

INTRODUCED: December 9, 2019

AN ORDINANCE No. 2019-337

To adopt an amendment to the Master Plan for the City of Richmond, adopted by the City Planning Commission on Nov. 6, 2000, and by the City Council by Ord. No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted Jan. 8, 2001, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2017-148, adopted Sept. 25, 2017, to incorporate the James River Park System Master Plan: Final – 16 October 2019 with the Richmond Riverfront Plan Amendment 1: Downriver Update 2017, applicable to the downriver area along the James River identified in the Richmond Riverfront Plan, to include the area from Huguenot Flatwater Park east to the border with Henrico County as part of the Master Plan.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 13 2020 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission approved and certified a Master Plan for the City of Richmond on November 6, 2000; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted January 8, 2001, the Council of the City of Richmond approved a Master Plan for the City of Richmond pursuant to a request by the City Planning Commission that the Council adopt a Master Plan; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 27 2020 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission adopted the Richmond Riverfront Plan on September 4, 2012, and the Council of the City of Richmond approved the Richmond Riverfront Plan by Ordinance No. 2012-202-190, adopted on November 26, 2012, as an amendment to the Master Plan, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2017-148, adopted Sept. 25, 2017; and

WHEREAS, by a resolution dated July 17, 2017, the City Planning Commission adopted the proposed amendment to incorporate the Richmond Riverfront Plan Amendment 1: Downriver Update 2017 as part of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the original James River Park Master Plan was developed in 1968 and since that time the park has grown in size and visitation beyond what was original conceived; and

WHEREAS, the updated James River Park Master Plan provides complimentary long-range policy direction to the Richmond Riverfront Plan by the addition of territory from Huguenot Flatwater Park to Great Shiplock Park and then extending east to the border with Henrico County so that the entire riverfront within the City is encompassed in plans for the physical development of public space and priorities for the planning of and investment in certain projects within the downriver area along the James River and extending a minimum of 200 feet back from either bank to align with the existing street grid or rail tracks and relating to the surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission adopted the updated James River Park Master Plan as an amendment to the Riverfront Plan on November 4, 2019, with the expectation that the James River Park Master Plan will be incorporated into the Richmond 300 Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Council that it is in the best interest of the City of Richmond that the Council, for and on the behalf of the City of Richmond, consent to and adopt the aforesaid amendment to the Master Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

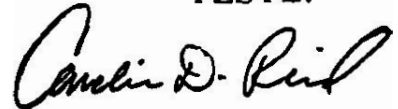
§ 1. That the amendment to the Master Plan, consisting of an 87-page document entitled “James River Park System Master Plan: Final – 16 October 2019,” a copy of which is attached to and incorporated into this ordinance, as adopted by the City Planning Commission at its meeting on November 4, 2019, be and is hereby adopted as set out in its resolution of that date.

§ 2. That the amendment to the Master Plan adopted by section 1 of this ordinance shall supersede all other parts of the Master Plan adopted prior to the effective date of this ordinance with which it conflicts.

§ 3. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



City Clerk



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
DEC 02 2019

RECEIVED
NOV 12 2019

RECEIVED
CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O & R REQUEST
4-9410
NOV 13 2019

Office of the
Chief Administrative Officer

O&R REQUEST

DATE: October 15, 2019 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

[Handwritten signature] 12/22/19

THROUGH: Lenora Reid, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Reginald E. Gordon, DCAO for Human Services

[Handwritten initials]

FROM: Christopher Frelke, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities *[CFP]*

RE: Adoption of the updated James River Park Master Plan

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To adopt the updated James River Park Master Plan as a complimentary document to the Richmond Riverfront Plan with the expectation that the James River Park Master Plan will be incorporated into Richmond 300 once completed.

REASON: The original James River Park Master Plan was developed in 1968 by Abbot and Associates. With the passing of 51 years since the original Master Plan's adoption, the park has both grown in size and visitation beyond what was originally conceived. To reflect the current reality and sustain the park into the future, the Friends of James River Park raised \$250,000 in conjunction with the City of Richmond's Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department to develop an updated Master Plan for the James River Park System. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17.06 of the City Charter, the adoption and amendment processes commences with a public hearing and passage of a resolution at the October 21, 2019 meeting of the City Planning Commission. The adoption process will be concluded with a public hearing and consideration of the ordinance for the adoption of the updated James River Park Master Plan, anticipated to take place on November 11, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: The updated James River Park Master Plan is a ten year planning document for Richmond's Riverfront encompassing the entire Riverfront throughout Richmond in a cohesive and unified vision. The plans focus on Equitable Access, land and Ecological Conservation, Park Operations and over all Park expansion. The Plan has gone through an extensive public participation process and enjoys broad community support.

BACKGROUND: The updated James River Park Master Plan covers the entirety of the riverfront in the City of Richmond from Huguenot Flat – Water Park to Deep Water Terminal and incorporates recommendations from the Riverfront plan adopted in September of 2012. The plan proposes city wide connectivity to the riverfront via multi-modal transportation based off community input as well as the City of Richmond’s Bike Master Plan, support for Park Operations in the form of staff needs and facility needs, Land and Ecological Conservation and Park Expansion by way of fee simple land purchases as well as incorporating lands that are City owned into the James River Park for river access development.

The updated James River Park Master Plan utilized funds raised by Friends of James River Park System who obtained the services of a consultant project team, led by Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin (VHB) and supported by Hargreaves Associates. Between the Months of December and July 2019, the VHB team with Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities and Friends of James River Park convened a team of internal City of Richmond staff from diverse agencies referred to as the “Technical Team” to ensure recommendations from the plan where viable as well as “Steering Committee” made of representatives from eight different supporting non-profits who were tasked with vetting all recommendations to ensure alignment with the James River Park’s mission.

The plan document was developed through a number of public presentations at various Council District meetings, independent meetings in Council Districts and pop-up events. Major meeting bench marks are as follows:

- January 22, 2019 – 9th District Meeting
- January 29, 2019 – 7th District Meeting
- February 7, 2019 – 4th and 5th District Combined Meeting
- February 12, 2019 – 2nd District Meeting
- February 19, 2019 – 8th District Meeting
- February 27, 2019 – 1st District Meeting
- February 28, 2019 – 3rd District Meeting
- March 5, 2019 – 6th District Meeting
- March 6, 2019 – First City Wide Public Meeting
- July 17, 2019 – City Wide Draft Maser Plan Review Meeting

At each meeting, the VHB team presented a short overview of the park and the project. The attendees then dispersed around the room to review a series of park maps where they drew on and gave comments related to park access, operations, conservation, and park expansion. All comments where photo recorded for accuracy from 40 Maps throughout the process.

Concurrently, the VHB team initiated an English/Spanish survey hosted on the Friends of James River Park website to cast a wider net for community input and prioritization of elements within the plan. Survey responses far exceeded expectations with 2,353 surveys collected on line and in person. All meeting and survey results were reviewed by the Technical team as well as the Steering Committee for viability and Mission/Objective relevance. Results from those reviews

where then presented to the public in draft format for further comment and review at the July 17th public meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: The fee for the consultant team was covered by funds raised by the Friends of James River Park System with a considerable amount of staff time spent to coordinate community meetings as well as all Technical Team and Steering Committee meetings.

The James River Park Master Plan is a Ten year capital projects plan. It recommends over eighty million dollars in capital expenditures from a variety of public and private sources over the life of the plan with expected Capital Budget Request starting in FY21.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: The Capital Expenditures in the plan will necessitate additional maintenance and operational cost that will over time equal the initial capital outlay. These expenditures will be offset by revenue generated from an increase in property values, new investment adjacent to the Riverfront, and increased visitation to Richmond.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No

REVENUE TO CITY: While The James River Park System does not charge a fee for access to the park, the James River Park is valued as a \$33.5 million asset to the City of Richmond based off of a 2017 Economic Impact study done by Virginia Commonwealth University.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: December 9, 2019

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 13, 2020

REQUESTED AGENDA: Regular

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing, and Transportation

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES: A required public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission at its October 21, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the City Attorney (review of draft ordinance)
Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities
(Implementation and governance)
Department of Planning and Development Review
(Implementation)

Department of Public Utilities (Implementation and Governance)
Department of Public Works (Implementation)

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: Ordinance number 67-156-156, adopted by Council on September 11, 1967, declared the public necessity exist for the establishment of a public park between the south bank of the James River and Riverside Drive from the Lee Bridge to the 1942 Corporation Line. Ordinance number 68-173-151, adopted by Council on July 22, 1968, authorized acquisition of certain property located between the south bank of the James River and Riverside Drive from the Lee Bridge to the 1942 Corporation line for the establishment of a public park. Ordinance number 68-166-175, adopted by Council on August 26, 1968, established the public necessity for the establishment of a public park on the islands in the James River between the Seaboard Coast line Railroad Company's Bridge crossing the James River and the City's 1942 Western Corporation line, also authorized the acquisition of Belle Isle and all rights to the railway bridge and tracks on and to Belle Isle. Ordinance number 69-147-141, adopted by Council on June 25, 1969, authorized the acquisition by purchase of property necessary for the establishment of a public park located between the south bank of the James River and Riverside Drive from the Lee Bridge to the 1942 Corporation Line. Ordinance number 69-195-170, adopted August 25, 1969, authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Southern Railway Company for purchase of land, acquisition of easements structures to be erected over such easement and fencing of portion of a common property line between the Southern bank of the James River and Riverside Drive from Lee Bridge to the 1942 Corporation Line. Ordinance number 71-58-67, adopted on April 26, 1971, declared the necessity exist for the establishment of a parking and approach on the property located North of the Kanawha Canal, East of Texas Ave and West of Mt. Calvary Cemetery to serve the James River Park on the islands in the James River and the land along the banks of the James River and Kanawha Canal between the Seaboard Coast Line Bridge and Sixth Street and the 1942 Western Corporation Line as well as authorized the acquisition of land located to the North of Kanawha Canal, East of Texas Avenue and West of Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Ordinance Number 72-55-76, adopted on April 24, 1972, authorized the acquisition of certain property necessary for the establishment of a public park located between the South bank of the James River and Riverside Drive and Buckhill road from Willow Oaks Country Club to Old Southampton Road. Ordinance Number 73-119-121, adopted on June 11, 1973, established the public necessity exists for the establishment of a public park, and to authorize the acquisition of the necessary property located South of Dock Street at the City Locks. Ordinance Number 74-41-48, adopted February 23, 1974, authorized the acquisition by purchase of the property and perpetual easements in the land for ingress and egress necessary for the establishment of a public park South of Dock Street at the City locks.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft James River Park Master Plan
2. Draft Planning Commission Resolution for Adoption
3. Adopted Planning Commission Resolution and Minutes (to be provided prior to introduction of Ordinance).

O&R Request

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STAFF: Nathan Burrell, Operations and Maintenance Superintendent – Southern District
Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities
646-9620



CITY OF RICHMOND

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 4, 2019

**CPCR.2019.109: RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY OF RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION**

**TO ADOPT THE UPDATED JAMES RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN AS A
COMPLIMENTARY DOCUMENT TO THE RICHMOND RIVERFRONT PLAN WITH
THE EXPECTATION THAT THE JAMES RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN WILL BE
INCORPORATED INTO RICHMOND 300 ONCE COMPLETED.**

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission adopted a Master Plan on November 6, 2000; and the City Council approved said Master Plan by Ordinance 2000- 371-01-11 on January 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the recently updated James River Park Master Plan is a ten year planning document for Richmond's Riverfront encompassing the entire Riverfront throughout Richmond in a cohesive and unified vision. The plan focuses on Equitable Access, Land and Ecological Conservation, Park Operations and over all Park expansion; and

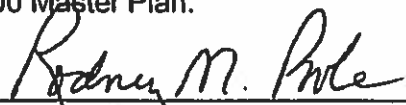
WHEREAS, the updated James River Park Master Plan adds important detail and updates the Master Plan, including the Riverfront Plan Plan, for this area; and

WHEREAS, the updated James River Park Master Plan involved public engagement and coordination with other departments of the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on November 4, 2019, for the purpose of receiving public comments relative to a proposed amendment to the Riverfront Plan, said amendment being the adoption of the updated James River Park Master Plan to be incorporated as an element of the Richmond 300 Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed amendment and taken into consideration comments received at its public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission hereby adopts the above described amendment to the Riverfront Plan, as displayed in the updated James River Park Master Plan, with the expectation that the updated James River Park Master Plan will be incorporated into the Richmond 300 Master Plan.


Rodney Poole
Chair, City Planning Commission


Matthew Ebinger
Secretary, City Planning Commission