



News Release

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Construction of Riverfront Park to Begin; Sophia Street Parking Areas to Close February 23

City of Fredericksburg to Implement Parking Changes in the Vicinity of the Park

(Fredericksburg, VA) February 14, 2020 - The construction of the Riverfront Park will begin - on or about **Monday, February 24**. Last November, City Council awarded a contract for construction of the park to Athena Construction of Triangle, Virginia.

The start of construction will require the entire park property to be fenced, thus closing the public parking lot in the 700 block of Sophia Street as well as the parking area accessed across Sophia Street from Charlotte Street. All vehicles must be removed from these areas by **no later than midnight, Sunday, February 23**. Vehicles remaining in these areas after that time will be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

Last fall, the City announced actions it intended to take to mitigate the closure of these parking areas. These actions include:

- Increasing the period of time that vehicles may be parked on the east (river) side of the 600 through 800 blocks of Sophia Street (from Wolfe Street to just south of George Street) from two hours to four hours during the periods that time restrictions apply to downtown streets (Monday-Saturday; 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.)
- Convert the surface parking lot in the 600 block of Sophia Street (between Sophia Street and the river, directly across the street from the Sophia Street Parking Garage) to public parking. The only restriction on the use of this lot will be that only vehicles displaying a City of Fredericksburg resident decal may be parked in the lot Monday through Friday 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. The resident decals may be obtained at the Treasurer's Office at City Hall by providing proof of City residency.
- Increase the period that vehicles may be parked in the Sophia Street Parking Garage to four hours (currently, three hours) for no cost. The rate for additional hours will remain the same (\$1/hour to a maximum of \$8/day.)

All of these actions will be taken prior to February 24. Questions about this matter may be directed to Assistant City Manager Doug Fawcett at dfawcett@fredericksburgva.gov or by phone at 540-372-1010.

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