

ILLINI GROVE

Illini Grove dates to 1871, three years after the University of Illinois opened at Urbana-Champaign, when 23 species of trees were planted to show farmers of the Prairie State the benefits of trees for shelter and as sources of firewood and fence posts. The original area extended west of Lincoln Avenue from Florida Avenue north through the present site of Lincoln Avenue Residence Halls. It was known as "The Forestry."

In 1951 the south 9 acres were turned to a new use as a picnic area in a recreational development under the College of Physical Education. This has been described as "the finest and closest-in picnic area of any college campus."

A shelter house was built, with rest rooms and a supply room with game equipment. Ten picnic sites were prepared for groups from 6 to 64 persons. These spaces may be reserved and used by students, faculty and staff, and affiliated units, with priority for organized groups such as fraternities, sororities, clubs, and university departments. More than 26,000 people use Illini Grove every year.

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from public information

(ADVANCE for release Sept. 9, 1951.)

"Illini grove," the new University of Illinois picnic area in the old "forestry" at Lincoln and Pennsylvania avenues will be open to general use starting Sept. 16, Prof. Al Sapora, supervisor, announced today. Space reservations will be received by the Illini Union starting tomorrow (Sept. 10).

The grove will be dedicated Sept. 15 when an invitation party is being given by President George D. Stoddard, who has taken a close personal interest in the project. Some 325 persons, including both staff and student leaders, are expected.

As a recreational development, the grove is under the School of Physical Education, and has received careful attention from Director Seward C. Staley.

Professor Sapora explains that it is a unique recreational facility in both conception and arrangement, and probably the finest and closest-in picnic area on any college campus. The nearest approach is a small picnic area at Pennsylvania State College, President Stoddard's alma mater.

Ten picnic sites in Illini Grove are available for reservation. Reservations can be made for parties as large as 350. A shelter house has been built containing rest rooms and a supply room with game equipment and skillets and steak fryers available to groups. An attendant will be on duty from 2 to 10:30 P.M. daily.

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Nine picnic table sites, with stoves and seating for groups from eight to 64 persons, and one camp fire circle seating 32 can be reserved. There are two concrete shuffleboard courts, while crushed stone surfacing has been provided for two horseshoe courts, one volleyball court, and the picnic sites.

Grass areas also are available for games and picnics, but fires will be permitted only at the picnic sites where stoves are located. Firewood is provided. A drinking fountain has been installed at the center of the site, with water also available at the shelter house. Parking for 40 cars is along Pennsylvania avenue.

Sports equipment to be available at the grove for use at the surfaced play sites or for informal play on the grass include materials for clock golf, croquet, horseshoes, shuffle board, soft ball, and volley ball.

Jesse Skeels, 401 W. Elm st., Urbana, a retired University employe, has been hired as attendant for the grove.

The grove will be available for use by all University personnel--students, staff and affiliated units. Families and friends may be invited as guests. Organized groups will be given prior consideration in reservations, but small private parties also will be accommodated.

The grove will be open daily from May 1 to Nov. 1. Reservations are for the 5 to 10:30 P.M. period. During the day use will be open.

The old forestry dates back almost to the opening of the University. Trees were first planted here in 1871, and additional plantings were made for the next 40 years. The purpose was to show farmers of the prairie state the benefits of trees as sources of firewood and fence posts and of shelter.

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As a demonstration, this has been very successful. Originally the forestry covered 13 acres, but erection of McKinley hospital and of the Lincoln Avenue Residences took away land so that the present Illini Grove covers a scant $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Included among the trees there are European larch, western yellow pine, red oak, white oak, scarlet oak, hickory, elm, black cherry, and basswood. The area now has been transferred from the College of Agriculture to the School of Physical Education.

In addition to recreational use, it will be available for such purposes as outdoor sketching and other classes, and for the Physical Education school's classes in camping and camp counselling.

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(ADVANCE FOR RELEASE SEPT. 14, 1951.)

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ILL., SEPT. --A NEW FEATURE OF CAMPUS LIFE FOR UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS STUDENTS WILL OPEN SUNDAY (SEPT. 16). IT IS "ILLINI GROVE," THE FORMER UNIVERSITY FORESTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE INTO A PICNIC AREA FOR 350 OR MORE PERSONS.

PROF. ALLEN V. SAPORA, SUPERVISOR, SAYS THAT IT IS ONE OF THE FINEST, AND THE CLOSEST-IN PICNIC AREA ON ANY COLLEGE CAMPUS. A SHELTER HOUSE, NINE PICNIC TABLE SITES WITH STOVES AND SEATING FOR FROM EIGHT TO 64 PERSONS, A CAMPFIRE CIRCLE SEATING 32, TWO SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS, TWO HORSESHOE COURTS, A VOLLEYBALL COURT, AND PICNIC SITES ARE IN THE 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ACRE AREA.

THE GROVE WILL BE DEDICATED SATURDAY NIGHT (SEPT. 15) WHEN AN INVITATION PARTY IS BEING GIVEN BY PRESIDENT GEORGE D. STODDARD, WHO HAS TAKEN A CLOSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROJECT.

THE FORESTRY DATES TO 1871, THREE YEARS AFTER THE UNIVERSITY OPENED. IT WAS PLANTED TO SHOW FARMERS OF THE PRAIRIE STATE THE BENEFITS OF TREES FOR SHELTER AND AS SOURCES OF FIREWOOD AND OF FENCE POSTS. IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION.

OTHER AREAS NOW ARE BEING USED BY THE UNIVERSITY'S FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FOR ITS WORK AND THE OLD FORESTRY AREA HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TO THE SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, WHICH HAS CHARGE OF ILLINI GROVE.

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Plans for relocation of Illini Grove, campus recreational area, on a site south of horticulture field laboratory between Lincoln Ave. and Orchard St., have been approved by the Buildings and Ground Committee of the Board of Trustees, Charles S. Havens, director of the physical plant, announced today.

The Board Committee has authorized selection of this site, which will have a maximum developed area of 37 acres, and site and landscape planning studies for budget purposes.

A minimum of three years is estimated as required to develop the first phase of the relocated Grove adequate for use. Present Illini Grove which is nine acres in size, is located at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and South Lincoln Ave. It will be vacated to make room for single undergraduate student housing.

Since Illini Grove was opened in 1951, approximately 160,000 people have made use of the facility, an average of 25,000 people from May to November each year. Use of the Grove is available without charge on a reservation basis to all University-identified groups. The area is administered by the College of Physical Education and maintained by the Physical Plant department.

The new site will provide a much larger area, which will be needed as enrollments increase in the future. It is within one and a half miles of the center of the campus and accessible by improved roads. Electric power and water supply lines are now located within 1000 feet of the center of the site.