

**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 trail and open space use - 0 Rialto Street (1 reading)

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval to purchase an approximately 1.064 acre vacant parcel of land along Moores Creek for trail, forest preservation and stream access protection 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 \$10,000. While the assessed value of the property is currently significantly lower, this vacant parcel is basically unbuildable as it is in a floodplain.

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

Discussion

The property was developed over a number of years, and Parks & Recreation worked with the developer(s) to arrange for acquisition of a large portion of the open space for trail, forest preservation and stream access protection use. This proposed acquisition does not include the storm pond facility or the small parcel of open space that is not along the creek, which will be owned by the Home Owner's Association (HOA).

Acquisition will provide parks and recreation space as well as opportunity for stream and forest preservation and restoration work. This property is located within City limits and within County limits, and includes both sides of Moores Creek.

Currently, there is not a trail on the property. Parks & Recreation intends to construct a shared use path connecting Belmont Park with Moores Creek trail and downstream to Jordan Park/Avon Street once neighboring easements are acquired from adjacent properties, which are in discussion now.

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 protecting the Moores Creek watershed and providing for urban forest and trail opportunities. The project supports City Council's "America's Healthy City" vision by providing outstanding recreational areas and walking trails, as well as the vision of being a "Connected Community"

Community Engagement

The Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail master plan and the Azalea Park Master Plans were developed with multiple public meetings and was approved by City Council.

Budgetary Impact

Costs related to the acquisition of the property will be paid using funds previously appropriated in the City's Capital Project fund which were allocated for trails. Ownership of the property will also add to Parks Department mowing, trail maintenance and other operational budget costs related to general park maintenance.

Recommendation

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

Alternatives

Council could decide not to purchase the property.

Attachments

1. 0 Rialto St final Checklist July2024
2. 0 Rialto Prop Acq Presentation 080524
3. RESOLUTION 0 Rialto acquisition 080524