

Fall Line Trail - Bryan Park

City of Richmond, VA

Drawing Number: N-29103

May 16, 2024

### **UDC Application Narrative**

The purpose of this project is to construct a segment of the Fall Line Trail through Bryan Park. This trail is designed as a paved, shared-use path facility. Additional drainage improvements are also proposed where the trail alignment requires. All proposed disturbance is located on City of Richmond-owned and maintained land or right of way.

Bryan Park hosts numerous recreational facilities today, including playgrounds, soccer fields, pickleball courts, and hiking trails along Youngs Pond. Facilities are accessed by a network of paved roads, many of which are closed to the public most of the year. One of these roads is a dam over Youngs Pond, which is expected to be replaced as part of a stream restoration project by others (DPU). Separated walking and biking facilities are minimal through the park, and wheelchair access is limited.

The proposed trail alignment is set such that it utilizes either an “on-road” or an “off-road” typical section. The “on-road” section uses gore striping and flexible post bollards to create a separated facility within the existing pavement of roads that are typically closed to vehicular traffic. The “off-road” section is designed as a typical 10’ shared-use path with a minimum of 2’ graded shoulders on either side. Along Bryan Park Avenue, the project proposes a road diet to re-set the southern curb line further into the road and place the proposed shared-use path within the width of the reclaimed pavement. These facilities will provide accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair users through the park and ultimately as a connection to other segments of the Fall Line Trail into City of Richmond and Henrico County.

The desire of this project is to impact as few existing trees as possible. To this end, a tree survey was conducted along the trail alignment. Using this information, the project team held a meeting with the Friends of Bryan Park (FOBP), a group of volunteers that oversee changes within the park, to select priorities where trees cannot be completely avoided. FOBP elected to prioritize impacting non-native trees, such as crepe myrtles, to avoid native and specimen trees. Based on feedback from the FOBP, exhibits shared during the meeting have been updated to reflect design adjustments and these improved documents, along with 60% plans, are included with this application. These same materials will be shared at a larger open public meeting in June. A public meeting will be held to discuss the trail alignment with the park guests and citizens within the area and is planned to be held on June 5, 2024.

The project does not intend to provide landscaping or tree replanting, but the Friends of Bryan Park has discussed separate opportunities to plant trees along the trail after construction has finished and within their own budget, or in cooperation with DPR.

The project budget is estimated at \$3,000,00, and all funds are provided locally through the Central Virginia Transportation Authority. The project is expected to start construction late summer or early fall of 2024, continuing into 2025.