

My Green Lake Story: Cindy Finesilver

The Philbrook family has journeyed to Green Lake since 1953. When I came as a 3-year-old, we stayed in an Anderson cabin. Our family came to several family camps and stayed in the Abbey – bunk beds, bathrooms in the silo and all! I remember my dad, Rev. Dr. Phil Philbrook, won a “beauty pageant” dressed as a woman with a coconut halter top. Where he found it, I have no idea. My parents continued to bring women from their church in Fort Wayne, IN for a number of years. Fifteen years ago they bought a park model trailer and leased a site at Meadow View camp circle. We continue to have many good times there, making new memories and remembering old ones.



My parents passed away in 2012 and 2014. We planned for a memorial on Memory Lane before my mom passed away. When I am at Green Lake, I always sit by the memorial and say a prayer for them, the love of family, the love of Green Lake, and their great faith in God. I feel their presence at the memorial.

Our family has always traveled to Green Lake when we were troubled or needed to have a “conversation” with God. It is a very centering place for us. We love to walk at Green Lake, sit by the fire, look out over Dawson Prairie, and visit with new and old friends. It is a special place where you can get close to God, nature, your family and your own emotions.

We are now into our 4th generation of family coming to Green Lake and loving it. Our 3 and 6 year-old grandkids cried when they had to leave after a visit last summer. They call the trailer “the cabin” and love the beach, the play areas, stalking a local groundhog and riding on a pontoon. We love the fact that the Philbrook tradition continues and sense that the matriarch and patriarch are looking down, saying “this is the way it should be.”

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Anna and Phil Philbrook

