

Richmond Tree Stewards
Fruit Tree Specialists Launch Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2026

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Program overview
3. Initial focus will be on pruning
 - a. Target pruning window Jan-Mar 2027
4. [Community Garden Inventory](#) (to date)
5. **Identify needs/tasks**
 - a) **Leadership: chair(s)**
 - i) Schedule meetings/locations
 - ii) Set agenda
 - iii) Post events on Track it Forward, record attendance/hours post-meeting
 - iv) Set up Google Group or we can set up a group on TIF
 - b) **Correspondence/Minutes**
 - i) Record and circulate timely action items
 - ii) Set up shared Google Drive to store/share resources & info
 - c) **Social Media**
 - i) Occasional posts on our activities or species info for IG & FB
 - ii) Include photos
 - d) **Identify outside expertise to conduct hands-on workshop(s)**
 - i) Familiarize ourselves first, then hold fall workshop(s)
 - ii) Extension Agent/Master Gardeners?
 - iii) Peggy Singlemann (may charge fee)
 - iv) Janine Lester (may charge fee)
 - v) Edible Landscapes (Crozet)
 - vi) Others?
 - e) **Research species (have group divvy up species?)**
 - i) 16 basic genera, some tree ID needed
 - 1) Drupes/stone fruit (peach, plum, apricot, nectarine, olive)

- 2) Berries (blueberry)
 - 3) Pomes/*Rosacea* (apples, pear, asian pear, quince)
 - 4) Persimmon
 - 5) Pawpaw
 - 6) Nut (pecan)
 - 7) Fig/Mulberry (*Moraceae*)
- ii) Fruit-bearing patterns
 - 1) annual/biennial
 - 2) Expectations post-pruning (i.e., will there be yield loss?)
- iii) Other factors or considerations specific to each species
 - 1) form/habit

f) Other

- i) Some fruit trees may be shaded by surrounding trees which may require pruning, we will need to factor this and address with park arborists/Qui
- ii) While our focus is on pruning, we need enough basic knowledge to look at the trees holistically. Examples: do they need pairings for cross pollination? Are there signs of disease/stress/damage that might require action like caging, mulch or weed control? Create an assessment form to track tree care?
- iii) DPR would like us to be on the ground floor when planting new trees (spacing, light, etc.)

g) Next steps

- i) Permission to share a roster with emails?
- ii) Next meeting date