

# Gateway to the Arch

Bigger, better museum  
and visitor center welcomes  
world to St. Louis'  
best-known attraction



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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GRAND REOPENING

# ‘THIS IS SOMETHING SO SPECIAL’

*Years in the making, the Gateway Arch museum and entry reopens*



The entryway to the new Gateway Arch museum, shown May 21, offers a view of downtown St. Louis.

RYAN MICHALESKO • [rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com](mailto:rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com)

BY VALERIE SCHREMP HAHN • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Since workers fitted the final piece of the Gateway Arch into place on Oct. 28, 1965, we’ve come to look at that gleaming ribbon of stainless steel as a symbol. A gateway. § Sometimes, it’s easy to look right through it. § “We’ve all been looking at it for 52 years,” said St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. “This is an opportunity for St. Louisans, our visitors and our businesses to see the Arch in a whole new light.” § Krewson sees the renovated Gateway Arch grounds and museum, which opens Tuesday, as not just a symbol, but a catalyst. She already sees more people walking across



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**RYAN MICHALESKO** • [rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com](mailto:rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com)

The Gateway Arch is visible from the curved, glass entryway to the new museum.

the grassy lawn that leads directly from the Old Courthouse to the new Arch museum entrance, which faces downtown.

She's already taken in that new view of her city.

"When you walk through the front door and turn around and look back downtown, it's so fabulous."

It's no accident the Gateway Arch's new tagline is "See Differently." Within our region, a visitor comes to the Arch every six to 10 years. About 1.4 million people visited the Arch in 2017, a sharp drop from nearly 3.5 million visitors in 2000.

National Park Service and city officials want to see those bigger numbers again.

The museum opening is one keystone in the latest \$380 million evolution of the Arch grounds, which were cleared starting in 1939 to make way for a memorial to western expansion. Next on the list: gallery and accessibility improvements to the Old Courthouse, with a completion target of 2020.

The latest improvements were meant to improve access and to revamp the underground museum, where little had changed since it first opened in August

1976. Even then, a Post-Dispatch critic wrote it was a "big, expensive disappointment."

It's added 46,000 square feet to the old space, just over 103,000 square feet. It will no longer contain those talking, animatronic historical figures or the horse with the ears that had been reattached more than a few times.

The curved, glass entrance draws visitors inside and gradually underneath the Arch to the new museum. Workers started digging at it after the first ceremonial groundbreaking in April 2015.

Inside, you'll see a mezzanine with a terrazzo floor that shows a map pioneers took on their journeys west. Giant video screens will show parts of the western expansion story. The mezzanine can accommodate up to 800 people for seated dinners, something difficult to do before.

The main gallery tells the story of St. Louis and the move west in six themed areas, from French colonial times to the construction of the Arch. It includes a model of the riverfront as it looked in 1852 and a replica French colonial home built with vertical logs.

Stones from the riverfront's Old Rock

## OPENING DAY

The new Museum at the Gateway Arch opens to the public Tuesday after a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. at the new West Entrance. After the ceremony, there will be a celebration in the North Gateway park area with food trucks, games and live music.

Attendees at the opening day ceremony will receive a special coin commemorating the historic event (while supplies last). There'll also be 1,000 grand-opening day cookies (first come, first serve) at the North Gateway celebration for visitors.

## MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING

**WHEN** • 10 a.m.

**WHERE** • The West Entrance plaza in Luther Ely Smith Square at Gateway Arch National Park.

**WHAT** • The ribbon-cutting will feature remarks from the National Park Service and the Gateway Arch Park Foundation. St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith will serve as master of ceremonies while local, state and national dignitaries will also be in attendance to commemorate the project completion. St. Louisan Charles Glenn will sing the national anthem.

## GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION IN THE NORTH GATEWAY

**WHEN** • 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WHERE** • North Gateway park area at Gateway Arch National Park, near Eads Bridge.

**WHAT** • Following the opening ceremony, the Normandy High School Marching Band will lead a public procession from the new Gateway Arch West Entrance to the North Gateway for the family-friendly party.

Activities include live music from Boogie Chyld, food trucks and drink vendors, appearances by Fredbird and Louie, scavenger hunt throughout Gateway Arch National Park, photo booth, face painters, caricature artists and oversized lawn games.

## PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

**Parking options** • Go to <https://getaroundstl.com/attractions/parking> for a list of preferred parking locations near the Arch. The nearest parking is at Kiener West Self Park Garage and Kiener East Self Park Garage.

**Biking** • Bike racks can be found in and around Gateway Arch National Park. Bike-share programs are also great options to get to Gateway Arch National Park.

**MetroLink** • Gateway Arch National Park can be accessed via the Laclede's Landing MetroLink station. There's also a nearby station at Eighth and Pine.

**Weather** • If inclement weather occurs, the ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place inside the Arch Visitor Center.

**Road closures** • Due to America's Birthday Parade and Fair St. Louis, there will be road closures near the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse throughout the week of July 2. Go to [www.fairsaintlouis.org](http://www.fairsaintlouis.org) and [www.americasbirthdayparade.com](http://www.americasbirthdayparade.com) for more information.

**Accessibility** • During the July 3 grand opening event, a designated drop-off area for people with disabilities will be located at Fourth Street and Market, across the street from the Old Courthouse.

**Cooling Buses** • Metro cooling buses will be available at Fourth Street and Chestnut until 2 p.m. July 3 for those who need to cool off during the grand opening festivities.

**Tram tickets** • Buy tickets in advance by visiting [www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets](http://www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets).

**Gateway Arch hours of operation** • Gateway Arch hours of operation will vary this week (last tram leaves approximately one hour before closing).

**Monday, July 2** • 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 3** • Noon-10 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 4** • 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Thursday, July 5** • 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

**Friday, July 6** • 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Saturday, July 7** • 8 a.m.-8 p.m.





**The Arch and the redesigned circular entrance to the museum is seen from a helicopter over downtown St. Louis on June 5.**  
**DAVID CARSON**  
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House, built in 1818, were used to re-build a replica of its facade. Visitors can climb in and out of a dugout canoe, peer at butterfly wings through magnifiers and feel pieces of pottery dating from the mid-1850s, found when workers dug into the earth for the museum expansion.

There's a renovated gift shop, a new cafe serving St. Louis favorites like ribs and toasted ravioli, and new classroom and office space.

Admission to the museum will be free, though it will still cost to ride the elevator to the top. Even at the museum, you can still experience what it's like to be 630 feet up. Stand inside a replica of the final piece and see a livestream of the view. The original blinking red light for alerting aircraft now blinks on top of the replica. An LED light sits atop the Arch now.

The \$176.4 million that went into the new museum and visitor center is the largest part of the \$380 million project. And while much of the work went on underground, Eric Moraczewski, executive director of the Gateway Arch Park Foundation, says he still talks to people who don't know there's anything going on at the Arch at all.

"The hardest part for me is letting the community know that this is something so special," he said. "We hear, 'Oh, this is such an expensive sidewalk.' It's more than just a sidewalk."

About two-thirds of the money came from private donors. City and county voters in 2013 approved a proposition to kick in \$85 million in sales tax revenue, and federal and state grants paid for the rest.

The Gateway Arch Park Foundation led the capital campaign and managed the money for the renovations, and now it's transforming into a conservancy, something like Forest Park Forever, to get people engaged with the space.

They're already hosting Kiener Kids and sunrise yoga events at the renovated Kiener Plaza. They're building a membership program and hosting members-only events, like a brunch preview of the new museum in May.



FILE PHOTO

**Rays from a 30-inch carbon arc searchlight produce more than 400 million candlepower, creating an aurora borealis-like effect March 9, 1965, above the St. Louis riverfront.**



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**A new interactive feature in the Gateway Arch lobby will allow patrons to view a live feed from the top of the Arch in an accessible setting.**

But the draw isn't just special events. Since the removal of a parking garage at the north end of the park grounds, it's easier to get off MetroLink and walk straight onto the Arch grounds, where paths meander around an amphitheater and down to the riverfront. Some drinking fountains include spigots to fill water bottles and ones closer to the ground for dogs.

In March, a new land bridge — the "lid" or "Park over the Highway" — opened between the Old Courthouse and the new Arch entrance. Before, people had to cross a pedestrian bridge and Memorial Drive, a sometimes-daunting task.

"People were taking taxis from the Hyatt (hotel) to the Arch," Moraczewski said. "Now, it's 75 steps."

It's those changes they hope will draw everyday visitors, who might think nothing of a stroll to the Arch.

"I think one of the most important things about this project is it really does feel like the museum and the Arch is downtown. It seems so close," said Scott Newman of Cooper Robertson, the lead architect for the museum. "We always think about how architecture makes cities. It's a piece of a city you're making."

They were on a team led by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates of New York, which won the competition for the redesign in 2010. James Carpenter Design Associates, St. Louis-based Trivers Associates and exhibits designer Haley Sharpe also created the museum.

Moraczewski notes how the Arch has hosted events where the public can meet the designers and engineers behind the Arch. He wonders if 50 years from now, they'll host events for the public to meet the people behind the new museum and grounds redesign.

Meanwhile, he knows people already see the Arch, and hopefully St. Louis, differently.

"It used to be, I came to the Arch," Moraczewski said. "And now, it's 'I want to come to the Arch and come to the museum.'"





# MONUMENTAL TRANSFORMATION: Builder Perspectives from McCarthy

As a primary general contractor of the Gateway Arch's redevelopment, McCarthy Building Companies had a unique, hands-on perspective of this remarkable transformation.

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# Visiting the Arch? These relics rock

BY VALERIE SCHREMP HAHN • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**W**e asked Gateway Arch historian Bob Moore to name the top, must-see artifacts on display at the newly expanded museum. Some are old favorites, some are items never before put on display, and others are items discovered while digging at or near the museum site. They all help tell the story of St. Louis and its role in shaping the American West.

## THE FRED FAUSZ COLLECTION OF FUR TRADE ITEMS

Fausz, an associate professor of history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, loaned many of his best objects from his lifetime of collecting fur trade items. Among the more than 40 objects are silver crosses, beads made in Venice, a beaver pelt and a beaver hat dating from the 1830s.

## FRENCH COLONIAL ARTIFACTS RECOVERED FROM SOUTH OF THE POPLAR STREET BRIDGE



In 2014, before work began on some Poplar Street Bridge ramps, archaeologists recovered traces of two French Colonial houses. They include pottery fragments, part of a handle from an iron kettle, a lead seal used to close bales of merchandise, gun flints and two carved stone pipe bowls made by American Indians.

## THE TITIAN PEALE COLLECTION OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND CLOTHING FROM THE LONG EXPEDITION OF 1819

Peale, a son of the famous American artist Charles Willson Peale, went on the Stephen Long expedition of 1819, one of the scientific expeditions into the American West following the Lewis and Clark expedition. The museum's collection, which has been in storage about 50 years, includes forceps, specimen containers and a buckskin jacket, shirt and pants he wore on the journey.



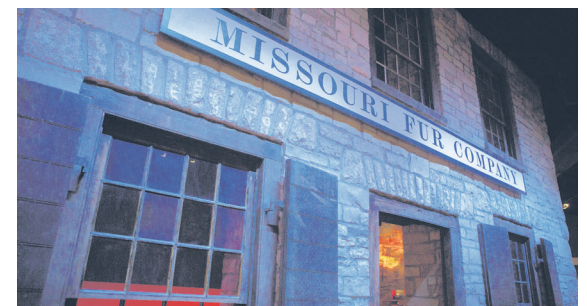
PHOTOS BY RYAN MICHALESKO • [rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com](mailto:rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com)

The new Gateway Arch museum, shown May 21, will feature some old favorites plus items never before displayed.

## THE AMERICAN INDIAN PEACE MEDAL COLLECTION

The museum has always had this collection, and it was once housed in the old museum in the long gallery with the animatronic figures. Now, it's split up according to time period, and includes electronic displays to tell more about them. Peace medals were given to American Indian tribes and leaders by European and American leaders. Americans put images of their current president on the medals. The collection of about 25 medals is spread throughout the museum, and museum officials believe it's the largest collection of Peace Medals outside of the Smithsonian Institution.

## OLD ROCK HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION



A stone building that became known as the Old Rock House went up 200 years ago on what's now the southern part of the Arch grounds. It was razed in 1959, and some of its stones were in storage or on display. Now, they've been rebuilt into a replica Old Rock House facade, and it's a major structure in the museum.





## AN 1840 ORIGINAL BOOK OF MORMON

This book is on loan from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints headquarters in Salt Lake City, and helps tell the story of the early covered wagon pioneers, perhaps as many as a third of whom were Mormon. Many had to work in St. Louis to earn money to keep going west, Moore said. The display contains a profile of Temperance Westwood Moon, a Mormon woman who worked as a nanny for a young Eugene Field in St. Louis before moving to Utah.

## THE STAGECOACH



Built around 1866, this red stagecoach with yellow wheels and highlights was used by Wells Fargo and Company, which has operated in St. Louis since the 1850s. The stagecoach, which was on display in the old museum, was likely used in the Overland Mail route from St. Louis to California. The coach was also used to take visitors to different sites at Yellowstone National Park before it used motor vehicles.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM THE ARCH GROUNDS

While digging to make the entrance to the museum, workers found an old, brick-lined cistern with a charred, wood lid on top. They figured it dated from before the great St. Louis fire of 1849, and was from the Jefferson House Hotel. They found dozens of items, including plates, cups, saucers, inkwells, a whisky bottle, a wine bottle, and a mustard pot from Paris. Because it was such a treasure trove of items, they modified museum plans to include many of the finds, Moore said.



PHOTOS BY RYAN MICHALESKO • rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com

## RECONSTRUCTED STOREFRONT WITH ORIGINAL CAST-IRON COLUMNS

This storefront displays objects typical of what people would have bought in St. Louis if they were on their way west. The iron columns used in the exhibit were once part of the facade of an 1870s-era store on Franklin Avenue, now Martin Luther King Drive. After the great fire of 1849, officials mandated that buildings be made of brick and cast iron. Cast iron was soon replaced by mass-produced steel.

## SAMANTHA PACKWOOD'S SADDLE

Samantha Packwood was just 8 years old when she rode this side saddle on a mule during her family's journey to Oregon in 1844. The child-size saddle, now on display in the storefront, was given to the Arch museum many years ago by her descendants. The family may have passed through St. Louis, but routes out west varied.

## THE BRONCO BUSTER BY FREDERIC REMINGTON

This statue, another artifact from the old museum, is one of the nicer pieces they've ever had in their collection, Moore said. It's an iconic bronze statue by a master artist of the American West and was executed in 1895.

## PILOT'S WHEEL

This large pilot's wheel, which was on display in the old museum, is from a steamboat called the Chickasaw that traveled the Mississippi River. It's a good sample of an artifact that tells the story of St. Louis as a busy river port, Moore said.

## HOPI MOLDED JAR

This jar, by a female potter named Nampeyo from the Hopi tribe in Arizona, was made in the 1940s. She was a master artist who was one of the first to make the designs and styles of the Hopi tribe popular again. The museum has had this jar since the early 1960s, and it has not been on display. It's in a case with several other American Indian-made objects.

## AMERICAN INDIAN BUFFALO HIDE TIPI

The tipi, made by American Indian artisans for the old museum about 10 years ago, replaced a tipi made for the museum when it first opened in the 1970s. The tipi helps tell the story of how people made shelter for themselves and how explorer William Clark displayed a tipi and other objects in a St. Louis gallery upon his return.





PHOTOS BY RYAN MICHALESKO • rmichalesko@post-dispatch.com

Tom Nagel, communications manager for the Gateway Arch Park Foundation, points to a detail in a model of the Arch grounds.



#### REPRODUCTION OF RED CLOUD'S WAR SHIRT

This war shirt with intricate, vibrant beading used to be on display on one of the animatronic figures in the old museum, but the shirt was so spectacular the museum didn't want to put it away, Moore said. Lakota artisans from the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota made the exact replica of the war shirt owned by Red Cloud, a leader of the Oglala Lakota tribe.

#### WOODEN ARCH MODEL FROM THE SAARINEN ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE

This model, which has not been on display before, is one of the many models architects used to figure out the final design of the Arch. As far as anyone knows, all of the models are gone, and this one was in the successor firm when the museum acquired it, Moore said. This model is made of wood, is about 7 feet tall, and is painted light tan.

#### 1948 TABLETOP MODEL OF THE ORIGINAL SAARINEN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

This model hasn't been on display since the 1960s, when it sat in the rotunda of the Old Courthouse. It shows the original proposed design before Eero Saarinen won the competition in 1948. It includes several buildings and features like a Japanese tea garden, restaurants, a campfire theater, museums of American architecture and western expansion, and an area with French Colonial home replicas. Visitors can listen to a narrator reading Saarinen's own description of the proposal.



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THE FUNDING



# The money and the movers

*Public officials, business leaders got behind renovation project*

BY MIKE FAULK

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**P**lans to renovate the grounds of the Gateway Arch have been more than a decade in the making, requiring efforts from some of the region's top public officials and business leaders — and the support of taxpayers.

In 2007, then-Mayor Francis Slay set in motion a process by civic leaders to assess the challenges facing the Arch grounds, including a lack of activity, accessibility and connectivity to the rest of the downtown and riverfront area.

It took several years for public financing commitments to start falling in place. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded a \$20 million grant, which was matched by \$25 million from the Missouri Department of Transportation and \$10 million in private funds raised by CityArchRiver, the conservation nonprofit that later changed its name to the Gateway Arch Park Foundation.

But the project might have never been fully realized without the support of regional voters when they approved Prop P in 2013. It secured \$90 million for the project, in addition to millions more for Great Rivers Greenway, a public agency that constructs and maintains trails throughout the metro area.

The Gateway Arch Park Foundation raised \$250 million in private funds for the project, reaching its goal in January 2016. About \$29 million was put in an endowment for the Arch grounds.

Major donors included Enterprise Holdings, Emerson, the McDonnell family trust and Monsanto. Since then, the foundation has continued raising money for future maintenance and programming.

Leaders had envisioned completing the project by 2015, but there were numerous delays before and after ground

The \$176.4 million visitors center and museum, which opens to the public on Tuesday, is the next-to-last major element completed. The final piece is the \$15 million renovation of the Old Courthouse.

The completed renovation projects, including the north and south park grounds, Kiener Plaza, a new park over



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**St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley (right) celebrates the passage of the Arch-Parks tax alongside Sam Shapiro (left) and Sunny Mehta as they listen to speakers during a party at the Forest Park Visitor Center on April 2, 2013. Dooley lost a bid for re-election in 2014.**

was broken on the project. Disagreements over financing obligations among public agencies at the local and federal level also contributed to the length of the project.

Construction began in September 2014. After numerous delays, the project is nearing completion and appears to be on budget, according to the most recent financial documents provided by the agencies partnering on the project.

the highway, and the riverfront area, were projected at \$186 million in expenses. Of that amount, \$164 million was awarded to contractors.

Great Rivers Greenway spokeswoman Emma Klues said the project is expected to come in at or under budget, "but because it's still actively under construction, we don't know the final precise totals yet."

Klues said 87 percent of the contracts for the work went to local businesses.



## 1. LUTHER ELY SMITH SQUARE



This square west of the Arch now connects to the park grounds, thanks to the walled and noise-protected park over the highway – a lid over the depressed lanes of Interstate 44. It serves as a drop-off point for buses, shaded rest for visitors and bench-filled gathering place for the city.

## 2. LEONOR K. SULLIVAN BOULEVARD



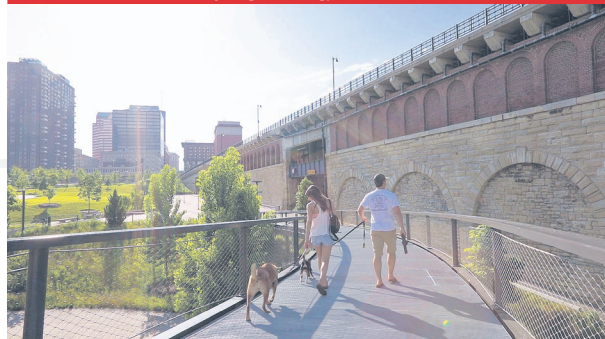
The river road – a 1.5-mile riverfront promenade – was raised mostly out of the floodplain. Flood-resistant benches, lighting and separated biking and walking paths were added. Wide spots allow for food carts, beer gardens and cafes. On the north, it connects to the Mississippi Greenway, providing a 12.5-mile trail that connects downtown to the historic Old Chain of Rocks Bridge.

## 3. CIRCULATION LOOP



A divided biking and walking trail wraps around the Arch grounds and connects to Leonor K. Sullivan at the north and south ends, boosting the exercise appeal of the park and creating a path around the worst floods.

## 4. NORTH GATEWAY



Demolishing a parking garage opened up pathways under the Eads Bridge, connecting Laclede's Landing to the Arch and riverfront. A natural amphitheater is a venue for concerts and events. The Lewis and Clark Explorers' Garden is a series of landscaped pathways scaled for children's play.

## 5. NORTH POND



Reflecting ponds on the Arch grounds used to fill with algae because of poor design. The new park absorbs rain runoff and circulates pond water. The old beetle-vulnerable ash trees were replaced with London plane, a popular shade tree known for its resilience.

# WHAT'S NEW

The expanded museum and visitor center, which opens to the public of the Arch grounds. Only work on the Old Courthouse remains.







# AT THE ARCH?

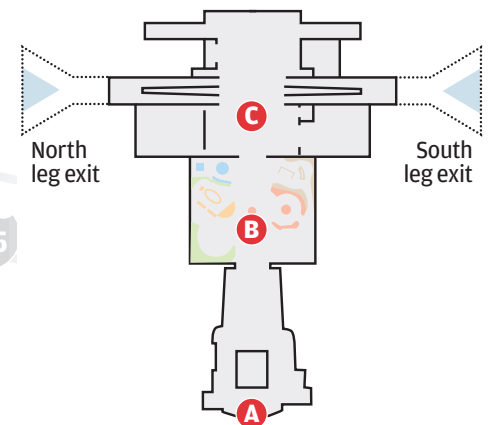
on Tuesday, marks the last major piece of the \$380 million renovation plans. Here's a guide to what's been accomplished in five years:



## 9. MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER



The \$176.4 million upgrade provides **(A)** a new glass-walled western entrance to the national monument, offering visitors a majestic view of the skyline. A terrazzo floor displays a map of westward trails from St. Louis and other cities, tracing pioneers' journeys to the West. **(B)** Revamped, interactive exhibits in the expanded museum tell a nuanced story of westward expansion, as well as the history of St. Louis. **(C)** The tram lobby is where visitors can ride to the top of the Arch; a media wall shows videos of the construction of the national monument more than 50 years ago.



## 6. EAST SLOPE PATHWAYS



Snaking down the east hills to the river road are new pathways, which provide gentle slopes and river views. People pushing strollers or using wheelchairs should find an easier path to the river.

## 7. KIENER PLAZA



The revamp includes more open space, a grassy concert area west of the Old Courthouse, a large playground and multiple fountains. More than 140 trees were planted as part of the project. A sunken 500-person amphitheater on the park's west end was removed. A new concert area on the east end holds 2,000 to 3,000 people.

## 8. OLD COURTHOUSE



**STILL TO COME** • In the last remaining piece of the Arch grounds renovation, wheelchair accessibility and exhibit space are planned for the downtown landmark where Dred and Harriet Scott sued for their freedom.



# Arch journeys begin with an app

*Let your smartphone find parking, nearby bikes or transit options for Fair St. Louis and beyond*

BY LEAH THORSEN  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Downloading a couple of smartphone apps and reserving parking spots online could make getting to the Gateway Arch a bit easier this week when the museum opens and Fair St. Louis returns downtown.

In 2015, crews knocked down the only parking garage on the Arch grounds as part of the renovation, eliminating 1,200 parking spots. The demolition cleared the way for 7.5 acres of grass, paths and gardens at the north end of the Arch grounds, and so visitors can walk under the Eads Bridge into Laclede's Landing.

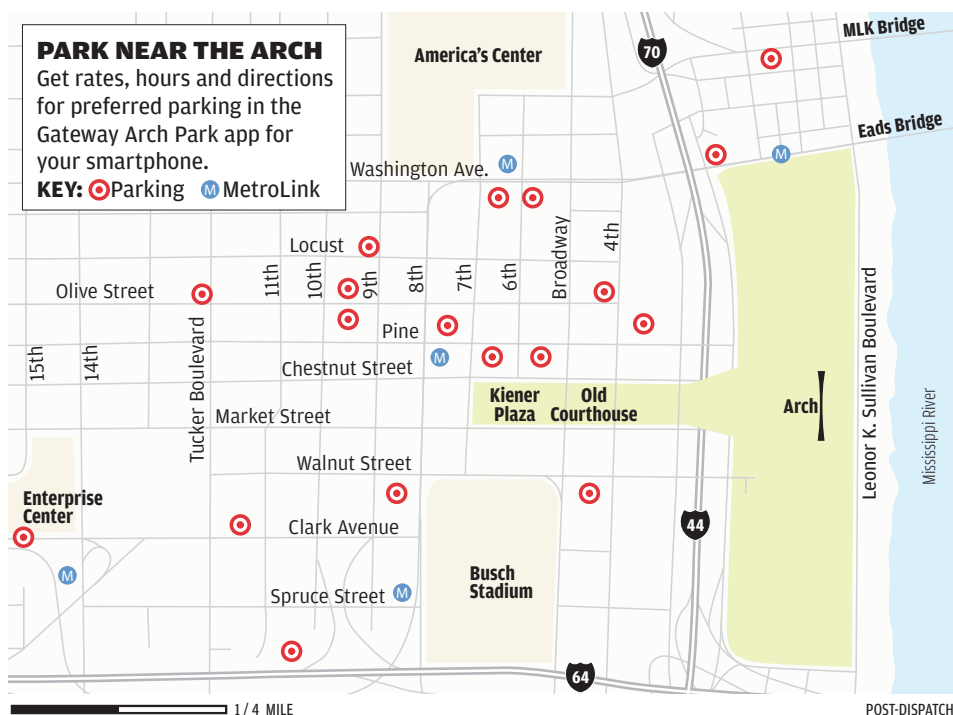
The Gateway Arch Park Foundation has pointed out that downtown garages have more than enough spots to handle the cars that once parked at the Arch garage and that a parking study showed 2,653 empty spaces within a five-minute walk of the Arch grounds on an average day.

"Parking is still readily available, and it's as close as it was before," said Samantha Fisher, a foundation spokeswoman.

She suggested using the Stadium East garage at 200 South Broadway and the Stadium West garage at 215 South Eighth Street. The Kiener Plaza parking garages also are close options — one is at 604 Pine Street, the other at 500 Pine Street.

Keep in mind the new entrance to the museum is on the west side of the Arch. Visitors used to be able to enter through the north and south legs, but no more.

Download the Gateway Arch Park smartphone app, which has



**Demolition of the parking garage on Washington Avenue next to the Gateway Arch is seen from the Laclede's Landing MetroLink station on March 6, 2015. Even without that garage, parking spots in close proximity remain plentiful, the Gateway Arch Park Foundation said.**

CRISTINA FLETES • cfletes@post-dispatch.com

a section devoted to parking, before you go. You can click on 18 downtown garages to find street addresses and phone numbers, descriptions, hours and costs. You also get a list of what's near each garage, including hotels and restaurants.

Cyclists will find plenty of bike racks around Luther Ely Smith Square. Fisher said using bike-share, which came to St. Louis in February, is a good option for getting around as well. Both Ofo and LimeBike are dockless, which means riders use an app to find a nearby bike and bikes don't have to be left at a specific station.

Riders' credit cards are billed based on the time used.

And MetroLink and bus are other options. Check [www.metrostlouis.org/trip-planner](http://www.metrostlouis.org/trip-planner) for the best route from where you're beginning your trip, or download the Metro On The Go app.

Either the Laclede's Landing or Eighth and Pine stations will work to get to Fair St. Louis, which has an entrance on the north side of the Arch grounds, said James Boldt, general chairman of Fair St. Louis 2018.

The festival returns to the Arch grounds this year after four years at Forest Park. You can pre-reserve parking at a reduced rate at [www.fairsaintlouis.org](http://www.fairsaintlouis.org). Boldt also suggested checking out [getaroundstl.com](http://getaroundstl.com) for help planning your trip.

When walking from downtown to the Arch, don't forget there's a new "land bridge," also called a lid, over Interstate 44.

Keep in mind, you won't have to fight baseball fans for parking this week — after today, there are no home Cardinals games until July 13.



# ‘I HEART MY ARCH’

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

We received over 600 reader submissions in our “I Heart My Arch” photo contest, presented by McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

Some were creative, some were classic and others were skillful; but all captured that familiar feeling of home.

Congratulations to our winners. • The Arch. What’s not to love?



### GRAND PRIZE: SELECTED BY OUR READERS

**Title:** “Purple Haze”

Zack Zurfluh, Kirkwood, Mo.



### RUNNER UP:

#### SELECTED BY OUR STAFF

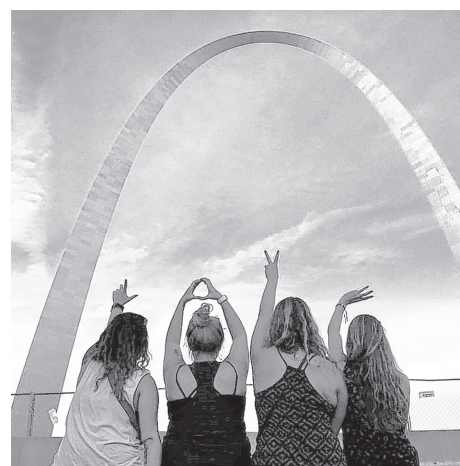
**Title:** Michael “Hill” Kennedy II,  
enjoying some STL spring sunshine  
Rachel Kennedy, St. Louis, Mo.



### RUNNER UP:

#### SELECTED BY OUR STAFF

**Title:** “Sunrise Yoga”  
Justin Barr, Florissant, Mo.



### HONORABLE MENTION: SELECTED BY OUR STAFF

**Title:** “LOVE the Arch”  
Nicky Chew, Bridgeton, Mo.





# ‘Tremendous potential’

*The Arch grounds are finished. Will more downtown visitors and investment follow?*



DAVID CARSON • [dcarson@post-dispatch.com](mailto:dcarson@post-dispatch.com)

**The fountains surrounding the Olympic Runner statue bubble up at the redesigned Kiener Plaza that opened to the public last year after a \$23.7 million renovation. The fountain now features LED lighting that can change colors.**





DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com

**Kenneth Moore, 7, of Jennings, runs across the redesigned Kiener Plaza that opened to the public on May 19, 2017. The new Kiener Plaza features 75,000 square feet of pavers made from granite, marble and concrete.**

**BY JACOB BARKER**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

After five years and \$380 million, the wait is over. Will the revitalized Gateway Arch grounds — featuring a new pedestrian connection to the Gateway Mall and a gleaming new museum — reconnect the region's residents to downtown and its urban park?

Will more visitors stop in our city to see this unique monument to westward expansion? Will they stay in the area, eat at restaurants and explore downtown's other attractions and Gilded Age architecture? Will investment and development follow?

The open house, so to speak, comes this week, with the grand opening of the Arch museum and the return of Fair St. Louis to the riverfront. Time will tell what kind of return the reinvestment in our city's symbol — including \$200 million from private donors and \$85 million from local taxpayers — yields.

"The fact that this is all fluid now, that

it's a park that just kind of unfolds into the downtown, is going to give us a lot of opportunity to attract people that otherwise wouldn't have come," said Missy Kelley, president and CEO of Downtown STL Inc. "Once people are down here, they come for one reason, then they see all the other assets that downtown St. Louis has to offer, not to mention beautiful buildings to look at and beautiful buildings to eat at or shop in. I think there's wonderful opportunity for our downtown economy to take a very positive turn because of this."

The project was the largest in National Park Service history and the first to be backed by a local tax. The Park Service, at the time, saw it as a model to reconnect urban parks with their cities.

The investment was designed, in part, to reverse years of declining attendance at the city's most prominent attraction, with the number of visitors sliding from the 3 million a year range in the 1990s to the 2 million range by the latter part of the 2000s. Construction on the Arch grounds, which limited access, pushed that number even lower. In 2016, only 1.2

million visitors came to the Arch — the lowest number recorded by the National Park Service since 1965, the year the final piece of the monument was put in place.

Now, downtown is waiting for an uptick. Especially long-suffering Laclede's Landing, the entertainment district on the north end of the Arch grounds.

Access was blocked during construction, a parking garage that served the area and the Arch was demolished as part of the project and the road connection to Washington Avenue was removed. The number of restaurants in Laclede's Landing went from 17 to seven.

"It's just been a rough five years," said John Clark, president of the Laclede's Landing Community Improvement District.

But these days, building owners are getting a few more knocks on the door. A new Mexican restaurant, Mas Tequila, recently opened in the building Clark owns on Second Street. Munsok So, the owner of the Drunken Fish restaurants, has remodeled his building down the street into event space and is close to opening a new

Korean restaurant, Kimchi Guys, and coffee shop, Miss Java, on the ground floor.

Advantes Development Group, led by Brian and Mike Minges, is turning Metro's old headquarters into 50 apartments and more office space for Abstrakt Marketing Group, which is adding about 100 employees in Laclede's Landing. Investors are considering turning other buildings into apartments.

Now, with an enhanced pedestrian connection between the Arch grounds and Laclede's Landing, the bars and restaurants on the Landing are looking forward to the revamped Arch's opening day party as Fair St. Louis heads back downtown.

"When I had (restaurants) Jake's (Steaks) and Boomer's, we used to do a lot of business from that whole party," Clark said. "I think people will want to see the Arch grounds."

And south of the Arch grounds, others see opportunity for Chouteau's Landing, the semi-neglected patch of industrial and underused buildings north of the MacArthur railroad bridge.

Commercial real estate firm CBRE is marketing a package of 19 properties on 12 acres there as a redevelopment opportunity. Retail to serve downtown and Souldard or a mixed-use residential area make sense, said Matt Bukhshtaber, a CBRE executive vice president. Completion of the Arch grounds "definitely helps."

"To be directly south of the Arch grounds, to have highway visibility ... it's tremendous potential for redeveloping that district," Bukhshtaber said.

Kelley, at Downtown STL, said ongoing investments downtown were already informed by the understanding that the Arch and its new museum were going to be opening around this time. Several hotels, a new aquarium in Union Station and apartments and office space in Ballpark Village are all underway.

Now, it's time to show off the new Arch, the revamped Kiener Plaza, and other recent downtown amenities to St. Louisans at the Fair. The hope, Kelley said, is they'll keep coming back.

"It's like the best open house you can possibly have for the Arch grounds," she said.



# Saarinen's dream included Illinois

*Efforts are still alive — but barely — to incorporate East St. Louis riverfront into Arch grounds*

BY LEAH THORSEN  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

When plans to redesign the Arch grounds were first floated a decade ago, the National Park Service and others pushed to include the East St. Louis riverfront. The intent was to fulfill a decades-long quest to stretch the landmark park to the other side of the Mississippi River.

Ideas pitched when renovation plans were in their infancy included aerial gondolas on overhead cables, similar to a ski lift, across the Mississippi just north of the Poplar Street Bridge, linking the two sides of the river.

And there was talk of building a botanical sculpture near the East St. Louis riverfront to mimic the iconic Gateway Arch, a plan embraced by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, a native of that long-struggling city.

None of those plans have come to fruition. There was more momentum, and funding, for work on the Missouri side of the river — so that's where the focus went, said Samantha Fisher, a spokeswoman for the Gateway Arch Park Foundation, which is spearheading the renovations.

But a move is underway to keep alive the idea of the Eco Arch, which has been proposed as a 30-acre sculpture that resembles an arch lying on the ground. The grass-covered structure would be, according to an early summary of the plan, "a botanical echo of the region's most visible landmark."

Among those working to keep that idea alive and get the Eco Arch built is Susan Saarinen, the daughter of the architect who designed the Gateway Arch.

She's on the board of the Eco Arch Foundation, which is working to get a nonprofit established to include East

St. Louis in the Gateway Arch's greater footprint, something Eero Saarinen wanted to do.

"Looking at the site of the Gateway Arch was not enough," said Susan Saarinen, a landscape architect in Golden, Colo., in a phone interview. "He wanted to look at the larger context, and the larger context included the other side of the river"

Including the east side of the river should have happened with this renovation, she said.

Westward explorers came through East St. Louis, and to ignore that fact is ignoring an important part of the history of the United States, Susan Saarinen said.

The Eco Arch concept was developed by Saunders "Sandy" Schultz, a famed local sculptor who died last year at age 90.

He built the first model of the basic development and later asked St. Louis architect Theodore Wofford to join him on the project.

"Sandy and I studied the riverfront and the relation to the east side almost continuously," said Wofford, who keeps a model of the project in his office on South Grand Boulevard in south St. Louis.

Wofford is among the group working to keep his vision alive and is co-chair of the Eco Arch Foundation.

"We have a design and good people on the board," said Wynne Coplea of Springfield, Ill., the other chair. "We need a professional fundraiser to come on board and assist with earliest stages of laying the groundwork for development."

A sketch of that plan shows the project including a theater, an archaeology museum and parking beneath the structure. There is no cost estimate.

"It goes back to Eero Saarinen's dream and to Sandy's dream," Coplea



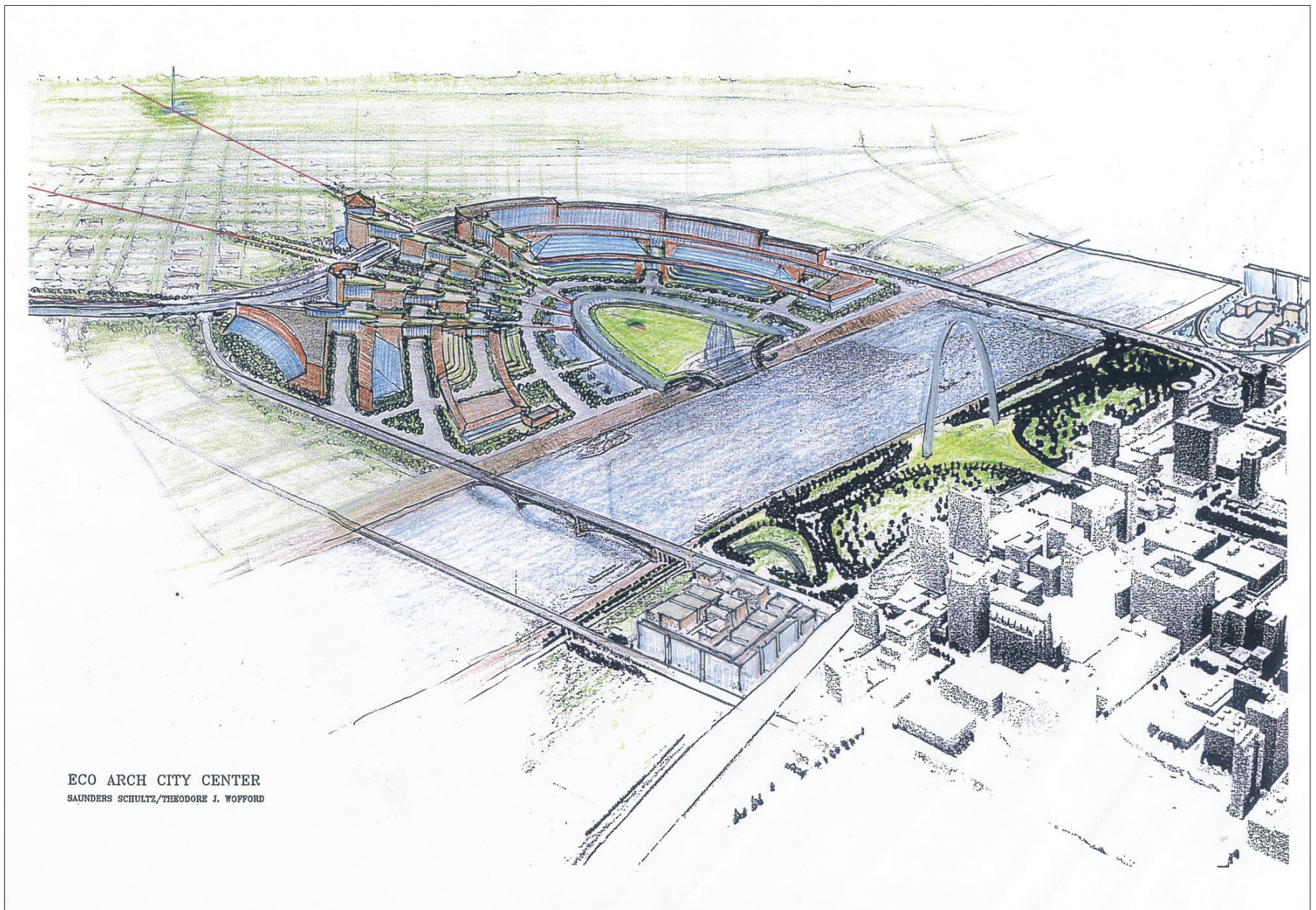
PHOTOS BY CRISTINA M. FLETES • cfletes@post-dispatch.com

Madeline, 3, and Alex Walford, 9, of O'Fallon, Ill., peer west from the lookout in East St. Louis on June 8. The Illinois riverfront has been discussed for Arch-related development.



Workers from Right Way Traffic Control (from left) Austin Lee, 24, of Greenville; Cody Biggins, 24, of Bartelso; and Kyle Rill, 32, of Granite City, install a sign along Front Street in East St. Louis on June 8.





RENDERING BY SAUNDERS SCHULTZ / THEODORE WOFFORD

This rendering of the proposed “Eco Arch” shows a 30-acre site across the Mississippi River from the Arch grounds that would feature a large sculpture and an amphitheater.

said. “It’s practical as well as beautiful.”

In a 2009 letter to the National Park Service, Durbin wrote that the Eco Arch would create “a beautiful vista symbolizing the unity of two cities at the gateway to the west” and called it a vital economic development tool.

Efforts to reach Durbin to learn his current stance on the project were not successful. And East St. Louis officials

also did not respond to requests for comment.

Talk of incorporating East St. Louis into the Gateway Arch grounds goes back decades. In 1987, Congress even approved a vague plan for a national park that called for green space and removal of a grain elevator, neither of which happened.

Instead, work is underway on an \$8.1 million project along the East St. Louis

riverfront to overhaul Front Street from Trendley Avenue to where the road dead-ends in Fairmont City, a project that includes work on connecting roads. One focus of the project is to rebuild and upgrade Front Street for better access to Cargill and Bunge-SCF.

It’s part of the “River Bridge District Project,” which aims to open up several hundred acres of undeveloped, newly accessible ground for investment by

other agribusiness and distribution companies.

One of the best views of the Arch can be seen from East St. Louis near where that construction is happening, from a 40-foot overlook in Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park.

But there are no immediate plans to include East St. Louis in the coming phase of Arch renovations — up next is the Old Courthouse.



# Idea born in the 1930s, realized in the '60s, reimagined in the 21st century

## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



POST-DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

An aerial view of the St. Louis riverfront taken in 1933, when local leaders began discussing a major urban-renewal project to honor President Thomas Jefferson with a riverfront memorial.

**Dec. 15, 1933:** Mayor Bernard F. “Barney” Dickmann, a Democrat, names a committee to lead an effort to build a riverfront memorial to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Republican lawyer Luther Ely Smith, credited with coming up with the idea, heads the group. The goal: Create jobs, clean up the riverfront and get Congress to fund the bulk of the project, estimated to cost up to \$30 million (more than \$500 million today). At the mayor’s invitation, St. Louis historian McCune Gill offers a vision of a memorial populated with statues of Thomas Jefferson, explorers, pioneers, settlers, statesmen and soldiers — and even Gen. Robert E. Lee, who spent time in St. Louis before the Civil War as an Army river engineer.

**Sept. 10, 1935:** St. Louis voters overwhelmingly approve a \$7.5 million bond issue to fund one-fourth of the total cost of the proposed Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. With little to no opposition recorded in some city wards, the election results seem dubious — and, as Post-Dispatch reporters subsequently find, are fraudulent. The newspaper wins a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for its investigation, but the outcome is unchanged despite lawsuits brought by opponents.

**Dec. 21, 1935:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues Executive Order 7523 designating 37 blocks along the St. Louis riverfront as a national memorial. The order makes available \$9 million, including \$2.25 million from the city, to acquire and raze buildings in the footprint of the planned memorial. Demolition, however, doesn’t begin until Oct. 9, 1939. Although the riverfront is cleared by February 1942, World War II and the Korean War delay work on the project for nearly 20 years.



DRAWING COURTESY OF KEMPER ART MUSEUM

A 1948 drawing of Eero Saarinen’s winning design for a 590-foot Arch near the levee and a forested park. When built, the Arch was on higher ground and 40 feet taller.

**June 1, 1947:** An architectural competition for the proposed Jefferson National Expansion kicks off, with \$125,000 in prizes to be awarded by the U.S. Territorial Expansion Memorial Commission. There are 172 entries.

**Feb. 18, 1948:** Eero Saarinen, a 37-year-old Finnish-born architect, is named the winner of the design competition. His plan calls for a 590-foot stainless-steel arch, dubbed “The Gateway to the West,” and other riverfront attractions, including a pioneer village, a campfire theater and two restaurants. Saarinen’s vision evolves over time, and he later raises the height of the monument — an inverted, flattened catenary arch — to 630 feet. Days after the winning design is publicized, New York architect Gilmore D. Clarke notes a similarity to an arch proposed for Rome but never built by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Saarinen calls the comparison “a big joke.”





POST-DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

Workers pour the first concrete in June 1962 for the foundation of the Gateway Arch on the riverfront. The first “pour” was for the southern leg of the 630-foot Arch and continued until the foundation reached a depth of about seven feet.

**June 23, 1959:** Mayor Raymond R. Tucker officiates at a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. A band plays “Meet Me in St. Louis.” The initial work involves rerouting railroad tracks along the riverfront, including open cuts and short tunnels. On Feb. 21, 1961, excavation begins on footings for the Arch. Two years later, on Feb. 12, 1963, the first stainless steel section is put in place on the foundation. And on Oct. 28, 1965, thousands of St. Louisans and visitors gather at the riverfront to watch the final piece of the Arch raised into place. On July 24, 1967, the public gets to ride to the top for the first time. The price: \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children.

**May 25, 1968:** The Gateway Arch is formally dedicated. At the ceremony, moved to the below-ground visitors center because of rain, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey calls the monument “a symbol of America’s determination to have beauty with utility, quality with quantity and humanity with progress. ... None will leave this site without a renewed sense of the elemental qualities of beauty.”

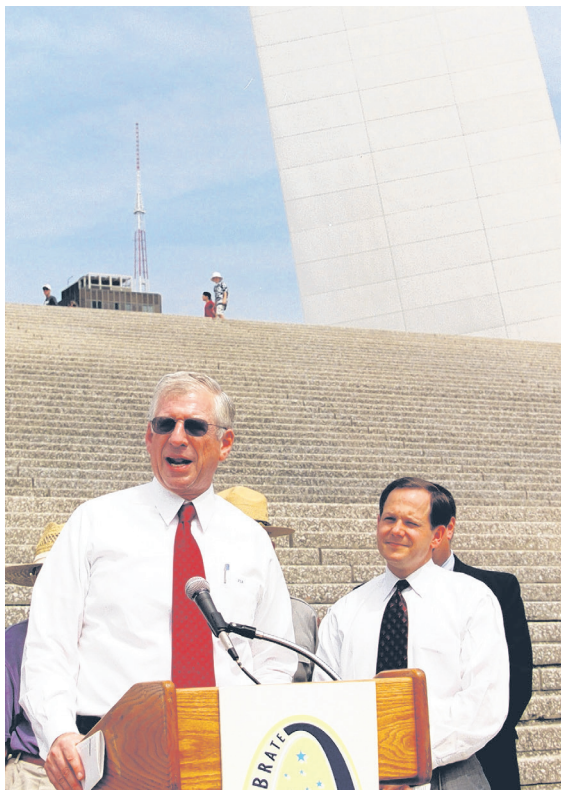
**Aug. 10, 1976:** The Museum of Westward Expansion, adjacent to the visitors center, opens to the public. It’s one of the last unfinished parts of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

**July 4, 1981:** The first Veiled Prophet Fair is held on the Arch grounds. Despite a soaking rain that washed out a Loretta Lynn concert, the sponsors report making a small profit. In 1994, the event’s name is changed to Fair St. Louis.

**June 2, 1987:** The Gateway Arch, the tallest monument in the United States, is designated a Historical National Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Three years later, the Arch receives the American Institute of Architects Twenty-five Year Award for its “enduring significance that has withstood the test of time.”

**June 23, 1999:** An ambitious, billion-dollar plan, proposed by the nonprofit Downtown Now!, calls for a range of new investments in downtown St. Louis, including the addition of a “lid” over the depressed lanes of Interstate 70, providing pedestrian access between the Gateway Mall and the Arch grounds. It’s not the first time a lid has been suggested. And not the last.





POST-DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

**John Danforth, chairman of St. Louis 2004, answers questions in 2002 about completing Eero Saarinen's original plans. At right is Mayor Francis Slay.**

**June 27, 2002:** Former U.S. Sen. John C. Danforth and Mayor Francis Slay announce a privately funded \$2.5 million project to create a broad, grand stairway beneath the Arch. The stairway is described by Danforth, chairman of St. Louis 2004, a civic-betterment group, as the realization of Eero Saarinen's design.

**Aug. 1, 2005:** Danforth says his family's foundation, The Danforth Foundation, will pay for the engineering work and design competition for a plaza-like walkway to connect the Arch grounds and the rest of downtown.

**Aug. 28, 2007:** Danforth and Slay tell the Post-Dispatch that nothing much can be done to transform the Arch grounds unless the National Park Service is willing to surrender control of part of the 91-acre grounds to the city for development. Danforth has urged regional and national leaders to "think big," and add venues to attract visitors, such as cafes, bike rental businesses, an aquarium and an amphitheater. Federal officials, however, are cool to idea of surrendering parkland — and Danforth, who at one time had committed \$50 million of his family's fortune to revive the Arch grounds, backs out by the end of 2008, expressing frustration with the National Park Service.

**Oct. 23, 2009:** The National Park Service releases its 298-page "general management plan," outlining its direction for future development of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. The plan calls for closing part of Memorial Drive to traffic, expanding the underground museum and taking in extra land on both sides of the Mississippi River.

**Dec. 7, 2009:** An international design competition to remake the Arch grounds is launched by a newly formed nonprofit group, CityArchRiver 2015, in conjunction with the National Park Service. CityArchRiver, which set a goal of completing construction by Oct. 28, 2015, is led by Walter Metcalfe Jr., a partner in the Bryan Cave law firm. "This is unfinished business for St. Louis," Metcalfe says. "The park is the one great unifying point that is central to this region. Let's get going and see what happens."

**Sept. 21, 2010:** The winner of the competition to redesign the Arch grounds, which began in December 2009 and attracted 49 teams, is Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. MVVA's plan calls for features such as a riverside cobblestone plaza, an amphitheater, a bird sanctuary and a lid over Interstate 70. At one point, there's even discussion of aerial gondolas to get visitors across the Mississippi River. The sweeping plan will cost an estimated \$553 million, with about \$180 million of that total for improvements to the East St. Louis riverfront.

**April 2, 2013:** St. Louis city and county residents overwhelmingly approve Proposition P — a  $\frac{3}{16}$  of 1 cent sales tax — to provide funding to improve the region's parks and trails. About one-third of the estimated \$780 million raised by the tax over its 20-year life will fund the public portions of the Arch grounds renovation. That portion, about \$9.4 million a year, will fund a roughly \$90 million bond issue. Great Rivers Greenway, the regional trails district, oversees disbursement of tax money.

**Aug. 2, 2013:** With funding in place, a ceremonial groundbreaking that includes U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell kicks off the \$380 million renovation of the Arch grounds. The first project is largely infrastructure: Rerouting roads, building new bridges, and erecting the concrete and steel lid over Interstate 70 (later renamed Interstate 44) and the Park Over the Highway. Fair St. Louis, held on the riverfront since 1981, is moved to Forest Park in 2014 because of the Arch grounds construction.

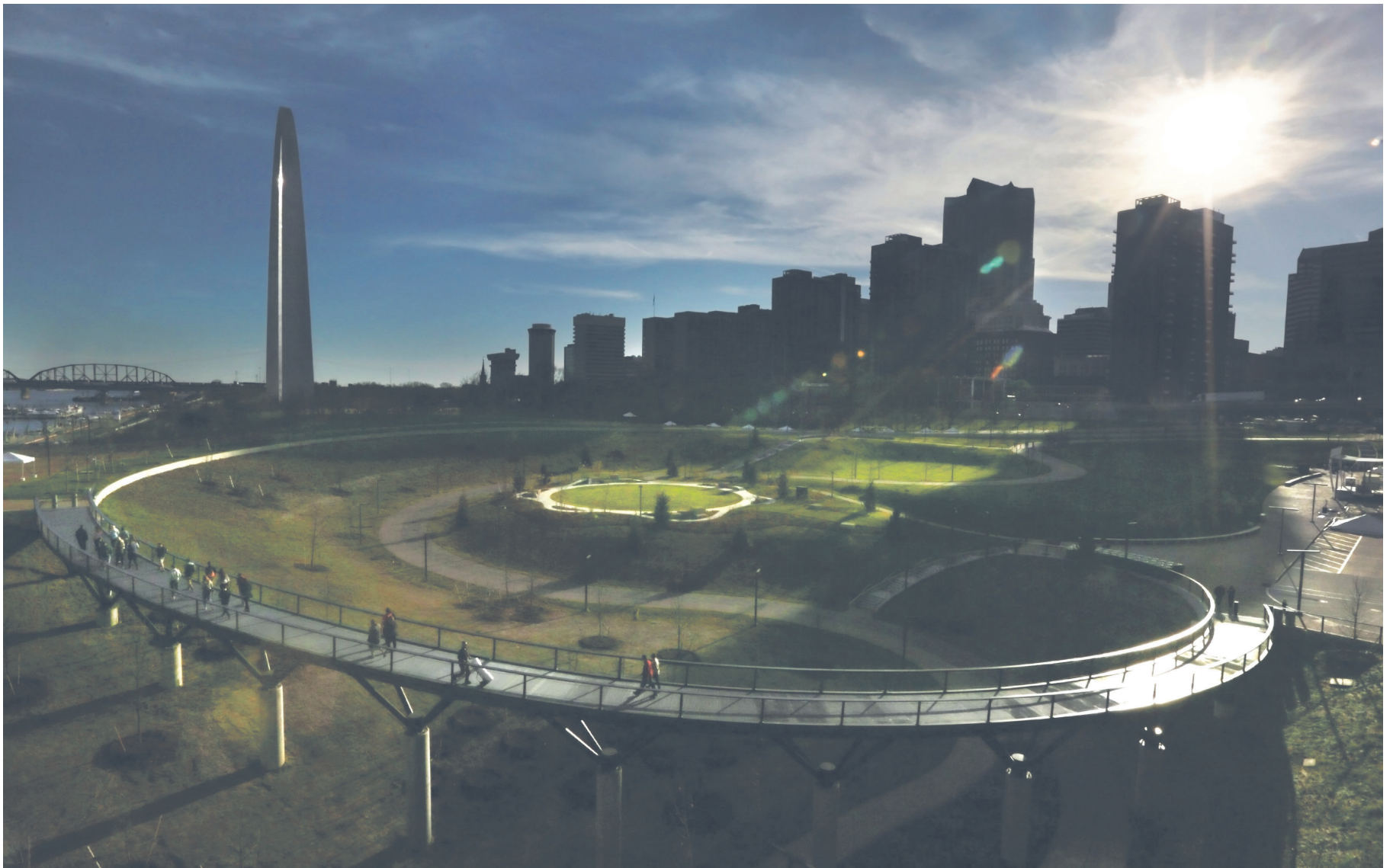
**Nov. 3, 2014:** Construction workers began cutting down ash trees on the Arch grounds. Not only are the trees reaching the end of their life spans, they're also threatened by the invasive emerald ash borer.



RENDERING COURTESY MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH

**MVVA's plans for the Arch grounds call for redoing much of the landscaping, reshaping the riverfront and making the grounds easier to navigate for people with disabilities.**





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**Visitors to the Gateway Arch walk the new elevated walkway in the renovated 7.5 acres on the north side of the Arch in April 2017.**

**Dec. 11, 2014:** Workers complete construction of the bridge over the highway and prepare for the dirt, grass, flowers and trees to come. The bridge, 97 feet wide and 274 feet long, stretches over the depressed lanes of I-44 downtown.

**Feb. 10, 2015:** The Museum of Westward Expansion at the Gateway Arch closes for renovations.

**June 15, 2015:** Andrew Taylor, executive chairman of Enterprise Holdings, succeeds Walter Metcalfe as chairman of CityArchRiver.

**Nov. 25, 2015:** Luther Ely Smith Square reopens. It now runs from the Old Courthouse on North Fourth Street up and onto the Arch grounds. It will lead directly into the new entrance of the Arch visitor center and museum.

**June 3, 2016:** Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard, which had been closed in parts since 2013, is reopened to traffic.

**April 8, 2017:** Hundreds of people attend official opening of the North Gateway of the Gateway Arch park, the first of several scheduled events to showcase improvements. The 7.5-acre North Gateway development includes bike and foot paths, an amphitheater area and routes to Laclede's Landing.

**May 19, 2017:** Kiener Plaza reopens after more than a year of construction and \$23 million spent on remodeling. The revamp includes more open space, a grassy concert area west of the Old Courthouse, a large playground and multiple fountains. More than 140 trees were planted in the plaza as part of the project.

**March 26, 2018:** Construction fencing is removed at the new pedestrian "lid" over I-44, allowing pedestrians to walk from downtown St. Louis to the national park and the Mississippi riverfront.

**July 3, 2018:** After more than three years of renovations, the Gateway Arch Museum reopens to the public on Tuesday. Fair St. Louis returns to the Arch grounds on Wednesday, July 4, and Friday and Saturday, July 6-7.



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