



Richmond Tree Stewards *Tree-Mail*

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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

***Volunteers for
the Urban
Forest***

Gravel Bed Update

Our baby trees have leafed out! The photo on the left shows the seedlings we planted in Tree Steward's demonstration gravel bed in early April. On the right is a recent photo of the seedlings. We have an automated watering system set up at the site and the gravel bed team checks the system daily to make sure all is well. You can see that most seedlings have sprouted leaves. What you can't see is the root growth going on under the gravel, but the leafing out is a good sign that this is happening. There is one more gravel bed at the site that will be set up to receive trees for our Community Roots program in the fall.

Information about the 2017 Community Roots program for schools and community non-profit groups is now available: (Homeowners program information will be available later this summer.)

[Community Roots Program Info](#)



Thank you Gravel Bed Team!!

Monument Avenue-Maintaining History

Benson Marshall, one of our Tree Stewards, initiated a very ambitious project this year. On scheduled Saturday mornings Tree Stewards are pruning from the Henrico County line toward Stuart Circle to eventually prune the entire Monument Avenue median. Since January, more than 15 individual tree stewards have put in over 82 volunteer hours on this project and, so far 80 trees have been pruned.

Tree Trivia

The Pawpaw (*Asimina trilobis*), native to the southern US, is great for the urban garden.

[NPR-The Pawpaw: Foraging For America's Forgotten Fruit](#)

Benson planned this project and shares his thoughts below on our historic tree canopy and the significance of this resource:

If you want to get a taste of "Richmond" take a drive (or a 10k run) down Monument Avenue. Its history, its architecture and its trees are all on display.

A young tree with a defect might be less than attractive. Give that odd limb twenty years and it just might become dangerous. So, as Richmond Tree Stewards we prune for public safety first, the health of the tree second and for aesthetics whenever possible. Monument Avenue is an historic and beautiful street; we owe it to our visitors and our residents to keep this high profile gem polished bright. So you will see us in the median just about every other Saturday till the job is done. If you notice us as you drive by, honk if you love trees...or Richmond in general.



(Photo Credit: Barrett Doherty, The Cultural Landscape Foundation)

Church Hill—Tree Steward Update

Church Hill is a lovely place to live with its history and stories. Nice parks, good people ... and lovely trees... Tree Stewards engage regularly in this community by pruning and planting and Tree Steward Joel Cabot has shared some thoughts on recent projects:

Dream Team: *Tree Stewards living in Church Hill have created the Church Hill 'Dream Team'. We include Church Hill residents working closely with certified Tree Stewards on projects that impact their own neighborhood. Residents learn about what we do as Richmond Tree Stewards and assist with debris removal, mulching, ivy removal etc. It's a two-way street for the sharing of knowledge!*

Pruning: *Church Hill is becoming ever more pedestrian friendly so pruning our old trees for clearance has been our focus; mostly on the heavily used streets including work on North 25th St., East Broad St., Venable St, and M St. We have had the chance to make great educational contacts with folks living in the area.*

Planting trees in Libby Hill park: *A planting project in this past spring through Tree Stewards' Community Roots project was a huge success. It was very well organized by the Friends of the Libby Hill Park. Richmond Tree Stewards provided 6 trees and supervised the planting of 8 trees in about 3 hours. Thank you to the many Tree Stewards and trainees who came. There was also a great turn out from the community members who came to help us and mulched the existing and new trees.*

Fonticello Food Forest is a developing community garden project in Carter Jones Park

Several pawpaws have been planted there with the assistance of Richmond Tree Stewards

Pawpaws can be found in James River Park!

Future: Tree Stewards and the Church Hill 'Dream Team' will be involved in other projects involving area schools, resource centers, etc.

And...we hope to set up a Tree ID walk in Church Hill's Libby park.



To promote our activities In Church Hill, Tree Stewards use a local newsletter along with social media (NextDoor). We think neighbors are now more aware of the trees and what we are doing as Richmond Tree Stewards.

(Photo Credit: Friends of Libby Hill Park)

Coming Up...

Check our Website for details on these and other upcoming events. Tree Stewards sign up at: [Sign Up Genius](#)

- 9/2 Tree Stewards at St. Stephens Farmer's Market, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- 9/23 Tree Stewards at South of the James Farmer's Market, Forest Hill Park
- 10/7 Tree Stewards at St. Stephens Farmer's Market, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

About Us



Contact information

Tree Stewards are here to assist with the care of the urban forest, assist other groups with planning and planting and to provide community education.

- Can we provide a presentation for your neighborhood organization?
- Would you like to join us?
- Have other questions or tree related needs?

Contact us:

Richmond Tree Stewards, PO. Box 27222, Richmond Va.23261-7222

We're on the Web! richmondtreestewards.org



Tree Steward Mission Statement

The mission of Richmond's trained volunteer Tree Stewards is to promote and improve the health of city trees to assure the city's forest will survive and thrive. This is accomplished by increasing public awareness through community education, planning and planting for the future, and providing maintenance and care for young trees on streets and in parks. Tree Stewards work closely with Urban Forestry and with other organizations interested in the health of our community forest.