

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution Supporting the Dogwood Veterans Memorial Pedestrian Bridge and Parking Area
Staff Contact(s):	Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works, Brennen Duncan, City Engineer
Presenter:	Brennen Duncan, City Engineer
Date of Proposed Action:	January 20, 2026

Issue

City Council is asked to reaffirm policy support for the Dogwood Veterans Memorial Pedestrian Bridge and Accessible Parking Area Project ("Project"), and, through Resolution, confirm the City's intent to accept the completed bridge, parking lot, and associated shared use paths into the City's asset system upon completion, provided the Project is constructed in accordance with City and VDOT approved plans, permits, and applicable standards.

Background / Rule

The Dogwood Veterans Memorial Foundation ("Foundation") has requested City support to improve safe and ADA-accessible access to the Memorial and the eastern portion of McIntire Park. The proposed Project includes a 105-foot pedestrian bridge over John Warner Parkway, a proposed access drive, and a 26-space parking lot on the east side of John Warner Parkway, and ADA-compliant shared use paths connecting to the existing trail network on both the east and west sides of the parkway. The bridge would be located approximately 320 feet northeast of the Route 250 on and off ramp.

On December 5, 2022, City Council adopted Resolution R-22-161 expressing support for a pedestrian bridge and parking area to improve access to eastern McIntire Park and the Dogwood Veterans Memorial. Most recently, in FY26, the City awarded \$105,000 in grant funding to the Foundation to advance design and planning activities.

In November 2025, City Staff met with Foundation leadership and advised that the Project could advance most efficiently through a development site plan review approach led by the Foundation. Under this approach, the Foundation would be responsible for fundraising, final design, permitting, and construction. The City would provide oversight through the standard development review and permitting process to ensure compliance with City and VDOT requirements, ADA accessibility standards, utility coordination, inspection, and long-term maintenance considerations.

The Foundation reports that the Project has advanced to approximately 90% design and that preliminary pricing indicates total Project costs of approximately \$3.3 million dollars, including fees and contingencies. The Foundation has indicated confidence in its ability to raise the funds necessary to complete construction. Construction is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2026, subject to final design approval and fundraising.

City Staff has initiated early-stage technical reviews based on the 90% design. This initial review effort is focused on confirming general alignment with applicable City standards and requirements for a pedestrian bridge and associated public infrastructure. City Staff's early review indicates the plans appear capable of meeting the City's standards for acceptance. Final review and approval will still be required through the formal permitting and inspection process to confirm full compliance with all City, VDOT, and ADA standards prior to acceptance of the improvements into the City's public asset

system.

As the Project moves into final design and active fundraising, the Foundation has requested formal assurance from the City that, if the Project is constructed in accordance with City approved plans and standards, the pedestrian bridge, parking lot, and associated shared use paths will be accepted by the City as public assets upon completion.

Analysis

The proposed Project provides a significant public benefit by improving accessibility to the Memorial for individuals with disabilities, veterans, seniors, families, and other visitors. The pedestrian bridge and accessible parking area would remove existing barriers and provide safer and more convenient access to a key community memorial and park asset.

From a delivery perspective, the public right-of-way plan review approach places responsibility for fundraising, construction management, cost control, and schedule with the Foundation, while allowing the City to protect the public interest through plan review, permitting, inspection, and acceptance standards. This approach reduces direct delivery risk to the City, while ensuring the infrastructure is constructed to standards appropriate for long-term public ownership.

City Council action at this stage does not authorize new construction funding. Rather, it provides the assurance necessary for the Foundation to finalize design and advance fundraising efforts. The requested Resolution confirms that City Council expressly agrees and will formally resolve, subject to final inspection and approval by the City Engineer and appropriate City officials, to accept the completed pedestrian bridge, accessible parking area, and associated shared use paths into the City's asset system, provided that the infrastructure is constructed in accordance with City approved plans, permits, specifications, and applicable standards.

Financial Impact

No additional appropriation is requested currently. Construction of the pedestrian bridge, parking lot, and associated shared use paths would be funded and managed by the Foundation using previously awarded City grant funds and privately raised contributions.

Upon acceptance of the completed infrastructure, the City would assume responsibility for routine maintenance and upkeep of the pedestrian bridge, shared use paths, parking area, and associated landscaping, like other City-owned park and trail assets. Because the infrastructure will be new, near-term maintenance costs are expected to be modest. However, this will represent an incremental addition to the City's asset inventory, and routine maintenance and groundskeeping costs will need to be incorporated into future operating budgets beginning in FY28.

Recommendation

City Staff recommends that City Council adopt a the attached Resolution reaffirming its policy support for the Project and confirming the City's intent to accept the completed infrastructure into the City's asset system upon completion, provided the Project is constructed in accordance with City approved plans, permits, and applicable standards.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

"I make a Motion to adopt the attached Resolution reaffirming City Council's support for the Project and confirming the City's intent to accept the completed bridge, parking lot, and associated shared use paths as public assets upon completion in compliance with City approved plans, permits, and applicable standards.

Attachments

1. 8383 - Dogwood_Concept Plan_032922
2. Dogwood Layout
3. RES Dogwood Veterans Mem. Bridge VH edit 2026 2