

INTRODUCED: February 12, 2024

A RESOLUTION No. 2024-R008

To express support for the City’s acquisition, designation, and establishment of a portion of the property located at 405 West 6th Street and commonly known as Manchester Green as an official City park.

Patron – Ms. Robertson, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Newbille and Ms. Trammell

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 25 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City has recognized a portion of the property known as 405 West 6th Street and identified as Tax Parcel No. S000-0023/001 in the 2024 records of the City Assessor as a potential location for a public space referred to as “Manchester Green” in the Richmond Riverfront Plan, as contained in Ordinance No. 2017-148, adopted September 25, 2017; and

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of Council, the recent surge in the construction of residential buildings has led to an increase in population within the Manchester neighborhood, resulting in a lack of public spaces within that community; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAR 25 2024 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of Council, Manchester Green stands as the last substantial tract of land available for the establishment of a public park in the Manchester neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of Council, the aforementioned location of Manchester Green makes the property an accessible and desirable area for citizens of the City and the South Richmond community; and

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of Council, public spaces, especially parks, mitigate urban congestion and foster community engagement within densely populated city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of Council, public spaces such as Libby Hill Park, Monroe Park, and Byrd Park underscore the popularity and essential role of parks in enhancing the overall ambiance of the city of Richmond's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council support the City's acquisition, designation, and establishment of all or a portion of the property located at 405 West 6th Street and commonly known as Manchester Green as an official City park;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council hereby expresses support for the City's acquisition, designation, and establishment of a portion of the property located at 405 West 6th Street and commonly known as Manchester Green as an official City park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

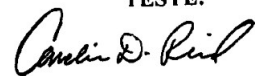
1. That the Council hereby affirms that Manchester Green is an optimal site for a public park, especially in consideration of the extent to which other spaces in the Manchester neighborhood are used for development projects.

2. That, to the extent permitted by law, the Council intends to take such actions as may be necessary to acquire and develop Manchester Green, or a portion thereof, for public park use, provided that the owner of the property is willing to sell all or a portion of such property to the City.

3. That the Council supports the consolidation of Manchester Green, or a portion thereof, with James River Park, subject to any easements.

4. That the Council hereby requests that the Chief Administrative Officer, to the extent permitted by law, cause the appropriate City departments to take such action as may be necessary for the City to acquire, designate, and establish Manchester Green as a City park and work with the owner of the property to resolve any issues preventing Manchester Green's prospective use as such.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:



City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

RECEIVED
By City Attorney at 8:34 am, Feb 05, 2024

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Laura Drewry, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH LaTasha S. Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Ellen Robertson, 6th District Council Member
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Tavares Floyd, 6th District Liaison

DATE February 2, 2024

PAGE/s 3

TITLE Resolution to propose a public park in the Manchester area in the City of Richmond

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** ☐ **Resolution** ☒

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilmember Ellen Robertson

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Education and Human Services

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Resolution to propose a public park in the Manchester area in the City of Richmond.

BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting a Resolution to propose a public park in the Manchester area in the City of Richmond. This resolution proposes Manchester Green as a Public Park in the city. The public park is requested as a much-needed amenity for residents of Manchester, as there is a lack of greenspace in the area and density issues due to developments.

The proposed parcel as an ideal location for a public park has been identified as the Norfolk Southern Corporation land situated between the Manchester Bridge and approximately one-half block west of McDonough Street. This is tax parcel S0000023001 which is within the floodwall. This parcel has been duly designated as Manchester Green in the Richmond 300 Plan and Riverfront Plan.

This Resolution is proposed with full support of the Manchester Alliance Civic Association.

The proposed language below was submitted from the work of the stakeholder group to provide background information for the requested Resolution. The proposed language is as follows:

TO RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM THE NEED FOR MANCHESTER GREEN AS A PUBLIC PARK IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond has identified the Norfolk Southern Corporation land situated between the Manchester Bridge and approximately one-half block west of McDonough Street, tax parcel S0000023001, within the floodwall, as an ideal location for a public park, duly designated as Manchester Green in the Richmond 300 Plan and Riverfront Plan; and

WHEREAS, the recent surge in the construction of multiple apartment buildings has led to a fivefold increase in Manchester's population, resulting in a dearth of public park land or open space within the locality; and

WHEREAS, Manchester Green stands as the last substantial tract of land available for the establishment of a public park in Manchester; and

WHEREAS, the strategic location of Manchester Green at the base of the hill, end of several streets, and its visibility from the entire neighborhood make it an accessible and desirable area for the local population, as well as the broader South Richmond community; and

WHEREAS, the significance of public spaces, especially parks, is acknowledged in mitigating urban congestion and fostering community engagement within densely populated city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, historical precedents such as Libby Hill Park, Monroe Park, and Byrd Park underscore the popularity and essential role of parks in enhancing the overall ambiance of Richmond's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing the quality of life for current and future residents takes precedence over unbridled development without the necessary amenities; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that retaining the Norfolk Southern Corporation's railroad track is feasible while selling the remaining land of Manchester Green.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RICHMOND CITY COUCIL:

SECTION 1: The Council hereby acknowledges and underscores the imperative need for a City Park in Manchester.

SECTION 2: The Council hereby reaffirms its prior acknowledgment of Manchester Green as an optimal site for a public park, especially considering the nearly exhaustive use of other spaces in Manchester for building development.

SECTION 3: The Council expresses its intent to acquire and develop Manchester Green for public park use, contingent upon Norfolk Southern Corporation's willingness to sell all or part of the land.

SECTION 4: The Council advocates for the consolidation of Manchester Green with the James River Park immediately to the west, subject to the same easements as the aforementioned park.

SECTION 5: The Council requests that all future actions by the city or its departments be oriented towards promoting Manchester Green as a park and avoiding any impediments to its prospective use as such.

The expected date of introduction is February 12, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☒ No ☐

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact

The anticipated fiscal impact are costs associated with acquiring and purchasing the land.

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/srs