

CITY OF ONEIDA
Veterans Memorial Park DRI Project Record

Master Evidence Timeline - Final Source Document

What Was Approved, What Changed, and Why

Version 7 | August 6, 2026

FINAL SOURCE DOCUMENT - PREPARED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND LEGAL USE

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Prepared from project documents, Council minutes, consultant materials, State contract records, departmental reports, inspection records, public communications, and email correspondence contained in the evidence file as of August 6, 2026.

1. Purpose and How I Prepared This Timeline

I prepared this timeline as a factual working record of how the Veterans Memorial Park DRI project developed, what decisions were made, and what documents support them. My goal was to create one place where the City Manager, City Attorney, C&S Engineers, the Department of State, Parks and Recreation, the City Clerk, and Planning can review the same sequence of events before the final public report is completed.

How I checked the record

For each major event, I checked four basic questions: What stage was the project in? Who had authority to act? Was the item preliminary or approved? What document supports it?

In preparing the detailed chronology, I also:

- I distinguished formal Common Council action from questions, requests, opinions, and correspondence from individual Council members.
- I separated conceptual plans, 30% design, cost estimates, revised concepts, final design, bids, and construction awards so they are not treated as the same thing.
- I treated the project as a normal design process. Ideas were discussed, priced, revised, and sometimes removed as the City learned more about cost, operations, funding, and priorities.
- I named elected officials when their own documented words or actions were relevant. I did not assign motive as fact; I allowed the dated record and supporting documents to show what happened.
- I clearly identified staff recollections, approximate dates, and missing records rather than presenting them as confirmed documentary facts.
- I made sure the timeline fairly reflects C&S's role. The aircraft concept was openly discussed by the City project team during the September walkthrough, and C&S was asked to study how it could fit. C&S responded professionally through repeated changes in concerns, priorities, and budget limits. Its preliminary plans and estimates gave the City the information needed to decide what was realistic; C&S did not independently add the aircraft or authorize spending.
- I used the available record to distinguish what the City hoped to accomplish from what could realistically be delivered within the funding available.

2. Key Findings Supported by the Record

Community and State origin: The project arose through the DRI process and became a single bundled State-selected project containing recreation, accessibility, bathhouse, filtration, court, and memorial improvements.

No fixed DRI subawards: The \$1,059,000 State award was made to the bundled Veterans Memorial Park project. The planning estimate contained component assumptions, but the record located to date does not establish legally binding DRI subawards for each amenity.

Preliminary estimate identified the problem: C&S's January 2026 total of \$1,760,536 was a 30% design estimate used to expose the cost gap before final design, bidding, or construction authorization.

Normal project evolution: The record shows a standard progression from community ideal, to collaborative site review, to 30% design, to current-cost estimating, to operational and Council feedback, to value engineering and funding separation, and finally to a cost-aligned working scenario. The fact that an idea appeared in preliminary design and was later changed is evidence that the design process worked, not that construction or spending had been secretly approved.

C&S performed the contracted preliminary-design role: C&S translated the concepts openly discussed by the City project team into preliminary drawings and cost opinions. C&S did not approve spending, commit the City to the aircraft, or independently create the aircraft concept. The January estimate allowed the City to compare the ideal concept with available funding and make informed reductions.

Memorial funding is deliberately divided: The current cost-aligned scenario carries \$154,923 in DRI funding for a complete, aircraft-independent core memorial. The Afterburner Committee must privately fund the aircraft-specific package. The January 2026 estimate identified at least \$159,000 in direct aircraft and mounting costs (\$130,000 for the aircraft/vendor package and \$29,000 for the pedestal and aircraft-specific foundation), with transportation, preparation, crane, installation, and any escalation or additional engineering still requiring a current standalone estimate.

Cost control occurred before construction: Between January and May 2026, the project was value-engineered from \$1,760,536 to a working scenario of \$1,058,696, approximately \$304 below the DRI award.

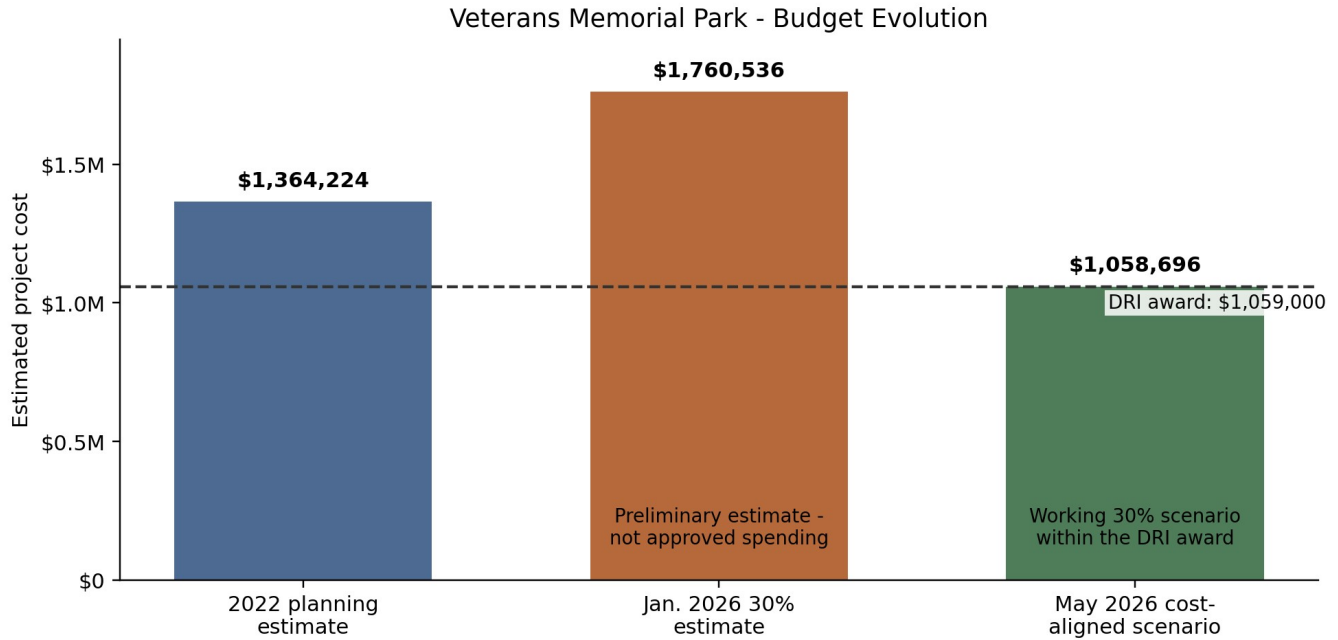
Council received recurring information: Council received estimates, drawings, written explanations, engineer responses, City Manager updates, monthly department reports, and Planning's comprehensive March 17, 2026 public DRI status report. The record shows continued disagreement, not absence of information.

Formal action matters: The April 21 percentage statement appears under Old Business with no motion, resolution, vote, allocation table, or design instruction. The June 16 special-meeting request authorized further discussion, not a replacement project scope.

Planning performed continuing administration: Planning reconstructed inherited records, reestablished regular State and consultant coordination, prepared administrative memoranda, tracked funding and scope, presented a comprehensive public DRI report, provided monthly updates, and supported technical responses and value engineering.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PATTERN: Community ideal -> Collaborative site review -> 30% preliminary design -> Current-cost estimate -> Operational and Council feedback -> Value engineering and funding separation -> Cost-aligned working scenario.

3. Budget and Project-Stage Snapshot



The January 2026 figure was not an approved expenditure, bid award, or construction contract. It was the first complete 30% estimate of the preliminary concept under current market assumptions.

Current Working 30% Cost-Aligned Scenario

Component	Working estimate	Current treatment
Splash pad	\$657,913	Retained; flow-through system; selected location remains working recommendation
Courts	\$77,168	Tennis-to-pickleball conversion and limited court work; no full-depth reconstruction
Pool bathhouse	\$168,692	Reduced scope focused on the pool-complex bathhouse
Core Veterans Memorial	\$154,923	DRI-funded, aircraft-independent core memorial. This amount does not purchase, transport, prepare, mount, or install the F-16.
Total	\$1,058,696	\$304 below the \$1,059,000 DRI award

Memorial Funding Structure: Public Core Memorial + Privately Funded Aircraft Package

The memorial area should be understood as two coordinated but financially separate packages. DRI funding supports a complete public memorial that can stand on its own. Private fundraising may later add the aircraft display, but no aircraft-specific cost is included in the current DRI working amount.

Funding package	Current amount	What it covers	Status / fundraising implication
DRI-funded core memorial	\$154,923	The current aircraft-independent memorial concept, including the public memorial setting and its retained monuments, flag elements, accessible circulation, hardscape/site work, and related improvements as reflected in the revised working design.	Current 30% cost-aligned working amount within the \$1,059,000 Veterans Park DRI award. It is not a fixed historic subaward and remains subject to final design, State review, bidding, and Council authorization.
Privately funded aircraft package	At least \$159,000 identified; full amount TBD	January 2026 identified \$130,000 for the aircraft/vendor package and \$29,000 for the pedestal and aircraft-specific foundation. The City Manager later directed that transportation, preparation, crane, installation, and all other aircraft-specific work also remain outside DRI.	Afterburner Committee fundraising must cover the entire aircraft-specific package. Because several required items were not fully priced in the current record, \$159,000 is a known minimum, not a complete fundraising target.
Completed memorial vision	\$154,923 DRI core + privately raised aircraft costs	The DRI-funded core memorial remains complete and dignified without the aircraft. If fundraising succeeds, the privately funded aircraft display may supplement that public memorial setting.	The two packages may form one visual memorial experience, but they must remain separately budgeted, documented, and authorized.

Important: The \$159,000 figure is not the final Afterburner fundraising goal. It is the minimum direct aircraft-and-mounting amount identified in the January 2026 estimate. A current standalone aircraft-package estimate is still needed to capture transport, preparation, crane, installation, engineering, escalation, and any other aircraft-specific requirements. Sources: [S13; E4; E6].

Project Stage as of August 6, 2026

Stage	Status
Community concept and State project selection	Completed
Consultant procurement and 30% design	Completed
Preliminary cost estimating and value engineering	Working cost-aligned scenario developed; additional direction may still alter scope
Final design and sealed construction documents	Not completed
Department of State final-design approval	Not completed
Public bid	Not issued
Construction contractor	Not selected
Construction contract or \$1.76 million expenditure	Never approved

4. Master Evidence Timeline

Evidence status is shown in the Formal Status column. “Discussion” or “individual request” does not equal an adopted Common Council directive. Source IDs are defined in Section 5.

Date	Event / Participants	Documented Record	Formal Status	Why It Matters	Source
September 2021	Initial DRI application concept City of Oneida	The application proposed “Downtown City Park Upgrades” with an ADA splash pad, pickleball court, and bathhouse repairs/upgrades. The initial \$1.25 million concept also included Carinci Park work and did not yet present the later Veterans Memorial Park project in its final SIP form.	Application concept	Establishes that the project evolved through the DRI planning process; the 2021 application was not the final State-selected scope.	[S1, pp. 29-30]
May 13, 2022	Early City Park Upgrades project profile City / original DRI planning team	An earlier project profile carried a \$1,060,620 Veterans Memorial Playfield concept, including \$55,620 for installation of a memorial park. The profile stated that the figures were based on pre-pandemic costs and might be higher when contracts were confirmed.	Planning profile / preliminary estimate	Shows that the original planning assumptions were already evolving before the current administration or C&S began design. The later July 2022 estimate increased the memorial assumption to \$88,000 and the overall project concept to approximately \$1.364 million.	[S21, pp. 5-6]
July 2022	Strategic Investment Plan finalized LPC, City, State, Cameron/EDR/4WARD	Project 11, “Upgrade Facilities at Veteran’s Memorial Park,” was presented as one bundled project: ADA splash pad, bathhouse/restroom work, pickleball and basketball improvements, pool filtration, and memorial enhancement. Total project cost was \$1.364 million; DRI request was \$1.059 million; ARPA was shown as \$305,000.	Community plan / State submission	Defines the final community-developed project concept and shows that the State request covered a bundled project rather than fixed amenity subawards.	[S2, Project 11, pp. 5-63 to 5-67]
July 12, 2022	Cameron engineer’s budget estimate Cameron Engineering	The estimate totaled \$1,364,224. Direct line items included splash pad \$385,000, filtration \$110,000, courts \$53,900, memorial \$88,000, and bathhouse \$288,750, plus site work, contingency, general conditions/insurance/bonding, and design.	Planning-level estimate	Provides historical estimating assumptions, but not a formal DRI allocation schedule. Shared costs represented a substantial portion of the total.	[S3]
December 2022	State award booklet issued New York State	The State selected “Upgrade Facilities at Veteran’s Memorial Park” for \$1,059,000 and described splash pad, pickleball, bathhouse repairs/upgrades, and a new memorial area honoring multiple branches.	State project selection	Confirms the awarded amount and bundled scope. The booklet does not divide the award into binding amenity subawards.	[S4, p. 2]

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November 1, 2023	State contract term begins City of Oneida / NYS Department of State	Contract C1002437 established a \$3.34 million State-funded program covering Streetscape, Veterans Memorial Park, and AYSO, with a term through October 31, 2028. The work plan requires procurement compliance, draft and final design review, DOS approval, bidding, and executed construction subcontracts before construction.	Executed State grant contract	Shows the staged grant process and that preliminary design is not construction authorization.	[S5, Face Page and Attachment C]
January 2, 2024	Council authorizes DRI design phase Mayor and Common Council	Resolution 24-7 authorized up to \$700,000 in design costs for three DRI capital projects. Resolution 24-8 approved moving AYSO, Streetscape, and Veterans Memorial Park into design and authorized the City Manager to sign related documents.	Formal Council action - passed	Establishes the lawful Council authorization to proceed with design and places document execution with the City Manager.	[S6, Resolutions 24-7 and 24-8]
May 7, 2025	C&S 30% design contract executed City / C&S Engineers	The City retained C&S for \$56,200 to prepare 30% design documents. The scope included meetings, existing-condition review, design concepts, narrative/report, and an order-of-magnitude construction estimate. Detailed construction estimates, final design, and construction were excluded.	Executed consultant contract	Defines exactly what C&S was hired to produce and prevents a 30% estimate from being mistaken for a final construction authorization.	[S7, Scope and Fee]
August 19, 2025	Afterburner Committee established unanimously by common council vote. Helen Acker appointed as chair.	Resolution 25-151 created the advisory Oneida Afterburner Committee for the F-16 static display. The resolution covered logistics, transport, mounting, security, outreach, and fundraising. Discussion stated the committee had no spending authority; expenditures required Council approval; the goal was donations and sponsorships rather than taxpayer funding.	Formal Council action - passed	Separates the committee's advisory/private-fundraising role from City administration and formal spending authority.	[S8, Resolution 25-151]

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September 16, 2025 2:30 p.m. C&S follow-up September 17	Veterans Memorial Park walkthrough and collaborative concept development Kyle Lovell, Steve Vonderweidt, Luke Griff, Helen Acker, Victor O'Brien/C&S, and project participants	The group reviewed existing park conditions and discussed the splash pad, bathhouse, courts, filtration, memorial improvements, and the potential F-16 display. Participants viewed the aircraft as a potentially valuable memorial and destination feature. It was understood that the \$1.059 million DRI award could not fund every desired improvement and that grants, private fundraising, or other outside sources would be needed to supplement the original \$1.364 million concept. C&S was asked to explore how the aircraft could fit and what the full concept might cost. Victor provided a written follow-up on September 17.	Site investigation and concept exploration - not final design or spending authorization	Establishes that the aircraft concept was openly and collaboratively discussed by City administration, Parks, Planning, the original DRI co-chair, and the project engineer. It was not secretly added by one employee or independently inserted by C&S.	[E1]
September-October 2025 Monthly DRI check-in	DOS project manager briefed on aircraft concept Steve Vonderweidt / Alissandra "Lissa" D'Aquanni	Steve recalls briefing the DOS project manager on the potential F-16 addition shortly after the site review. According to that recollection, Lissa responded positively and did not identify an initial inconsistency with the broader memorial purpose, with the understanding that the existing DRI award would not cover the full concept and supplemental funding would be required. No contemporaneous document has been located showing that DOS was informed of or involved with the separately established Afterburner Committee at that time.	Staff recollection of routine grant coordination - not formal written DOS approval	Shows that the evolving aircraft concept was discussed through normal State coordination while preserving the important distinction between a general scope conversation and formal DOS approval or DOS involvement with the Afterburner Committee.	[R1]
September 24, 2025	Splash-pad supplier information shared Luke / C&S	Parks forwarded a supplier proposal as a planning benchmark. C&S noted that concrete, excavation, piping, fencing, and related site work would be additional to equipment pricing.	Consultant information gathering	Explains why comparisons to equipment-only splash-pad prices may not be comparable to a complete installed project.	[E1; S9]
October 13-27, 2025	Preliminary memorial concepts developed from the site-review discussion C&S / City project team	C&S requested available building drawings and aircraft-display consultant information and circulated preliminary memorial renderings before completing the estimate. The drawings carried forward the openly discussed aircraft concept so the City could evaluate fit, constructability, and cost. They were not final approvals.	Preliminary concept development	Shows the normal idea-to-engineering-to-cost sequence. C&S was evaluating a City-team concept; a preliminary rendering did not commit the City to construct or fund it.	[E2]

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January 6, 2026	Initial 30% design package tests the complete working concept C&S / City	C&S submitted preliminary drawings marked “Preliminary - Not for Construction,” a narrative, and four component estimates: splash pad \$657,913; courts \$109,816; memorial \$637,364; restrooms \$355,443; total \$1,760,536. The package translated the concepts discussed during project coordination - including the aircraft-centered memorial - into a current-cost scenario. C&S expressly identified a likely shortfall and requested City priorities, reductions, or additional funding.	Consultant 30% estimate - not approved spending	The estimate performed its intended function: it compared the ideal concept with current market conditions and exposed the affordability problem before final design, bidding, contract award, or construction.	[S10; S11; S12]
January 6, 2026	Aircraft-centered memorial estimate itemized C&S	The \$637,364 memorial estimate included a \$130,000 aircraft/vendor allowance, \$29,000 for the aircraft-specific pedestal and foundation, and a much broader memorial environment containing monuments, flagpoles, extensive concrete and pavers, lighting, benches, and landscaping.	Preliminary component estimate	The full \$637,364 was not solely an aircraft cost. The known direct aircraft-and-mounting amount was at least \$159,000, while the broader site concept also required substantial memorial work. None of it was approved construction spending.	[S13]
February 9, 2026	City Manager explains capital-project process and pickleball implications Kyle / Mayor and Council	Kyle explained that pickleball was already part of the DRI design and warned that pulling it out for separate acceleration could create redesign, duplication, timing, and cost risks.	Administrative guidance to Council	Documents that the administration was trying to preserve the funded process and avoid unnecessary redesign rather than oppose pickleball.	[E3]
February 10-16, 2026	Council members seek special discussion and alternative phasing Janet Jones, Lynne McHugh, Mayor and Council	Council correspondence raised concerns about memorial scale, original intent, aircraft funding, and project detail. Councilor Jones proposed a two-phase approach separating a smaller DRI memorial from the Afterburner-funded aircraft effort. A special meeting was discussed, but the present record does not establish that it occurred in February. City Manager agrees that both components will be separate from one another.	Individual requests / discussion	Shows active Council questioning and that aircraft separation was openly discussed. It did not, by itself, establish formal project direction.	[E3]

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February 17, 2026	Planning compiles administrative record Steve Vonderweidt	Planning prepared a source-supported memorandum summarizing the State-approved scope, bundled funding structure, 30% costs, aircraft/site-work distinction, and missing line-item allocations.	Department administrative record	Direct evidence that Planning was reconstructing and documenting the inherited project rather than concealing information.	[S14]
February 25, 2026	City signs DOS budget amendment Steve / DOS	The City signed an amendment separating the professional-services budget from future construction funding across the three municipal DRI projects.	State contract amendment - City execution	Improved the accuracy and flexibility of contract administration without increasing the \$3.34 million State award.	[S16]
February 2026	Planning tests aircraft-related cost effects and funding options Steve Vonderweidt	Planning tested a \$184,500 reduction scenario consisting of the \$130,000 aircraft/vendor allowance, the \$29,000 aircraft-specific pedestal/foundation, and \$25,500 in pavers. Because pavers could also serve the core memorial, this was a sensitivity analysis rather than the final boundary of the privately funded aircraft package. Removing the scenario still did not eliminate the overall project gap.	Department cost analysis	Shows that staff measured the financial impact rather than assuming the aircraft alone caused the entire shortfall. It also supports the later, cleaner separation of at least \$159,000 in known direct aircraft-specific costs from the DRI-funded core memorial.	[S15]
March 17, 2026	Planning presents comprehensive DRI status report to Common Council Steve Vonderweidt / Mayor and Council	Planning presented a 30-page public report covering all eight DRI projects. The Veterans Memorial Park section identified the \$1,760,536 figure as a preliminary 30% estimate, described the aircraft as dependent on private fundraising, explained that the memorial could proceed without the aircraft, documented the funding gap, and listed continued design, scope, and supplemental-funding work as next steps.	Public departmental report and Council presentation	Direct evidence that Planning publicly disclosed the preliminary estimate, aircraft-funding distinction, project challenges, and next steps months before the later video controversy.	[S22, pp. 12-14]

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March 23, 2026 Virtual meeting conducted with Victor and Steve	City Manager formally separates the core memorial and aircraft supplement Kyle / C&S / Steve	Kyle directed C&S to create two coordinated but financially separate components: a complete, independent DRI-funded core memorial and a privately funded aircraft-display supplement. The private package was to include aircraft acquisition, transportation, preparation, pedestal/mount, aircraft-specific foundation, crane, and installation.	Written administrative direction to consultant	This is the controlling funding separation. DRI would fund the underlying public memorial; Afterburner fundraising would supplement it by paying every aircraft-specific cost and any additional enhancements beyond the DRI-funded core scope.	[E4]
March 25-27, 2026	Aircraft-independent memorial concept developed C&S / City	A revised preliminary memorial plan showed the memorial without the aircraft. C&S advised leaving the center as lawn to control cost; if the aircraft never occurred, the lawn could remain or be upgraded later.	Revised preliminary concept	Proves that the DRI-funded memorial was designed to stand alone and remain complete without the aircraft.	[S17; E4]
March 23-27, 2026	Detailed project records requested Joe Magliocca / Kyle / Steve	Afterburner Committee member Joe Magliocca requested detailed Veterans Park and AYSO drawings and cost sheets. Kyle agreed to compile available records; the correspondence reflects confusion over which attachments were being requested, not a formal refusal to disclose them.	Information request / administrative response	Shows scrutiny by an experienced civic participant connected to the aircraft effort and continued effort to organize inherited records.	[E4]
April 2, 2026	DOS approves contract amendment NYS Department of State	DOS approved the amendment separating \$269,300 for C&S design/administration from \$3,070,700 for future construction contractors, with the overall \$3.34 million grant unchanged.	State approval	Clarifies that C&S was the design consultant, not the construction contractor, and that construction funding remained uncommitted.	[S16]
April 9, 2026	Original Cameron estimate recovered Kipp Hicks, DOS, Cameron/IMEG, Kyle, Steve	Kipp contacted original DRI participants because the current City Manager and Planning Director had not participated in the original process. DOS supplied the archived estimate, and Sarah Oral explained that it reflected 2021/2022 prices and general project goals, with the City expected to determine the ultimate use of funds.	Historical record reconstruction	Strong evidence that the administration actively sought the original record and did not invent a new historical framework.	[E5; S3]

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April 13, 2026	Full project rebalancing directed after original estimate recovered Kyle / C&S / Steve	After the original 2022 estimate was recovered, Kyle directed C&S to retain the major original program elements where feasible, recognize the memorial as a smaller component, apply balanced reductions, and use current construction costs. Building on the March aircraft separation, C&S reduced the memorial estimate from \$637,364 to \$238,963 and brought the overall scenario to approximately \$1,392,135.	Administrative direction / consultant revision	Documents the next step in normal project evolution: the City used the cost information to move from the ideal aircraft-centered concept toward a balanced, achievable project.	[E5; S18]
April 14, 2026	Balanced-reduction direction reaffirmed Kyle / C&S / Steve	Kyle rejected exact parity if it would reduce the memorial to a token feature and directed a practical middle ground preserving all core project elements while accounting for current prices.	Administrative direction	Shows that the City sought balance rather than favoring either the memorial or recreation at the complete expense of the other.	[E5]
April 21, 2026	Original budget framework discussed Mayor Rossi, Councilor Jones, Council	Under Old Business, Councilor Jones thanked Kyle for providing the original estimate and supported moving forward. Mayor Rossi stated the City would use the original framework and “maintain the same percentage allocations,” with updated figures. The aircraft was clarified as separate from DRI funding. No motion, resolution, vote, allocation table, or consultant instruction was recorded.	Council discussion - no formal action recorded	The minutes document a policy statement, not an adopted mathematical funding formula. Later claims of a binding percentage directive overstate the recorded action.	[S19, p. 4]
April 23, 2026	Revised allocation scenario developed C&S / Kyle / Steve	C&S proposed splash pad \$657,913, pickleball-only courts \$71,232, and pool bathhouse \$168,692, leaving \$161,163 for the memorial. The memorial had been reduced to about \$182,000 through elimination of the aircraft, benches, and other reductions. City Manager directs consultant to reduce costs further and bring total memorial project cost within the available funding levels.	Consultant value engineering	Shows the continued effort to fit the project into the award after the aircraft was removed.	[E5]

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April 23, 2026	City Manager asks to restore basketball and simplify memorial Kyle / C&S / Steve	Kyle asked C&S to retain basketball improvements while finding targeted memorial efficiencies through a smaller footprint, simpler materials, less structural complexity, and phasing of aesthetic features - without first eliminating monuments or flagpoles.	Administrative direction	Documents the attempt to preserve broad recreational benefit while protecting the memorial's central meaning.	[E5]
April 23, 2026	Full Council receives cost-alignment update Kyle / Mayor and Council	Kyle circulated the revised figures, repeatedly labeled the numbers and features conceptual, explained that approximately \$161,000 remained for the memorial, and promised another revised concept for Council discussion.	Council-wide administrative update	Direct evidence that Council was informed during design and before bidding or construction.	[E5]
April 23-24, 2026	C&S identifies limits of further memorial cuts Victor / Kyle / Steve	With basketball restored, only \$122,579 remained for the memorial. Victor advised that even removing all concrete, pavers, shrubs, and trees would not meet that amount; further cuts would affect monuments or flagpoles. Kyle directed C&S to exhaust efficiency measures before removing core memorial elements.	Consultant analysis / administrative direction	Shows that late-April budget pressure concerned the actual memorial elements, not aircraft spending, which had already been eliminated.	[E5]
May 1, 2026	First under-award working scenario circulated Kyle / Mayor and Council	Kyle circulated a revised total of \$1,058,696: splash pad \$657,913; courts \$77,168; bathhouse \$168,692; DRI-funded core memorial \$154,923. The scenario was approximately \$304 below the \$1,059,000 award. The \$154,923 was the current cost-aligned working amount for a complete aircraft-independent memorial - not a fixed historic subaward. The aircraft-specific supplement remained outside DRI and dependent on private fundraising.	Council-wide 30% cost-alignment update	Demonstrates successful value engineering before final design or construction approval and clearly delineates the DRI-funded core from the privately funded aircraft package.	[E6]
May 2026	Monthly department report documents ongoing DRI administration Planning & Development	The May report described Veterans Memorial Park and AYSO as remaining in design, funding-alignment, and implementation-planning phases, with continuing attention to cost, phasing, and outside funding. It also documented broader DRI reporting and DOS coordination.	Routine department reporting	Shows that Planning regularly disclosed the project's preliminary status and active administrative work.	[M1]

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May 27-28, 2026	Council debate continues after project reaches budget Janet Jones, Lynne McHugh, Nathan Smith, Kyle, Council	Councilor Jones said the design still missed the mark and requested a working meeting. Councilor McHugh sought proportionality to the original estimate. Councilor Smith compared component percentages and argued for more restroom funding. Kyle explained the conceptual nature of the original materials, requested specific written changes, and stated that further redesign would likely require formal majority direction.	Individual Council requests / administrative response	Shows continued disagreement after cost alignment, not a failure to identify or address the budget problem.	[E6]
June 12, 2026 attendance pending	Council informational walkthrough held Final attendance to be confirmed	Kyle's condensed chronology identifies June 12 as the walkthrough date. During the visit, Council members reportedly questioned the filtration system and were told it was functioning. Steve was initially included in scheduling but recalls he did not ultimately attend; Luke's attendance and the final participant list remain to be confirmed.	City Manager chronology + staff recollection - attendance record pending	Provides the likely date while preserving the distinction between what is documented and what remains to be verified through the calendar invitation, attendee list, or notes.	[K1; P1]
June 12, 2026	Fully executed DOS amendment transmitted DOS / Mayor / Kyle / Steve	DOS sent the fully executed amendment separating the \$269,300 design/administration line from \$3,070,700 in future construction funding. The total State award remained unchanged.	Fully executed State amendment	Clarifies procurement roles and preserves construction funding pending final design and bidding.	[S16; E7]
June 16, 2026	Council requests separate all-DRI meeting Councilor Cimpi / Mayor and Council	During New Business, Councilor Cimpi requested a special meeting with Planning, Parks, and other staff to review all DRI projects and receive public and Council comments. The minutes state that all agreed to schedule a separate meeting. No project scope, allocation, redesign instruction, or consultant direction was adopted.	Scheduling consensus - no project decision	Confirms that the proposed meeting was a review forum, not an adopted Veterans Park redesign.	[S20, p. 7]

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June 17, 2026 2:58 p.m.	Madison County Public Health completes pool inspection County Public Health / Luke Griff	Madison County Public Health completed a pre-operational inspection of the Chapman Municipal Pool. The report recorded zero public-health hazards, zero uncorrected hazards, zero other violations, no required reinspection, and the comment “Satisfactory pre operational inspection.”	Official County inspection record	Provides independent, contemporaneous evidence that the pool met County public-health requirements after concerns were raised. The report supports the operational decision to retain the existing filtration system, while not serving as a separate engineering certification of the equipment.	[S23]
June 18-22, 2026	Council seeks changes but lacks unified direction Pagano, Cimpi, Jones, Kyle, Council	Councilor Pagano repeatedly asked members to identify desired changes. Councilor Cimpi said he hoped Council could work through changes together. Councilor Jones later submitted detailed questions about splash-pad cost/location, fencing, restrooms, courts, filtration, bathhouse, and historical percentages.	Individual discussion and requests	Shows that criticism existed without a single implementable Council direction to staff or C&S.	[E7]
June 22, 2026	Councilor Jones publishes personal project video on YouTube Janet Jones	Councilor Janet Jones posted a personally produced Veterans Memorial Park video on YouTube. The video presented a historical account and personal observations but relied on preliminary and superseded figures without consistently explaining their project stage, approval status, or the later separation of aircraft-specific funding.	Individual elected-official public communication	Marks the point when an incomplete project narrative entered the public record. The posting occurred after the March public DRI report, the March aircraft separation, the April value engineering, and the May under-award working scenario.	[E9]
June 22-23, 2026	C&S answers detailed design questions Victor, Kyle, Steve, Council	Victor explained that the splash pad was already flow-through and independent of pool filtration; restroom/changing access was required; fencing was recommended but not mandatory; phasing might save little; court scope was limited to crack repair/resurfacing; bathhouse scope was about \$169,000; and further memorial cuts risked losing a meaningful project. Kyle circulated the answers to Council.	Consultant technical response / Council-wide update	Demonstrates that specific questions were researched and answered by the engineer before further formal direction.	[E7]

Veterans Memorial Park DRI Project Record - Master Evidence Timeline

Date	Event / Participants	Documented Record	Formal Status	Why It Matters	Source
June 23-25, 2026	Splash-pad location reviewed Lynne McHugh, Kyle, Victor, Council	Councilor McHugh asked whether other locations had been evaluated. C&S candidly confirmed that an inside-the-fence or other-field location had not been separately designed, but recommended the current location because of utilities, bathhouse/restroom proximity, construction impact, and ability to operate separately from the pool. C&S advised that changing location would affect cost, schedule, and design.	Consultant review / Council-wide update	Shows transparency about the limits of the earlier analysis and a documented professional recommendation rather than concealment.	[E7]
June 2026	Monthly report records cost pressure and continued coordination Planning & Development	The June report described continued evaluation of the splash pad, bathhouse, courts, memorial, accessibility, landscaping, phasing, scope reductions, alternative designs, outside funding, and future Council review.	Routine department reporting	Further evidence that Planning was actively administering and openly reporting the project's unresolved design and funding issues.	[M2]
May 27, 2026	Pool-filtration rationale circulated Luke, Kyle, Nathan Smith, Council	Council correspondence documented Parks' assessment that the existing sand-filtration system remained robust and functional, although labor intensive, and did not justify replacement in the current funding round.	Operational assessment communicated to Council	Establishes that filtration was removed for an operational and prioritization reason, not to fund the aircraft.	[E6]
June 5, 2026	Council walkthrough coordinated Kyle, Luke, Steve, Council	Kyle asked Luke to schedule an informational site walkthrough requested by Council and expressly limited it to existing conditions and layout. He stated that deliberation or project direction must remain for a properly noticed Council meeting. Steve and Luke initially offered availability.	Administrative coordination	Shows access was provided while the City Manager sought to preserve proper meeting and decision-making boundaries.	[E7]
July 30, 2026	Councilor Jones circulates previously posted video to Afterburner Committee Janet Jones / Afterburner Committee	More than a month after the June 22 YouTube posting, Councilor Jones sent the personally produced video from her City email to Afterburner Committee members, described it as a historical accounting containing personal observations, and encouraged further circulation. The video continued to rely on preliminary and superseded figures without consistently explaining the normal progression from concept, to estimate, to value engineering, or the formal separation of the aircraft-specific package.	Individual elected-official public communication	Because it concerned an official project and was circulated from a City email account to a City-established committee, the communication increased the risk that residents would mistake a personal account for an official or complete City project history.	[E8; E9]

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Date	Event / Participants	Documented Record	Formal Status	Why It Matters	Source
July 30, 2026	Councilor Pagano objects to accuracy and apparent official status William Pagano / Kyle / Council	Pagano stated that he had questioned the video's factual accuracy, objected to circulation before Council review, asked that it be removed or labeled as Janet's personal work, and noted that favorable pool-testing information was omitted.	Councilor response	Shows that concerns about the video were independently raised by another sitting Council member, not only by staff.	[E8]
July 30, 2026	City Manager formally corrects the record Kyle / Afterburner Committee / Council / legal counsel / Steve	Kyle explained that \$1.76 million was a preliminary 30% estimate, not approved spending; the \$637,364 memorial concept was superseded; the aircraft package had been formally separated; the current memorial was about \$154,000; and filtration removal was based on operational input and later testing. He announced preparation of a source-documented public timeline.	Formal administrative communication	Creates the direct basis for this project record and identifies the principal public claims requiring fact-checking.	[E8]
August 3-6, 2026	Planning and City Manager reconcile records and prepare source-documented chronology Steve / Kyle / C&S source record	Planning reviewed the full project record and Kyle's condensed chronology to reconcile dates, identify missing source documents, correct the characterization of C&S's role, and establish one consistent narrative: the project evolved from an ideal concept through cost discovery, operational and Council feedback, aircraft funding separation, and value engineering. The confirmed current working scenario remains \$1,058,696, including \$154,923 for the DRI-funded core memorial.	Administrative record preparation - current status	Creates the verified foundation for the public Project Record, fact sheet, presentation, and future talking points while keeping unverified leads clearly labeled.	[K1; S1-S23; E1-E9; M1-M2; R1]

5. Source Index

- [S1] City of Oneida Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application (2021), “Downtown City Park Upgrades.”
- [S2] City of Oneida DRI Strategic Investment Plan, July 2022, Project 11, pp. 5-63 through 5-67.
- [S3] Cameron Engineering, City of Oneida Veterans Park Engineer’s Budget Estimate, July 12, 2022.
- [S4] New York State, Oneida DRI Award Booklet, December 2022.
- [S5] Executed State Grant Contract C1002437, term November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2028, including Attachment C Work Plan.
- [S6] City of Oneida Common Council Minutes, January 2, 2024, Resolutions 24-7 and 24-8.
- [S7] City of Oneida / C&S Engineers Service Contract, Veterans Memorial Park 30% Design, executed May 7, 2025.
- [S8] City of Oneida Common Council Minutes, August 19, 2025, Resolution 25-151 establishing the Oneida Afterburner Committee.
- [S9] Denzak/Vortex splash-pad proposal and related planning information shared with C&S.
- [S10] C&S Draft 30% Design Narrative and Report, January 6, 2026.
- [S11] C&S Veterans Park Drawings - 30% Submission, January 6, 2026, marked Preliminary - Not for Construction.
- [S12] C&S component cost estimates: splash pad, courts, restroom upgrades, and Veterans Memorial, January 6, 2026.
- [S13] C&S 30% Cost Estimate - Veterans Memorial, January 6, 2026.
- [S14] Planning & Development Administrative Record Memorandum, “Veterans Memorial Park DRI - Documented Scope, 30% Design Costs, and Funding Structure,” February 17, 2026.
- [S15] Planning & Development, “Veteran’s Memorial - Cost Adjustment & Supplemental Funding Summary,” February 2026.
- [S16] Executed Amendment to Contract C1002437, signed by City February 25, 2026, approved by DOS April 2, 2026, transmitted June 12, 2026.
- [S17] C&S revised preliminary memorial plan, Sheet CL103 / E42003001_CL103-ALT, March-April 2026.
- [S18] C&S revised memorial landscape concept and April 13, 2026 cost-alignment correspondence.
- [S19] City of Oneida Common Council Minutes, April 21, 2026, p. 4.
- [S20] City of Oneida Common Council Minutes, June 16, 2026, p. 7.
- [E1] September 2025 Veterans Memorial Park site-review and splash-pad coordination email chain supplied in the project record.
- [E2] October 2025 C&S preliminary memorial concept and information-request email chain supplied in the project record.
- [E3] February 2026 Council / City Manager email chain concerning pickleball, special-meeting requests, original intent, and two-phase concepts.
- [E4] March 2026 City Manager / C&S / Steve / Joe Magliocca correspondence concerning aircraft separation, revised concept, and document requests.
- [E5] April 2026 Kipp Hicks / DOS / IMEG / C&S / City correspondence concerning recovery of the original estimate and value engineering.
- [E6] May 2026 City Manager / Council correspondence concerning the under-award scenario, historical percentages, filtration, and requested redesign.
- [E7] June 2026 walkthrough, DOS amendment, Council questions, C&S technical responses, and splash-pad location correspondence.
- [E8] July 30, 2026 Councilor Jones video-distribution chain, Councilor Pagano response, and City Manager response.

[M1] Planning & Development May 2026 Monthly Report - DRI sections supplied by the Director.

[M2] Planning & Development June 2026 Monthly Report - DRI sections supplied by the Director.

[K1] Kyle Lovell, “Vets Field Timeline,” condensed one-page chronology received August 2026. Used as an executive summary and source lead; underlying documents are required before any newly identified date or event is treated as fully verified.

[S21] City of Oneida, “Implement Downtown City Park Upgrades” project profile, edited May 13, 2022, including the \$55,620 memorial planning figure and pre-pandemic cost warning.

[S22] Planning, Development & Codes, “2026 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Project Status Report,” prepared for and presented to the Oneida Common Council on March 17, 2026, especially pp. 12-14.

[S23] Madison County Public Health, Howard T. Chapman Municipal Pool Swimming Pool Inspection Summary Report, June 17, 2026.

[E9] Councilor Janet Jones, Veterans Memorial Park video posted to YouTube June 22, 2026, together with the July 30, 2026 City-email distribution chain.

[R1] Staff recollection recorded by Steve Vonderweidt concerning his September-October 2025 routine DRI check-in with Alissandra “Lissa” D’Aquanni. No written confirmation has been located; the recollection is not treated as formal DOS approval.