

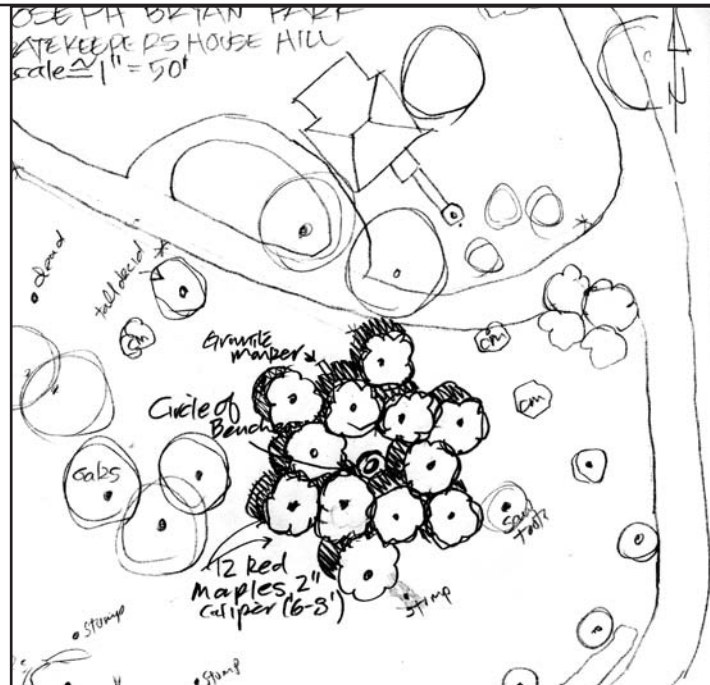
Helen Bryan Norman Memorial Grove

Helen Bryan Norman, a granddaughter of Joseph and Belle Stewart Bryan passed away in December 2004 at the age of 92. She grew up in Richmond and often gathered with family at Brook Hill. She was an avid gardener and loved Bryan Park.

Her daughter, Selina Norman Rainey, knew of Mrs. Norman's love for gardens and lush green spots, and suggested that memorial donations in honor of her mother be donated to Friends of Bryan Park. Friends and family contributed generously. Friends of Bryan Park worked with Ms. Rainey to develop a plan for the memorial grove.

Near the Gatekeeper's house, you can see the memorial grove coming into fruition. In November, we planted 12 large, handsome red maples in two circles and soon, we will be placing a few center benches and a dedicatory stone nearby.

Special thanks to Glen Allen Nurseries for the wonderful trees and planting assistance.



Mystery and a Railroad

Thanks goes to Robert Bauer who brought to our attention some obscure Bryan Park history, noted in a current exhibit at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Apparently, in 1892, Lewis Ginter built a narrow gauge railroad with which he carried rock quarried from what is now the park, to the neighborhoods he was building in Northside.

Robert remembered seeing a 4 foot section of rail near the south end of Jordan's Branch Trail. In this area there is a long shallow trench and berm which runs roughly parallel to the trail. There has been much speculation about this depression. Is it a remnant of the old railroad? What else could it be? A Civil War trench? (Probably not.) A City boundary marker, perhaps dug by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression? An irrigation ditch beside an old road?

Does anyone know anything about the railroad or this unusual site in the woods? We'd love to hear what you know. Please feel free to write us at ReBryanPark@aol.com or give a call to Sally at 262-8861. Help us solve the mystery!

What Is Bryan Park Worth To You?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (w) _____ (h) _____ (fax) _____

E-mail or website: _____

Please list your areas of interest in Bryan Park: _____

Would you be interested in volunteering for FOBP events? _____

All New Members receive a History of Joseph Bryan Park book.

Enclosed is My Membership Gift:

- Membership options: \$25, \$50, \$100, Other, Business (\$100), Sponsor (\$500), Patron (\$1000).

Method of Payment: Check or Money Order. Checks payable to Friends of Bryan Park.

FOBP P.O. Box 15481, Richmond, VA 23227-5481 • (804) 288-5005

Friends of Bryan Park is a 501-c-3 non-profit charitable organization. Membership and donations are tax-deductible.

Invaders In The Park

The term "invasive alien" might bring to mind a power-hungry visitor from outer space. In Bryan Park and throughout the region, invasive aliens are ubiquitous. What are they? They are non-native plants which, in one way or another, have arrived here from foreign soils and thrive in our environment.

Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) is an example of an invasive alien. Found throughout Bryan Park, it is in the woods, along forest edges, beside waterways and upward on fences. Other invasive aliens in the park are Tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima), Porcelain-berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata), Chinese privet (Ligustrum sinense), English Ivy (Hedera helix) and Wisteria.

A couple of years ago, Japanese Hops (Humulus japonicus) invaded the Bryan Park meadow, which is behind the soccer fields. Attempting to eradicate it in the gentlest way possible, we hand pulled it. The plant proved to have fine prickles which caused discomfort and rashes wherever it touched us.

Everyone can help to try to control the menaces that invasive aliens cause. Consider not planting them in your own garden, from where they can spread. Educate yourself. What plants are considered non-native invasives? How invasive are they? What conditions do they thrive in and what havoc do they inflict on our ecosystem?

Audubon Bird Walks

Don't forget, Sue Ridd and the Richmond Audubon Society lead Bird Walks through Bryan Park on the first Sunday of each month, one half hour after sunrise. Free and open to all, the walks begin from Shelter 1.



All Donations Are Tax-deductible and Are Wisely Invested.... Please Keep Them Coming!

- Needs list: New picnic tables & benches, Landscaping and shrubbery, New ornamental benches and trash cans.

Checks may be make payable to Friends of Bryan Park, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. Mail to Friends of Bryan Park, P.O.B 15481, Richmond, VA 2327-5481.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Park



Eagle Scout Will Massey, a Boy Scout with Troop 400 (based in St Paul's Church) built by hand the two handsome picnic tables beside the kiosk near the Bryan Park Meadow.