

Bryan Park Azalea Pond Sediment Management

Final Design: Urban Design Committee

Submitted on: July 16, 2026

UDC Meeting: August 13, 2026

Project Purpose:

The Bryan Park Azalea Pond Sediment Management aims to improve water quality in the pond by providing a forebay to intercept sediment laden runoff from upgradient land before discharging into the pond. Additional stabilization efforts will be made via installation of a concrete entrance pad at an existing adjacent gravel parking area, as well as the installation of native plantings in the bioretention area and bioswales. Additional landscape installation will impede vehicular access into the fields to prevent future erosion.

Interventions will include:

- Construction of a forebay
- Installation of bioswales
- Fortification of gravel parking lot entrances
- Installation of native trees, shrubs, and perennials

Project Context:

The project area is located at 4308 Hermitage Road, which is owned by the city of Richmond and is the site of Joseph Bryan Park, a 262-Acre City Public Park located in Richmond's Northside. The Project Area is located at the southern portion of the park where existing Azalea Pond has been noted as being impacted by sediment accumulation. The pond is fed primarily by public water but also receives overland stormwater runoff via a direct discharge pipe at its southern end. Erosion has been observed in the immediate vicinity of the pond and is the major contributor to the sediment buildup in the pond.

Community-Driven Design:

Azalea Pond is largely managed by the Friends of Bryan Park (FOBP), who have contributed to its restoration in the past. In 2010, large quantities of sediment deposits were observed in the pond, which had then become overgrown with invasive cattails. At that time, the City and FOBP funded and completed the dredging and restoration of the pond and fountain. The pond was dredged again just a few years ago but sedimentation remains and ongoing challenge.

Recently as part of this new task, Timmons Group reviewed and assessed the existing site conditions before developing the planted bioretention and bioswales approach. The design was then presented to Friends of Bryan Park at their leadership meeting on Monday, June 29th, 2026. The FOBP supports the project and approves of the direction for design and implementation.

Site Concerns:

The major concern from the community is the damage caused to Azalea Pond due to erosion. The sediment is clogging the fountain, which is a historic structure that was installed at the time the pond was built in the 1960s. A major renovation occurred in 2010, at which time the pond was drained and dredged of sediment and the fountain was fully restored.

Project Budget and Funding Sources:

The improvements are anticipated to be funded through the PRCF CIP funds. An opinion of probable construction cost has been prepared based on the current design and the project is anticipated to cost **\$692,690.79**

Construction Timeline:

Construction is anticipated to be completed in summer of 2027.

Task/Process	Target Completion Date
Construction Documents and Permit Drawings	December 2026
Permitting; Procurement, Bidding, Contractor Award	March 2027
Construction	July 2027