

Agenda Item: 2.a

Meeting Date: July 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through: Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

From: Natalie Gass

Date: 2026-07-07

Subject: Josiah Cephas Weaver Park Living Shoreline Proposed Designs

Presenter(s): Natalie Gass, Sustainability Program Manager (City of Dunedin); Kyle Bechtelheimer, P.E. (CPH) ; Amanda Martin, E.I., Project Engineer (CPH); Gabriela Bilter, Lead Environmental Scientist (CPH)

Staff Recommendation: City Commission to provide consensus direction on living shoreline designs and next steps.

Strategic Themes: Environmental Resiliency & Sustainability

Boards & Committees: Project updates will be provided to the following advisory Committees:

- Committee on Environmental Quality & Sustainability
- Stormwater Advisory Committee
- Dunedin Causeway and Coastal Waterways Committee

This project was presented to the Stormwater Advisory Committee at their Tuesday, April 14, 2026, meeting.

This project was presented to the Committee on Environmental Quality & Sustainability (CEQS) at their April 28, 2026, meeting. The committee sent a letter of support for the Weaver Park Living Shoreline project. This letter passed with 5 votes in favor and 1 against at their May 26, 2026, CEQS meeting.

A presentation to the Causeway and Coastal Waterways Committee is being planned for the near future.

Additional staff and agency review:

- TBRPC MART - On July 8, 2026, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) will have their Resilient Shorelines and Spaces Workgroup Meeting. The Weaver Park Living Shoreline project is being submitted for the Multi-Agency Review Team

(MART) to review and provide feedback during this meeting.

-DRC - This project will be presented at an upcoming Design Review Committee (DRC) meeting for staff review and feedback.

Budget Impact:

FY25 \$150,000 (CPH Consulting, LLC Design Fees, Permitting Support, and Construction Document Development)
FY26 \$100,00 (Available for grant match)

Funds will be expended from the following accounts: ~ #001-4647-572-053110-CR, Project #462507

Total probable cost of construction estimated between \$2,240,000.00 to \$2,576,190.00. The actual cost of construction may be less or more based on construction timelines, actual costs, material availability, and whether volunteer support will be used during the installation phase.

Estimated grant matching ranges from \$399,062.50 to \$1,120,000.00. This actual cost of grant matching may be less or more based on which project pathway is selected, the grants applied to, and the grants awarded.

Community members have suggested private sponsorships and donations as a financial option to support this project. Staff is exploring local partnerships to reduce installation costs and find funding options, such as individuals sponsoring mangroves or oyster domes.

Past Action:

A capital project request for FY25 funding of \$150,000.00 was submitted in 2023 titled "Weaver Park Shoreline Investigation." The project was to fund Geotechnical and Structural design services to determine Seawall Replacement plans, specifications, permitting, and estimate probable costs for a proposed solution at the Weaver Park Shoreline. The project intent was to provide for the future replacement of the existing rip-rap seawall at Weaver Park with a permanent seawall, to include potential future improvements to the kayak launch. A living shoreline investigation was to be included in the study as an option as part of the evaluation phase. Future construction or implementation costs were noted to be budgeted in a future year.

The project justification provided at the time of the FY25 request was, "The current shoreline hardening is not stable and is fenced off to prevent direct public access. These improvements were identified in the Weaver Park Management Plan that was developed at the time of the park land purchase, as well as a recommendation by the Waterfront Task Force in 2015. Construction funding in FY26 or beyond cannot be accurately determined until this effort is completed, and such, no

construction funding is identified at this time."

On January 10, 2025, City staff received notice from Pinellas County Water and Navigation stating the subject property would not be eligible for a seawall unless the seawall was to be less than 100 feet in length and where the project would lie between two existing seawalls. Per Pinellas County Code, Chapter 58, Article XV, Section 58-573(3), this property, at 728 linear feet in length, is ineligible for a permanent seawall. With the knowledge that a seawall would not be approved at the project site, a formal study was no longer needed.

Given one of the original goals of this investigation was to consider a Living Shoreline, staff recommended utilizing this funding toward the design of a Living Shoreline. On October 9, 2025, City Commission approved the Service Authorization and Purchase Order (PO) in the amount of \$150,000.00 to CPH Consulting, LLC., one of the City's General Engineering Consultants (GEC), for planning and design services for the Josiah Cephas Weaver Park Living Shoreline Improvement Project. The scope includes designing the living shoreline, permitting services, and developing the construction documents. Following City Commission's award of this Service Authorization Task Assignment to CPH Consulting, design development commenced.

On March 24, 2026, the City of Dunedin and CPH Consulting hosted a public input forum to present the project to the community, answer questions, and gather feedback.

Next Action: Proceed per City Commission consensus direction.

Attachments:

- [A. Weaver Park Living Shoreline Project Slides - 07-07-2026 City Commission Workshop.pdf](#)
- [B. JCW Shoreline Improvements Technical Memorandum Revised_06-24-26.pdf](#)
- [C. JCW Shoreline_Prelim OPCC Phase 1, 2, 3.pdf](#)
- [D. Seagrass and Benthic Survey Map.pdf](#)
- [E. CEQS Letter to Commission - Weaver Park Living Shoreline.pdf](#)

Background: Funds were allocated in FY25 to conduct a study determining seawall installation at Weaver Park. Given a seawall would not be approved at the project site per Pinellas County Code, Chapter 58, Article XV, Section 58-573(3), these funds were re-allocated for development of a living shoreline design.

The City of Dunedin began exploring options for a living shoreline as this shoreline improvement strategy can stabilize the shoreline, increase habitat, increase the coastal resiliency of the property,

may improve resiliency for adjacent properties, and acts as a model of sustainability in our community. Living shorelines are recommended strategies encouraged through the State's Resilient Florida Program, which falls in line with the Vulnerability Assessment and coming Adaptation Plan. This strategy also ties into the City's initiative of being the Home City of the Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot, part of Dr. Sylvia Earle's international Mission Blue program, which is focused on making the connection between land and water.

Staff solicited a scope and fee from CPH Consulting, LLC (one of the City's General Engineering Consultants (GEC's)) for the planning and design of the Josiah Cephas Weaver Park shoreline improvements project (Living Shoreline Design). The City originally entered into a GEC contract with CPH Consulting, LLC on March 13, 2018, under RFQ 18-1096, and subsequently amended our GEC agreement with CPH Consulting, LLC on March 18, 2025. Staff received and reviewed CPH Consulting, LLC's scope and fee for the planning and design development for the Weaver Park shoreline improvements project and found it to be reasonable and satisfactory. Included in CPH's scope of services is analysis, design development, public input meeting facilitation, permitting services, construction documents, and bid phase services for shoreline improvements at Weaver Park. On October 9, 2025, City Commission authorized a Purchase Order (PO), in the amount of \$150,000.00, to CPH Consulting, LLC., of Sanford, FL.

Design development commenced following City Commission approval. The internal taskforce meets monthly for progress meetings with CPH Consulting to confirm design requests are being met and items are being addressed.

CPH Consulting partnered with the City of Dunedin to host a public input forum on March 24, 2026, to present the project to the community and gather feedback. Details from the public forum can be found in the attached slides.

The internal taskforce is recommending the living shoreline project be completed in three phases as follows:

Phase 1: Foundational Shoreline Stabilization

- Prioritize this phase to launch the project to improve resistance to wave action, erosion, and storm impacts.
- Evaluate re-using components of existing seawall to reduce construction costs.
- Install continuous riprap revetment (~11 ft waterward) for long-term protection.

Phase 2: Sustainability & Resilience: Living Shoreline

Components

-Planting strategies:

- Mangroves at riprap revetment toe.
- Upland native vegetation landward.
- Install oyster domes at intertidal zone for additional wave buffer.
- Integrate green infrastructure for shoreline protection, increase resiliency, and promote natural habitat development.

Phase 3: Water Access Enhancement

- Improve public access and connectivity between upland & water.
- Add ADA compliant floating kayak launch (north side) to ensure safe access and support passive recreation.
- Pave ADA parking spaces and pathway to be ADA compliant.

Renderings and further design details are outlined in the attached slides.

Expenses and Funding:

The total project cost will be dependent on which pathway is selected. The project may be completed in multiple phases or all at once. Based on grant match requirements, the project will require additional funding to move forward as the current \$100,000.00 budget in FY26 is not sufficient funding for a grant match.

Staff recommends City Commission provide consensus direction on the living shoreline designs and ways to proceed given the funding constraints.