

Ehmen Park awarded state designation

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Gothenburg has long been known for its tree-lined streets. One area just received statewide recognition.

Ehmen Park is now a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Affiliate. The Gothenburg Gardenaires Garden Club are sponsors.

Local club members and the state garden clubs, with the help of NSA personnel and summer interns, are looking forward to researching and documenting details about the various types of trees, according to Nancy Fisher of the Gardenaires, who is District VII director Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

The hope is that visitors, youth and garden enthusiasts of all kinds will have learning at their fingertips and another good reason to stop in Gothenburg's downtown and take a look, Fisher said.

Jeff Kennedy of Kennedy Landscaping, Inc. is conducting a tour of Ehmen Park at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, in conjunction with the state Federated Garden Clubs' annual meeting being held at Gothenburg's Comfort Suites.

The public is invited to come and become informed about this newest Arboretum affiliate. A celebration in the park marking the official affiliation is planned for June.

The affiliate designation means that brochures and flyers and websites will name Gothenburg as a good place to explore the many varieties of trees our past and present arborists have been wise to plant.

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Approximately 100 trees with many of the 40 varieties hearty in this part of Nebraska are planted in the one square block that is Ehmen Park. This park has a most interesting, vital role in the beginning of Gothenburg, and we would like to learn more and widely publicize that history as well, Fisher said.

“Attractions such as this produce shopping, eating and even overnight-stay opportunities for our merchants and businesses,” she said. Gothenburg’s City Council, city staff, Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations are enthusiastic supporters of this new Arboretum affiliate.

The State Arboretum staff is working on a GPS location system to name and describe a variety of tree when standing by it, and the city of Gothenburg is exploring an expanded on-line map system to accommodate increased information available.

“We would be pleased to have those interested, including some of the local youth groups and classes, join the Gothenburg Gardenaires in this endeavor,” Fisher said. “Much fun work to be done.”