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QUINCY

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Vintage postcards from the early 1900s show Quincy's Maine Street once showcased a thick canopy of towering shade trees. Many of those trees were decimated by an ice storm in 1937, while disease and drought killed others. Now a grassroots Quincy group is hoping to rebuild the canopy by launching a major tree-planting program.

TREES *for* TOMORROW

STORY BY EDWARD HUSAR

HERALD-WHIG STAFF WRITER

Vintage postcards from the early 1900s show that Quincy's Maine Street was adorned back then with a thick canopy of towering shade trees.

Many of those trees were decimated by an ice storm in 1937. In later years, disease and drought killed many other trees and left gaping holes in their place.

Now a grassroots Quincy group is hoping to rebuild the canopy by launching a major tree-planting program: "Trees for Tomorrow."

The group's initial goal is to plant about 90 trees along Maine Street between 12th and 24th, and branch out from there. But it also wants to encourage residents to plant trees in other parts of Quincy.

Anne St. John, one of the organizers, said Quincy has long been recognized as a Tree City USA for its wealth of trees and ongoing efforts to enhance the city's treescape. But despite these positive steps, she said, "we're losing trees faster than we're planting them."

Since 2004, she said, about 600 trees have been planted along Quincy's public rights of way through a planting program sponsored by the city. But during the same period, she said, the city cut down about 1,075

trees that were dead or dying from disease or drought.

The Trees for Tomorrow group hopes to reverse the trend by encouraging that trees be planted not only along city rights of way but also in backyards, parks, cemeteries and other public and private places.

The group's main mission is to restore the scenic canopy that once towered over the city's residential areas. But it also wants to promote the environmental benefits of trees, which create shade, reduce energy bills, provide wildlife habitat and produce oxygen while filtering carbon dioxide from the air.

"Just about everybody we've talked to is for this," St. John

said. "Everybody in this group feels like we need to be good stewards of the Earth and provide for our kids and our grandkids and make sure they will have trees."

The Trees for Tomorrow campaign will begin with a news conference at 4:30 p.m. Monday near the Quincy School District's early childhood center, 14th and Maine. Two trees will be planted at that location — the former site of the Quincy Clinic. One tree was donated by the Quincy Medical Group. The other

Some of the trees available to buy



Thornless Honeylocust

Shape: Vase
Height: 50 feet
Spread: 30 feet
Fall foliage: Yellowish-green



October Glory Maple

Shape: Ovoid
Height: 50-60 feet
Spread: 35-40 feet
Fall foliage: Crimson-red



Village Green Zelkova

Shape: Vase
Height: 50-80 feet
Spread: 35-40 feet
Fall foliage: Orange-yellow to red



Red Sunset Maple

Shape: Ovoid
Height: 50 feet
Spread: 30-40 feet
Fall foliage: Orange to red

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