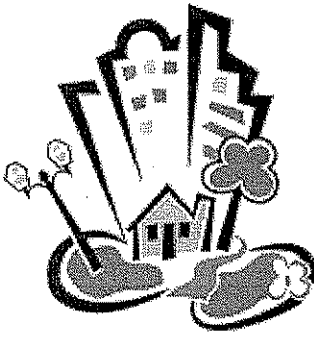


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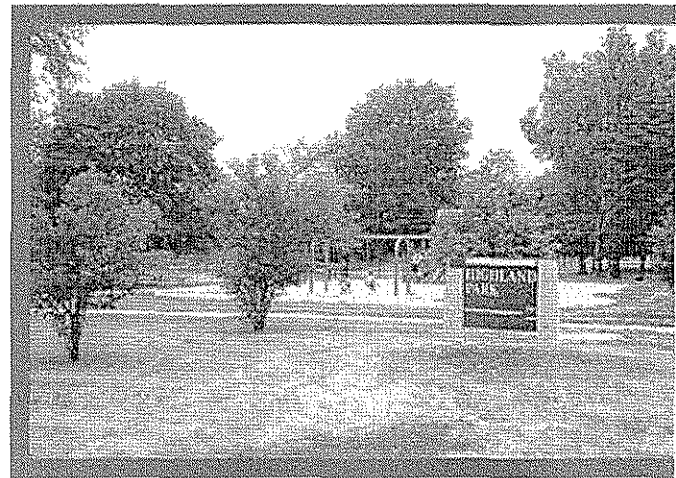


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- goals
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- related projects

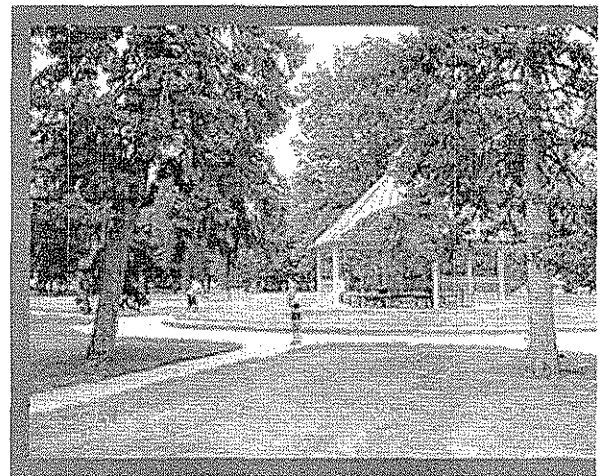
Highland Park Gets a Makeover

On a November morning in 2003, neighbors gathered at Highland Tower on 25th and B in South Omaha to consider the state of Highland Park. Omaha by Design facilitators helped conduct a Place Game that generated lots of ideas about how their park could be improved.

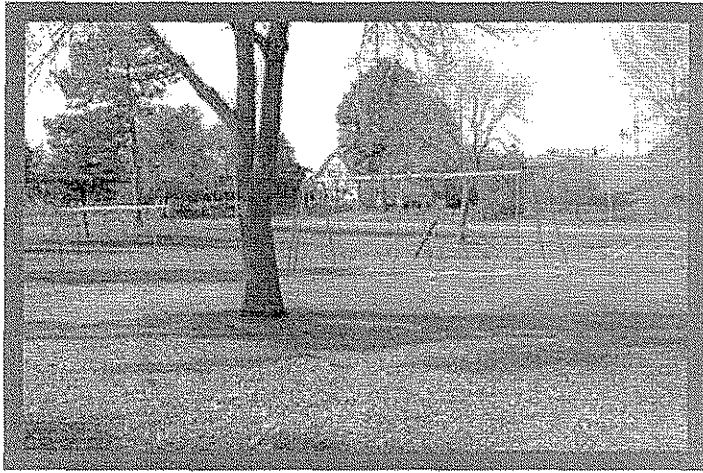
After a walk around the area, they talked about making the park more accommodating for family gatherings' with better picnic facilities and shelter. An improved play area, better signage, a fresh image and places for walkers to sit and talk were some of the suggestions that also came out of the session. Now, their ideas have been put in place and here's what's changed because of their efforts.



The central square of the park before.



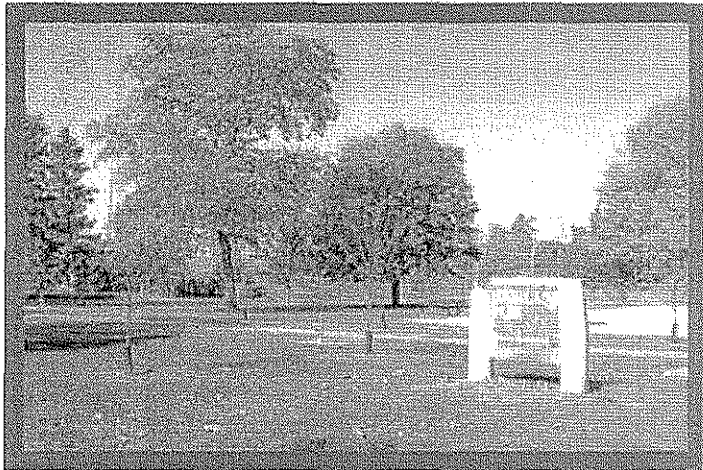
The new gazebo at the park's center.



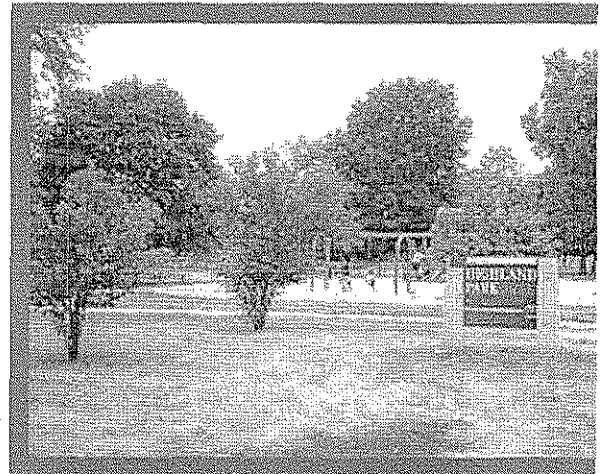
The playground before.



The playground after.



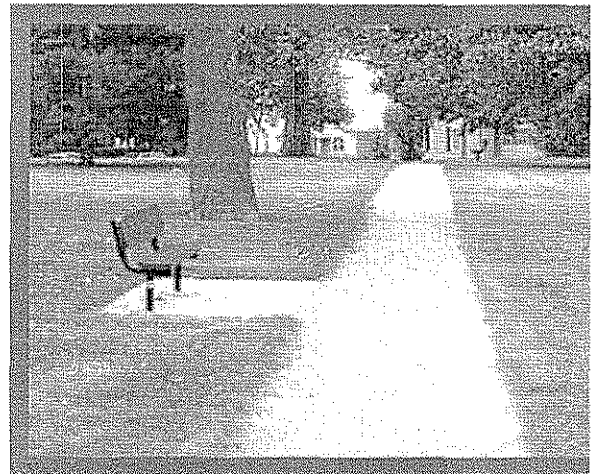
The park's entrance, then.



The park's entrance, now.



The sidewalks before.



The sidewalks after.

Main



Burlington Road Neighborhood Association

Keeping the Neighborhood on Track

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Our Area's History The Early Days

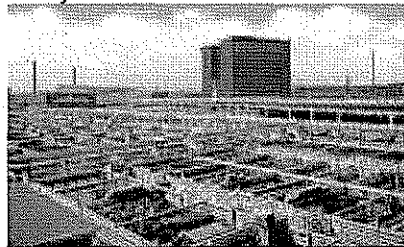
A Brief History --- More to Come!

*Pulaski pool on
page 4.*

Our homes rest on an area that was once a part of a hilltop section with a number of small creeks. Some of the creeks flowed into a larger stream bed east of us. The railroad companies drained that area to build their railways. In the early 1900's, our area was developed by mostly Polish immigrants and became a suburb of the town of South Omaha.

SOUTH OMAHA HISTORY:

The development of the stockyards spurred the growth of South Omaha. While the South Omaha stockyards were initially seen as a resting place for cattle on their way to larger markets, such as Chicago, the industry expanded into packing operations and was the nation's third largest stockyards by 1893. It became one of the largest in the mid 1900's.



Stockyards early to mid 1900's

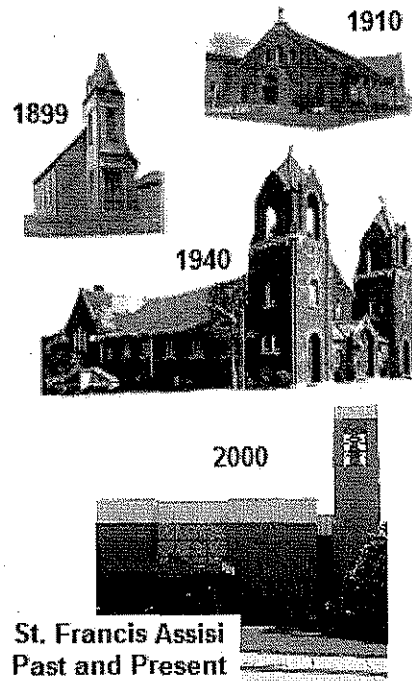
The town of South Omaha evolved out of the livestock trade and was laid out around the stockyards. Both entities grew rapidly, and by 1890 the population numbered over 10,000 people and claimed four major meat packing plants. At the turn of the century, South Omaha (known as the "Magic City") had over 26,000 inhabitants and was considered the "backbone of Omaha's economy." Today, the wide expanse of stockyards is gone. A shopping center, movie theater, and other smaller businesses have replaced the lots. Many smaller meat producing plants still remain in the area. The Stockyards Exchange Building has been renovated into apartments with the beautiful top floor ballroom still used and lent out for parties.

BURLINGTON ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY:

Immigrants from Poland started to migrate into our area at the turn of the century looking for work in the thriving packing house business. They built homes and formed congregations around two churches; first St. Francis Assisi (32nd and K Street) in 1899, and later St. Stanislaus (41st and J Street) in 1919.

An area close to St. Francis Assisi Church, an early suburb of South Omaha, was known as "zabno" which means "frog hollow" in Polish. This was before industry moved into the area. There was a stream which ran through the area with many frogs in it.

Below are some pictures of the St. Francis Assisi Church as it has changed over time. The church is located today at 32nd and K Streets. The first parish school was a former public school located on 33rd and J. It was purchased by St. Francis in the early 1900's. A new school was built in 1954 next to the church on 32nd and K. The old school was torn down and homes were built in its location. Today St. Francis School has closed. The school building does hold a Polish Museum, and the classrooms are utilized by the growing Hispanic congregation for their religious classes.

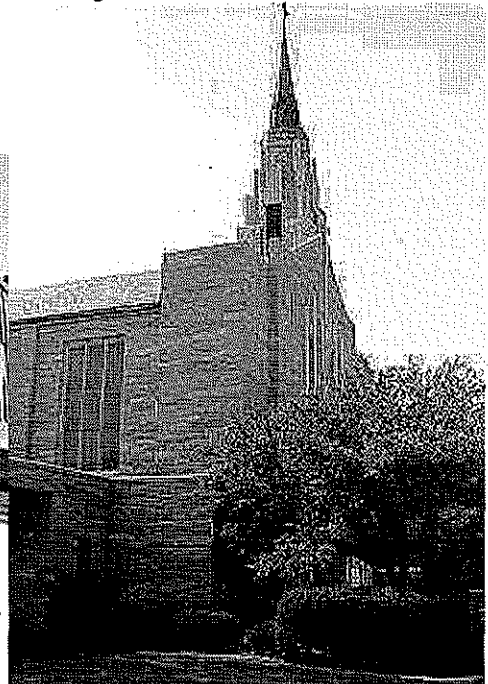


There were very few cars in the early 1900's. Most people walked. They wanted the centers of their life to be near, so St. Stanislaus Parish was founded further west where many of the newer immigrants started building homes. The founders of the parish built the church/school with their own hands in 1919. It served the congregation until 1953 when the new church was built. The upper floor of the old building was turned into classrooms.

St. Stanislaus School Today 4501 South 41st Street



The church was once housed in the upper floor of the school. A new front addition was added to the school in 1999. The school is still a vibrant part of the neighborhood. It maintains classes Pre-School to Grade 8.



St. Stanislaus Church

The church was built in 1953. Its tower can be seen for miles around our area.

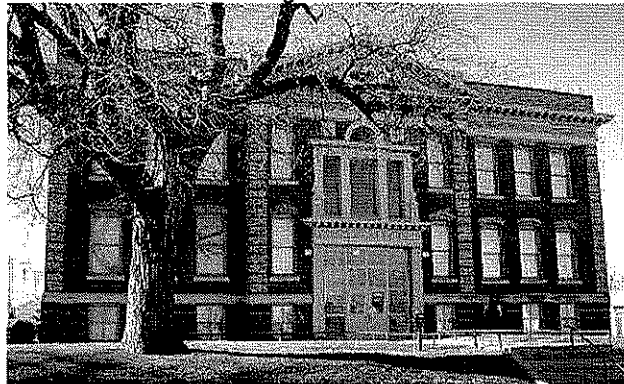
Early residents use to fondly call the L Street hill leading up to 42nd, "The Golden Hill"; perhaps in response for their wishes and dreams for a better life. In the early 1900's many neighborhood grocery stores dotted our area. Some of those stores are now family homes. One can recognize them by their flat roofs. Wolf's Store on 36th and F was one of the last to close in about 1970. Other small businesses dot the area along L Street and 42nd Street

today.

Many BRNA residents remember attending Robbins School on 39th and I Street. It was constructed in 1910 with a 1916 addition. It was named Robbins-Franklin School. The school closed in the 1990's when the new school Ashland-Robbins was built. It is listed on the Nebraska National Register. They state that -- **"It was significant for its contribution to the educational system of South Omaha, then Omaha proper after its annexation. The school served residents of a newly established and growing Polish immigrant area dominated by meatpacking and the livestock industry. It is also an excellent example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture."** Today it is known a Robbins School Apartments with 21 units. Rehabilitation converted the former school into rental residential use in 2000.



Robbins during renovation in 1999



Robbins Apartments in 2004

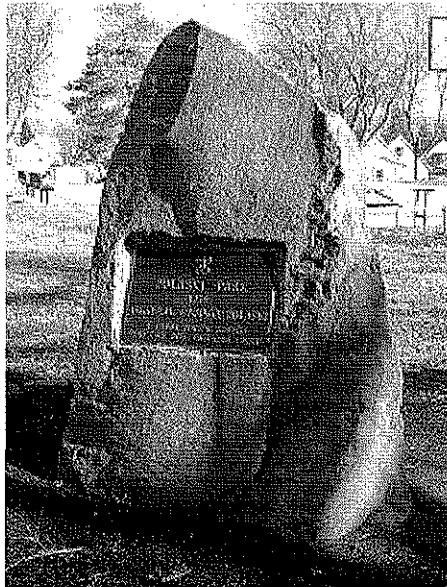
Pulaski Park



Our neighborhood park is located at on 40th and H. It has been a part of the area since the

beginning of the 1900's. It slowly evolved into a park. At first it was known as Clearview Park. It was an area where people would come to picnic and see a wonderful view to the west or the east since the park is located on one of the higher sections in the area. This was at a the time when there were few homes and trees to block the view. The land west of 42nd Street was mostly undeveloped. As the Polish population grew in the area, the early citizens proudly renamed the park in honor of the great Polish General Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolution. It was their way of giving honor to their new country and also showing pride in their heritage.

General Pulaski came to American to fight for freedom. In Pulaski's first letter to George Washington, he wrote, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, to live or die for it." With Washington's recommendation, he became general of the calvary. He spent the winter of 1777 training his men in Trenton, not far from Washington's headquarter at Valley Forge. He used his own personal finances, when money for Congress was scarce, in order to assure his forces of the finest equipment and personal safety. He transformed the calvary into a fighting force and became known as "The Father of the American Calvary." In 1779, he was wounded while riding his horse into battle. It is said that his enemies were so impressed with his courage, that they permitted him to live and to be carried from the battlefield. He died shortly after from his wounds. Americans have always recognized Pulaski's heroism and the price he paid for their freedom. Throughout America there are many counties, cities, parks, schools etc. named after him. Illinois has a state holiday in his honor on March 7th. We should be honored to have our park named after such a hero.



Pulaski Park's Memorial Rock

Pulaski Park once held a swimming pool. It was roughly located where the ball field is now. Actually, the pool is still there, buried under tons of dirt. There also was a pavilion located on the north side of the park. The pool was closed in the 1940's. Some long-time residents' memories of the park include the large number of trees and how cold the water was when they went there early in the morning for swimming lessons. There were many summer evening dances at the park in the 1930's and 40's. During the day, the children would flock to the park to swim, work on craft projects and play. A large rock was added in 1979 as a patriotic memorial to honor the early immigrants and their heritage. It states: "General Casimir Pulaski – A great Polish soldier who died for American Liberty". There was a grand party the day it was dedicated. A polka band played.

The park was renovated in 2001 adding a walking strip, a history sign and new playground equipment. It also has a ball field and basketball courts. Unfortunately, many of the park's huge old trees have been cut down.

Today our BRNA neighborhood continues to thrive with many nationalities. Our neighborhood association hopefully will work toward rejuvenating our area and bring us together as not only neighbors, but also friends.

More to come.....

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Old South Omaha Has Long History Of Welcoming

New Association Unites Old Neighborhood

POSTED: 9:21 am CDT May 12, 2006 UPDATED: 10:09 am CDT May 15, 2006



OMAHA, Neb. -- One of Omaha's oldest neighborhoods has one of the newest official neighborhood associations.

The area that includes the Burlington Roads Neighborhood was formerly known as the town of South Omaha. It is bordered by 42nd Street, 1 Street, Interstate 80 and Dahlman Avenue. The area has always welcomed immigrants from all over the world, and it still is home to residents whose families first inhabited the neighborhood in the early 1900s.

The people who first immigrated to the area called the town Magic City. An old stream through the middle of the neighborhood had several blocks know as "zabno," which translated from Polish means "frog hollow."

Advertisement for Adlerian Center, COSTAR, and LOCAL EXPERTS with text: 'Click here! Can't sleep? Over-analyzing your day? Anxious about tomorrow?'

Polaski Park

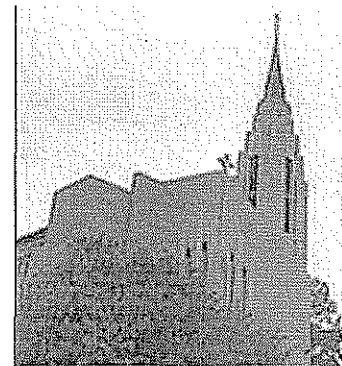
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The neighborhood is home to t of the city's oldest churches. St Assisi and St. Stanislaus are bc Burlington Roads.

The pool that served so many i half of the 1900s was closed bc polio scare in the 1940s and nc rock marks the spot. The rock 27 there years ago, but not as a the pool.

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The neighborhood park is named after a hero from the Revolutionary War. **Pulaski Park** after Gen. Casimir Pulaski.

Today, a school that used to be the center of the neighborhood has been transformed into rental properties.

The new Burlington Roads Neighborhood Association hopes to restore trees to the area. Neighborhood historian Theresa Bidrowski said trees have always been an integral part neighborhood, which was once known as "Golden Hill."

"I have asked around and nobody knows why, but I can imagine because they took pride and they felt this was their golden opportunity to make a better life for themselves," Bidrowski said. "The early part of the century, it was known that every block had its own store grocery bar for the men of the area."

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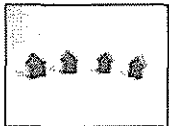
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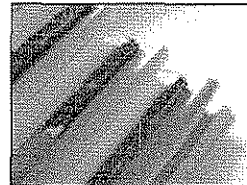
Enter some personal information and you can have a handful of offers to refinance returned to you. Bet you didn't know saving money could be so easy. **More**

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Join us on the 2nd Tuesday in September.

Come to BRNA's monthly meetings for important information and news that can affect you and your family! See the [Calendar Page](#) for details.

St. Stanislaus Hall

41st and J Street

Second Tuesdays of the Month

6:30 p.m.

Come join us!

PAINT-A-THON IN BRNA!

August, 2007 = Job well done!
See photos on our [NEWS Page](#).

BRNA Adopts Pulaski!

BRNA has officially adopted Pulaski Park. Because of our efforts to beautify and maintain the park, *Keep Omaha Beautiful* has posted a sign near the playground area. Help our park. Pick up trash when you are walking in the park.

BRNA again planted more trees in the park!
Thank you to OPPD for their tree grant!



More pictures coming soon on our [Photo Page](#).

MORE NEWS AND EVENTS

In honor of Shane Kielion...

33rd Street (L to H) has been given the honorary name of

BRNA Weather

Omaha, NE

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Humidity: 50
Wind: SSE at 10
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Our monthly newsletter, **T EXPRESS**, is a great source of information. It is mailed to you. Another great reason for joining!

BRNA Express

NEWSLETTERS ON THE WEB
Updated to 2007

We now have some of our newsletters on the web site in "PDF form and may take a little longer to load. You can click this [NEWSLETTERS](#)

Want to say Thanks



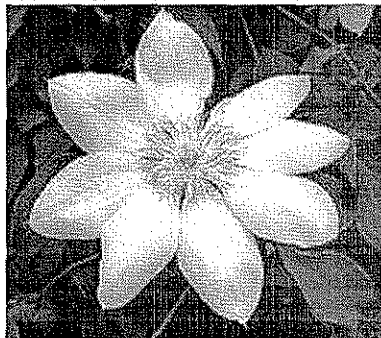
<http://www.letsaysaythanks.com>
On this web site, you can send a thank you card and Xerox it and it will be sent to a soldier currently serving overseas.

"Cpl. Shane Kielion Drive". A special ceremony was held on Saturday, March 18 at 1:30 P.M. at the corner of 33rd and H.

Learn more about Shane on the [News Page](#) or follow the link on the [Photo Page](#)!

BRNA Gardens on Display!

Some of BRNA's Gardens are now on display on this web site. Just click this picture or go to the [PHOTO PAGE](#)! Then click BRNA's Gardens.



Pictures Pictures Pictures...

Check out all the wonderful pictures of past events held in BRNA on our [Photo Page](#).



Join BRNA to receive the newsletter each month in your mail or email!

Contact us at brna_mail@yahoo.com or write us at:

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pick out who gets it, but if some member of the armec is FREE and it only takes Wouldn't it be wonderful if received a bunch of tl

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! Go to BRNA's [Alert Page](#) aware of other important infor concerns.

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Future events and guest spea meetings are listed on the [Ca](#)

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BRNA HISTOF

Click on this link to find out mc area's early beginnings on the [Page](#).

We would really appreciate : additional information about Please contact us if you woi share some stories from the

TIME TO RENEW \ MEMBERSHIP!

Membership ends each year i So renew your membership th of each year! Print out the for [Membership Page](#) and mail it the next meeting!

**Remember:
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BRNA Keeps Rollin' On....



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Databases selected: ProQuest Newspapers

Bemis Group, Parks Department Work on Plan for Ball Diamond; [Extra Edition]

Sibyl Myers. Omaha World - Herald. Omaha, Neb.: Jul 30, 1986. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

is working with the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department to develop a plan for a baseball diamond at the Walnut Hill Reservoir on 38th Street between Cuming and Hamilton Streets.

Residents were concerned that the landscape of the park at the reservoir not be disrupted, Bemis Park President Marvin Gooch said.

The proposed plan will be voted on at Monday's meeting of the neighborhood association, set for 7 p.m. at the Bemis Park pavilion.

Full Text (833 words)

(Copyright 1986 Omaha World-Herald Company)

The

Bemis Park Neighborhood Association

is working with the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department to develop a plan for a baseball diamond at the Walnut Hill Reservoir on 38th Street between Cuming and Hamilton Streets.

Residents were concerned that the landscape of the park at the reservoir not be disrupted, Bemis Park President Marvin Gooch said.

For example, he said, residents did not want any trees cut down or any fences put up.

Members of the neighborhood association have been meeting with City Park Planner Dale Mathre for several months.

The meetings began after the city proposed enclosing the reservoir on the south side to the middle sidewalk (the corner bounded by Nicholas and 38th Streets) for a diamond for Little League use.

The current plan calls for reconstructing the ballfield by moving the backstop and fence and renovating the infield, Gooch said.

The proposed plan will be voted on at Monday's meeting of the neighborhood association, set for 7 p.m. at the Bemis Park pavilion.

Also on the agenda will be completing plans for the group's Aug. 17 ""Parade of Homes.""

Volunteers are needed to collect tickets for the tours, to help homeowners show their houses and to assist with Antique Row, Gooch said.

A neighborhood cleanup drive also is under way so that property in the Bemis Park area will look neat and trim for the ""Parade of Homes,"" he said.

""We're encouraging everyone to clean their sidewalks, mow the grass, trim the hedges and put their best foot

forward," he said.

Police Encourage "Business Watch"

The Omaha Police Department is encouraging

Park East

businesses and residents to join in forming a ""Business Watch" crime awareness program, executive director Stuart Bullington said.

The program is patterned after the successful ""Neighborhood Watch" programs in which people assist each other by watching out for suspicious activities, Bullington said.

In an informational meeting last month at Enron, a Police Department spokesman told residents and business operators of the need to promote ""community wellness," Bullington said.

A luncheon is planned to further explain the program and to address some complaints that have been raised, he said.

The Park East area is from 20th Street to the Interstate, from Dodge to Leavenworth Streets.

Events Compiled For Calendar

The

Urban League of Nebraska

is compiling information about upcoming events for its annual Community Calendar.

Organizations can use the calendar to avoid a conflict of dates for events such as dances, dinners, fashion shows, conferences or workshops, Urban League Executive Director George Dillard said.

The league plans to distribute an updated calendar by September, he said.

Organizations are being asked to complete questionnaires by listing any special events they will sponsor through the end of the year or in 1987.

Also, the questionnaire asks the time and date of each organization's meetings.

To be included in the Community Calendar, organizations can receive a questionnaire by contacting the Urban League at 3022 N. 24th St. Phone number is 453-9730.

The deadline for returning questionnaires to the league is Aug. 15.

Volunteers to Focus On Aid for Seniors

A ""Neighbor to Neighbor" program to aid senior citizens is being organized by

Neighborhood Housing Services

and the

North Branch YMCA

Volunteers are being sought to attend hourly training sessions once a month to learn about available resources to assist elderly persons.

For more information, contact Jackie Davis at Neighborhood Housing Services, 2611 N. 45th St., or Geri Lane at the North Branch Y, 2311 N. 22nd St.

Zoning Meetings Set For Highland Park

Neighbors interested in revisions of the zoning ordinance that will affect Highland Park north of F Street are invited to attend a meeting planned for 9 p.m. tonight (July 30) at Willa Cather Library, 44th and Center Streets.

The meeting is the last of three scheduled this week in this area of the city.

A public hearing on the new zoning is scheduled for 1 p.m. Aug. 7 in the legislative chambers of the City-County Building, 1819 Farnam St.

Yard Sale Raises Funds for Gifts

A yard sale will be held Friday and Saturday to raise money for a Christmas party for needy youths.

For the past eight years, the

Mothers South Central Group

has sponsored an annual Christmas party for youths through age 17, spokeswoman Theola McAtee said.

The yard sale is among the fund-raising activities planned to purchase gifts, she said.

Items for sale will include furniture, bedding, baby items, knickknacks, crafts, clothing and baked goods.

The location will be 3811 S. 25th St.

Add overset Booths Planned; Car Wash Saturday

North Omaha Community Development

will sponsor its seventh annual "Community Day" Saturday. The all-day event will feature booths set up by groups to raise money or to provide information. The location will be the NOCD building at 24th and Charles Streets The

Junior Choir of King Solomon Baptist Church

is sponsoring a car wash Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. at Ladd's Phillip 66 Service Station, 30th Street and Bedford Avenue.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Sibyl Myers
Column Name: *Neighborhood Notes*
Section: *News*
Publication title: Omaha World - Herald. Omaha, Neb.: Jul 30, 1986. pg. 1
Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 33007248

Text Word Count 833

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=33007248&sid=8&Fmt=3&clientid=29472&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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**Reconnaissance Survey of Selected Neighborhoods in
Central Omaha, Nebraska
Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey**

*Walnut Hill Fountain
Hanscom Park Garden*

Prepared for:

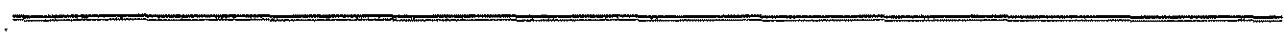
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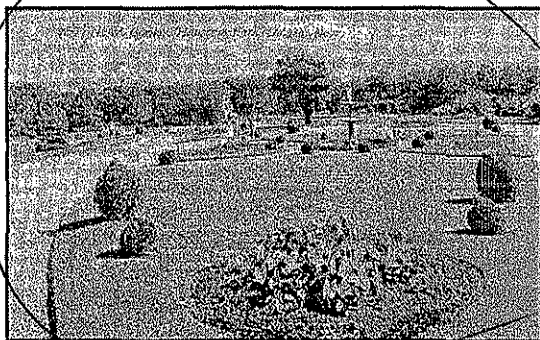
April 2003



Chapter 1. Introduction

Prior to incorporation, Omaha was platted in 1854 with a conventional grid layout, with 320 city blocks each measuring 264 square feet. Farnam Street served as the main commercial thoroughfare, running west from the Missouri River. By 1870, the city limits extended to present-day 36th Street and included the area surrounding Hanscom Park, located in the southeast portion of the survey area, encompassing 5.5 square miles.²

The earliest working-class homes were constructed north and south of downtown, so that walking to work was possible. The business leaders constructed their homes on the hills west of the business district, between Capitol Hill on the north and Jackson and Howard Streets in the south. As the city grew, development moved further west, beyond what is now Interstate 480 (the eastern limits of the survey area). Hanscom Park, established in 1872, attracted residents to Park Avenue and the neighborhood surrounding the park.³



Hanscom Park historic postcard image (DCHS)

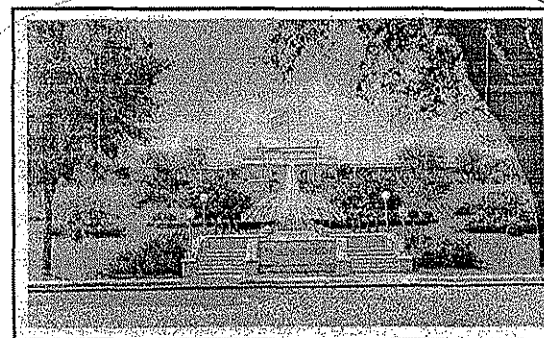
By 1880, Omaha had annexed surrounding lands and grown to almost 10 square miles, bound by 48th Street on the west. The growing city contained 5,110 dwellings, the majority of which were single-family residences constructed on larger-than-average lots with large side yards.⁴ Multiple-family dwellings were rare at this time, although some rowhouses and apartments had been constructed. These early multiple-family dwellings were executed in popular styles of the time, including Richardsonian Romanesque, and Queen Anne. Hicks Terrace (DO09:0204-008), a Queen Anne rowhouse constructed at 30th Avenue and Pacific Street in 1890, is an example of an early multiple-family dwelling in the area surrounding Hanscom Park. Hicks Terrace was designated an Omaha Landmark on April 21, 1981.



Hicks Terrace, DO09:0204-008

As the city grew, the expanding streetcar lines became a popular transportation option for many Omaha residents and spurred continued development to the west. Streetcar service had begun in 1868 when the Omaha Horse and Railway Company established horse-drawn streetcar service in Omaha. During the 1880s electric streetcar lines replaced the horse-powered lines. By 1887, Omaha had annexed surrounding lands and had grown from 12 to 25 square miles. The increased size stimulated further development of transportation services, and between 1884 and 1888, five new streetcar companies were established.

Dr. Samuel Mercer, who constructed a large, private residence at 40th and Cuming Streets (DO09:0325-004, listed in the National Register of Historic Places [National Register]), platted the Walnut Hill subdivision northwest of his home in the 1880s. Mercer had financed the construction of cable-line streetcars in Omaha, and by the end of the 1880s, his line extended as far west as his residence.⁵



Walnut Hill Reservoir and Park historic postcard image, DO09:0327-002 (DCHS)