

Vegetation Management at the 15th New Jersey Monument

The trip concluded with a visit to the 15th New Jersey Monument located on the north side of Virginia State Route 3, the battle-era Orange Plank Road. The monument sits in a triangular parcel of land bounded by Route 3 on the south, a furniture store parking lot on the west, and Heatherstone Drive on the east. A BJ's Wholesale warehouse and parking lot are immediately east of Heatherstone Drive. The west and east sides of the triangle feature double-row plantings of eastern white pines (*Pinus strobus*) with two aging sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) interspersed on the east side. Eric Mink shared that the monument was moved north in 1961 when Route 3 was widened and that Virginia DOT is planning another widening effort that will remove a vehicular pull-off area intended for visitor access. The sweetgums appear in poor condition with nesting holes visible in the trunks and the white pines have lost their lower limbs, no longer screen contemporary development (Figure 8).



Figure 8. White pine perimeter planting at 15th New Jersey Monument. View north, 2020 (OCLP).

The assembled team discussed removing the white pines and Tim suggested removing the interior row of pines first and then establishing new planting to create a backdrop for the monument. New planting could consist of green hawthorns (*Crataegus viridis*) in front of or mixed with evergreen material in a semi-circular configuration. There would need to be a gap in the planting, roughly 6-feet wide, to accommodate mower access from Heatherstone Drive.

Please notify Tim Layton if information in this trip report should be corrected.