

Beaverdale Park
By: Ken Black

Beaverdale Park has for many years been a favorite pleasure spot for folks in northwest Des Moines. This fact was brought to our attention when an old brick walkway was discovered and restored.

In the early days before 34th Street was cut through to Adams Street, access to the park by street car was difficult. It necessitated walking the two blocks north from 36th and Urbandale Avenue up to Adams Street, and then walking the final two blocks east to the park.

The park area is a large part of an early plat known as Kingman's Orchards. After it was purchased by Eva Philpotts from Martha A. Kingman in 1919, it became known as Philpott Park. Little is known of the Philpotts other than their home which was 2 stories built of soft red brick, and stood near the present entrance to the park.

The Philpotts appear to have been involved in several real estate transactions. Records state that Eva, in 1923 gave her equity in the property to the City of Des Moines, intending for the land to remain a park. In 1925, when it was acquired by the City of Des Moines, the city then did not take possession until 1932 due to encumbrances of a financial nature. The Philpott home was removed the following year.

The trees you see in the park now were considerably younger when Eva Philpott owned the land. One can readily understand her attraction to the land which caused her to take the measures which would bring about the preservation of those beautiful trees. It was Eva who first called it a park, and a park we hope it will always be.