



CITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For Immediate Release

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Monroe Park fountain to be moved Aug. 5 as part of park renovation

At 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 5, a crew from the Robinson Iron Foundry will gather in Monroe Park and with assistance from Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities will hoist the park's fountain onto a truck headed south. The fountain is being taken to the company's foundry in Alexander City, Alabama where it will be restored to its former glory as part of the Department's \$100,000 improvement plans for Monroe Park.

The Department has already supervised the removal of several dead or dying trees from the park using contracted services donated by VCU and done some "limbing up" (trimming the lower branches of trees), which has given the park a new open, airy look and feel that allows more light into the park and makes it more inviting.

"The tree trimming alone has already greatly improved the appearance of the park," said Dinesh Tiwari, director of the Department.

"We also plan to add bollards to the park's entrances to eliminate the cars and trucks from the park, and we've ordered 12 additional park benches," said Tiwari.

"These improvements were our top priorities and will make an immediate difference in the park that you will be able to see," said Pat Daniels, chair of the Monroe Park Advisory Council, which is working closely with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities on the park's improvement.

The Advisory Council was appointed by the Richmond City Council at the request of Council Member Bill Pantele, who represents the 2nd District which includes the park. City Council also approved \$100,000 for the park's improvement at Pantele's request when it passed the fiscal year 2005 budget.

"Monroe Park was the City's first park, and we're pleased to be able to make these improvements," said Tiwari. "This is a very positive development for this neighborhood and Virginia Commonwealth University, and we see it as part of helping City Council to reach its goal of neighborhood improvement, one of its priorities."

The fountain should be returning in four to six weeks cleaned, polished and in tip-top shape, ready to take its place in its new inviting surroundings, and opening a new chapter in the park's history.