

Diane Becker  
Communications Director

dbecker@ci.norfolk.ne.us

For Immediate Release: September 21, 2016  
"32 'Experimental' trees planted at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park"



They are trees that aren't commonly planted in Norfolk: Cucumbertree magnolia, American hornbeam, Yellowwood. According to the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), that's all the more reason to plant them.

As part of the NFS Environmental Adaptive Tree (EAT) program, unique and even "borderline" trees for survival are planted in different parts of Nebraska to see how well they grow and thrive. Kendall Wyers, Sustainable Communities Coordinator with the NFS

Park caretakers Don Rettig and Joel Cleveland plant a Domingo pine this week near the Elkhorn River Trail. It is one of 32 experimental trees planted in Ta-Ha-Zouka Park.

contacted the City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board last February asking if Norfolk would be interested in getting up to 50 free EAT trees.

They jumped at the opportunity.

"In the Skyview Park Arboretum we are able to show people over 100 species of trees. With the Emerald Ash Borer inevitably killing all the ash trees in Norfolk, we need to plant some diverse varieties," said Pat Mrsny, City of Norfolk Park Superintendent.

This week, 32 trees were delivered to Norfolk and planted at the east end of Ta-Ha-Zouka Park along First Street. They range from three to seven feet tall.

The NFS asks only that park staff document what type of site the tree was planted in, the soil composition of the site, watering conditions and whether it gets full sun or not.

Mrsny looked over the tree list and mapped out where each should be planted according to its size and shape. Domingo pines were planted near the Elkhorn River Trail bridge with black gums and pecan trees in the mix of the EAT trees planted in the park.