

Ehmen Park part of statewide arboretum

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Grants, education & boost to tourism all part of status

Another chapter of Gothenburg tree history was written when Ehmen Park officially became an affiliate of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

A dedication ceremony under a park shelter was Wednesday.

As an arboretum affiliate, brochures, flyers and websites will name the city as a good place to see many varieties of trees, arboretum officials said.

Access to grants, education and attraction of tourists and botanical enthusiasts to town are also part of the package.

State arboretum assistant director of horticulture programs Bob Henrickson described affiliates as places where people see interesting species that can be grown in Nebraska.

Before air conditioning, Henrickson said people planted trees for shade.

“Now you see more people mowing their lawns,” he said. “They tend to forget about the value of trees so we have to keep planting them.”

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TREES ALWAYS PART OF CITY
■ Trees were put out for planting along the curb line of Winchell Street (now Lake Avenue) in 1897 by the Alpha Club.
■ Water from the powerhouse home was carried to Ehmen Park and then to other parts of town for trees in 1890.
■ In 1901-02, villagers were compelled by city ordinance to set out and pay a levy for 600 trees to be planted.
■ The planting of shade trees along streets and a levy to pay for them became city ordinance in 1922.
Six elder and cottonwood trees were burned.
Source: Gothenburg Area



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