-Trees](#)

To learn more go to the
[Tree Friends website](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

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Meet A West Lafayette Tree Friend Don Franzmeier



Growing up in northwestern Iowa, along the heavily wooded bluffs of the Mississippi River, greatly influenced my love of trees. Later at the University of Minnesota, my graduate studies focused on soils and fertilization of trees. You might say I worked my way down to the bare roots!

WLTF naturally caught my attention and as a long-time resident of West Lafayette I joined several years ago. It has been a great way to serve the

community volunteering with interesting people, enthusiastic in their appreciation of the environment and, of course, trees. We enjoy the outdoors and with the able leadership of Bev Shaw and President Lynn Layden, we have an opportunity to impact the health and beauty of the WL urban forest. It continues to be a very rewarding and educational experience, and we have fun too!



My wife and I are active in the Northwestern Heights Neighborhood Association where, unfortunately, we have some of the largest ash trees in the city. Like Tree Friends we are interested in replacing those dying trees, a long term project in our neighborhood and throughout West Lafayette.

The West Lafayette Tree Friends Celebrate Arbor Day

April 25, 2015 is Arbor Day throughout the world. In West Lafayette, an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony will take place on Friday, April 24th, at 10 AM, along the trail at the intersection of Yeager and Kalberer Roads. The public is invited to attend and participate.

This is the second planting in the Tree Friends' Tree Trial area where they are testing cultivars to see which are suited

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to the climate and soil of this area. Trees being trialed include a variegated black gum and a thornless, fruitless Osage orange. Tags and information about each tree will be available.

The West Lafayette Tree Friends, Purdue Student Society of Arboriculture and the Parks and Recreation Department will assist with the planting. Mayor John Dennis will read the official Arbor Day Proclamation.

Arbor Day began in 1805 when a Spanish priest, according to various sources, was "convinced of the importance of trees for health, hygiene, decoration, nature, the environment, and customs [and decided] to plant trees." In dozens of countries around the world and hundreds of cities in the United States, people continue to plant trees on Arbor Day for similar reasons.

