

Ginter Park Residents Association End of Year Reports 2022

Beautification and Trees Team

Beautification Team is organized under the Standing Committee, Planning and Zoning.

Beautification Co-Chairs are Daniel Lawrence and Steven Welton.

Trees Co-chairs are Susan Rebillot and Teresa McGurn Davis.

GPES Projects Lead, Landon Woody

Watering Tank Manager, Sarah Bettinger

The Team consists of about a dozen volunteers, who weed, plant and mulch 19 beds on Brook Road, 2 beds on Chamberlayne Avenue and the 2 traffic diverter islands on East and West Seminary Avenues.

Beautification Projects

- In 2022, GPRA supported neighbors on East and West Seminary Avenues to clean up, replant, prune and mulch their traffic diverter islands. GPRA funded the purchase of new plants and mulch. The neighbors will care for and maintain these beds. GPRA applauds these neighbors for their pride of place.
- GPRA refreshed the garden at GPES, adding seasonal perennials and additional container gardens to the courtyard garden.
- GPRA continued in 2022 to weed, care for, and maintain 19 landscaped beds on Brook Road, enhancing the attractiveness of this corridor, which bisects the neighborhood.
- 12 beds on Brook have been adopted by volunteers, who keep them weeded and maintained. In late 2022, an additional volunteer stepped up to assess and plan to re-do 3 beds on Brook north of Westbrook.
- Co-Chair Steven Welton continues to care for his two adopted monument marker garden beds on Chamberlayne, which he designed and helped to create about 5 years ago.
- By the date of the Annual Membership Meeting, all beds will have had their Fall mulching completed, and Spring bulbs will have been planted in select beds, which has become an annual tradition.
- We did exceed our budget for 2022, by supporting the re-do of the East and West Seminary traffic islands, and because mulch costs were higher than in 2021.
- We awarded Scene from the Street Awards, as is our tradition annually in May, to neighbors who planted beautiful gardens and curb appeal up front for all to enjoy.

Beautification Goals for 2023

- Continue to grow our team, and recruit others to adopt beds.
- Explore potential sources for free or discounted mulch.
- Assess beds for disease, plant loss, for nutrition needs, and address.
- Explore projects to increase neighborhood signage to enhance sense of identification – permanent bronze plaques.
- Assess steles and monument markers on Chamberlayne for repairs/maintenance.
- Meet with Laburnum Park neighbors regarding parkway fence conditions.

Trees

- The Trees Team updated the annual Survey in preparation for the Adopt a Tree Applications.
- The trees that were planted in the most recent cycle have primarily thrived with few losses. Losses are most often related to trees not being watered as recommended.
- The City Adopt a Tree Program was placed on hold following the dissolution of Enrichmond, the on-profit organization that had been partnered with the city to collect and hold funds for street trees. The program is being revamped, and is expected to be up and running in 2023.
- We reported diseased and dead trees via RVA#!! and by direct contact with the City Arborist.
- Laburnum and Ginter Park lost a large number of Ash trees due to disease on Laburnum Park Blvd, Wilmington Avenue and Brook Road. The City Arborist offered 10-15 replacement trees to be planted Fall-Winter 2022-23.
- A disease specific to Crape Myrtles has been identified in the City of Richmond and in Ginter Park, and tree losses are expected from this highly contagious disease.
- The Tree Team provided education regarding tree care via social media and GPRA publications.