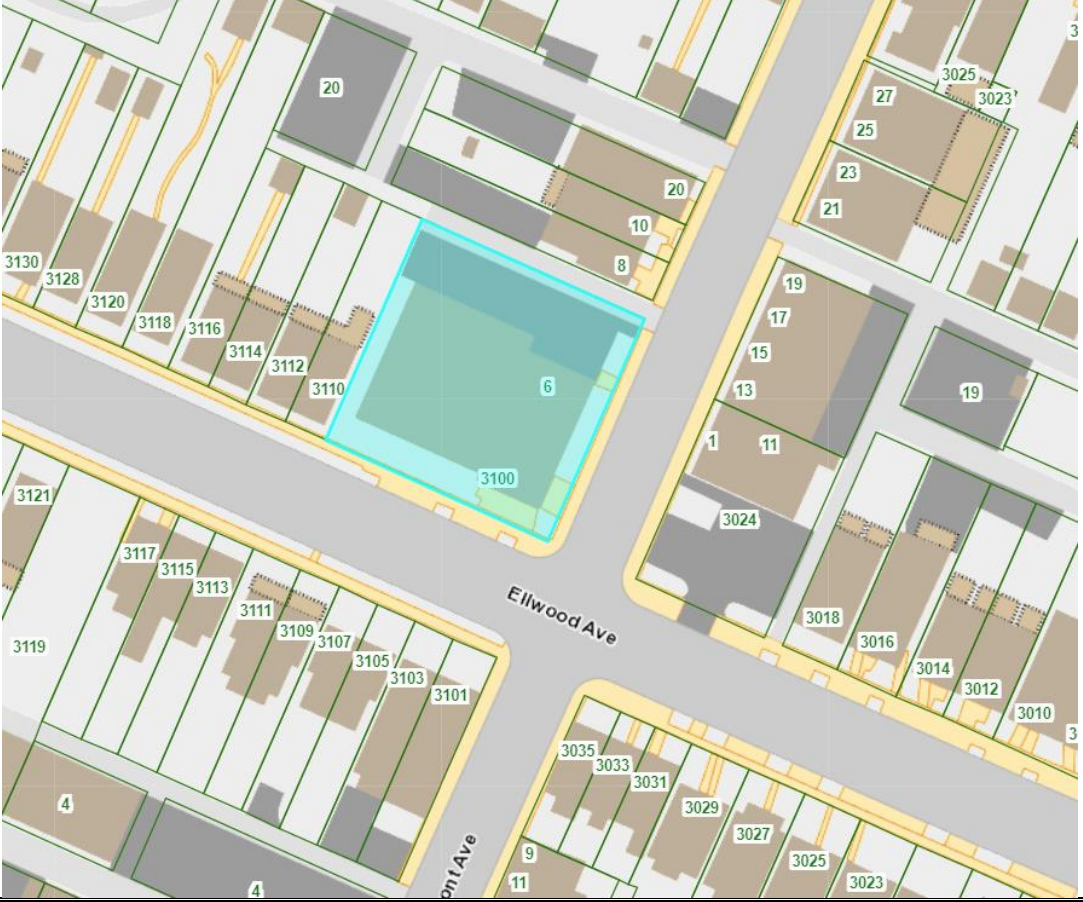




Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia
Urban Design Committee



UDC 2025-21	FINAL Review Meeting Date: 7/10/2025	
Applicant/Petitioner	Scott Firestine, Director, Richmond Public Libraries	
Project Description	UDC 2025-21 FINAL Location, Character, and Extent review of the Greening Richmond Public Libraries: Belmont Branch project, located at 3100 Ellwood Avenue.	
Project Location		
Address: 3100 Elwood Avenue		
Property Owner: City Of Richmond Department of Public Libraries		
High-Level Details: A Final detail level review for landscaping and hardscaping sustainability improvements to the exterior of the Belmont Library.		
Staff Recommendation	Approval	
Staff Contact	Ray Roakes, Raymond.Roakes@rva.gov	
Public Outreach/ Previous Reviews	UDC 2025-13 CONCEPT was approved in May 2025 with condions Outreach detailed in Applicant Report.	
Recommended Conditions	NA	

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CONDITIONS	PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CONDITIONS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant to work with GRTC to determine if the adjacent bus stop should be improved for the FINAL Application. 2. Applicant to revise plans to facilitate a 7ft clear space for the sidewalks at the corner of Ellwood Avenue and North Belmont Avenue for the FINAL Application. 3. Applicant to reconsider plaza layout to facilitate natural pedestrian movements and ADA requirements, for FINAL Application.
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Findings of Fact

Site Description	The site is located in the Museum District neighborhood. The property is situated on the corner of Ellwood Avenue (Main Street in other parts of the City) and North Belmont Avenue. The property currently consists of the Belmont Branch Library and associated corner pedestrian plaza, landscaping, and parking lot.
Scope of Review	The project is subject to location, character, and extent review under section 17.07 of the Richmond City Charter and review and recommendation under 17.05.
Project Description	<p><u>The Applicant States:</u></p> <p><i>“The purpose of the project is to develop a series of bioretention basins and areas of designed to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality standards to infiltrate storm water discharge from a portion of the roof, sidewalks, and terrace; reduce the heat island effect as possible; enhance the existing streetside plaza; add seating; and create opportunities for education about the importance of native plants and managing stormwater runoff. Some impervious area and all non-native species will be removed – while additional impervious paving will be added these surfaces will all now flow into bioretention basins for onsite infiltration such that the net result is a reduction in the stormwater discharge from the property. 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.”</i></p> <p><i>“The design was informed by public questionnaires...Library users and residents identified the needs for visual and physical separation from the busy street and more seating.</i></p> <p><u>Staff Review:</u></p> <p>The Applicant has revised plans for the plaza to reflect the UDC’s desire to have more space at the public corner as well as Staff’s desire for along the side of the building.</p> <p>Staff strongly supports the enhancement of this space in terms of stormwater and landscaping, as well as the transformation of the space into a more usable location.</p> <p><u>Previous UDC Review</u></p> <p>The UDC discussed sidewalk width, stormwater facilities, seating, and plantings at its previous meeting.</p> <p>The following were the conditions approved by the Planning Commission, reflecting the UDC recommendation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant to work with GRTC to determine if the adjacent bus stop should be improved for the FINAL Application. 2. Applicant to revise plans to facilitate a 7ft clear space for the sidewalks at the corner of Ellwood Avenue and North Belmont Avenue for the FINAL Application. 3. Applicant to reconsider plaza layout to facilitate natural pedestrian movements and ADA requirements, for FINAL Application.