

Waveland Park News

FALL 2022 | DES MOINES, IOWA



SUGAR MAPLE CENTRAL

South of Kingman Boulevard, both sides of 45th Street are lined with the color-changing trees.



More Trees, Please

BY JEANNE AMBROSE

If you've strolled along Polk Boulevard, you've probably noticed the massive sycamore trees that line both sides of the street. Or maybe you've taken a ride down 45th Street to see the sugar maples in their full fall glory. Waveland Park trees can be beauties or beasts, depending on the

season—and whether you have one or two in your front yard.

Walk the block of 45th between Kingman and Chamberlain this month, and you'll understand why they are beauties. "The leaves on the sugar maples turn lovely in the fall, usually reds and sometimes yellow," says

Bob Gernes, who led an effort to acquire a grant and permission from the City of Des Moines to plant 33 sugar maples along that street. Although Gernes initiated the project some 30 years ago and plotted the locations where the trees

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WAVELAND PARK WALKING TOUR

BY MARK JOHNSON

Back by popular demand, join us on Saturday, October 1st for our third annual neighborhood walking tour, led by architect Tom Wollan. This year's tour is to feature an area of significant development north of University. Three east-west streets are to be toured: University, Forest, and Carpenter. Each is of interest in its own right and deserves attention.

University is probably the most significant as it bisects Des Moines and Waveland Park. Historically, University was called North Avenue as it was mostly the northern boundary of the city. We'll go back to 1890-95 when the city's limits were extended to include many of the smaller towns and villages adjacent and talk about the name change.

Forest, a beautiful street of many trees, interesting hills, and ravines, is not as long or as dynamic as University. But Forest does stretch from the river into

Windsor Heights and has become a most notable Avenue.

Carpenter is the third street of our exploration. This street, not nearly as long as the other two, is important in that it takes the name of George Carpenter. Carpenter, I believe, was the first president of Drake University and was a significant personage in this area.

Instead of a through street, Carpenter starts and stops in different areas, thus allowing a great residential feel. Actually this is a feel that predominates in Waveland Park—as there are many streets that do not run straight through. This can be seen as a distinct advantage of our streets and avenues, adding to a great feel of the neighborhood.

Please join us for an exciting tour of this area.

When: October 1 at 10 a.m. to about 11:30 a.m.

Where: Meet the group near 1216 43rd

Details: Park on 43rd street between University and Forest or on University or Forest.


Prepare to walk ¾-to 1 mile.

Questions or interested in helping, contact: Mark Johnson. (515) 277-3052



MORE TREES, PLEASE CONTINUED

would be planted, it was a collaborative effort, he says. It started with the late Lillian Swartzell, once a member of the Des Moines Founders Garden Club, who left a bequest to the City of Des Moines for use in beautification projects.



Gernes led the effort to use some of that money to plant the sugar maples. "The city required us to get approval from the residents who lived there," he said. "And we got unanimous approval." That meant the owners of all 24 homes facing 45th street agreed to the project. The result: a formal row of trees on each side of the street that produces a stunning display of red and yellow leaves during the fall.

Although the sycamore trees along Polk Boulevard don't produce vivid leaves, they do stand like sentinels along that street. "When you are on certain parts of Polk Boulevard and look ahead, you see a large colonnade of tree trunks rising to support a canopy of leaves that closes up the sky," says Mark Kane, former garden editor of *Better Homes and Gardens*. Kane, who lives just

outside the boundary of Waveland Park, loves the cathedral effect formed when two opposite rows of trees bow toward each other to create a leafy ceiling. "And the sycamore bark is outstanding," he says. "It's full of visual abstractions. As you near University Avenue on Polk, you'll notice the sycamores begin to lose their bark at the top of the trees. They looked naked and are pure white. It's startling."

However, when the bark drops, the trees become beastly and leave a mess for nearby homeowners to clean up. The same is true of the sycamore leaves, as Robin Fortney, who lives on Polk Boulevard, knows. "They shed big leaves, bark, and limbs," she says. "But I'm glad to have the shade. And it's nice to have the trees lining the boulevard."

During the 2020 derecho, the sycamores suffered a lot of damage, as did trees throughout the state. "There was nothing anyone could have done to prevent that," Fortney says. "I love sycamores, but I suspect that if city had to do again they probably wouldn't plant all of one type of tree like we have on Polk."

Indeed, single species plantings like our

Sycamores—planted by the city in 1965—are now a rarity. The City of Des Moines Forestry Division focuses on diversifying the types of trees it plants. That helps prevent massive losses like the ash trees that were nearly annihilated by the ash tree borer in our neighborhoods. And the City Tree Replacement Fund is also responsible for planting more trees than ever. Before 2011, the city planted 300-600 trees annually. That number has grown to about 1,000 to 2,000 new trees per year. Many of those trees were planted in Waveland Park this year.

CONTEST: SHOW OFF YOUR TREE PHOTOS

As colorful autumn leaves cover the trees in Des Moines, it's a perfect time to capture their beauty and enter the city's Forestry Division's Fall Tree Photo Contest. Take a picture that celebrates the wonder of the season's trees—from puppies tumbling in piles of autumn leaves to stunning trees reaching skyward. Contest entries will be accepted September 30 through October 31. The winner gets to pick a tree and where it will be planted in a city right of way. Go to Dsm.city/FallTreePhotoContest for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, October 1 Neighborhood Walking Tour

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Meet near 1216 43rd Street. Prepare to walk 3/4-to 1 mile. Questions or interested in helping, contact: Mark Johnson: (515) 277-3052 or 336 0727.

Saturday, October 8 Community Table: A Storytelling and Local Food Festival

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

This new community festival, hosted by Franklin Avenue Library, will feature acclaimed national storytellers performing for adults at Northwest Community Center, Franklin Junior High, and Franklin Avenue Library. There will also be children's stories, activities, crafts, and more at Tower Park, plus local food and vendors at Franklin Junior High. The Glenwood Cemetery will then be the backdrop for a special "scary stories" event in the evening.

We hope you will spend the day with us around imaginary tables, listening to a diverse group of tellers sharing legends, folk tales, myths, and fables. You can also enjoy a varied food landscape in a Farmers Market-like atmosphere outside, where you can purchase ready-made food as well as ingredients to use later. Visit dmpl.org for more information.

Sunday, October 23 WPNA Annual Meeting and Celebration

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Waveland Golf Course

Join us for an afternoon celebrating our great neighborhood and talking about ideas for the future. We'll have music by Abbie and the Sawyers, pizza, and more.

Monday, November 8 Waveland Park Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Location: TBA—Check our Facebook for more information.

HELP WANTED

Want to get involved? We want you! We're looking for more board members, block captains, gardeners, and volunteers to help with projects big and small. Sign up at our annual meeting on 10/23 or fill out this form:

<https://tinyurl.com/2pfec567>



This Fall, Leave Your Leaves

Our neighborhood flora and fauna need them. Here's how to strike a balance they (and you) can live with.

BY ANN HINGA KLEIN

Not so fast with that leaf blower. Give your rake a break, too. When we discard the season's fallen leaves, we're throwing away a valuable resource. "That leaf layer is a vital part of the ecosystem in our urban forests," says Emma Hanigan, an urban forestry expert with the Iowa DNR.

Here's why:

• **BUGS** Fireflies, pest-munching ground beetles and many of Iowa's pollinating insects—including

bumblebee queens and butterfly and moth larva—overwinter in the leaf layer or in the ground just below it.[1] And some, like swallowtail butterflies and Luna moths, tuck away their next generation in chrysalides that look like dried leaves, says Karen Kinkaid, a DNR wildlife diversity specialist. "So if we're raking all of our leaves up, we're raking up our Luna moths and some of our butterflies, and we're bagging them up and throwing them away."

• **BIRDS** Grosbeaks, black-capped chickadees, and other birds that stick around all winter get some of their cold-season calories from dormant insects, insect eggs and pupae tucked in the leaf layer.

[2] And when migrating birds arrive in spring, they rely on a leaf-layer feast of newly hatched insects for energy to nest and raise their families.

• **BREAK DOWN** In winter, insects, fungi, and microscopic organisms do their magic in leaf litter, breaking it down and in turn providing nutrients to support

photosynthesis and healthy growth in surrounding trees and plants in subsequent seasons.

• **INSULATION** Fallen leaves around trees hold moisture and stabilize ground temperatures, too, helping them survive Iowa's sub-zero winters and scorching summers.

But What About the Grass?

It's true—too many leaves can smother your lawn. That's why Hanigan suggests a balanced approach for tree-rich neighborhoods like ours:

1. Rake up some of the leaves that fall on your grass and landscape and use them to make thick blankets over gardens and landscaping.
2. Use a lawnmower to mulch the rest into your turf. While mulched leaves won't benefit insects and birds, they'll still feed your grass.
3. In May, when it's warm enough to work outside without a jacket, you can assume most of the good stuff has hatched and mulch or discard any leaves you don't want to keep around.

These Leaves Can Go

Chances are, you'll have more fallen leaves than you can put to good use. What to keep and what to bag? Hanigan removes and mulches early leaves from maples over her turf and keeps the oak leaves that fall later in the season, moving them to garden beds and piling them near her compost pile for future use.

Species can also help with the decision:

• **SYCAMORE** If leaves fall extra-early from one of these giants, the tree is likely suffering from the fungal disease anthracnose. Rake, bag, and remove to reduce the chance of reinfection and spread next year.

• **BLACK WALNUT** Leaves from this Iowa native contain juglone, a chemical that hinders grass and plant growth. Rake and bag or use them in compost, where

the toxin will break down within a few weeks.[3]

• **ASH** Trees treated for emerald ash borer shed leaves containing the insecticide, which is targeted to boring insects. They'll help feed your trees and plants if you decide to keep them around, but their effect on other insects hasn't been thoroughly researched,[4] making them a good option for the "to go" pile.



[1] https://wisconsinpollinators.com/Bee/BA_BeesInWinter.aspx

[2] <https://www.iowanaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IAN0602.pdf>, <https://birdwatchinghq.com/grosbeaks-in-iowa/>, <https://birdwatchinghq.com/chickadees-in-iowa/>, <https://xerces.org/blog/where-do-pollinators-go-in-winter>

[3] <https://westcentralsolidwaste.com/leave-those-leaves/>, <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/neighbors-trees-killing-lawn-93867.html>, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2005/jul/070701.htm>

[4] http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/Potential_Side_Effects_of_EAB_Insecticides_FAQ.pdf

SUPPORT LOCAL

Meet Rabbi Yossi Jacobson

BY ANN THYE

Did you know that Waveland Park is home to the only kosher deli in Des Moines? That people from other states even stop here on their way through Iowa because it is known for its excellent food and conversation?

Rabbi Jacobson, his wife Chana, and their family would like to welcome everyone to bond and get to know their neighbors at **Maccabee's**, located just south of University Avenue at 1150 Polk Boulevard. They have plenty of parking behind the restaurant. **All are welcome, and Rabbi Yossi shared that, "Minds divide us—feet unite us!"** Celebrate diversity in Waveland Park!

Their cases feature not only delicious freshly sliced meats and cheeses, but latkes, potato knish, stuffed cabbage, and other specialties you rarely find in the Midwest. Their freshly baked breads include challah, marbled rye, pumpernickel, and focaccia. They'll be baking these on premises soon. Thursdays are great day to go for the best selection. They have bottles of wine to purchase, as well as many interesting non-alcoholic juices. For the sweet tooth, try the Raspberry Joy chocolate bars from Brooklyn, New York. They also have quite a selection of macaroons! There are many unique specialties on the shelves, making it an interesting shop to explore.

They are always open Sundays 11-4, Tuesdays 11-5, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11-6, and Fridays 10-3. They are closed Mondays and Saturdays. Always open Christmas Day!

Join the WPNA!

NAME/BUSINESS NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Note: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit organization. Your membership could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Renewal | | <input type="radio"/> \$20.00 Individual/Family Membership |
| <input type="radio"/> New Membership | | <input type="radio"/> \$75.00 Business Membership |

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

WPNA P.O. Box 30112
Des Moines, IA 50310

Payment via PayPal is available at wavelandpark.org under MEMBERSHIP tab. Include your name, address, and email as a NOTE attached to your payment.

ABOUT THE WPNA

Board Members

President: Anna Mason

Vice President: Todd Snell

Treasurer: Richard Knapp

Secretary: Chris LoRang

Communications Director:

Katy Kiick Condon

Historian: Mark Johnson

Members at Large:

Charlie Chedester

Nick Coleman

Carol Lunde

Jacob Ross

Joe Wallace

The WPNA is a non-partisan nonprofit organization in which all meetings, programs, and events are free and open to the public. It is the purpose of the WPNA to enhance and maintain the quality of life in Waveland Park.

For questions, comments, or to become a member contact: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 30112, Des Moines, IA 50310

Email: info@wavelandpark.org

Web: wavelandpark.org

Facebook: /WPNAfb

MADE IN THE WP?

Do you have a small business in or around the neighborhood?
Or do you make amazing things out of your home?

We'd love to help get the word out about your projects and help your neighbors find you and shop your stuff!

Fill out this form so we can help promote you:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckt6zar>

What

Waveland Park Annual Meeting and Celebration

When

Sunday, October 23

What Time

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Where

Waveland Golf course



Attractions:

- Live music from Abbie and the Sawyers abbiesawyermusic.com
- Free Pizza from 12:30-1:30
- Cash Bar

Come to enjoy incredible live music performed by WPNA residents Abbie Sawyer and Chris Lorang while enjoying delicious pizza. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the work of the WPNA and to get to know your neighbors.