



Become a NorWALKer!

EXPLORE RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

Take a stroll through the history of Norwalk in this peaceful area of Spring Hill.

Loop 1

Begin at the Riverside Cemetery office building at the cemetery's entrance on Riverside Ave. Turn right at the first intersection and follow the blue line on the map to the right, eventually leading back to the main office building.

Loop 2

Begin at the Riverside Cemetery office building at the cemetery's entrance on Riverside Ave. Turn right at the first intersection and follow the red line on the map to the right, eventually leading back to the main office building.



PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN FOLLOWING NORWALKER ROUTES!

The *Healthy for Life Project* is not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur while following NorWALKer routes. Consult your doctor before beginning an exercise program. Use pedestrian crosswalks when available, obey all traffic laws, and if no sidewalks exist, walk against traffic. Wear proper footwear and reflective gear, and bring water with you while walking. Have fun!

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

Riverside Cemetery is located between the Norwalk River and Spring Hill Avenue. Spring Hill is aptly named because to this day springs are still active on the hill and in the cemetery. Studies indicate that Native Americans living in this area had developed farms, which later became the property of new settlers. The cemetery is classified as an ancient burial place since it has been in existence as a burial ground for over 100 years.

The Riverside Cemetery Association was founded in 1886 by a foresighted group of men, headed by John H. Light. The original purchase consisted of 40 acres of farmland. Through the years, additional tracts were acquired until its present area of 57 acres was reached. Mr. Light served continuously on the Board of Directors until his death in 1947 at the age of 92.

The site for the cemetery was well chosen and the landscaping has been developed with a view of enhancing the natural setting. The contours are gentle with a recognizable slope towards the Norwalk River. The creative placing produces some fine effects of shrubs and trees, with dogwoods, rhododendrons, laurels, redbuds, forsythias, spiraea and a variety of shade trees.

In the course of development, plots have been set aside exclusively for veterans of the United States Armed Forces. One plot with an imposing statue is dedicated to those who served in the Civil War. Another commemorates those who served in the Spanish-American War. A large area has been set aside for veterans of World Wars I and II and more recent wars, as well. Memorial services are conducted in the cemetery on appropriate holidays.

The color and grain of memorial stones, such as granite and marble, vary greatly as they have come from quarries both near and far. You may observe that names and dates can be raised lettering or be below the surface of the face of the monument. The latter method is done through a sand blasting process. Impressive obelisks stand out in various sections of the cemetery.

When walking through the Cemetery, you will quickly notice many names with which you are familiar on the mausoleums, tombs, monuments and gravestones. Some of the same names are also on historic sites, streets and roads, buildings and in numerous Norwalk history books.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

The Lockwood name is one of the better known names in Norwalk and this has been true for many generations. Two of the largest mausoleums, directly opposite each other, carry that name and other well known names. Numerous family members have been interred nearby.

Taylor is a name which has been recognized for many generations in Norwalk history. A Taylor ancestor was head of one of the founding families of Norwalk. Taylor Farm near Calf Pasture beach and the beach park was once Taylor family property.

General Nelson Taylor served in the Civil War. He was born in South Norwalk on June 8, 1821 and lived a most interesting life. He was a politician, a sheriff and also a soldier in the Mexican War. He rose through the ranks during the Civil War. He was a Colonel and commanded in the Peninsula campaign and at the second battle of Bull Run. In September 1862, he was appointed General of Volunteers, commanding the 2nd Division Corp at Fredericksburg. He resigned from the military in January 1863. Following the Civil War he served as a congressman, a lawyer and a city attorney. He died in Norwalk in 1894 of pneumonia. The Taylor family memorial is a very large, impressive ornate monument but the General's name is only shown on a headstone, as are other members of the family.

In 1899, the Gate Lodge was built at the Cemetery entrance. This serves as a chapel and the administrative offices. By its charter, the Association issues deeds to plots. These are fully recorded in a completely indexed filing system along with maps, and other details concerning each plot, grave and interment. These records are kept in a fire-resistant cabinet.

A modern fireproof service garage contains the extensive equipment, the vehicles and machinery needed for the varied activities to operate a cemetery.

You may wish to take a look at the section along Riverside Avenue that is set aside for pets whose owners want to show their love for their deceased animals.

Riverside Avenue is located along a stretch of the Norwalk River. This portion of the river still provides a home for various flora and fauna such as hawks and heron, all-important to the river ecology.

Prior to Route 7, there was a park locally known as "Riverside

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

Park" located along the river, approximately from where Hill Street meets Riverside Avenue north to the Route 123 Bridge. There was a pond with a small island, a popular location for ice-skating in winter and fishing the rest of the year.

If you drive to the cemetery, please park in the vicinity of the office building at the entrance. Enjoy your walks in the peaceful and beautiful Riverside Cemetery.

*Compiled by Richard (Dick) Booth, 2009
Contributions by Diane Lauricella*

**Healthy4LifeCT**

For more information about NorWALKer Routes, call (203) 854-7776 or visit www.healthyforlifeproject.org



Thank you to our generous sponsors!

AMERICA *Every Body* WALKS!
Making America a Great Place to Walk

Special thanks to the **American Heart Association** for their support. Visit www.heart.org/walking.