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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Eagle Point Park's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Set for August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque Leisure Services Department will sponsor a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Eagle Point Park on **Sunday, Aug. 2, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the park.

Admission is free to the park for the celebration. Free lemonade, cupcakes and children's activities (inflatable amusements, clowns, and facepainting) will also be provided. Food will also be available for purchase.

The celebration will also include two free concerts at the park's band shell. The Upper Main Street Jazz Band will perform from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. and the Tri-State Wind Symphony will play from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. A historical display, featuring original park drawings and other articles from the park's past, will be on display throughout the celebration.

The idea for Eagle Point Park was conceived in 1907 when Charles M. Robinson, a noted eastern park specialist, visited Dubuque. After touring scenic locations in Dubuque, Robinson made this comment to his hosts: "I have never seen a place where the Almighty has done more and mankind less, than Dubuque." Most of his listeners were hurt by the remark, but one person decided to do something about it: Judge Oliver Shiras, one of Dubuque's leading citizens.

A citizen committee was formed in April of 1908, and Judge Shiras was elected chairperson. In June of 1908, with aid from the Civic Division of the Dubuque Women's Club, 100 acres were purchased from A.L. Rhomberg. The property was then deeded to the City and became Eagle Point Park. Since the original purchase, 17 parcels have been purchased or donated, which brings the park to its present size of 164 acres.

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Streetcar traffic began to serve the park in 1912. The Union Electric Company constructed the track, turnaround, and waiting station in the area above the park entrance where the eagle statue and flower beds are located. In 1920, a bathing beach was constructed but closed when the lock and dam was built in 1933.

The park took on a new look in the 1930s when the City hired Park Superintendent Alfred Caldwell. A \$200,000 Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant was received and the gifted landscape architect began work. His love of Frank Lloyd Wright prairie architecture is very recognizable in the buildings and gardens. Caldwell's exceptional use of native construction materials, craftsmanship, and unique designs make the park one of the most beautiful in the Midwest.

Today, approximately 240,000 people visit the park each year and more than 1,200 events are held at the park. A new entrance and toll booth for the park was completed last year and work is currently underway to construct a hike/bike/walk trail, following the original trolley line trail, from Shiras Avenue to the turnaround with the large eagle statue.

Eagle Point Park's facilities include the Riverfront Pavilion, Shiras Memorial Pavilion, Log Cabin Pavilion, Terrace Room, Veranda Rooms, Indian Room, and the Bridge Complex. Other amenities include the Wading Pool, Rock Garden and Fish Pond, six tennis courts, horseshoe courts, and a band shell.

The park is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday - Thursday, and 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday - Saturday, from the first weekend in May through the fourth weekend in October.

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