



Application for Urban Design Committee Review

Department of Planning and Development Review

900 E. Broad Street, Room 510

Richmond, Virginia 23219 | (804) 646-6335

<https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/urban-design-committee>



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: April 18, 2024

Project Name: Belle Isle Natural Exploration Area (NEA)

Project Address: Belle Isle, Richmond, VA 23225 (37°31'49.2"N 77°27'03.0"W)

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

The proposed Belle Isle Nature Exploration Area (NEA) is a play space built of re-purposed park materials, including tree trunks, boulders, driftwood, mulch, live edge tables and benches, and historic granite curbstone. The NEA invites children to build confidence outdoors and step further into JRPS. The NEA project is part of a broader effort to expand the range of recreational experiences on Belle Isle which, according to a 2021 visitor study, captures a more socioeconomically diverse variety of park users than any other location. Part of James River Park System's goal is to provide experiences that meet the needs of diverse park-goers and to broaden access to the Park through the provision of accessible recreational resources. The NEA is made up of easily built, low-cost, hyper local, nature-based play features that invite children to sit, stack, climb, dig, hide, balance, jump, gather, and manipulate natural materials for themselves. Park managers anticipate that this project ignites a desire in children to recreate in the park and to test their abilities, helping them develop gross motor skills and build resilience as they cultivate a relationship with JRPS.

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

Name: Giles Garrison

Email: giles.garrison@rva.gov

City Agency: James River Park System (Department of Parks & Rec) Phone: (804) 646-5733

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.**

Application

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. Applications should be emailed to the Urban Design Committee Secretary, Ray Roakes, at Raymond.roakes@rva.gov.

Background

The UDC is an 11 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.

last revised 01/04/2024