

“DISCOVER, UNCOVER” IN LOWER CHIMBORAZO PARK

There was another successful volunteer workday in Chimborazo Park organized by Carl Otto, President of the Gillies Creek Park Foundation this past June. The Foundation partnered with Dominion Energy and the City of Richmond Police Department to provide volunteer opportunities for the Dominion Energy employees and a community service opportunity for youth in the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Community Service Initiative. The goal of the workday was to “discover, uncover” cobblestone work that has been covered by dirt and weeds due to years of neglect. The volunteers were divided into several workgroup teams consisting of two Dominion volunteers, a police officer and one or two City of Richmond youth, led by members of the Gillies Creek Park Foundation Board. Each team was given an area with specific tasks to accomplish. One area was at the top of the historic 1895 spring structure. A cobbled walkway and drain were discovered and about 6 feet of cobbles were uncovered. Another area was along the roadway within the park, just west of the Dog Park. The city had repaired a large drain but the cobbled gutter needed to be cleared of dirt and weeds for the drain to function properly. Approximately 250 feet of cobbled gutter was uncovered and the drain appears to be functioning correctly. Another area where an exciting discovery was made was at the bottom of the steps west of the park house. A cobbled drainage gutter was discovered and about 100 feet was uncovered. Other groups worked on removing invasive vines from trees and picking up trash. Dominion provided breakfast and lunch to the volunteers. Please take time to go by the park and check out what was “discovered, uncovered” that day and consider volunteering for future “discover, uncover” projects.

Submitted by Trish Bernal, Gillies Creek Park Foundation Board Member