

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Elmwood Park Century Project Records**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2014.4.22

Title: Elmwood Park Century Project Records

Physical Characteristics: 1 legal-size document storage case and 1 letter-size document storage case.

Arrangement: Documents are arranged alphabetically by document type.

Creator: Elmwood Park Century Project committee / Betty B. Woody

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Processor: Dyron Knick, 22 April 2014; updated by Angela Stiefbold, July 2024

Introduction:

In 1978, the City of Roanoke and downtown business community commissioned a \$100,000 study to evaluate the development potential of Roanoke's downtown core area and to prepare a plan for revitalizing it. The Elmwood Park Century Project is one of the recommendations from the study that was approved by City Council as submitted to the public as a bond issue in 1979.

In early 1981 a committee was established to advise Roanoke city officials on planned improvements to Elmwood Park and fundraise for their construction and maintenance. The committee was chaired by Betty Beasley Woody, with the following members of the committee: Dorothy L. Gibboney, Byron A. Hicks, Mary Watkins, William Watts, Louise Goodwin, Vernon Jamison, Roma Pevler and George Vogel.

Donations for planting material were solicited from the community, and were to be made in honor of historic Roanoke residents. Woody prepared a list of all the donations and retained original letters and information sent to document the individuals memorialized by the donations. The list of donors and memorials was to be maintained at the Roanoke Public Library, rather than incur the expense of numerous memorial plaques throughout the park.

The landscape design and planting plan for the park was prepared by landscape architect Lester Collins. In addition to plantings, other donations included additional boulders and funds for water features.

Betty Woody (1921-2016), who compiled this information, was active in many Roanoke civic organizations. She and her husband, Robert Wells Woody, a Roanoke City Council member 1952-56, were supporters of and fundraisers for many local nonprofit groups.

Scope and Content:

- This collection consists of 1 legal-size record storage box and 1-letter size record storage box.
- Materials include: meeting minutes, plans (drawings and schematics), correspondence, lists of donors and news clippings, programs from dedication ceremonies.
- Items in Box 2 were originally stored in plastic sleeves in two binders, as assembled by Betty Woody. However, from these binders committee meeting minutes were interfiled with minutes found in Box 1, Folder 9, and general correspondence was added to Box 1, Folder 4.
- The date range of the collection is 1979 through 1984.
- One of the highlights of the collection is a list of donors, either of monetary contributions or who purchased trees dedicated to the memory of loved ones. Plans and schematics of the proposed park also provide an interesting glimpse at some of the ideas generated from the committee, some of which are visible in the park today.

Container List:**Box 1**

Folder 1: Brochures

Folder 2: Correspondence – Donation Acknowledgements, last names A-K

Folder 3: Correspondence – Donation Acknowledgements, last names L-Z

Folder 4: Correspondence – General

Folder 5: Donations –Holly Trees

Folder 6: Donations – Magnolias

Folder 7: Donations – Sentry Maples

Folder 8: Donations – Special Gifts

Folder 9: Meeting Minutes of the Elmwood Park Committee

Folder 10: News clippings

Folder 11: Plans – Design Development Submittal

Folder 12: Plans – Drawings

Folder 13: Plans – Schematic Submittal

Folder 14: Project Schedule

Box 2

Folder 1: Elmwood Park Project Summary – Written by Betty W. Woody

Folder 2: History of Elmwood Park

Folder 3: Donation Lists

Folder 4: Donation Correspondence – Copper Beech Trees

Folder 5: Donation Correspondence – Birch Grove

Folder 6: Donation Correspondence – Special Donations

Folder 7: Donation Correspondence – Yellow Garden

Folder 8: Donation Correspondence – Sentry Maples

Folder 9: Donation Correspondence – Holly Trees

Folder 10: Donation Correspondence – Magnolia Trees

Folder 11: Donation Correspondence – Other Items

Folder 12: Donation Summary, 1983

Folder 13: Donation Notes

Folder 14: Planting Information & Specifications

Folder 17: Dedication Ceremonies – Mayor's Monument, Elmwood Park