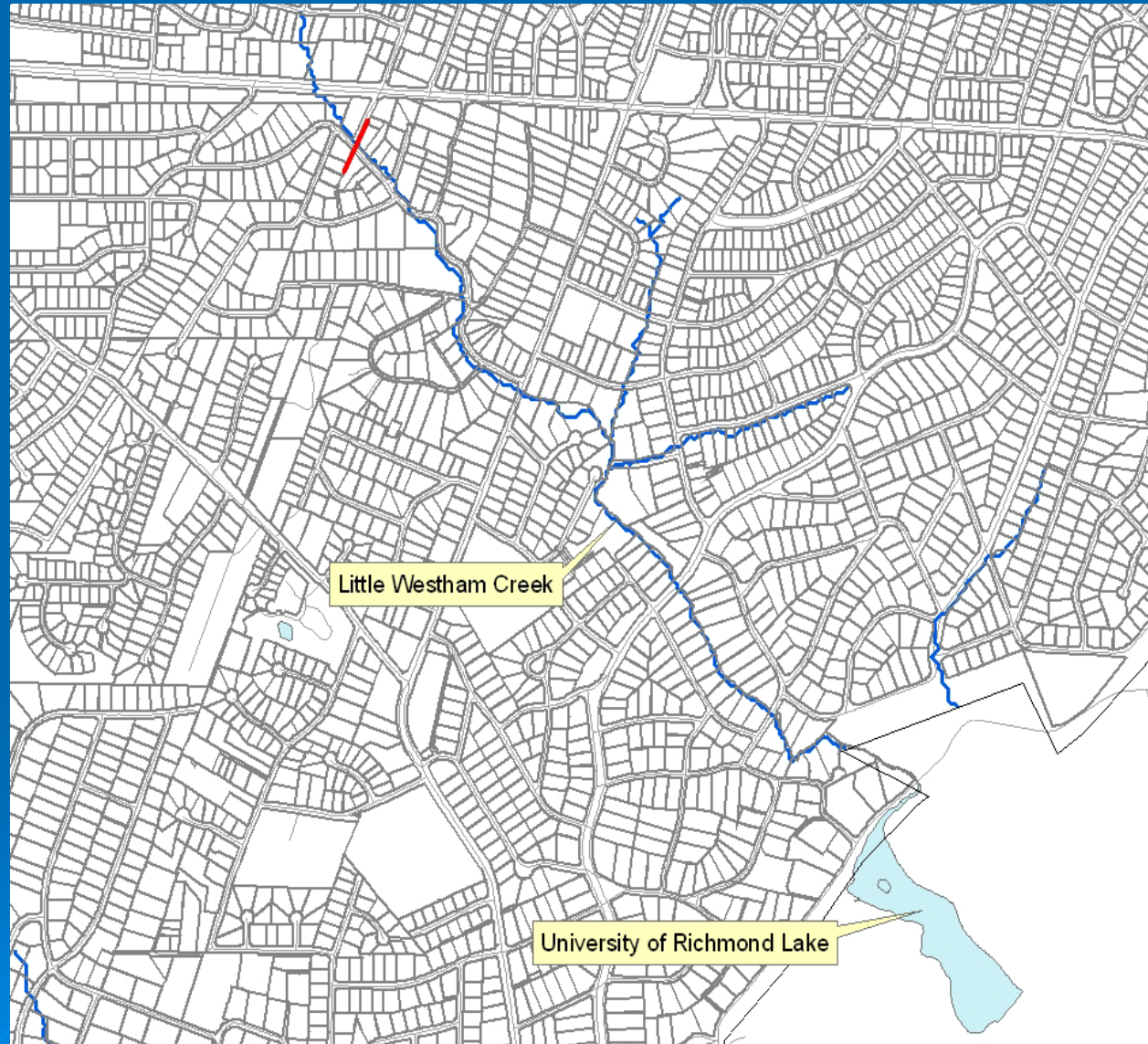


Little Westham Creek Community Stream Project



- 1 mile of Stream
- 60 property owners
- Stream traveled in front and rear yards





2



4

Erosion Problems Downstream

➤ University of Richmond

- For 7 years prior to the project, they have removed 120,000 cubic yards of material from their lake
- Approximately **10,000** dump truck loads
- This material comes from upstream, much of it from streambank erosion

Project Goals

- Improve stream buffer
 - Improve Water Quality
 - Reduce Stream Erosion and Reduce Sediment Transport



What's the plan?

Educate the Homeowners


➤ Reestablish Native Vegetation

- Use plant materials that are
 - Low maintenance
 - High landscape value
 - Native - Deep Roots

➤ Let the Buffer Grow

- Don't mow the area adjacent to the stream

It takes Cooperation

- Homeowners
 - Spearhead the project
 - Henrico County
 - Expertise, Funding
 - Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 - Expertise, People power
 - University of Richmond, Center for Civic Engagement
 - Organization, People power
 - Virginia Extension – Master Gardeners
 - Expertise
- 

What do We do Next?

1. Gain homeowner approval
 - Homeowners Associations
2. Work with each homeowner to choose plant materials and create plan
 - County, Master Gardeners
3. Order Plant Materials
 - County
4. Plant Buffers
 - U of R, CBF, County, Homeowners

How to keep the project moving

 Let the citizens drive the project

- Identify the citizen(s) that will bring the community on board
- No one can talk to you like your neighbor
 - Letters from Community President more effective than letter from County

Plant Options

- Working with the Master Gardeners
 - Set up meeting with property owners
 - Help you choose plant materials that will help the stream and create a landscape you will enjoy



Plant Menu

American Cranberrybush

Viburnum trilobum



Description: Erect shrub, round-topped and fairly dense
Mature height: 6-10 feet
Mature Spread: 8-10 feet
Growth Rate: Medium (5-10 yrs)
Sun Exposure: Part Shade
Soil Moisture: Widely Adaptable
Flower Color: Creamy-white
Foliage Color: Medium Green
Fall Color: Scarlet Red
Fruit Color: Bright Red

American Cranberrybush is a deciduous shrub from the Honeysuckle family. It is often used for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings. The fruits can also be processed as jam or jelly. No major pest problems are associated with this shrub.



Black Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa



Description: An upright, open shrub

Mature height: 3-6 feet

Mature Spread: 3-6 feet

Growth Rate: Fast

Sun Exposure: Full Sun—Full Shade

Soil Moisture: Widely Adaptable

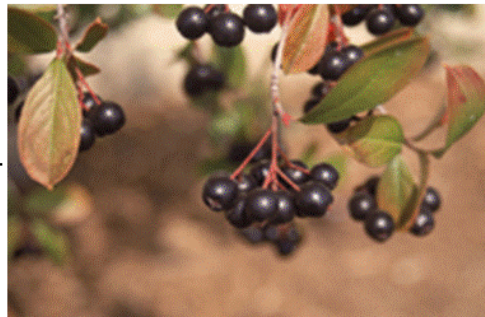
Flower Color: White

Foliage Color: Medium Green

Fall Color: Orange—Red

Fruit Color: Black

Black Chokeberry is a member of the Rose Family. They are known for their outstanding fall foliage colors, having yellow, orange, bright red and deep scarlet. The fruit is edible but extremely bitter and preferred only by wildlife.



Redosier Dogwood

Cornus sericea



Description: Erect shrub, freely spreading often with shiny red stems

Mature height: 8-12 feet

Mature Spread: 8-10 feet

Growth Rate: Medium (5-10 yrs)

Sun Exposure: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Widely Adaptable

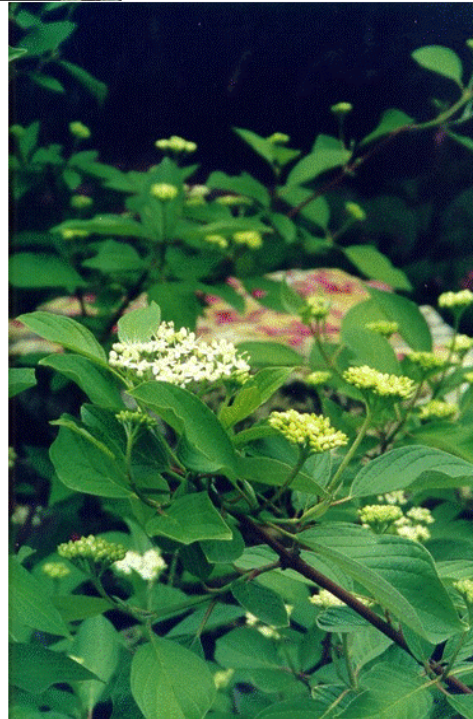
Flower Color: Creamy-white

Foliage Color: Medium Green

Fall Color: Red

Fruit Color: white to greenish

Redosier Dogwood is valued for its winter landscape appeal due to its shiny red stems. It is shade tolerant and can be pruned back yearly. It provides cover and food for wildlife and birds and is often used in riparian buffers. It is resistant to most diseases.



Time to Put Your Back Into It

- Now that plans have been developed and plants have been ordered
 - Mark plant locations
 - Dig Holes
 - Put the plants in the ground



Mark planting locations prior to volunteers arrival



Dig holes
prior to
volunteers
arrival



Scheduled 3 Planting Dates



Getting the Word Out



Getting the Word Out

HENRICO



Spring 2006

Volume 9, No. 2

TODAY

Juggling Act —New budget balances spike in fixed costs with need for tax relief

Henrico's budgeting process for the 2006-07 fiscal year often resembled a high-stakes juggling act, the kind in which a person offstage adds to the performer's burden by

On April 25, the board approved an operating budget of nearly \$905.7 million for the 2006-07 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The operating budget, an increase of slightly more than 8 percent over the previous year, successfully balances a significant influx of fixed costs with a need to provide real estate tax relief while further enhancing the level of service provided to residents.

"This is a no-frills budget, but it ensures that all known cost requirements are funded," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazlett, P.E. "It balances the need for real estate tax relief with

the significant increases in fixed costs the county is experiencing."

The board voted to reduce the current real estate tax rate of 92 cents per \$100 of assessed value by 2 cents — to 90 cents per

\$100 of assessed value — for the 2006 calendar year, effective retroactively to Jan. 1. In addition, the approved budget assumes another 2 cent reduction, to 88 cents, beginning Jan. 1, 2007.

When combined with a similar reduction from 2005, the board will have lowered the real estate tax rate paid by Henrico residents by 6 cents over the

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Henrico re- ceives national award for its dedication to blood donation efforts

The Henrico County Blood Program (HCBP) has received a national award for its "outstanding commitment" to blood-donation efforts in 2005

America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs, bestowed its highest honor, the Platinum Blood Drive Award in the employer/medium category, to the HCBP. The organization officially recognized Henrico County's hard work on March 6 at its national meeting in Houston, commending the HCBP for its long-term, comprehensive commitment to blood donation



From left are Virginia Blood Services President Robert Carter, Ph.D.; Henrico Blood Program Coordinator Dave Ambrogio; Virginia Blood Services Senior Account Manager Jenny Madden; Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazlett, P.E.; and America's Blood Centers President Merlyn Sayers, MBB Ch, Ph.D.

This Issue

- 2 Team effort yields clean stream
- 4 Seeking Volunteers
- 4 Looking for a few good homes
- 5 HCTV program schedule
- 6 Student Government Day
- 7 Recreation Roundup

efforts; strong organizational leadership and involvement; innovative recruitment techniques; frequency of drives; improvement over time; and adoption of new technologies.

"Community service is a top priority for Henrico County, and our blood program plays an important role in that effort," said County Manager Virgil

—CONTINUED, ON PAGE 6—



tossing bowling pins, knives, burning torches and other imposing props into the mix.

But with the deftness of a seasoned performer, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors didn't allow a single ball — or other object — to drop. The new budget solidifies Henrico's position as the lowest-tax large locality in Virginia and allocates the majority of new funding to Henrico Public Schools and Public Safety.

Henrico County General Government SPOTLIGHTS

Partnership between county, community groups sets model for future projects

A unique project this spring brought together the Henrico County government and a diverse group of people. Their focus was a section of the Little Westham Creek — a quiet suburban stream flowing through several neighborhoods in western Henrico — suffering from erosion and other problems.

As part of its stream assessment and watershed management program, Henrico's Department of Public Works had placed Little Westham Creek on its priority list for repair. Chronic bank erosion and fertilizer runoff along a 1.5-mile stretch through the Westham, University Heights and Rollingwood neighborhoods had damaged the creek, leading to an additional flow of sediment and nutrients into Westhampton Lake on the University of Richmond campus. These waders eventually make their way to the James River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Local artist Dan Barges, a University Heights resident, has lived along Little Westham Creek since 1996 and has witnessed firsthand its problems. Last year, Barges approached the county about using natural buffers to help control erosion and fertilizer runoff along the stream's banks.

That encounter became the genesis for the Little Westham Creek Community Stream Protection Project whose goal was to recreate the creek's natural buffer by planting trees, bushes, shrubs and grasses on its banks. Public Works Environmental Engineer John Newton coordinated Henrico's role in the project and Barges spearheaded the effort to locate volunteers, contacting the University of Richmond's Center for Civic Engagement and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Barges also worked with local neighborhoods, bringing on board 60 homeowners whose property bordered the creek and whose approval was necessary.

"The biggest surprise for me was how easy it was to sell this project to the different groups," Barges said. "We've received a tremendous level of cooperation from everyone."

Henrico Public Works funded the purchase of plants — a \$20,000 investment — and provided technical support and expertise in the buffer's construction. The Extension Office's Master Gardener program worked closely with homeowners to select plants appropriate for their properties — a variety of Virginia species including blueberry, winterberry and wax myrtle shrubs; red and silver maple trees; and a number of native grasses.

By mid-March, physical labor on the Little Westham Creek Community Stream Protection Project began. Dozens of University of Richmond students, members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and neighborhood residents volunteered several weekends planting the banks of the creek, filling in holes that Public Works crews had drilled earlier in the week. Volunteers concluded their work in April, planting more than 3,300 trees, shrubs and grasses. Homeowners are encouraged to maintain the plants in a natural state and refrain from mowing.

The process that placed the plants along this section of Little Westham Creek sets a model for future projects. Henrico contains 440 miles of streams; the county's stream assessment and watershed management program has identified 47 segments of those streams as needing repair.

"The Little Westham Creek effort has been a great pilot project, it gives us an example to show other community groups that this kind of effort can be successful," Newton said. "Of course, each project is different, but (the Little Westham Creek project) gives us momentum. The ball is starting to roll now."

For more information about Henrico's stream assessment program, contact Public Works Environmental Division at 501-4393 or log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/work/enviro.htm.



A volunteer gets a quick lesson on the best way to plant a sapling

Results







Before



After



Success?

- Buffer Installed
- Community Engagement
- Community Education



Diverse Groups Working Together...



Is the Real Measure of Success

