



Application for Urban Design Committee Review

Department of Planning and Development Review
Planning & Preservation Division
900 E. Broad Street, Room 510
Richmond, Virginia 23219 | (804) 646-6335
www.richmondgov.com/CommitteeUrbanDesign



Application Type (select one)

Location, Character, & Extent
Section 17.05
Other:

Encroachment
Design Overlay District

Review Type (select one)

Conceptual
Final

Project Information

Submission Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Address: _____

Brief Project Description (this is not a replacement for the required detailed narrative):

Applicant Information (a City representative must be the applicant, with an exception for encroachments)

Name: _____ Email: _____

City Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Main Contact (if different from Applicant): _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Submittal Deadlines

All applications and support materials must be filed no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Urban Design Committee (UDC). Please see the schedule on page 3 as actual deadlines are adjusted due to City holidays. **Late or incomplete submissions will be deferred to the next meeting.**

Filing

Applications can be mailed or delivered to the attention of "Urban Design Committee" at the address listed at the top of this page. **It is important that the applicant discuss the proposal with appropriate City agencies, Zoning Administration staff, and area civic associations and residents prior to filing the application with the UDC.**

Submittal Deadlines

The UDC is a ten member committee created by City Council in 1968 whose purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission (CPC) on the design of projects on City property or right-of-way. The UDC provides advice of an aesthetic nature in connection with the performance of the duties of the Commission under Sections 17.05, 17.06, and 17.07 of the City Charter. The UDC also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.

Greening Richmond Public Libraries

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE JAMES RIVER BY REDUCING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Hull Street Branch

Project Description

The site is located in the Manchester neighborhood of Richmond in Southside. The property is situated on the corner of Hull Street and West 14th Street adjacent to a city bus stop. The site features a small public plaza with custom sculpture and several seating pedestals that also serve as traffic bollards for cars that frequently leave the busy road. There are two crepe myrtles and a variety of overgrown non-native shrubs scattered over the property. In the rear there is limited parking along the alley and several redundant walkways parallel to the public sidewalk.

The design was informed by public questionnaires and the collaborative project management effort of Richmond Public Library staff, RVAH2O, PlanRVA, The James River Association, and Four Winds Design. The results of the questionnaire contributed significantly to informing the direction of the design for this project. Library users and residents identified the needs for shade, an outdoor gathering and children's play spaces, and more seating. Per library leadership it was made clear that security and loitering are major issues at this branch and no free use outdoor seating can be added.

The purpose of the project is to develop a series of bioretention basins and areas of pervious artificial turf and pavers designed to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality standards to infiltrate storm water discharge from a portion of the roof, sidewalks, and parking lot; reduce the heat island effect as possible; enhance the existing streetside plaza; and create a small public park that features shaded reading/ seating areas, play space for young children, and opportunities for education about the importance of native plants and managing stormwater runoff. Some impervious area and all non-native species will be removed with native plants added. The project strives to become a model of sustainable site development with educational components accomplished with an interpretive sign, special library programs, and community involvement and support.

This project is funded by a 319H grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, PlanRVA, RVAH2O, the National Fish and Wildlife Service/ Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grant, the Virginia Department of Urban Forestry, Altria, and is supported by staff hours from The James River Association and RVAH2O with service donations from Four Winds Design.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the late fall of 2025. Most project elements will all be accomplished with independent contractors with JRA and FW functioning as the general contractor. Volunteers will install the plants and mulch while JRA will handle installing the interpretive signs.

The stone benches will be constructed of reclaimed granite from the previous project at East End Library.

Maintenance Analysis

All maintenance of RPL properties is performed by an independent contractor managed by RPL staff. The seven previously developed library branches have served as maintenance testing grounds. Site-specific manuals for each property have been created and the section for Hull Street will be revised to include plant species specific care upon completion of construction. This site will be actively maintained by JRA staff for weeding and supplemental watering and monitored yearly by JRA. Beginning in 2025, Richmond Public Library BMP's have been maintained by Soar365 to great success (portion of the NFWF grant covers this) and we hope to expand this program.