

Agenda Item: 6.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Eric Williams, Natural Resources Planner
Patricia Slaven, City of Omaha Parks Department

SUBJECT: Adams Park Wetland Learning Center

DATE: July 1, 2015

In 2011, the District provided cost share funding to the City of Omaha for the Adams Park Master Plan. The focus of the plan was, “A unique horticultural and gardening resource for the entire community.” Since the initial plan was created, significant reconstruction has been planned and is currently being completed as a “Green Solution” for stormwater management in collaboration with the City of Omaha CSO program. To expand education opportunities for members of the community, conceptual work for the Wetland Learning Center has been completed and the project is now moving toward full design and construction.

Current project partners include numerous schools, Metropolitan and Iowa Western Community College programs, University of Nebraska Omaha, and after school programs from area nonprofit organizations. The new facility will feature a greenhouse, classrooms, outdoor facilities, and a trail through the newly constructed and wetlands in the park. Aquaculture systems design and education will be provided by Whispering Roots, and founder Greg Fripp has provided significant guidance on both facility needs and programming.

Beginning in 2015, the Parks Department will be working with current and new partners to raise funds, as well as submitting grant funding proposals. Full design is expected by the summer of 2016, and the project is planned to be completed and open to the public in summer 2017.

Adams Park Wetlands Learning Center and Greenhouse



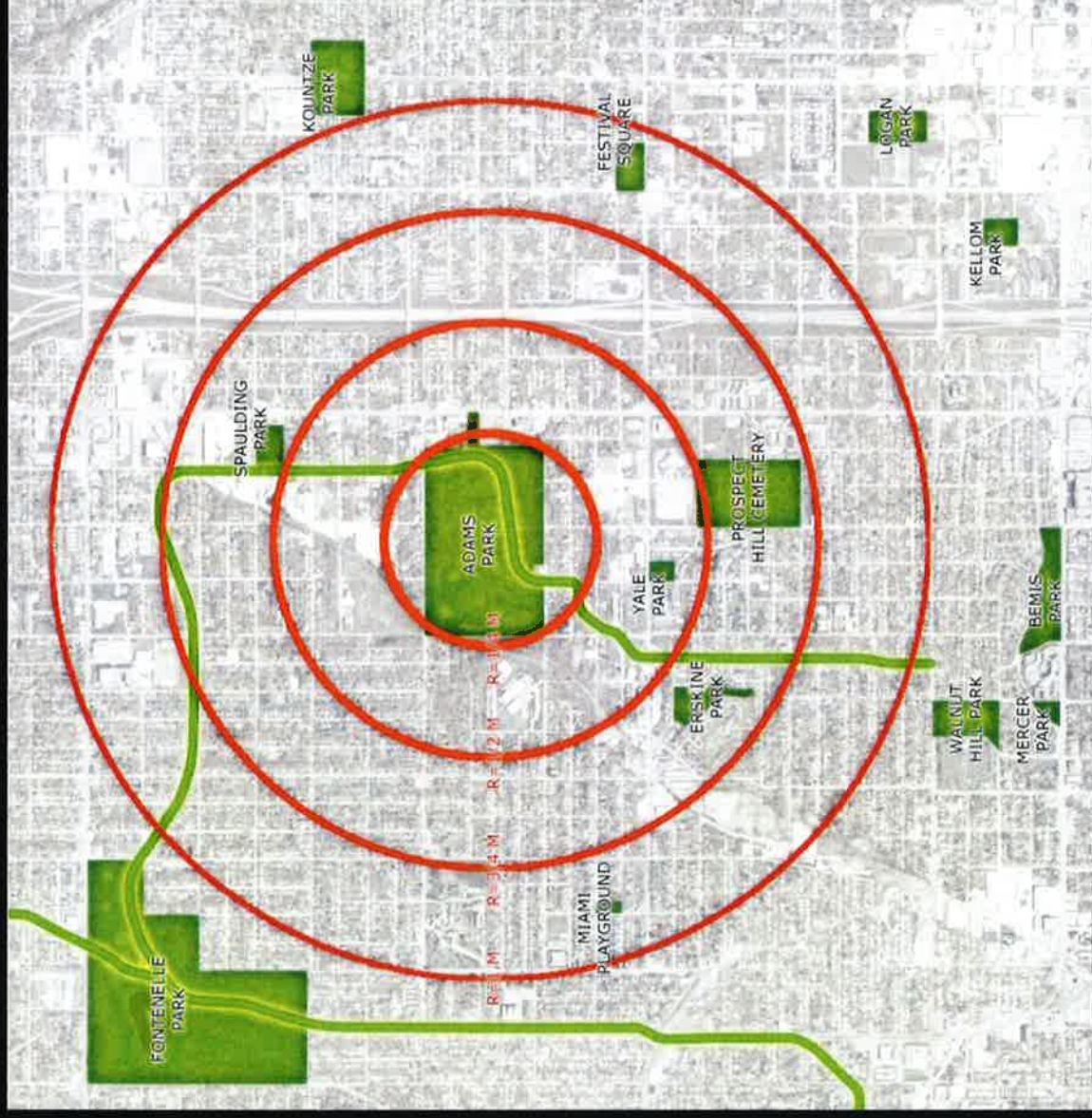
Adams Park

60 acre park located near 30th and Bedford Streets on historic John Creighton Boulevard

Purchased in 1948 for a park, named after Frederick J. Adams

Recently included in several urban planning efforts:

- North Omaha Redevelopment Plan – Chamber of Commerce
- North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan – Empowerment Network



Adams Park Master Plan - 2011

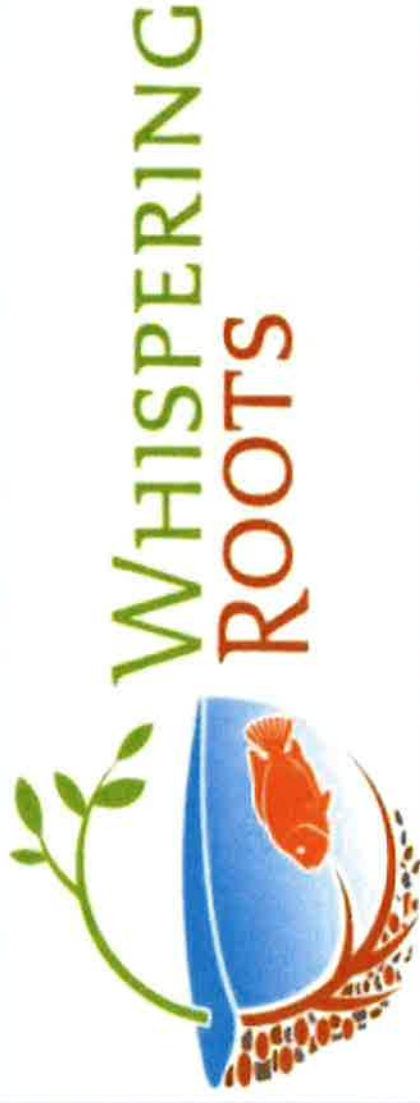
- Funded with \$40,000 from the NRD and \$10,000 from the City of Omaha
- Input from public, stakeholders and a steering committee
- Focus of final plan: *“A unique horticultural and gardening resource for the entire community”*



Adams Park Combined Sewer Overflow Project (CSO)

- Designed in conjunction with the park master plan
- Began construction 2014
- Features over six acres of constructed wetlands. Construction Cost: \$7,600,000
- Opportunity to implement first phase of master plan through a proposed Wetlands Learning Center and Greenhouse.





Gregory Fripp
Founder and CEO

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Grow. Feed. Educate.

Program Awards and Supporters

- Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators - OPS
- Presidential Award for Economic Development – UNO
- Samsung Solve For Tomorrow S.T.E.M. Education State Champions and National Finalists
- Children’s Hospital Preventing Childhood Obesity Grant
- Union Pacific Community Grant
- Doris Buffet - Learning By Giving Foundation
- Whole Foods - Friend of the Earth Award
- S.A.R.E. - Farmer/Rancher Research Grant
- Nebraska First Lady’s Outstanding School Volunteer Program
- American Culinary Foundation – Local Food Champion



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Project Advisors and Partners

- City of Omaha Parks and Public Works
- Papio-Missouri River NRD
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- University of Nebraska Omaha
- Sustainable Agriculture Research Education
- Omaha Public Schools
- Bellevue Public Schools
- Metropolitan Community College
- Iowa Western Community College
- Alley Poyner Architects
- Cornell University
- University of Arizona
- Henry Doorly Zoo



Sampling of Current Collaborative Projects

- King Science and Technology Magnet School
- Monroe Middle School
- McMillan Middle School
- Blackburn Alternative School
- Lothrop Elementary School
- Bancroft Elementary
- Iowa Western Community College
- Solomon Girls After School Program
- Metropolitan Community College
- Girls Inc. North
- Girls Inc. South
- Wagner, South Dakota
- University of Nebraska Omaha
- Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium





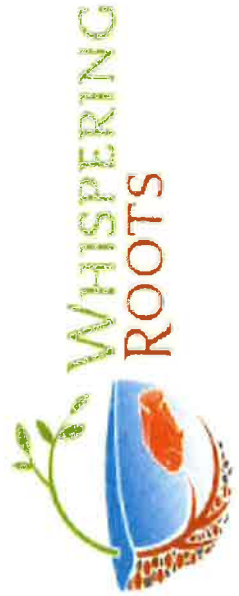
WHISPERING
ROOTS







ALLEY-POYNER
MACCHIETTO
ARCHITECTURE





Estimated Cost of Project:

Design of building & interpretive trail	\$200,000
Building	\$1,800,000
Road and Parking (by OPW)	\$500,000
Wetlands Interpretive Trail	\$250,000
<u>First Three Years of Operating Costs</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>
TOTAL	\$2,850,000

City Request of NRD:

\$100,000 to match City's \$100,000 for design

Timeline

- July 2015 - Capital Campaign begins
- September 2015 – NET grant application submitted
- February 2016 - NET grant recommendations received
- February 2016 - Begin consultant selection process
- April -June 2016 - Final design and construction documents
- July 2016 - Bid project
- October 2016 - Construction begins
- Summer 2017 - Adams Park Wetlands Center opens