

More New Trees for Capitol Hill

By Beth Purcell

On November 6 2010, Trees for Capitol Hill, Inc. (TFCH) planted seventeen trees and shrubs in tree boxes and parks throughout the Capitol Hill area. This accomplishment was made possible by generous contributions from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation and National Capital Bank and “sweat equity” from the volunteer planting crew.

These new trees were chosen to add year-round color and interest to our streetscape. For fall, we have two scarlet oaks (700 block of D Street, SE and 15th & A Streets, NE), an October Glory red maple (next to the bus stop on 1500 block of C Street, NE), and a black gum, a wonderful native tree, (on the 1300 block of Constitution Ave., NE). For summer, we planted three Dynamite crape myrtles in the park at 7th and Massachusetts Ave. NE, a Biloxi crape myrtle on the 1300 block of Constitution Ave. NE, and a Fragrant Snowbell on the 1300 block of A Street, NE. And for a spring treat, we tucked a few daffodils around the root balls, courtesy of the Capitol Hill Garden Club (with funding from ANC 6A).

We also planted some trees that grow well in Washington, but are not common on Capitol Hill: A seedless sweetgum on the 1400 block of A Street, NE, and a red buckeye (red flowers that hummingbirds like, blooming in May) in the park near Maury Elementary School. The roster was rounded out with a swamp white oak in the park near Congressional Cemetery, a willow oak on the 1600 block of D Street, SE, a zelkova on Tennessee Ave. NE, and three London plane trees on 7th St and 4th Street, SE.

Our labors were lightened by “guest arborists” who helped with the planting. Basil Kempton, a first grade student at Maury, was on hand to welcome his family’s new sweet gum. On the 200 block of 4th St SE, we were met by 2-year-old Henry Gould and David Glaser, and John Gordon, Vice Presidents of the National Capitol Bank. The bank is located right around the corner and is home to a super-fantastic aquarium, well known to local toddlers and other fish-fanciers. Young Henry is looking forward to visiting the fish – and you can, too. The public is encouraged to stop by any time during business hours.

Many thanks to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, National Capital Bank, and also to North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, and neighbors for making the tree-planting a success.



Planting a zelkova on the 100 block of Tennessee Ave NE



Willow oak on the 1600 block of D Street, SE



David Glaser, Vice-President of the National Capital Bank, presents a generous donation of \$3,000