

# MacRae Park

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Did you know

March 26, 2013

# MacRae Park, *the park*

- S.W. 9<sup>th</sup> and Davis
- Historic Name, South Park
- Acquired 1897
- 62.7 acres
- Open Air Shelter
- Enclosed Shelter
- Tennis Courts
- Lagoon

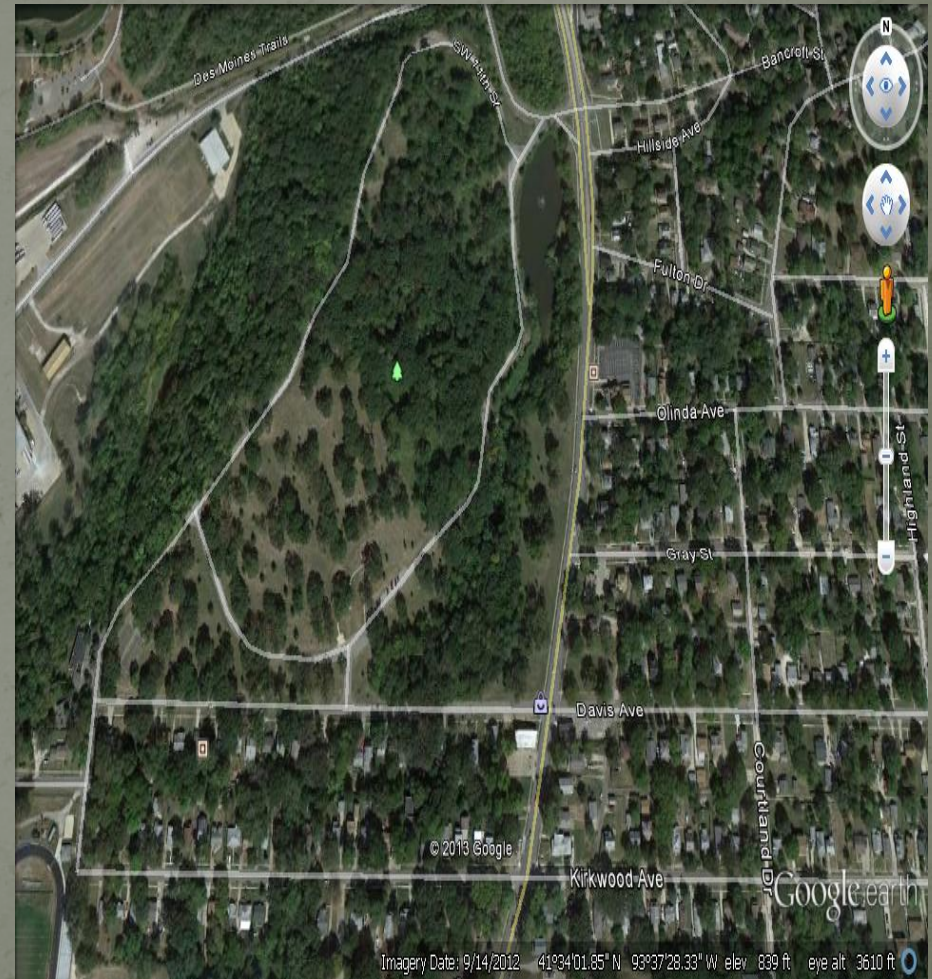


# View from MacRae Park



# MacRae Park, *the park*

- native vegetation within the park was predominantly oak-hickory forest/woodland and oak hickory savanna
- By 1930, tree density increased



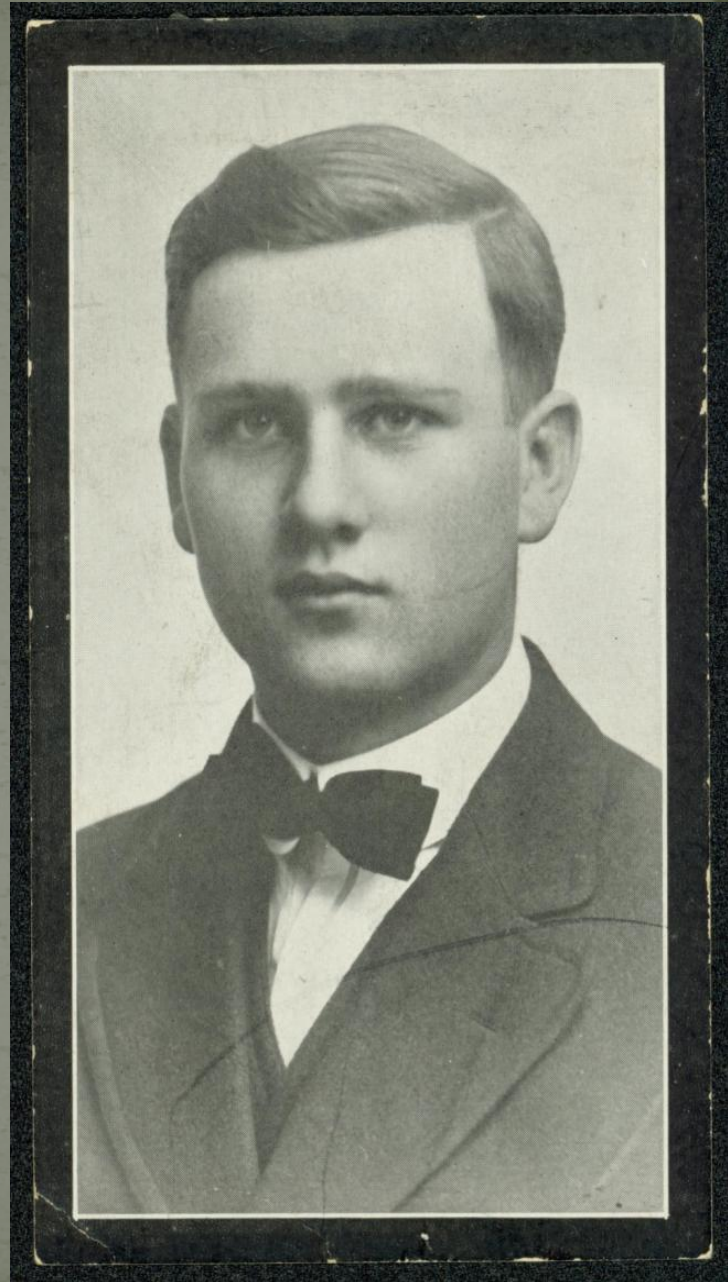
# MacRae Park History

- Memorial seat and Fountain 1932
- Renamed MacRae Park in 1919



# MacRae, *the person*

- Donald MacRae (1895-1918)
- North High School
- Drake University
- Chase & West Department Store
- Edward Fleur



# MacRae, the person

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- National Guard 68<sup>th</sup> Infantry, France
- March 5, 1918 killed by shell fragment
- May 26, Fleur wrote letter to MacRae's parents



and struck it in at the left  
temple - and then down -

I have his helmet with me  
and my bag and I will bring  
it home to you - if you want it,  
and if I get home myself.  
You know life is so uncertain  
here. "You live to day" - but to  
morrow - we do not know -

The boys of the M. G. Co. has done  
nobly and do always their duty  
cheerfully - and are brave among  
the bravest. - A finer lot of  
young men from St. Louis we never  
gathered in one Company. I am  
certainly proud of the men  
and I love them all -

Somewhere in France  
May 16, 1918

Mr. Matthew L. Mac Rae!

My dear Mr. Mac Rae:

I fear that the 7  
letters I wrote you about the  
6th and the 15th of  
March has never reached  
you. - Mrs. Fleer has told  
me in her letter that you  
had never received a letter  
from me. - Well the mail  
service at times are very bad

# Fish Day

- Annual Event 1919
- Lagoon stocked with fish
- Des Moines Register, August 10, 1919

“According to reports last evening, Albert Coe with a 10-1/2 inch fish caught in MacRae park, was the prize winner.”

Thank You

