

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/25/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0611

LOG NAME: 80FOREST PARK MAINTENANCE AREA - CHAPTER 26

SUBJECT

(CD 3 and CD 9) Conduct Public Hearing and Authorize the Use of Approximately 0.03 Acres of Parkland within Forest Park for a Maintenance Area for a Drainage Improvement Project

(**PUBLIC HEARING** - a. Report of City Staff: Lori Gordon; b. Public Comment; c. Council Action: Close Public Hearing and Act on M&C)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing under the guidelines set forth by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26, Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands;
 2. Find that no feasible or prudent alternative exists for the use of Forest Park for a permanent maintenance area;
 3. Find that the proposed permanent maintenance area includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland; and
 4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 0.03 acres within Forest Park for a permanent maintenance area for a Drainage Improvement Project.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the City of Fort Worth Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) use of parkland within Forest Park for a permanent maintenance area for installation of a 36-inch Class III reinforced concrete pipe between Rogers Avenue and University Drive as part of a City Drainage Improvement project (Project).

The project is within Forest Park just outside the southern fenceline for the Log Cabin Village. The drainage improvement includes installation of approximately 64.5 linear feet of 36-inch Class III reinforced concrete pipe. In addition, the project requires a permanent maintenance area containing a variable width averaging 21 feet wide by 64.5 linear feet totaling approximately 1,355 square feet or 0.03 acres. A temporary construction workspace within the park is not required. The park will remain open during construction and will be restored to previous condition or better upon completion of the work.

The City Forester has determined that no park trees require removal for this project. Trees within 75 feet of the project will be protected as a precautionary measure.

In accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26, the City of Fort Worth seeks to use a portion of Forest Park for the purpose of granting a permanent maintenance area for the project.

On May 22, 2024, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to authorize the use of a portion of Forest Park for a permanent maintenance area as part of the project.

In accordance with state law, the proposed conversion of parkland was advertised in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on June 4, June 11, and June 18, 2024.

An email announcing the proposed change of use was sent to registered Neighborhood Associations within 1.5 miles of the park and posted on the City website.

Signage was posted at the park noting the proposed parkland use and providing instructions for directing comments to the Park & Recreation Department. The sign will remain posted through the public hearing process.

Forest Park is located in COUNCIL DISTRICTS 3 and 9, south of Rosedale Street, west of Forest Park Boulevard, north of Berry Street, and east of Rogers Road.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City Funds.

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