



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
ACM: Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager
DATE: April 1, 2024

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff input regarding the Librada “Lily” Cantu Inclusive Playground Master Plan at North Lakes Park.

BACKGROUND

The City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department owns a park called North Lakes Park, located at 2001 W. Windsor Drive Denton, TX 76201. In 2022, City Council approved an application to rename the playground within the park 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 are important because they provide opportunities for children 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, among others. Additionally, we 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, encompassing the Inclusive Playground, was approved, allocating \$3,450,000 for its construction. Since November, our team has been diligently finalizing initial design details with the Focus Group and the Cantu Family and is now ready to launch the public engagement phase.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

The master plan for the Inclusive Playground is expected to conclude by Fall 2024 with construction documentation immediately following adoption of plan.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Contract 7850-005 total lump sum fee is \$119,500 with an additional \$3,500 contingency for additional services requested by the City of Denton for a contract total not-to-exceed of \$122,500.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Draft Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Gary Packan, Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:
Chris Escoto, Park Planning Manager