



## CITY OF RICHMOND

### **Department of Planning & Development Review** ***Staff Report***

**Ord. No. 2023-053** - To amend Ord. No. 2022-055, adopted May 9, 2022, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by transferring \$14,295.00 from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities agency, and to amend Ord. No. 2022-057, adopted May 9, 2022, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, and determined a means of financing the same, by increasing estimated revenues from the funds transferred and the amount appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' James River Park Infrastructure project in the Culture and Recreation Category, for the purpose of making a grant of \$14,295.00 to the Friends of The James River Park to facilitate the construction of a new pedestrian and bicycle trail at Reedy Creek.

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**To:** City Planning Commission  
**From:** Land Use Administration  
**Date:** May 15, 2023

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#### **PETITIONER**

Christopher Frelke, Director – Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities

#### **LOCATION**

Reedy Creek

#### **PURPOSE**

To accept a donation of \$56,500 from Friends of the James River Park, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, to contribute towards the cost to construct a new pedestrian/bike trail that bypasses the maintenance shop at the James River Park headquarters at Reedy Creek. To provide a grant, pursuant to the authority granted in Code of Virginia Code Section 15.2-953 (B), in the amount of \$14,295 to the Friends of the James River Park to complete the funding necessary for the construction of a new pedestrian/bike trail that bypasses the maintenance shop at the James River Park headquarters at Reedy Creek.

#### **SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION**

Currently, the vehicle access road at the James River Park shop and headquarters receives a tremendous amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. This road is heavily used by JRPS staff vehicles as well as backhoes, tractors, delivery trucks, DPU service trucks, etc. By constructing this trail around the maintenance show, it will greatly reduce the chance of accidents by physically separating all trail users from vehicles.

The construction of this trail will both greatly increase user safety and improve the aesthetics in this very popular and heavily-used location. This bypass trail is recommended in the James River Park Master Plan and has been approved by Norfolk Southern, whose property is adjacent. The Friends of the James River Park have raised \$56,500 for the cost of this project, which in total will cost \$70,795. In order to ensure that the project can be properly completed, the Department of

Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities desires to provide a grant to the Friends of the James River in the amount of \$14,295 to cover the balance.

Staff recommends approval of this request.

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## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Reedy Creek, near the James River Park System Maintenance Shop

### **MASTER PLAN**

The City's Richmond 300 Master Plan designates the subject area as Public Open Space, which is defined as public and quasi-public parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and cemeteries that include passive and active recreation, natural habitats, and large plazas.

The proposed bypass trail is also recommended in the James River Park Master Plan.

### **ZONING**

R-5 Single-Family Residential

### **SURROUNDING AREA**

The surrounding area is predominately zoned R-5 Single-Family Residential and R-3 Single-Family Residential. The James River is located to the north. The greater area surrounding the James River Park System in this area is predominately single-family residential.

### **Staff Contact:**

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