

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/11/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0523

LOG NAME: 80GATEWAY PARK MASTER PLAN

SUBJECT

(CD 11) Approve the Update to the Gateway Park Master Plan and Adopt as an Amendment to the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and the City of Fort Worth Comprehensive Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Approve the update to the Gateway Park Master Plan
 - 2) Adopt the Gateway Park Master Plan as an Amendment to the Park, Recreation, and open Space Master Plan; and
 - 3) Adopt the Gateway Park Master Plan as an Amendment to the City of Fort Worth's Comprehensive Plan
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to approve the update to the Gateway Park Master Plan and adopt it as an amendment to the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and the City of Fort Worth Comprehensive Plan.

HISTORY:

In a 1970 study for Streams and Valleys, Lawrence Halprin first coined the name "Gateway Park" for what he envisioned as a small park with a riverside beach and restaurant. Following City approval of the greenbelt preservation along the Trinity River and a brief push to make Gateway Park a state park, Gateway Park was officially dedicated as a Fort Worth park in 1979. From 1980 - 2000, the addition of an entry drive off Beach Street, 6 softball field complex, a concessions and event command center building, parking lots, the East First Street entrance, park interior roadway, picnic shelters with tables, canoe launches, a playground, 3 soccer fields, and 2 miles of hiking trails were added.

In 2002, a new master plan for Gateway Park was introduced that showed a grand vision for the future of the park. The goal of expansion led to multiple acquisitions in the following years. Properties along Beach Street and East First Street were acquired in 2006 and 2007, respectively. In 2009, almost 100 acres of former landfill area along East First Street were donated by the Amon G. Carter Foundation. A significant addition to Gateway Park was the 5 acre Fort Woof Dog Park that opened in early 2004. It was the first off-leash dog park in the City and has garnered significant public support since its opening.

On June 23, 2009, City Council adopted (M&C G-16603) the current master plan, which provided a vision for passive and active recreation. That plan incorporated the newly acquired land east of the Trinity River that was formerly a landfill. Additionally, from 2009 to 2010, the Fort Worth Mountain Bike Association created a 5.5 - mile extension to existing mountain bike trails within the park. In 2015, the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) proceeded with the Valley Storage project for the Fort Worth Central City Flood Control Project; and in 2016, the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), granted the City of Fort Worth a recreation easement over land west of Beach Street, which is included in this Master Plan.

The 2022 Bond Program included \$8,000,000.00 to update the Gateway Park Master Plan and for Phase I development that was prioritized through the master plan process. On February 28, 2023 (M&C 23-0187) Council authorized an engineering services agreement (City Secretary# 59214) with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for the design and development of the updated Gateway Park Master Plan. The master plan update was determined to be necessary due to mitigation requirements for the Central City Project, limitations to development in areas of the old wastewater treatment plant and landfill areas, incorporation of additional park land, and consideration of new recreational and entertainment facilities since the adoption of the 2009 Master Plan.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS:

Three public meetings were held in 2023 on August 3rd, September 21st, and November 13th to gather public input on desired park improvements, new amenities, and prioritization of future park development. In addition, 3 stakeholder meetings were held to ensure proposed plans were feasible and aligned with the input of all involved parties. Stakeholders included representatives from TRWD, USACE, City Departments (Environmental/Code, PARD, FWLab), Trinity Metro, and user groups (mountain bike and disc golf). On October 25, 2023, the project design team presented master plan elements during a Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) work session and at the March 27, 2024 PARAB meeting, the board endorsed the Gateway Park Master Plan.

MASTER PLAN GOALS:

Guiding principles of the plan include infrastructure reinvestment, provision of design and elements that will enhance safety and security, the use of

technology in all feasible aspects of improvements, and responsible environmental stewardship.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE MASTER PLAN:

The master plan includes multiple new and expanded park amenities such as those listed below:

- Softball Diamonds/Soccer Fields/Multi-Purpose Fields
- Tennis, Pickleball, Sand Volleyball, & Basketball Courts
- Youth Playgrounds
- Trails (paved, unpaved, mountain biking, etc.)
- Road & Parking Improvements
- Pavilions/Picnic Area
- Outdoor Open/Public Event Space – located in central portion of the park, out of floodplain, in consideration of development envisioned by public input received
- Flexible-Use Park Facility
- Skatepark & Bike Skills Area
- Low-Ropes Course
- Nature Boardwalk
- Disc Golf Course Expansion
- Scenic Overlook
- Equestrian Center
- Fort Woof Dog Park Expansion

Gateway Park is located 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.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

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

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