

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 05/20/25

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 25-0460

**LOG NAME:** 80FREEMANS PARK WSSMA - CHAPTER 26

## **SUBJECT**

(CD 7) Conduct Public Hearing and Authorize the Use of Approximately 0.11 Acres of Dedicated Parkland at Freemans Park for a Water and Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Area

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

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## **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 and prudent alternative exists for the use of Freemans Park for water and sanitary sewer maintenance area;
  3. Find that the proposed water and sanitary sewer maintenance area includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland;
  4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 0.11 acres of parkland at Freemans Park for the water and sanitary sewer maintenance area;
  5. Authorize the use of approximately 0.04 acres of parkland at Freemans Park for temporary construction workspace; and
  6. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute and record the appropriate instruments.
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## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the City of Fort Worth Water Department (Water Department) use of parkland within Freemans Park (Park) for a permanent maintenance area for installation of water and sanitary sewer lines.

The Water Department has requested the use of portions of the Park for a water and sanitary sewer maintenance area (Maintenance Area). Due to continued growth in far west Fort Worth, it is necessary for the Water Department to construct the new Silver Creek Lift Station and associated force and gravity sewer mains (Project). The Project will provide services to areas on the west side of Lake Worth. The proposed Maintenance Area is for the installation of water and sanitary sewer lines as part of the Project.

The proposed Maintenance Area is approximately 4,882 square feet, which equates to 0.11 acres. A temporary workspace area of 1,793 square feet, which equates to 0.04 acres is necessary for Project construction. Project construction is anticipated to begin June 2025 and last approximately 18 months.

The City Forester has identified one Pecan tree within the park that requires removal for the Project. A tree mitigation fee in the amount of \$4,200.00 applies for removal of the Pecan tree. The remaining trees within 75 feet of construction activities in the park will be protected with fencing.

In accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code - Chapter 26, the City of Fort Worth seeks to use a portion of Freemans Park for a permanent water and sanitary sewer maintenance area.

On March 26, 2025, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to authorize the use of portions of Freemans Park for a water and sanitary sewer maintenance area.

In accordance with state law and the Fort Worth City Charter, the parkland conversion was advertised in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on May 4, 2025, May 11, 2025, and May 18, 2025. Water Department shall transfer funds for publication in the amount of \$761.55 to Park & Recreation Department for advertising in both the *Dallas Morning News* and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* papers.

An email announcing the proposed change of use was sent to registered Neighborhood Associations within 1.5 miles of the park before April 18, 2025, and posted on the City's Web page.

Freemans Park is in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7, east of Silver Creek Road, south of Lake Haven Circle, west of Lake Worth, and north of Heron Drive.

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

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

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

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Dana Burghdoff 8018

**Originating Business Unit Head:** Dave Lewis 5717

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