CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Rotary

2026 FALL CONFERENCE

Rotary District 5650

Peace Pole Project Updates

Robert Rapp IPDG

October 24th, 2026



The Peace Pole project story

01 What we set out to accomplish

02 Peace Pole Projects

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What we set out to accomplish



The purpose

Positive Peace

“A Peace Pole represents the highest aspirations of peace and goodwill inherent in the human heart transcending race, religion and creed.”*

*peacepoleproject.org



The purpose

"Peace Poles carry the message of peace, May Peace Prevail On Earth, in the languages of the world. They are recognized as the most prominent international symbol and monument dedicated to peace on earth. Peace Poles have been planted on every continent in over 200,000 communities by friends and supporters working in unison to uplift the consciousness of humankind."

https://www.worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject/

The purpose

"Peace Poles act as beacons of hope, inspiring people to come together and work towards a more peaceful world. Planting a Peace Pole often involves ceremonies and community events, fostering unity and a shared spirit of goodwill.

From city parks and schools to places of worship, businesses, and private gardens, Peace Poles are installed in various locations, spreading the universal message of peace on earth. Planting a Peace Pole connects your community with others around the world who have also planted them in the spirit of peace."

https://www.worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject/

*peacepoleproject.org

The purpose

The Universal Message for World Peace, May Peace Prevail On Earth, was authored in 1955
by the late Masahisa Goi of Japan. In a moment of great inspiration, Masahisa Goi awakened
to the need to spread this Message in the hearts of the global community for the attainment
of inner and outer peace.

https://www.worldpeace.org/history/

The purpose

The first Peace Poles outside of Japan began to appear in towns and cities around the world in the early 1980's. By 1986, The Peace Pole Project was established in the United States followed by Peace Pole activities in Europe and throughout the world. To date there are over 200,000 Peace Poles planted worldwide.

https://www.worldpeace.org/history/

The purpose

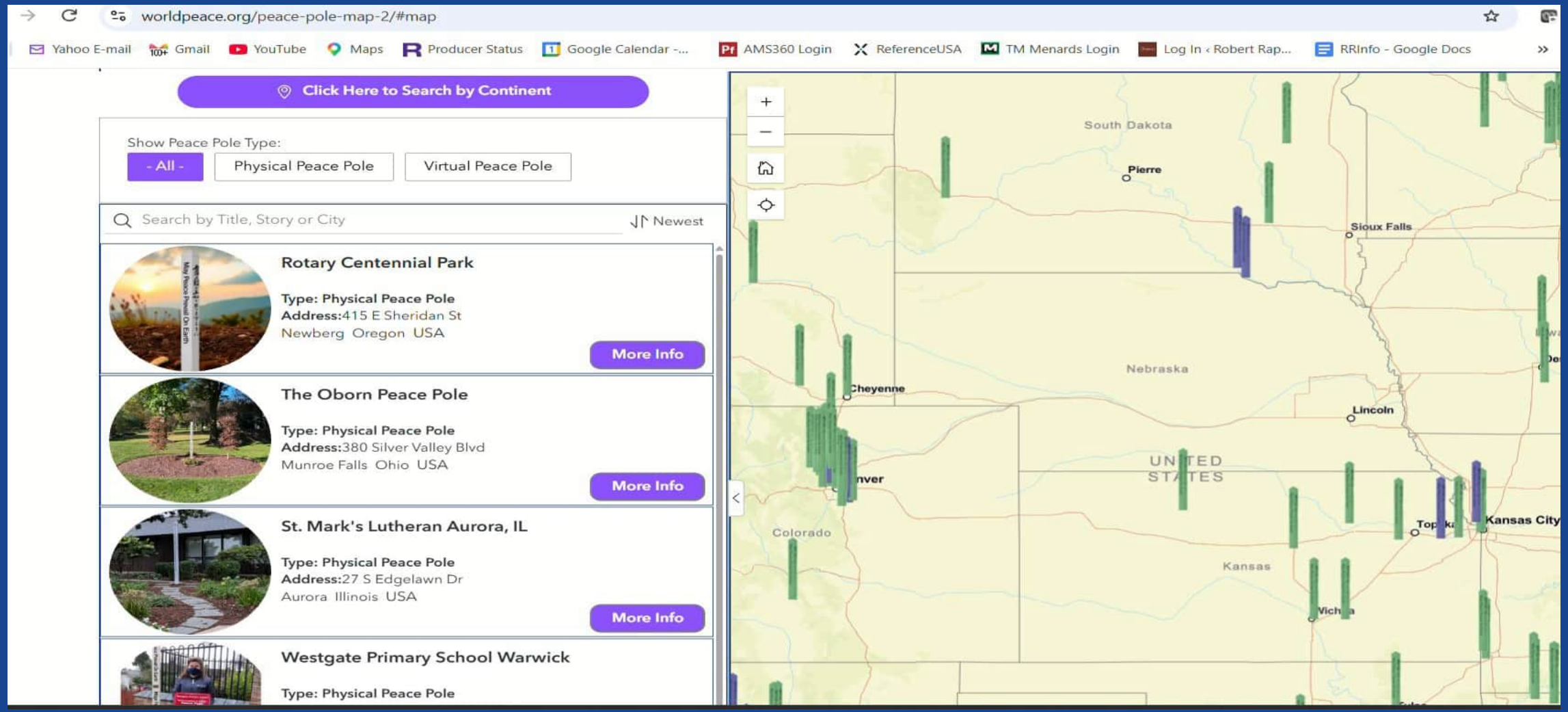
Rotary International has adopted Peace and Conflict Resolution as one of its seven areas of focus. Rotarians all over the world are encouraged to promote peace through service projects and community outreach.

It was the Rotary Clubs of Alberta and Montana that proposed, in 1931, uniting Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta and Glacier National Park in Montana as the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the first such park in the world. It was intended not just to promote peace and goodwill between nations, but also to underscore the international nature of wilderness and the co-operation required in its protection.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

What we set out to accomplish

Rotary District 5650



Peace Pole Projects

Wayne Rotary Club Peace Pavilion
2026-27 District Grant - $1,500 Match $1,500
Est. Completion Fall 2026/Spring 2027

Nebraska City Rotary Club
Treaty Monument Peace Pole & Landscaping
2026-27 $3,000 Est. Completion Fall 2026/Spring 2027

York Rotary Club Peace Pole & Pollinator Garden
2026-27 District Grant - $1,500 Match $1,500 Est.
Completion Fall 2026/Spring 2027

Peace Pole Projects

Red Oak Rotary Club Peace Pole
Ordered – Will Arrive November 2nd, Ceremony TBD, Installation YMCA
Est. Cost?

Ashland Rotary Club Pollinator Garden/Peace Pole
2026-27 District Grant - $1,500 Match $1,500
Est. Completion Fall 2026/Spring 2027

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole
2025-26 District Governor Project
$1,500 Peace Poles ($300 x 5)
$800 Design Costs Innovation Lab UNL – Split
$400 DG/$400 NCIA

Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club



Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club

Wayne Rotarians are partnering with the City of Wayne, Wayne State College Construction Management classes, and the WSC Rotaract club to establish a campus-community place to gather in the interests of promoting connections, service, and peace.

The funding for this project is generously provided by a 2026 District 5650 Grant, Several WSC Service-Learning Grants, and the Wayne City Council.

The City of Wayne approved the construction of a Peace Gazebo at Viken Park to be built by WSC Construction Management students under the instruction of Instructor Dylan Cerny. The City has contributed by obtaining engineering approval and laying the cement foundation for the Gazebo. WSC Rotaract students will be submitting a Service-Learning request to fund the Peace Pole and solar lamps for the gazebo. Discussion with the WSC – Wayne Green Teams are considering a garden with the pole.

Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club

Progress Report: The foundation has been poured, and gazebo construction is underway! The Rotaract Club is working on the Service-Learning proposal to submit in the next month. They will also work with Wayne Rotarians to plan an event to 'launch' the garden. If possible – around Feb 23 (weather permitting!)

Ideas for activities include a 'Progressive Picnic' inviting other community organizations to provide appetizers, meals, and beverages along the City Trail that will end at the Peace Gazebo for its 'christening' with music and desserts.

Depending on completion times and weather, this event will likely be after the holidays – to open the spring 'reason to get outside and connect'.

Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club

Some pictures of the plans and the progress:

PLANS





Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club

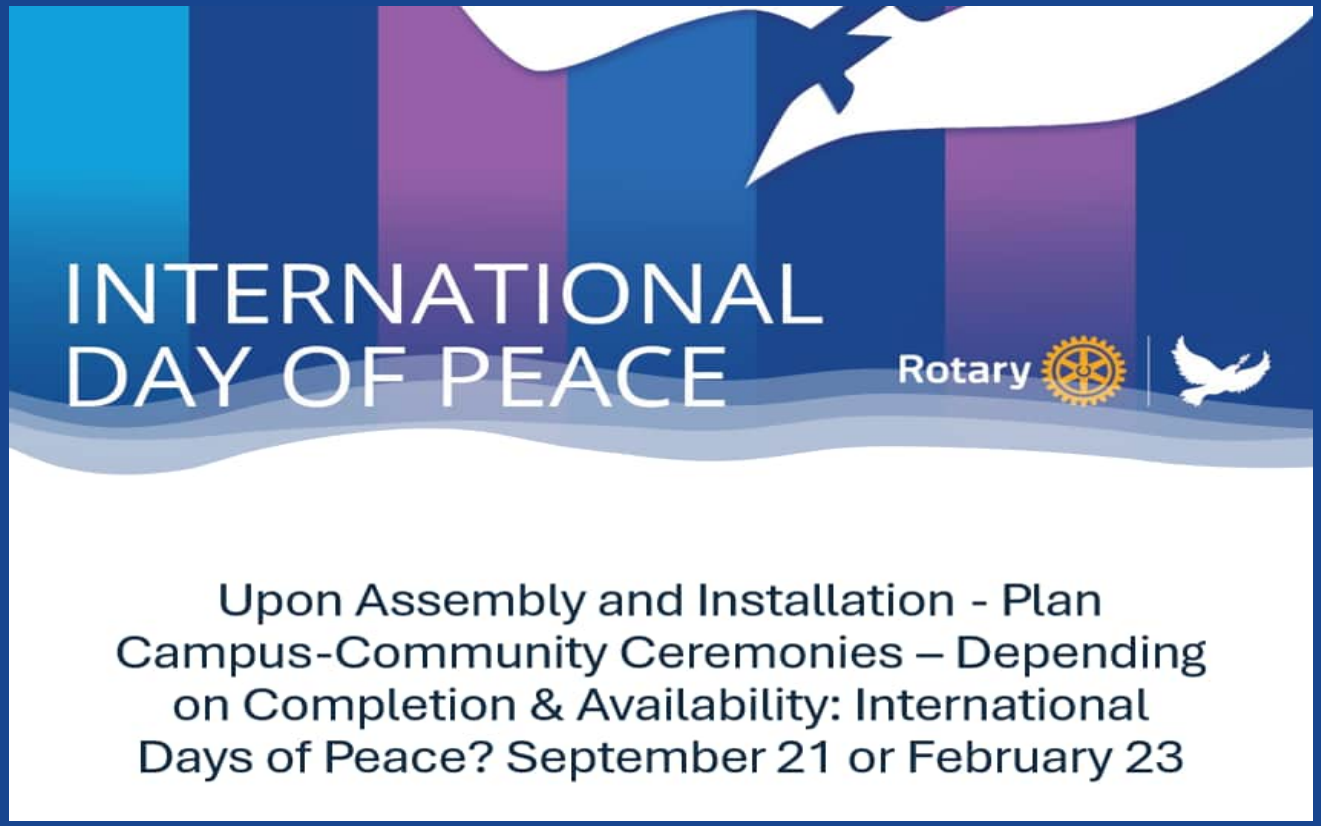
Some pictures of the plans and the progress:

PROGRESS

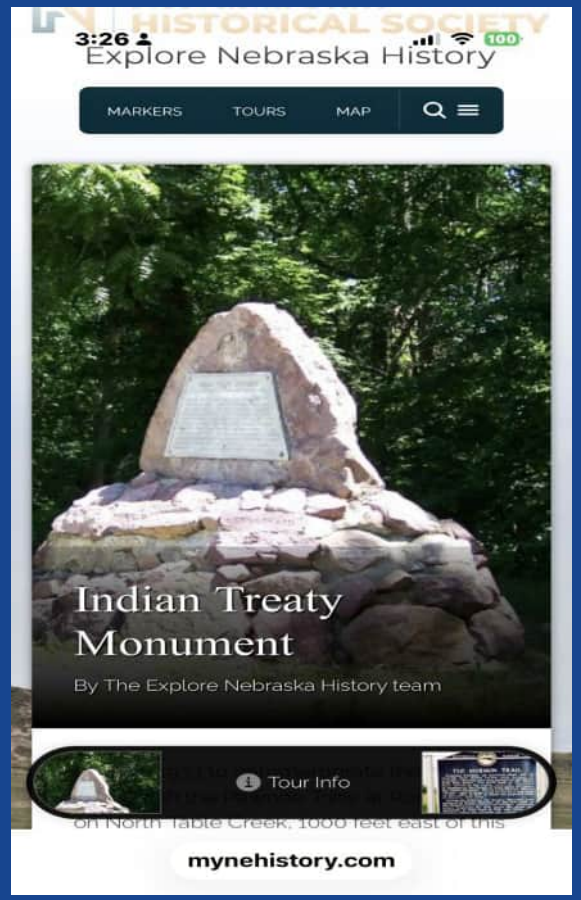


Wayne and Nebraska City

Wayne Rotary Club



Wayne and Nebraska City



Nebraska City Rotary Club

Peace Pole Project

Treaty Monument/aka Table Creek Indian Monument

Commemorates the 1933 marker placement Honoring the 1857 treaty at Rocky Ford with the Pawnee Tribe and Settlers Under the Treaty Tree



Wayne and Nebraska City

Nebraska City Rotary Club

Treaty Monument
Peace Pole Project

Hi Robert. Thank you for your email. We have purchased the peace pole and have working on selecting the location and getting permission to plant the pole. We have now received that permission and are working on making arrangements to get it done. We selected the Pawnee Indian Peace Treaty Monument. My plan is to have it placed and recognized prior to the conference.

Sent from my iPhone. I can keep you posted with pics. Thank you Don Loseke.

York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden

Planned Garden Fall 2026
Peace Pole Dedication Spring 2027

York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden

Stephen Postier
Attachments
Oct 21, 2026, 10:15 AM (1 day ago)
to me

We've been working with our local nursery to develop this area, and I've attached the full plans. We've been able to actually leverage the Rotary Grant/part of the project into a larger community project that the finished area should look something like this. The Rotary portion will start this project as the smaller pollinator part in the center lower left part of this area. That has been the catalyst to get this large community project moving forward.

I've attached an AI image rendering combining what the peace pole, a rotary sign, and the nursery's rough design could look like. (We're still waiting on branding/design approval, so this is just conceptual)

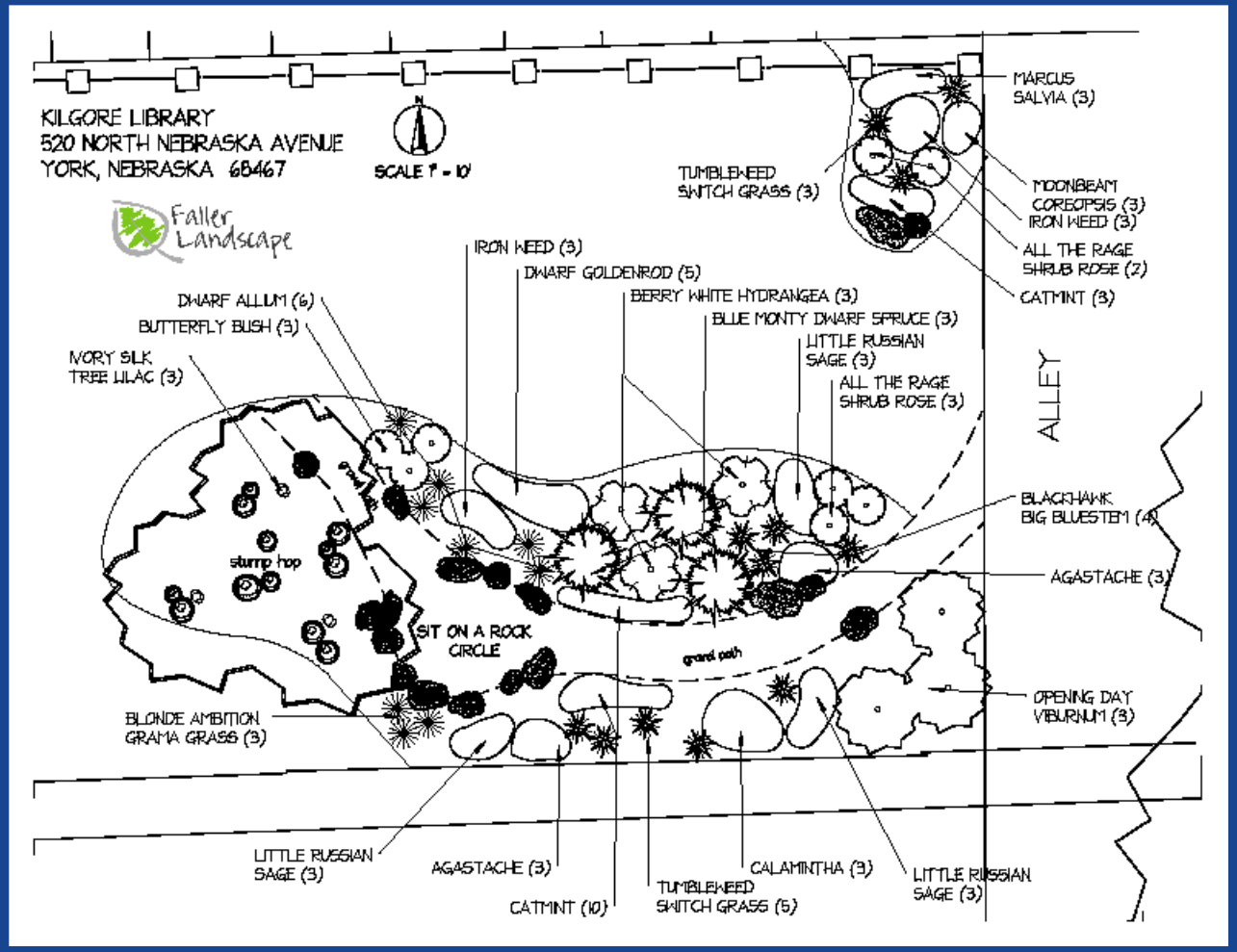
York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden

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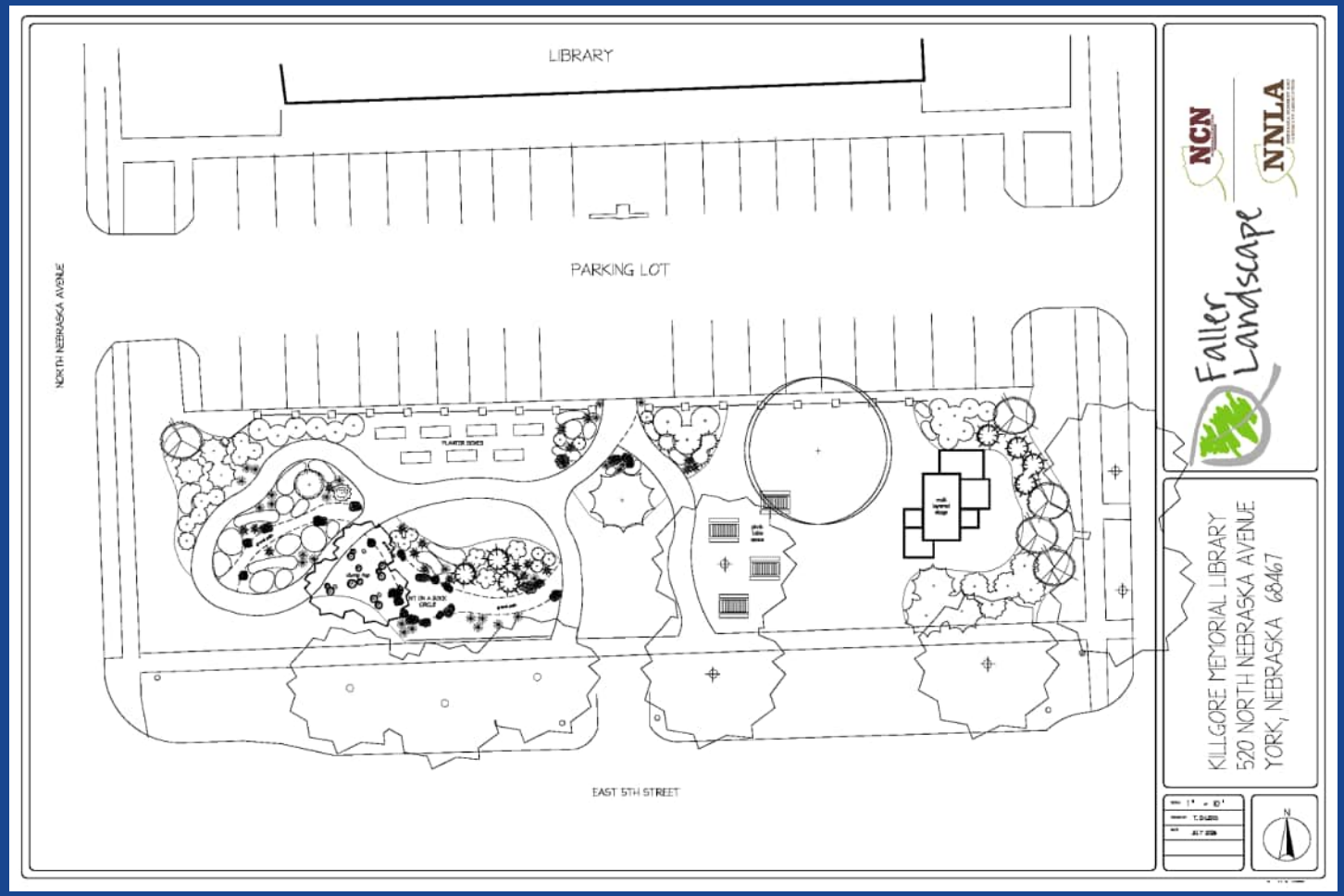
It's going to be located in a vacant lot adjacent to our library as part of the overall plan to create an outdoor education learning center the library and other community members can utilize. We're hoping phase 1 can be done yet this fall, but possibly the spring, depending on Nebraska weather. We're working on other grant applications to possibly finish the entire project which would bring in a stage, and other outdoor education components to enhance the library.

So far no challenges, but we'll see as the project moves forward. I don't envision any issues related to the peace pole itself, more just weather/timing issues.

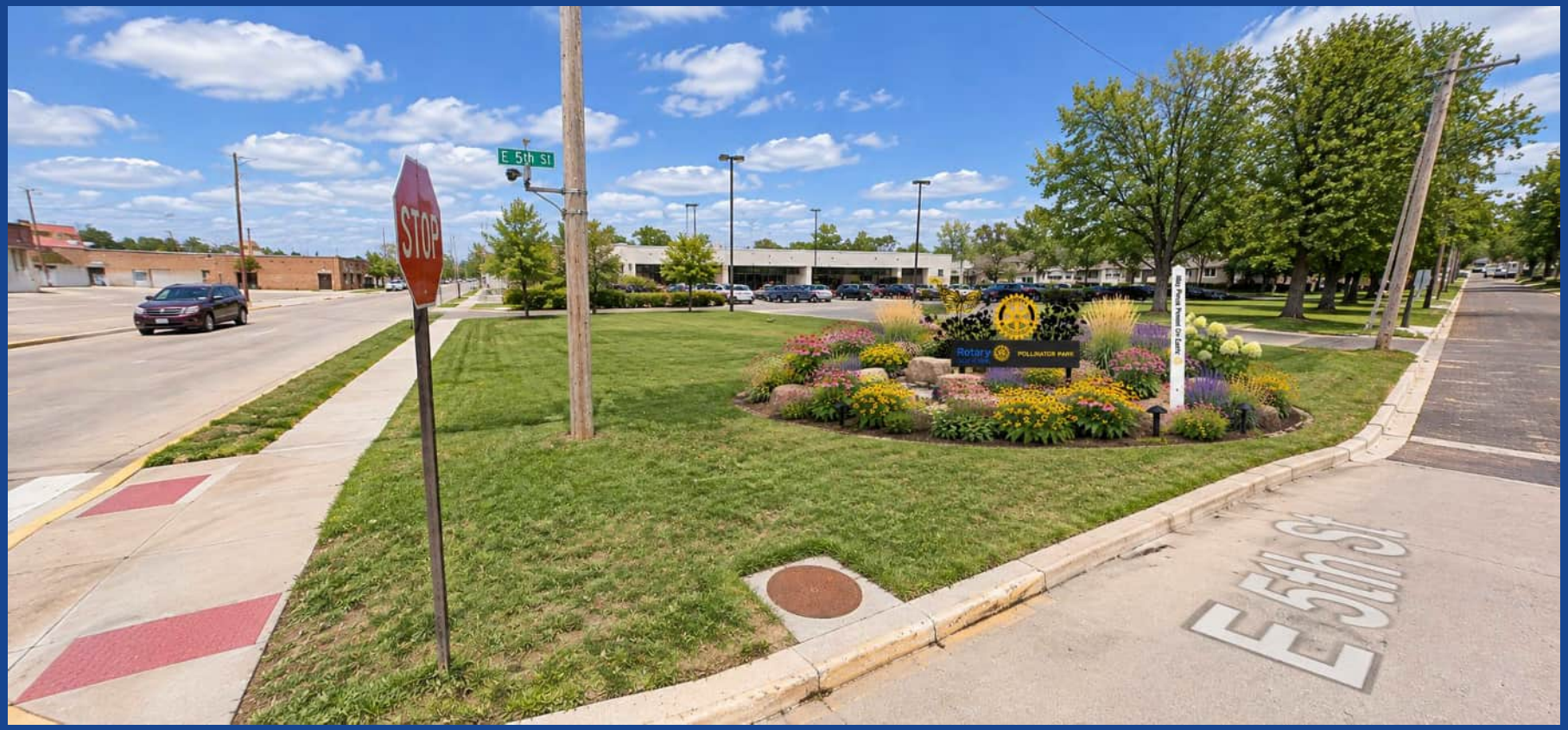
York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden



York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden



York Rotary Club Pollinator Educator Peace Pole Garden



Genoa Indian School Peace Pole Project



https://genoaindianschoolmuseum.org/

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

The Indian Industrial School at Genoa, Nebraska was the fourth largest non-reservation boarding school established by the United States Office of Indian Affairs. Genoa, Nebraska was selected because the U.S. federal government already owned the former Pawnee Reservation property there and of it's great distance from reservations. The facility opened on February 20, 1884 and, like other federal Indian boarding schools, its mission was to educate Native American children in order to assimilate them into American society. The students that came to the Genoa U.S. Indian School were from more than ten states and over 40 different tribal nations. In time, the school grew from the original 74 students to an enrollment of 599 in a single year and encompassed over 30 buildings on 640 acres. The school was in operation from 1884 through 1934.

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

The Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School in Genoa, Nebraska, began in a one-room schoolhouse that the United States had originally built on the Pawnee reservation as part of its treaty obligations. After the Pawnees were pushed to Indian Territory (today's Oklahoma) in the mid-1870s, the United States converted their school into the Genoa School. Eventually Genoa became a sprawling 640-acre campus with over thirty buildings. During its fifty years of operation from 1884 to 1934, the school enrolled over 4,300 children representing over forty Indian Nations.

Genoa was but one of over 300 Indian boarding schools that were established by the government and churches in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As attendance at boarding schools was government policy, officials forced children as young as 5 years of age to live apart from their families against the wishes of their families and tribes. By 1900 alone, nearly 78% of all Indian children who attended school were enrolled in boarding schools.

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole
Rotary District 5650 2025 Fall Conference





Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

Judi gaiashkibos, executive director of NCIA since 1995. She has worked with the government and private sector to provide opportunities for Nebraska Indians, fostered diversity and cultural sensitivity in the Nebraska State Legislature, promoted state and federal legislation, and advanced sovereignty issues. She is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and holds degrees in Human Relations and Leadership from Doane College. She was the 2012 recipient of the Humanities Nebraska Sower Award and has developed educational opportunities for native youth including the ongoing Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp and the Chief Standing Bear Scholarships, & Honorary Rotary Paul Harris Fellow 2025

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

After Judi spoke at our Fall 2025 District Conference presented idea of Peace Pole in remembrance of children.
$1,500 District Grant monies to help fund the purchase of 5 Peace Poles @ $300 a piece.

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole



Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

CHALLENGES

Peace pole proposed for Centennial Mall draws Capitol panel concerns
Peter Breen | Lincoln Journal Star Aug 6, 2026

A 6-foot "peace pole" could soon accompany the bronze sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte on the Centennial Mall. But the pole installation proposed by the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs and a district of 36 Rotary Clubs in the Lincoln area has drawn some skepticism from the group that regulates the area around the state Capitol. Specifically, members of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission expressed concerns about the relatively short expected lifetime of the pole (20-30 years) and plans for the pole to include a Rotary logo.

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

CHALLENGES

The city of Lincoln's Parks and Recreation Department, which owns and maintains the mall, also said it may be challenging to install the pole next to the LaFlesche Picotte statue because of underground utilities in the area. "We know from experience — the installation of the Dr. Susan sculpture — that this just happens to be the busiest little intersection of underground utilities along the entire mall," said J.J. Yost, with Parks and Recreation. Judi gaiashkibos, executive director of the Commission on Indian Affairs, formally revealed her desire to install a pole in an early June letter to the environs commission. Gaiashkibos and Robert Rapp, who just finished a term as governor of Rotary District 5650, provided more details at a commission meeting late last month. 2/37 https://journalstar.com/news/local/government-politics/article_df7d75f8-a9e5-406f-a5d7-c2bfb2feb157.html

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

CHALLENGES

Rapp explained that he chose the theme of peace building for his year as governor. After hearing gaiashkibos speak about the Genoa Indian School — a boarding school in Nebraska for Natives from 1884-1934 where an estimated 100, or more, children died — Rapp wanted to give a voice to the children, he said. "One of the ways that you can do that is through a peace park or a peace pole," Rapp said. "Rotary started the first international peace park in 1931 in Waterton, in Alberta, Canada."

Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

Lincoln Parks/Rec Meeting July 2026



Genoa Indian School Peace Pole





Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

Success

Change Location

UNL Indigenous Studies Program, UNL Campus

Peace Pole #1

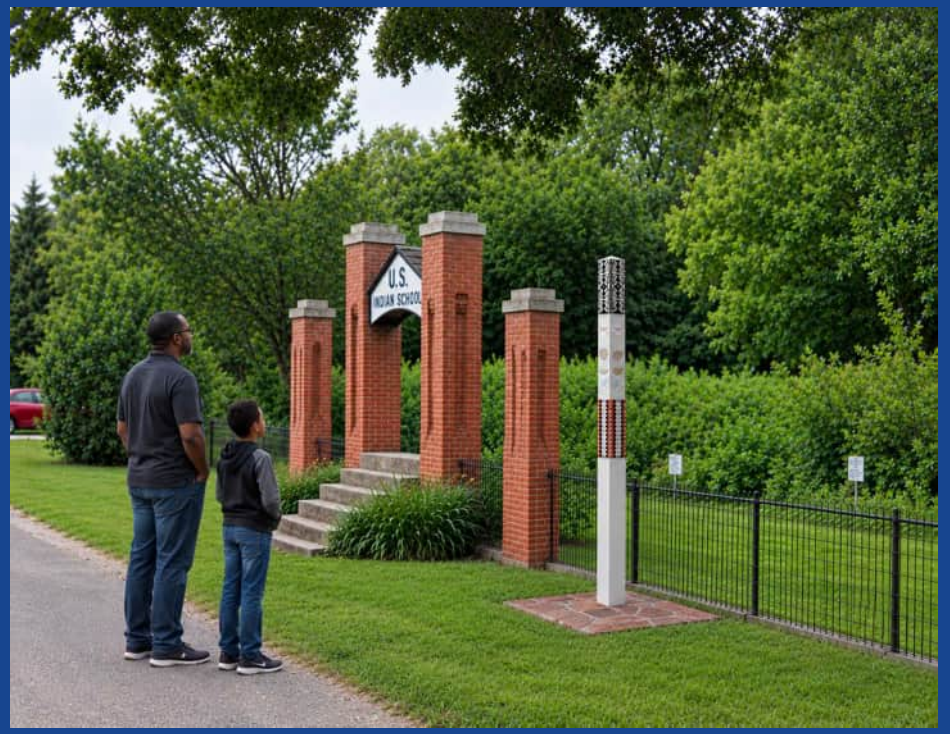
Install November 2026



Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

Genoa Indian School Railroad Platform
Install Peace #2 February 2027





Genoa Indian School Peace Pole

Stuhr Museum, Grand Island Peace Pole #3

Big Elk Location, Luminarium, Omaha Riverfront Peace Pole #4

Peace Pole #5 Backup

What clubs and Rotarians can do next

For clubs

What is the next action you want each club to take?

Peace Project Needs Analysis

A clear way to follow through

Who should people contact?
Peace Chair – Robert Rapp PDG

For individual Rotarians

How can an individual member contribute?
Contribute to the scholarship fund for the Genoa Indian School Foundation

Questions?