# Greening Richmond Public Libraries

## West End Branch Library
## Existing Conditions

# **Greening** Richmond Public Libraries

- The James River Association is working alongside Richmond Public Libraries, RVAH2O, and Four Winds Design to design and install **green infrastructure** practices to manage stormwater at Broad Rock Branch, North Avenue Branch, and West End Branch this year
- In-person and virtual design charrettes are scheduled during the month of July 2020 to solicit feedback on **green infrastructure** practices that could be implemented at Broad Rock Branch, North Avenue Branch, and West End Branch

# What is **Stormwater Pollution**?

- Did you know stormwater is a threat to the health of the James River and its tributaries?
- When rain falls on an impervious surfaces, such as roads or sidewalks, it becomes stormwater
- If stormwater picks up pollutants such as dirt, nutrients from lawn fertilizer, bacteria from pet waste, or toxics like oil from cars as it flows across an impervious surface, it becomes **stormwater pollution**

# What is **Green Infrastructure**?

- **Green infrastructure** practices include rain gardens, street trees, and conservation landscaping that enhance our built environment for the benefit of humans and the ecosystem of which we are a part
- **Green infrastructure** contributes to healthier communities by absorbing stormwater before it enters our rivers and streams, improving air quality, and reducing the urban heat island effect
- It also provides habitat for wildlife living among us

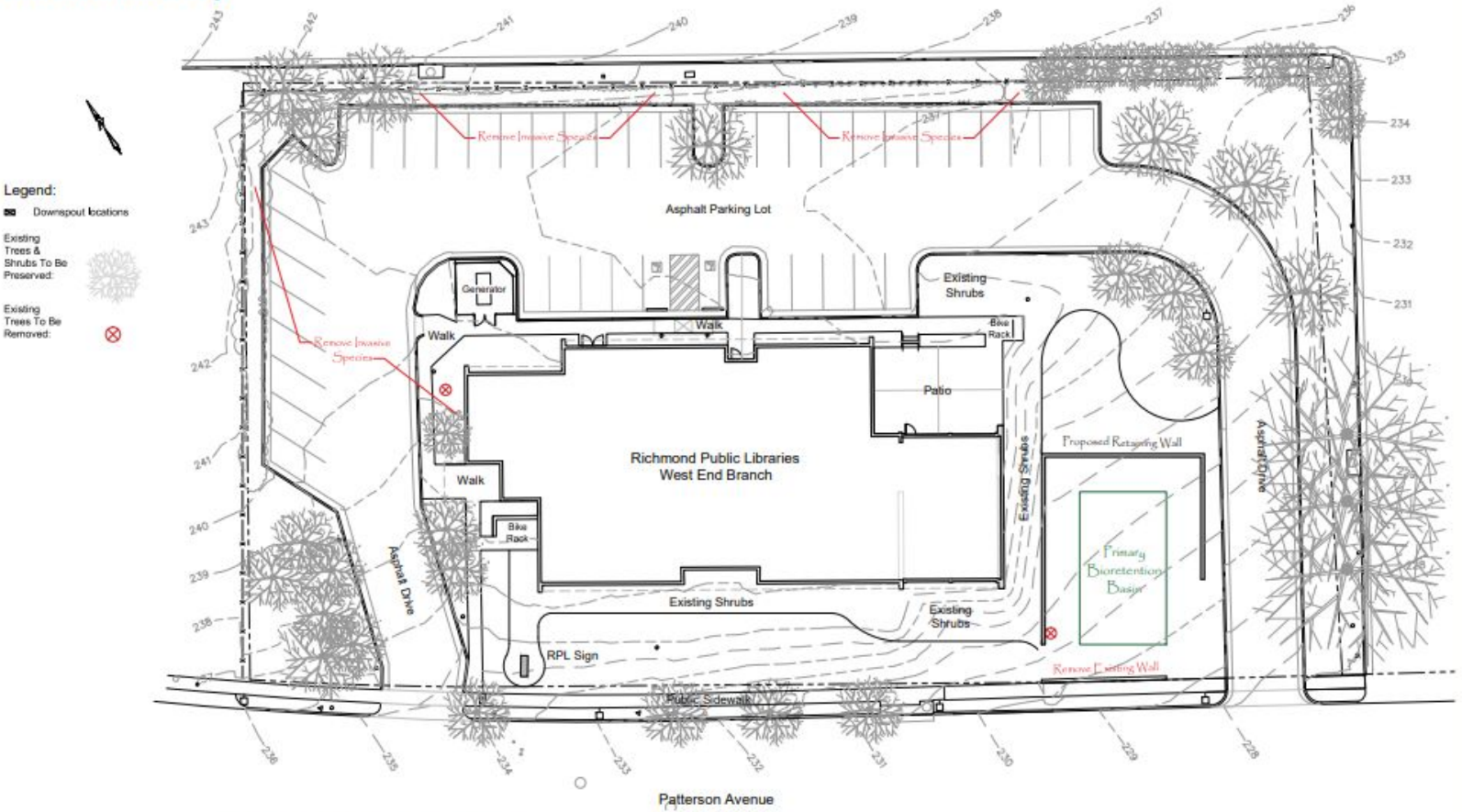
# Applicable **Green Infrastructure** Practices

- Conservation landscaping
- Street trees
- Bioretention areas / rain gardens

# Greening Richmond Public Libraries

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE JAMES RIVER BY REDUCING STORMWATER POLLUTION

## West End Branch Library




Design Charrette Site Plan

FOUR WINDS DESIGN, LC

Scale: 1" = 12'

Date: 7-20-20

Sheet 1 of 1

# Existing Conditions - Patterson Avenue

# Existing Conditions - Main Entrance

# Existing Conditions - Main Entrance

# Existing Conditions - Parking Area

# Existing Conditions - Parking Area

# Existing Conditions - Secondary Entrance

# Existing Conditions - Patio

# Existing Conditions - Parking Area

# Existing Conditions - Patio Area

# Existing Conditions - Patterson Avenue

# Existing Conditions - Patterson Avenue

# Existing Conditions - Sign

# Existing Conditions - Downspouts

# Native, Non-Native, and Invasive Plants

- Native plants are preferred as they are adapted to thrive in our area and provide food and habitat for wildlife, such as insects and birds
- Non-native plants have little ecological value and invasive plants outcompete native plants
- Non-native plants found in library landscaping include crape myrtles, nandina, and liriope

# Summary of Existing Conditions

- Entrances to the library are not welcoming
- Existing street trees along Patterson Avenue are non-native crape myrtles
- Large impervious asphalt parking area has 43 parking spaces with no shade trees
- Patio with outdoor seating area has potential to accommodate library programs
- Large grassy area is preferred location of bioretention area
- Library windows facing Patterson Avenue present an opportunities
- Landscaping consists of non-native plant species
- Invasive plant species such as Tree of Heaven and English Ivy exist along the perimeter of the library grounds
- Oak tree on Patterson Avenue to be removed, retaining wall may be removed