

Urban Forestry Division: Beautification

May 19, 2026

Michael Webb, Urban Forester

Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee

Thriving & Sustainable Built Environment



**CITY OF
RICHMOND**

Urban Forestry Division



Thriving & Sustainable Built Environment

Goal B

Increasing access to quality green space
and canopy

Goal D

Improving public realm maintenance

MAP Goal B

Goal B

Increasing access to quality green space
and canopy

Urban forestry maintains, and plants trees to
provide healthy and functional greenspaces to all
within the City

MAP Goal D

Goal D

Improving public realm maintenance

The division is a dedicated to improving green infrastructure management through "Right Tree, Right Place"

Responsibilities

Maintenance Requests (via RVA 311)

- Assessment of street trees, trees on city property, and coordination of work to include- pruning, removals, and planting

Citizen-Reported Tree Emergencies (24/7)

- Urgent responses to citizen-reported fallen trees or limbs impacting the right-of-way (streets, schools, parks), or those that may damage public property

Debris Management

- Oversight and management of the Department's Debris Management Program
- Snow Program Support

Permit Issuance

- Street Tree Planting Permit
- Permit to Remove a City Tree
- Permit to Perform Maintenance on a City Tree

Urban Forestry Staff

The Urban Forestry Division (UFD) is composed of 16 staff

- Operations and Maintenance – 9 staff - (3) ISA Certified Arborists
- Beautification – 5 staff
- Planning – 2 staff

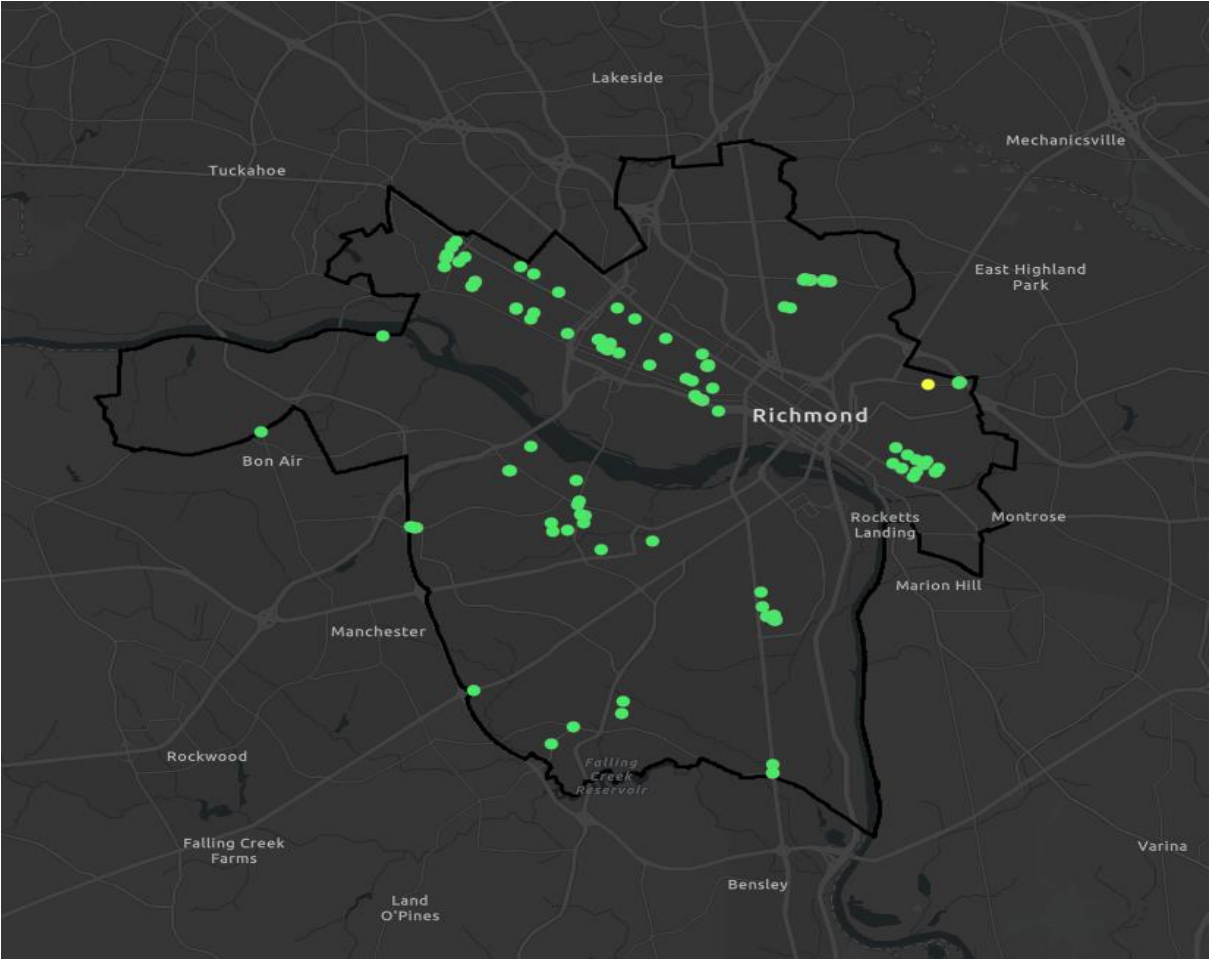


City Beautification

City Wide Beautification

- Urban Forestry operates a Beautification team of 5 that maintain 126 sites across Richmond
- Responsibilities
 - Mulching
 - Weed abatement
 - Pruning
 - Seasonal Cutbacks
 - Irrigation Management
- Site types such as traffic circles, medians, bulb outs, and traffic calmers
- Maintenance activities improve the horticultural management of new and existing city landscape projects

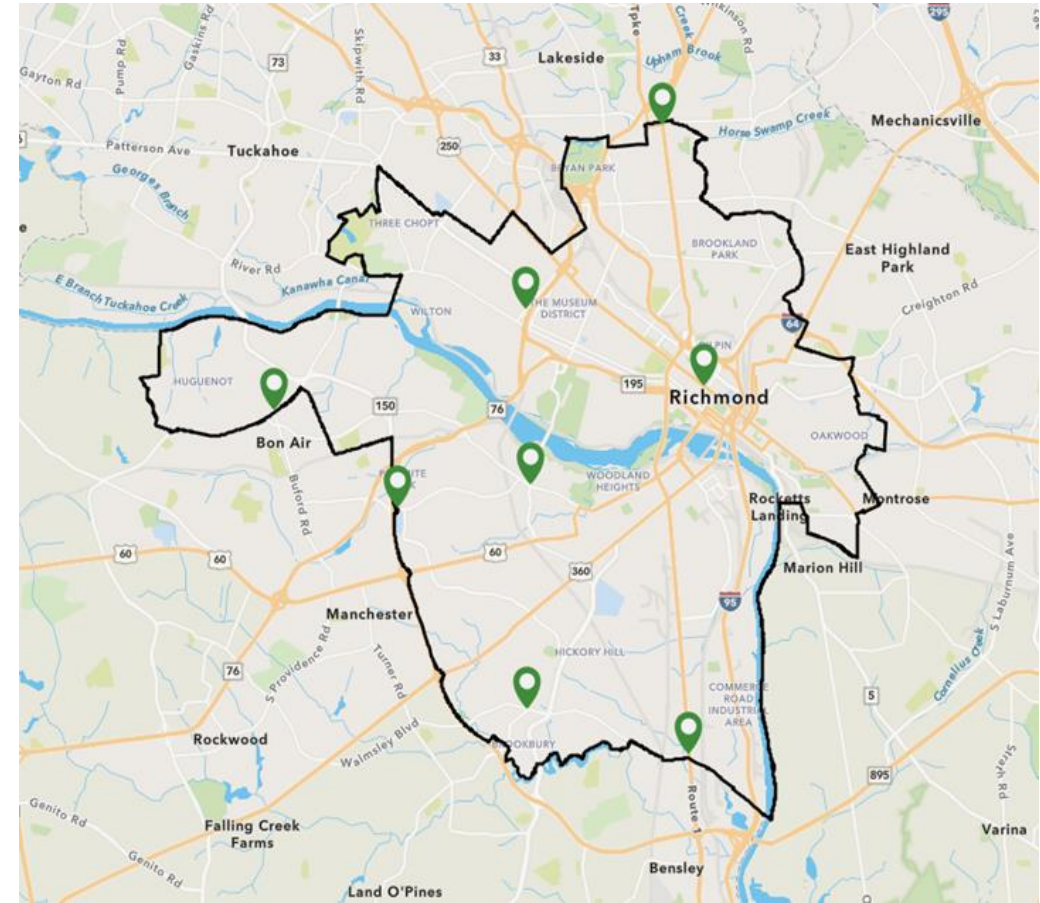
City Beautification Locations



Gateway Project: ARPA

City Gateways

- A city initiative to create landscaped gateways into the City was launched in 2023
- (7) gateways were completed in winter of 2025
- (1) gateway on Broad Street featuring landscape lighting will be completed in the fall of 2026



Jahnke Road and Chippenham Parkway



Stoney Point Road



Grove Avenue and Hamilton Street



Azalea Avenue



Westover Hills Blvd and Forest Hill Avenue



Richmond Highway



Walmsley Blvd and Belmont Road



Tree Canopy Snapshot

- 76,145 trees (120,837 tree sites) = 63% stocking
- 42% Urban Tree Canopy (2010)
- 32% Urban Tree Canopy (2025)
- Tree City USA- 33 years
- Top 5 species (Citywide Composition)
 - Crape Myrtle – 9.8%
 - Sugar Maple – 7%
 - Willow Oak – 6.3%
 - Red Maple – 6.1%
 - Japanese Zelkova – 5%



Tree Planting

- In 2025, the Urban Forestry Division planted 1,355 trees within the public right-of-way
- Annual tree planting is conducted through contractor services
- Urban Forestry Division supports community-based organizations tree planting projects in the public right-of-way



Richmond Tree Plan

Year 1-2 => What do we have? Assessment of Resources

- Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- Data for guiding tree planting efforts
- Identify trends of canopy loss

Year 2 =>What do we want? Community engagement

- Community engagement and education
- Surveys

Year 3-4 =>How do we get there? Long term planning

- Methodology for achieving goals
- Proactive maintenance approach
- "Right Tree, Right Place"
- Alignment with city initiatives e.g. Richmond 300, and RVAgreen 2050



RICHMOND
TREE PLAN

Sidewalk Maintenance

MAP Alignment

- **Thriving & Sustainable Built Environment**
- **Thriving Neighborhoods**



Sidewalk Maintenance

The Sidewalk Maintenance Division is responsible for over 800 miles sidewalk city wide.

Repair Maintenance is broken into 3 Categories:

1)Sidewalk Maintenance CIP or large scale repair- The entire block of sidewalk is replaced, and all facilities (ADA ramps, sidewalks etc.) are brought up to current PROWAG/ADA standards

2)Sidewalk Maintenance-Spot repairs of sidewalk are conducted up to 150 linear feet

3)Concrete Shaving- Vertical deflections up to 2.5 inches are shaved to make the sidewalk surface smooth and traversable for all pedestrians



Sidewalk Maintenance Budget

	% Completed Projects over 5 years (total budget)	% of Sidewalk w/in Council District
1st District	13.24%	12.20%
2nd District	13.70%	14.92%
3rd District	14.16%	13.85%
4th District	7.31%	2.81%
5th District	14.16%	13.32%
6th District	14.16%	17.26%
7th District	11.42%	15.30%
8th District	9.13%	8.33%
9th District	2.74%	2.00%

Large Scale Sidewalk Maintenance is budgeted in Complete Streets. Spot repair or routine maintenance is funded within Roadway's operations budget or with state maintenance dollars

- Since 2021 over 200 city blocks have been reconstructed with Complete Street Dollars
- Over 900 locations have been repaired citywide since 2021
- Concrete Shaving addresses vertical deflections which are shaved in order to make the area traversable for all modes of transportation. Since 2021 2400 locations have been made safe

Questions?

Urban Forestry Division

800 Forest Lawn Drive

Richmond, Virginia

804-646-0681

RVA.gov/public-works/urban-forestry



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC
WORKS**