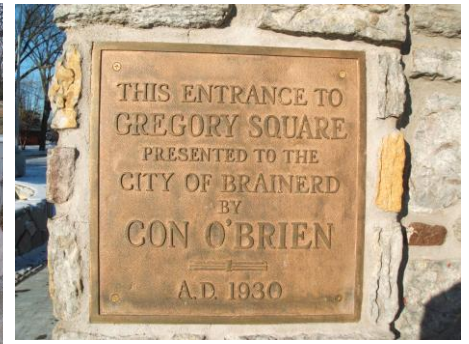


A walk in the park

The wife and I were in **Gregory Park** the other day. For some reason she likes to walk just to walk... not go anywhere or discover anything, just walk. Why anyone would walk on purpose is beyond me. So, she drags me along and we walk in square circles so the mileage is easy to figure, around once, 8/12 of a mile. I use my smart phone to map my walk, and it looked nothing like hers. Hers was a perfect square. Mine was all jagged.

Starting at the tennis court **drinking fountain** so we have water when we get done, we then head south to check out my mother-in-law's tree on the SW corner, and then to the **fountain** to check out the old **1927 plaque** on that big boulder, and the 2 **1930 plaques** on what is left of the McDonalds **arches**.



Then I go check out my father-in-law's tree on the SE corner, and the ol' **willow tree**

across from St. Paul's church that we have been climbing on since dust, and has been hanging nearly horizontal since 1955 that I know of. Heading north again we check out my Mom's tree kitty corner from the school



where I learned everything I really needed to know in life, Mrs. Hastings' kindergarten class. At this half-way point we wind up next to her tree, and rest on the **bench** we had made for my folks. Refreshed, I check out my old **climbing tree**, the biggest scotch pine in the park. Then we head to Dad's tree on the NW corner, across the street from our old house to the west. Back to the drinking fountain, I clock out of my



map app, and once again she walked .66 miles, and I walk 1.2. THEN, I go check out the bandstand to see if any more trees were planted lately. BTW, you can find a brief history of the park on the warming house building in the **kiosk**.



This brings me to point out 2 really neat programs offered by Parks & Rec.

Those **4 trees** I mentioned were planted by them, and I have a “corner” on the market. When my Dad passed away our family wanted to make a memorial of some sort in our favorite park. A while back I noticed the engraved granite bricks embedded in the **Parker Bandstand**. You buy the tree, and pay just \$25 for the brick, and Parks plants your tree. Some may go in on Arbor Day, so kids get involved. When Dad died, Mom and I helped the kids plant his tree by his old house. A few years later she asked me if she had to die first before she got a tree! Well, I checked this out with Kim at Parks and she assured me we can buy all the trees we want, any TIME we want! So, Mom got to see her tree planted. It was pretty much the same for my wife’s folks, and we had 2 more family plantings. Helen’s went across from her old church, the Congregational.

Chet was not a church- goer, but his tree went across from St. Paul’s because it was the only corner left. BTW, anyone can go look at that block of **brick markers** on the bandstand, and find a name, and coordinates will tell you where the tree is and what the variety is...pretty cool! So, with the boxelder trees long gone, then elm, now ash, we really need to re-tree this park! Parks will help you choose a good variety. This is a great way to get ‘er done. You don’t have to die first, or even make it memorialize a person, just a cause or event or family will do. Look at the aerial photo...we could use more trees!



The **benches** can be placed in ANY park, and you can see several in Gregory, and some in Kiwanis that I know of. They are a bit pricey but are made of recycled plastic and cemented in and are huge, so they will last a lifetime, maybe 2.



Some young summer help dundigging in the dirt >

Find more here on the **Parks & Rec.** site:



<http://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/parks/memorialtreesbenches.htm>

Post card, ca. 1952:



-CWF, 4/24/2016