

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	August 5, 2024
Action Required:	Approve Resolution
Presenter:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner, Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks & Recreation
Staff Contacts:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks & Recreation
Title:	Resolution approving land acquisition for park and open space use - 0 Cedar Hill Road (1 reading)

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval to purchase an approximately 0.22 acre vacant parcel of land on Cedar Hill Road in the Meadows neighborhood for park and open space use. Funding for the purchase will come from the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) acquisition fund.

The agreed upon purchase price for the property is \$100,000.

(See the attached additional information on the proposed property acquisition transaction and Location Map).

Discussion

The Meadows neighborhood association approached the Parks department in ~2015 to inquire if it would be possible to find a piece of land for a park in their neighborhood, which currently does not have any parks. There are only two viable open pieces of property in the neighborhood that are not already developed. The owners of this parcel offered it for parkland use. It was part of a large parcel that was then subdivided to be available for sale to the City. It was then noted that the covenants on the land in that area did not allow any use besides residential so the owners worked to have a petition signed by the neighborhood allowing this particular parcel to be used for non-residential park use.

There is a large Dominion Energy powerline that crosses about one-third of the property, which will limit tree planting areas, but does not preclude a playground and other features for a pocket park on the land.

Parks & Recreation intends to work with the neighborhood after acquisition to determine what

features they would like in this small pocket park and then submit a CIP request to Council to fund the improvements.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Approval of this property acquisition aligns with City Council's Strategic Outcome Areas of Climate Action; and Recreation, Arts, Culture. This action will support providing for urban parks and open space opportunities.

Community Engagement

The City has a Comprehensive Plan goal of at least one park in every neighborhood. This acquisition would satisfy that need for this neighborhood. The neighborhood association submitted a petition of support with signatures from over 70 residents of the neighborhood in 2018.

Budgetary Impact

Acquisition of the property will add to Parks Department mowing, maintenance and other operational budget costs related to general park maintenance.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution to acquire the property.

Alternatives

Do not purchase the property.

Attachments

1. 0 Cedar Hill final Checklist July2024_redacted
2. 0 Cedar Hill Prop Acq Presentation 080524
3. RESOLUTION 0 Cedar Hill acquisition 080524