

Norfolk Insider

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“Tree Ring tells a Story at the Norfolk Public Library”



Not only do books tell stories – trees can, too. The Norfolk Public Library has both now that there is a 125-year-old slice of a tree trunk sitting near its check out desk. The City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board, as part of the 150th anniversary of the City, had park staff refinish a slice from a tree taken down in Johnson Park this past winter. The cottonwood tree was taken down because of rotting upper branches making it dangerous for park visitors.

After it was refinished it was set up on a tripod and various rings were labeled

with matching dates of Norfolk historical events by Nebraska State Forester Steve Rasmussen.

“Tree rings can tell different ‘stories’ about the tree. Most commonly, tree rings are counted to tell the approximate age of the tree as each ring is considered a year in the life of the tree. Closely spaced rings may indicate slow growth due to moisture stress, competition from other trees, insect or disease infestations,” said Rasmussen.

This tree was planted in 1891 and tells the specific story of Norfolk.