

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/30/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0104

LOG NAME: 80_BOTANIC GARDEN PARK & TRINITY PARK - CHAPTER 26

SUBJECT

(CD 7 and CD 9) Conduct Public Hearing and Authorize the Use of Approximately 3.293 Acres of Dedicated Parkland at Botanic Garden Park and Approximately 1.808 Acres of Dedicated Parkland at Trinity Park for University Drive Pedestrian and Traffic Signal Improvements

(**PUBLIC HEARING** - a. Report of City Staff: Joel McElhany; 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 Botanic Garden Park and Trinity Park for pedestrian and traffic signal improvements;
 3. Find that the proposed University Drive Pedestrian and Traffic Signal Improvements includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland;
 4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 3.293 acres of parkland at Botanic Garden Park and approximately 1.808 acres of parkland at Trinity Park for the University Drive Pedestrian and Traffic Signal Improvements; and
 5. Authorize the use of approximately 0.316 acres of dedicated parkland at Trinity Park for temporary construction workspace.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the use of a portion of public parkland at Botanic Garden Park and Trinity Park for University Drive Pedestrian and Traffic Signal Improvements.

The City of Fort Worth Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) has requested the use of a portion of Botanic Garden Park and Trinity Park for University Drive Pedestrian and Traffic Signal Improvements (Project).

The Project improvements include:

- A 6' wide sidewalk along the west side of University Drive;
- Two new University Drive transit bus pads at Rock Springs Road intersection;
- Two new University Drive transit bus pads at Botanic Garden Drive intersection;
- Two 10' wide walking trails connecting the bus pads to existing trails in Trinity Park;
- Traffic signal at University Drive and Rock Springs Road intersection;
- Traffic signal at University Drive and Botanic Garden Drive intersection;
- New medians and curbs for vehicular safety;
- University Drive mill, overlay, and pavement striping (no additional lanes added); and
- Landscaping, to include additional trees, shrubs, and irrigation of medians.

In order to accommodate the Project's improvements, the following items are required:

- Use of approximately 143,438 square feet of Botanic Garden Park, which equates to 3.293 acres; and
- Use of approximately 78,768 square feet of Trinity Park, which equates to 1.808 acres.

In addition, approximately 13,765 square feet, which equates to 0.316 acres within Trinity Park is required for a temporary workspace for the installation of two 10' wide walking trails from the bus stop locations to existing trails in Trinity Park.

The City Forester has identified eleven (11) trees that require removal. Seven (7) trees, equating to 93 caliper inches require a tree mitigation fee in the amount of \$2,400.00. The fee shall be paid by TPW into the Tree Mitigation Capital Fund for the loss of trees on parkland before construction work begins. The existing trees in proximity to the proposed construction site will be protected with fencing. The project consultant will continue to work with the City Forester to reduce the impact of tree loss in the park.

Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2026 and last approximately 9 months. No park roadways or trails will be closed. The park will be restored to previous conditions or better upon completion of the project.

On November 15, 2023, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to authorize the use of portions of Botanic Garden Park and Trinity Park for pedestrian and traffic signal improvements.

In accordance with state law, the proposed use of parkland was advertised in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on January 9, January 16, and January 23, 2024.

On November 10, 2023, an email announcing the proposed use of parkland was sent to the registered Neighborhood Associations within one and one-half miles of both parks and posted on the City Web page.

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

Botanic Garden Park is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7, west of University Drive, north of Interstate Highway 30, east of Montgomery Street, and south of Trail Drive.

Trinity Park is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 9, south of West 7th Street, west of the Clear Fork Trinity River, and north of Interstate Highway 30.

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 funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the Transportation and Public Works Capital Projects Fund project to support the approval of the above recommendations, funds will be transferred into the Tree Mitigation Capital Fund for the removal of the trees. The Park & Recreation Department and Transportation and Public Works Department are responsible for the transfer of funds.

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