



AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor

DATE: April 11, 2024

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff feedback regarding Librada “Lily” Cantu Inclusive Playground.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, City Council approved an application to rename the playground within North Lakes Park, located at 2001 W. Windsor Drive Denton, TX 76201, to honor Librada “Lily” Rose Cantu. In the same year, the City Council also adopted the Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Master Plan. One of the priorities identified in this plan was the creation of an inclusive playground, which is a playground that is welcoming and accessible to people of all abilities. To bring this plan to life, the Parks and Recreation Department hired Mesa Design Company in 2023 to design the new Inclusive Playground. This project involves gathering input from the public, assessing the community's needs, creating design concepts, and developing construction plans and cost estimates.

Inclusive Playgrounds provide opportunities for individuals to develop physical, cognitive, sensory, and social skills. The new playground at North Lakes Park will be designed to be 'barrier-free', meaning it will be accessible to everyone regardless of their physical, intellectual, or sensory abilities.

The master plan officially began in May 2023. Throughout the summer, our team formed a Focus Group comprising representatives from various local and neighboring organizations, including Denton ISD, University of North Texas, Texas Women’s University, Denton County MHMR Center, Cook’s Children, Texas Health, Lewisville ISD, Lake Dallas ISD, and members from the Park Board and Committee with Persons on Disabilities. Additionally, staff met with the Cantu family to understand Lily’s life better and explore how the playground's design could honor her legacy.

In Fall 2023, the project paused temporarily due to a bond election, which included a proposition to fund the construction of the Inclusive Playground. In November 2023, Proposition C was approved, encompassing the Inclusive Playground and allocating \$3,450,000 for its construction. Since November, staff has been diligently finalizing initial design details with the Focus Group and the Cantu Family and has begun the public engagement phase.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Christopher Escoto
Park Planning Manager