

Way Offer to City

\$50,000 Acre for Park Land

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The state has come up with an offer of more than \$50,000 an acre for 23 acres in Overton Park to be taken for the route of the east-west expressway, The Press-Scimitar learned today.

That puts the total figure at more than \$1,150,000 but it appeared that the city would seek more. Council Budget Chairman Lewis Donelson has talked of the city getting \$75,000 or \$100,000 an acre. Other councilmen have talked of \$100,000 or more — which would make the total price at least \$2.3 million.

Officials of the Park Commission met with Tennessee Highway Department in Memphis yesterday to receive the offer.

Some of the more than \$50,000 an acre offered may be for compensatory damages in addition to buying the land.

When the state bought strips of Riverside and Pin Hill parks for expressway use about 10 years ago, part of the price was for compensatory damages. The state paid for loss of trees, shrubbery and the like.

In the case of Overton Park, there will be a number of trees taken and some damage to the Zoo.

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