

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 01/27/26

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 26-0068

**LOG NAME:** 80CIQUIO VASQUEZ PARK AT&T UTILITY EASEMENT - CHAPTER 26

## **SUBJECT**

(CD 11) Conduct Public Hearing, Authorize the Use of a Portion of Ciquio Vasquez Park for Utility Easement, and Authorize a Workspace Area

(PUBLIC HEARING - a. Staff Available for Questions: Joel McElhany; 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 a portion of Ciquio Vasquez Park for utility easement;
3. Find that the proposed use of a portion of Ciquio Vasquez Park for utility easement includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland;
4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 0.1002 acres of parkland for utility easement;
5. Establish an approximately 0.1002 acre temporary workspace area; 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 conveyance of an easement and right-of-way to AT&T Inc. (AT&T), being approximately 0.1002 acres of land in Ciquio Vasquez Park (Park).

AT&T installed fiber optic cables through a parcel of land located at 1000 Echo Lake Drive prior to 1993. In April 2017, the City of Fort Worth acquired said parcel of land from Tarrant County and dedicate the parcel as a public park (M&C L-16015).

In April 2025, the Park & Recreation Department started implementation of park improvements (City Project No. 105195) within Ciquio Vasquez Park. During construction of these park improvements, it was identified that fiber optic cables were buried without an identified easement for maintenance. The park improvements require AT&T to lower the existing cables to a greater depth prior to constructing parking spaces.

An easement must be granted before AT&T may lower the cables within the current alignment. Lowering of the fiber optic cables will take approximately two and a half weeks to complete.

The City Forester has determined that no park trees within Ciquio Vasquez Park require removal under AT&T lowering the fiber optic cables. Tree protection is required within 75 feet of the area being bored for fiber optic line.

In accordance with state law, the parkland conversion was advertised in both the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *The Dallas Morning News* newspapers on January 4, 2026, January 11, 2026, and January 18, 2026.

Registered Neighborhood Associations within one mile of the park will be notified of the public hearing pertaining to the use of parkland for a permanent utility easement.

Ciquio Vasquez Park is in COUNCIL DISTRICT 11.

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

**Additional Information Contact:** Joel McElhany 5745

