



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan S. Pollard, APR
Director of Communications – DGS
Phone: 804-786-0282
spollard@dgs.state.va.us

Construction Landscape Preparations Almost Complete ~ Tree Removal Completed This Week in Virginia's Capitol Square ~

RICHMOND, VA – Construction preparation of the landscape in Virginia's Capitol Square will be completed this week.

The relocation of trees and shrubberies to other state properties was completed last week, but starting Monday, July 19 several work crews will be in Capitol Square finishing the dislodging of trees on the south side of the Capitol.

Construction boundaries are being established and efforts are being made to keep some of the larger trees in Capitol Square including two Tulip trees, a Pin Oak and a Red Maple tree. Once the construction and renovation projects in Capitol Square are completed, implementation of the landscape master plan will begin. There will be new walkways, site lighting, irrigation systems, and new plantings added to the landscape.

“The trees and shrubberies that can be used elsewhere have been transferred to other public locations,” said James T. Roberts, Director of the Department of General Services. “It is unfortunate that we can't retain or relocate all of the larger trees on the south lawn, but it is necessary to complete the removal [of trees] so construction can begin”

The relocation and dislodging of trees and shrubberies is necessary to begin the Capitol renovation and construction of an approximately 25,000 square foot extension underground. The entrance to the Capitol extension will be at Tenth Street and Bank Street and will include a security screening area, visitors area, museum and exhibit space, and meeting rooms for the legislature. Entering at street level, once complete, visitors will gradually ascend upwards on a series of handicap accessible pathways to the original Capitol building. The entire Capitol renovation is scheduled to be completed in late 2006 in time for Virginia's 400th anniversary.

Approximately 375 trees are located in Capitol Square, but for construction preparations more than 40 trees and approximately 75 shrubberies and plantings have been affected.

(MORE)

***News Release Continued:
Construction Landscape Almost Complete***

Most of the trees and shrubs affected are less than 15 years old with nothing older than 70. The types of trees affected include Dogwood, Plum, Cherry, Elm, Maple, Holly, Spruce, Black Pine, White Pine, Poplar, and Magnolia. Some groundcover foliage has been affected along with some Azaleas, Nandinas, Hydrangeas, Holly, and Laurel.

Arrangements for relocating some trees and shrubberies included replanting them in cemeteries and state parks. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will replant a Dogwood tree in the Hampton Roads area in honor of VDOT employees killed on the job. Other state agencies replanted some trees and shrubs on their properties to enhance their respective landscapes.

For continually updated information about the improvements in Capitol Square and a map of the construction zones log on to www.dgs.virginia.gov.

###