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Historic Estate Grove Baobab Tree Site Restored Through Community Stewardship Project

The Virgin Islands Trail Alliance said the project included a tree health assessment, termite nest removal, refreshed protective posts and chains, an interpretive sign, and benches built by young craftsmen from My Brother's Workshop.

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The historic Estate Grove Baobab Tree on St. Croix, where a community stewardship project added tree preservation work, a new interpretive sign, protective post improvements and benches for public reflection. By. VITAL.

A community stewardship project centered on the historic Estate Grove Baobab Tree on St. Croix has been completed, bringing together preservation work, public education and new gathering

space around one of the territory's significant living landmarks.

The Virgin Islands Trail Alliance announced the completion of the project, which included a tree health assessment, removal of destructive termite nests, refreshed paint on the roadside protective posts and chains surrounding the site, installation of a new interpretive sign, and the addition of two handcrafted benches built by young people from My Brother's Workshop.

The interpretive sign shares information about the botanical importance of the African baobab tree and the historical significance of Estate Grove Place, described in the release as one of St. Croix's best-known historic plantation sites and later an important location tied to the St. Croix Labor Union and David Hamilton Jackson.

Botanical information for the sign was provided by Olasee Davis of the University of the Virgin Islands. Historical information was provided by George Tyson of the V.I. State Historic Preservation Office. The health of the tree was evaluated by Amy J. Dreves of UVI, whose guidance supported efforts to protect the long-term well-being of the baobab.

The V.I. Department of Agriculture removed the termite nests that had threatened the tree, helping preserve the site.

According to the Alliance, the project was created to preserve and honor a living piece of Crucian history while creating a welcoming space for residents and visitors to gather, reflect and connect with the island's natural and cultural heritage.

The organization extended thanks to the Estate Grove community, including the Grove Place Action Committee, the family of the late Ms. Magdalene Edney, and Ms. Olive Henry-Fergus for their support and permission to complete the work.

The Trail Alliance also thanked the V.I. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation, the University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Services, Amy J. Dreves of UVI, George Tyson of the V.I. State Historic Preservation Office, Olasee Davis of UVI, the St. Croix Hiking Association, My Brother's Workshop, CHANT, the Black Heritage Tree Project, St. Croix Administrator Sammuell Sanes, and all partners, volunteers and community members who contributed to the effort.

The group also recognized the young craftsmen of My Brother's Workshop for building the benches installed at the site.

Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. USDA and the Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, Inc. are equal opportunity providers and employers.

The Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, also known as VITAL, is a St. Croix-based nonprofit organization dedicated to creating pathways, nature trails and community green spaces across the Virgin Islands. The organization says its work connects communities, promotes healthy lifestyles, and enhances the natural and built environment for residents and visitors of all ages.