



# THE WHEELWRIGHTER

September 2018

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## What can I do to reduce erosion around my yard?

1) **Plant vegetation!** Planting flowers, grass, trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants.

*Choose plants that are native to our area. Reston association has a list of native plants to our area at <http://reston.org>.*

2) **Add a layer of mulch as well as a layer of fertilizer.** Both help the ground absorb water better and increase the pH of the soil, making it healthier.

3) **Add Terracing** – if you have a steep slope in your yard, terracing can help with erosion by leveling off steep sections of the hill into several flatter areas. This allows water to absorb where plants grow!

## What's happening in the neighborhood?

It's been a **BUSY** summer on Wheelwright Court! Here's a summary of what's been going on in the community in the last few months:

### **Erosion/drainage work:**

- Regrading and addition of drainage stone to areas left of 2217, areas in and around the tot lot and behind 2251 to help redirect water to the streams behind the cluster.
- Addition of stabilizing walking stone to the left of 2217 bus path.
- While erosion continues to be an issue for our neighborhood, hopefully these changes will improve some of our biggest problem areas going forward.
- **Future erosion projects** under consideration include adding an underground pipe from the downspout at 2231 down to swale at tot lot and from the downspout at 2249 out to the swale along the edge of the natural area. Additionally, wash gravel would be added to the area right of 2249.

### **Concrete Work:**

- We had 562 square feet of sidewalk, 60 sf of asphalt path and 12 linear feet of curb and gutter removed and replaced with new concrete.

### **Tree Work:**

- Pruning of larger tree branches and removal of encroaching sapling trees located on the north side of the community to prevent reduction of sunlight, loss of grass, and erosion to the landscape.
- After 3 trees fell on houses 2242, 2244, and 2246, the branches, trees and debris were removed and cut up behind the houses. Additionally, the large 30" oak tree that was deemed unhealthy and dangerous next to the fallen trees was removed as a preemptive measure.
- Tree60 is continuing to help us monitor trees that pose imminent safety hazards and prune back branches as necessary. If you know of an unhealthy tree that you would like to be inspected, please email the board.



### Tips for keeping mosquitos at bay:

- 1) Remove all standing water from outdoor pots, candles, birdbaths, etc. Stagnant water becomes a breeding ground.
- 2) Clean gutters and clear clogged downspouts.
- 3) Add citronella candles or candles with geraniol wax to outdoor lounging areas.
- 4) Add plants that excrete natural repellents. Citronella plants work best when they are harmed or tampered with such as deer eating the leaves – they excrete the repellent to protect themselves.

Would you like to contribute to the Wheelwrighter? Do you have suggestions to make Wheelwright Cluster a better community? Contact [Wheelwright.cluster.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Wheelwright.cluster.assoc@gmail.com)! We'd love to hear from you!

## Save the dates!

**Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Cluster board meeting @2226, 7pm

**Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Cluster Clean-up, 9 am

Cluster Cookout, 12 pm

*Rain date for clean-up and cookout: Saturday*

*October 27<sup>th</sup>*

## Stay Connected!

 @Wheelwright cluster

Website:

<http://wheelwright.website/>

Email:

[Wheelwright.cluster.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Wheelwright.cluster.assoc@gmail.com)