

FRIENDS OF FOREST HILL PARK

The Forest Hill Park Post



www.friendsofforesthillpark.org

Spring 2022

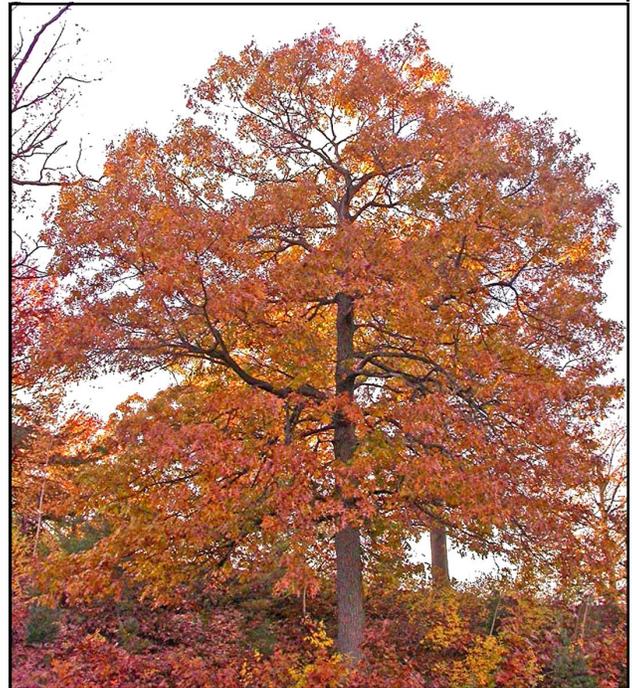
New Oak Trees for the Park

Friends of Forest Hill Park recently planted three young oak trees near the park entrance at 41st Street: two post oaks and one black oak.

Post oak is a valuable contributor to wildlife food and cover. Acorns provide high energy food during fall and winter and are considered important in the diet of wild turkey, white-tailed deer, squirrels, and many other rodents. When acorns are available animals fatten quickly, go through the winter in good condition, and are most likely to produce healthy young. Leaves are used for nest building by birds, squirrels, and raccoons. Cavities provide nests and dens for various birds and mammals.

Considered a beautiful shade tree for parks, post oak is often used in urban forestry. It is also planted for soil stabilization on dry, sloping, stony sites where few other trees will grow. It develops an attractive crown with strong horizontal branches. Large trees are difficult to transplant and do not tolerate soil compaction.

Black oak acorns also are an important food source for squirrels, white-tail deer, mice, voles, turkeys, and other birds. Fox squirrels have been observed feeding on black oak catkins. Black oak is not extensively planted as an ornamental, but its fall color contributes greatly to the esthetic value of oak forests.



Black oak in autumn colors.



Michael Gee is constructing wire "cages" to place around the newly planted trees. The cages protect the little trees from deer that rub their antlers on the tree trunks.



Volunteers dig a hole for one of the post oak trees. Michael Gee brought mulch and water to complete the planting.

David Tate Day of Service at the Park, March 19

David Tate was an arborist in Richmond who passed away in 2013 at the age of 36. Subsequently, an annual day of service was established by colleagues in his memory.

Arborists from a number of tree care companies participate in the David Tate Day of Service every year, along with Richmond Tree Steward volunteers, other community volunteers, and staff from Richmond Parks and Recreation. This year, the park selected for tree maintenance was Forest Hill Park. It was exciting to see so much work performed in the park in just

four hours. Volunteers (Tree Stewards and others) did structural pruning and right-of-way clearance pruning on more than forty trees, mostly small to medium sized ones, between Reedy Creek and the Stone House.

The Board of FFHP is extremely thankful to all the companies and organizations involved in this effort, and to all the professionals and volunteers who accomplished so much. Their efforts have made the park a safer place for all those who work and play in it. Their work has improved the aesthetics of the park considerably.



In the photo at left, a large piece of tree limb is being lowered from the top of a tree near the Stone House.

The canopy of the Southern magnolia in the photo on the right was raised to improve safety and aesthetics. Pictured is Cathy, one of the students/volunteers in the 2022 Tree Stewards class.



Our friend and board member, Ann Mays, died February 6, 2022. We shall miss her wonderful sense of humor and quick wit, but most of all her kindness. Rest in peace.



MAYS, Ann Whalen, died peacefully Sunday, February 6, 2022, at the age of 85 at her home in Richmond, Va., with her nephew by her side. Born in McKeesport, Pa. on June 14, 1936, she was the daughter of the late John B. Whalen and Irene M. Whalen; and the stepdaughter of Alice C. Whalen. Ann was married to the late Charles Harder Mays. She is survived by her sister, Joan M. Barry; brother-in-law, William E. Barry; two nieces, two nephews and six great-nieces and nephews. Her career began at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburg, Pa., where she worked for 15 years. During this period, she attended night school at Duquesne University completing a B.A. degree in Political Science. She retired from Nabisco in 2008 after 32 years of service, driving a forklift. A Richmond resident for 53 years, she fully embraced all aspects of the city. She was an active member of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and volunteered at The Virginia Home for 30 years. Ann quietly enriched the lives of countless people and organizations through her acts of charity and kindness throughout the years. She considered this to be the main purpose of her life. Ann was an ardent supporter of Duquesne University, especially the women's basketball team and she was passionate about politics on all levels. A Mass of Christian Burial was held February 18 at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond

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It's Picnic Season in the Park

Forest Hill Park, with its rolling hills and pretty lake, has been a picnic destination since the Victorian era. Customs and styles are ever-changing, but the pleasure to be derived from outdoor meals remains the same. The following article from an 1899 newspaper describes a picnic lunch of that day. How dissimilar it sounds compared to chicken salad sandwiches, fried chicken and sodas of today.

* * *

A Perfect Picnic Luncheon

The box was large enough to hold its contents without any crowding. It was wrapped neatly in a white paper and tied with a bit of narrow white ribbon, through which a single twig of apple blossoms was thrust. On taking off the cover the recipient found first a Japanese napkin, whose white ground was decorated in one corner with a bunch of apple-blossoms. This bit of thoughtfulness in the way of a napkin, it was noticed, was the exception, rather than the rule among the boxes in the immediate vicinity. On removing the napkin a bunch of watercress was the next thing discovered. It was placed on a piece of waxed paper that covered the rest of the luncheon. There were four dainty sandwiches, each a small double triangle of perfect sandwich bread, prepared without crusts, the filling a delicious compound of minced chicken, cream cheese, and chopped almonds. The sandwiches were so dainty that the four were just enough – more would have been too much; less, hardly enough. The cress eaten with them gave the finishing touch to their appetizing quality. A slice of delicious home-made white cake, cut from a loaf that had been baked in two deep layers, with an ice filling and top, was part of the dessert, and several sections of a choice orange, each section peeled and deprived of the tough outer skin, before all were neatly folded in wax paper. Two marrons-glaces (candied chestnuts) finished the dainty meal.

New York Post June 4, 1899



Forest Hill Park Lake circa 1897. These visitors are enjoying boat rides, fresh air and, perhaps, a picnic.