

# Policy Briefing Summary

## City Council



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<b>Regarding:</b>	<b>Resolution Considering a Critical Slope Special Exception for the Botanical Gardens of the Piedmont</b>
<b>Staff Contact(s):</b>	Dannan OConnell, Planner
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Dannan OConnell, Planner</b>
<b>Date of Proposed Action:</b>	June 15, 2026

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### Issue

Consideration of an application for a Critical Slope Special Exception

### Background / Rule

John Wilson, Applicant, representing the Botanical Gardens of the Piedmont, Developer, wishes to improve the above-referenced City properties with a public botanical garden complex. The proposed improvements will impact critical slopes on-site as defined by City Development Code ("CDC") Section 34-4.10.1.B.1. Per CDC Section 34-4.10.1.D, through the addition of pedestrian pathways, a pedestrian footbridge, and associated land disturbance for a portion of the parking lot and utilities a request for a Critical Slope Special Exception must be approved by City Council before these improvements can be permitted.

### Analysis

The City's Planning Commission ("PC") held a hybrid virtual and in-person Regular Meeting on May 12, 2026, on this matter. The PC had no concerns with the request, and recommended approval of the Critical Slope Special Exception with no recommended conditions.

A recording of the Meeting can be found at the following link. Discussion starts at the 1:34:00 mark.

[Link to Recording of Regular Meeting](#)

The full Application for this Project can be found at the following link. Materials start on page 56.

[Link to Staff Report and Application Materials](#)

### Financial Impact

None.

### Recommendation

The PC recommended approval of the Critical Slope Special Exception via a 7-0 affirmative vote.

### Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

"I make a motion to adopt the attached Resolution approving the Critical Slope Special Exception request for the Subject Property as presented."

### Attachments

1. RESOLUTION - Critical Slope - Botanical Gardens (1)