

Caretaker Spotlight



This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to James Biddle, Tree Program Supervisor within LBRE. James grew up in Annapolis, Maryland and currently lives in Redwood City. He graduated from the University of Vermont with a major in Forestry.

James has been at Stanford for 3.5 years in this same position. He decided to work for Stanford to expand his knowledge of new trees and to work in an interesting and dynamic environment. James truly enjoys the unexpected collaborations he has with people inside and outside of LBRE. People are very passionate about their work and helping others. He has found it's not always this way in other workplaces. If James could choose a different path, he would tell you that he is truly lucky to be working in a career that he would not trade for anything. He's had the "plant bug" from a young age, and he is grateful for all the experiences he had gained.

A typical day for James starts with a stretch and flex at 7am and a daily job review with the Tree Crew. He is then off to morning meetings and emails and then he will make his way into the field to join the Tree Crew. I will routinely check in with the Tree Crew to make sure they have everything they need to be successful at their job. He also does a lot of solo investigating work for future Tree Crew jobs across campus. An interesting story was when the Tree Crew rallied around Stanford during the Winter storms of 2023. They experienced over 300 incidents of fallen trees or large branches. The Tree Crew worked safely and diligently to keep campus running smoothly. Everyone is very proud of the work they did that winter, as they should be! James needs the Building Managers to be the interface between the Tree Crew and the Stanford community around where we work. The Tree Crew excels at being minimally disruptive, but the nature of their work is inherently disruptive. James rely's on Building Managers to communicate expected disruptions and he will incorporate their feedback as much as possible.





Outside of Stanford he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. James loves to go hiking with his wife Lydia and their son Clark who is 16 months old. He is also a huge F1, IndyCar and sports car racing fan and enjoys going to live music events. He also enjoys spending time with his two dogs, Oliver and Rex who are both rescue mutts.

James's work here will be valued for years to come. Thank you for your service to Stanford and helping build this institution's legacy. If you see James out and about make sure to say hello!

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