

HERITAGE TREES IN XENIA 2016

Sycamore Grove and a Burr Oak at Sol Arnovitz Park 436 Towler Road, Xenia, Ohio

History of Sol Arnovitz Park – Arnovitz Park, site of the new disk golf course on Towler Rd, is the location for this year's Heritage tree nominations. The Burr Oak and grove of Sycamores sit on land that is rich in local history. In the late 1700's, the Shawnee settle in what is now Old Town. After settlers settled the Ohio territory, James Galloway built a cabin near Goes. Later, the city of Xenia was founded and surveyed by James Galloway Jr. The park area became the property of Rebecca Galloway. In 1919, Rebecca Galloway sold the property to John Frye and was known as the Frye farm. In 1968, the heirs sold the Frye farm property to Xenia F.O.P. for the purpose of building a clubhouse. The clubhouse was never built and the property was purchased a few years later by the city of Xenia. The city of Xenia decided to name the park for prominent Xenia businessman Sol Arnovitz. Sol Arnovitz had many business interests around the Greene County area. He owned and operated Sol's Store, a retail clothing business, in downtown Xenia. Mr. Arnovitz was an active civic leader and a strong supporter of the Greene County YMCA, Xenia Elks Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police and the Xenia Rotary Club. He was an avid supporter of the Greene Joint Vocational School, known today as the Greene County Career Center, and contributed 25 acres of the 40 acres on W. Enon Rd that the school sits on. Mr. Arnovitz believed a vocational school would provide opportunities for young people to prepare themselves for jobs, enabling them to find better employment and in turn, enriching the community where they live. He passed away in May 1967 just hours after the announcement of the Greene Joint Vocational School would begin operations in September of that year. Today, the Sol Arnovitz Park is the site of a disc golf park and adjoins the Creekside Bike Trail.

Ancient Burr Oak and grove of Sycamore trees that are located toward the back of the park on a ridge near the creek. The majestic Burr Oak has a diameter of four feet and nine inches (4.9) and is approximately ninety feet (90) in height. That places its age at approximately three hundred (300) years old, which would be around the time the Shawnee had settled in Old Town. The grove of Sycamore trees range in diameter from two feet and five inches to four feet and three inches (2'-5" to 4'-3") and at a height of approximately one hundred feet (100') and less. They range in age from the youngest at eighty-three (83) years to the oldest at one hundred forty (140) years. The trees are part of the valuable woodland north of the site. The oldest Sycamore was a seedling not long after Rebecca Galloway sold the property to the Frye family.

Sycamore Tree:



Grove:

