Start at Monument Avenue going east

Turn right onto Meadow Street – 0.60 mi

Turn right onto Colorado Avenue – 1.95 mi

Turn right onto Hampton Street - with Maymont behind and to the left – 1.98 mi

Turn left onto Amelia Street – 2.15 mi

Turn right onto Lake Road – 2.19 mi

- Passing through Byrd Park, with Shields Lake and Swan Lake to your left – 2.22 mi

Turn left onto Lakeview Avenue – 2.51 mi

- The Carillon bell tower in the distance to your left and the Byrd Park reservoir ahead, slightly to the left – 2.68 mi

Turn right onto South Robinson Street – 2.78 mi

- Fountain Lake to your left – 2.82 mi

Turn left onto Monument Avenue – 3.79 mi

End – 3.95 mi

MapMyRun: <https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/6428459935/>

RunGo with notes: <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/dJVuLAnyII>

RunGo: <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/ejZJ7Hyf7r>

# History along the way

Richmond in the 1920s began to expand westward. Public funds were spent on infrastructure improvements in outlying areas, including street development and sewer line extension, thus influencing the direction of suburban development. The white population moved into the city’s newly annexed suburbs and undeveloped land, and Blacks moved into the neighborhoods that whites had left.

During that same period, the city saw construction beginning on “affluent estates in the city’s west end, developed around important manor houses and reflecting a nationwide interest in the architecture of the English manor house,” wrote historian Marie Tyler-McGraw (quoted in “Richmond Through the 20th Century” by Amy Waters Yarsinske).

The growing popularity of the automobile hastened the expansion of the city and its neighborhoods, especially to the west. People no longer needed to rely on foot, horse, and trolley transportation. Faster and easier car travel also led to larger lots, as compact neighborhoods weren’t necessary, and to zoning regulations that separated houses from businesses.

## Byrd Park

What’s now known as Byrd Park began with the establishment of the water reservoir in 1874, surrounded by 60-acre Reservoir Park. Fountain Lake (aka Reservoir Lake and Boat Lake) provided fill for the earthen construction of the reservoir.

The park was renamed in 1907 for Richmond founder William Byrd II. By 1917, the park had expanded and the City of Richmond added two lakes: Swan Lake and Sheilds Lake. Sheilds Lake was used as a whites-only swimming lake from 1919 to 1955. The Round House was built in 1914, replacing Rathskeller restaurant and saloon. The park is now 275 acres. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/15001044.pdf>

## Maymont

The Maymont estate was completed in 1893 by a wealthy Richmond couple, James and Sallie Dooley. The estate is an example of the Gilded Age in America, 1870 to 1900. It was a time of rapid economic growth, attracting millions of European immigrants. Yet it was also a time of poverty and inequality, since not all immigrants found their pot of gold and the wealth of a few became more visible and problematic.

Upon their deaths and according to their wishes, Maymont, including the buildings and its furnishings and the 100-acre landscape was left to the people of Richmond.

From Mrs. Dooley’s death in 1925 until 1975, the property was owned and operated by the City of Richmond. When the city realized it couldn’t maintain or restore the estate to its fullest potential, control was passed to the Maymont Foundation. Today, the foundation maintains natural-setting wildlife habitats, the Maymont Children’s Farm and The Robins Nature Center as well as the Maymont Mansion. <https://maymont.org/about/>

## The Virginia World War Memorial Carillon

Dedicated in 1932, the 240-foot-tall bell tower is the Commonwealth’s official monument to the approximately 3,700 Virginians who died as a result of World War I. The tower includes a massive musical instrument made up of 53 bronze bells.