

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: Stacie Anaya, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: May 6, 2024

SUBJECT: **Approval of an Agreement with the Friends of LLELA (FOL) and the City of Lewisville; and Authorization for the City Manager, or her Designee, to Execute the Agreement.**

BACKGROUND

The Friends of LLELA (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area) began in the 1990s when LLELA was established below the Lewisville Lake Dam. This area, spanning over 2,700 acres of land, was designated for fish and wildlife management, environmental research, education, recreation and habitat restoration. Owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and leased to partners including the City of Lewisville, Lewisville Independent School District (LISD), and the University of North Texas (UNT), LLELA became a vital space for ecological preservation and community engagement.

Recognizing the significance of LLELA and its potential for environmental education and community involvement, the Friends of LLELA (FOL) was officially incorporated as a Texas non-profit organization on July 28, 2013. Led by an independently selected Board of Directors, FOL aims to support LLELA's mission by promoting, interpreting, and operating the area as a fundraising and service group.

Over the years, FOL has worked in close collaboration with the City of Lewisville and other partners to fulfill its mission. In 2015, the City in collaboration with the partners, adopted the Green Centerpiece Master Strategy (GCMS) to create a common vision for the City's parks and open spaces adjacent to Lewisville Lake and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, including LLELA. An update to the GCMS was adopted by all partners in Summer 2022. Though the FOL just recently adopted the GCMS in 2024, they have been involved in every iteration of the strategy.

ANALYSIS

The agreement between the City of Lewisville and the FOL outlines a comprehensive partnership aimed at promoting the protection, preservation, and public use of LLELA, as a significant ecological area. The agreement focuses on six specific areas:

1. **Mission Alignment:** The agreement reflects the shared goals of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and FOL in promoting environmental education, habitat restoration, and recreational opportunities within LLELA. Both parties are committed to preserving the natural resources and heritage of the area for the benefit of present and future generations.
2. **Collaboration and Communication:** The agreement emphasizes collaboration between the City and FOL, with provisions for regular meetings, joint planning sessions, and information sharing. This collaborative approach ensures alignment of efforts, effective communication, and shared decision-making in the management and promotion of LLELA.
3. **Responsibilities of FOL:** FOL is tasked with various responsibilities including promoting LLELA, collaborating with the City, developing annual plans, providing reports, coordinating volunteers, and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations. These responsibilities demonstrate FOL's active role in supporting the mission and objectives of the City's Parks and Recreation Department.
4. **Support from the City:** The City pledges support to FOL by granting access to LLELA, providing assistance with fundraising and event coordination, offering meeting space and resources, and allowing the use of the City's name and images for promotional purposes. This support underscores the City's commitment to fostering a successful partnership with FOL for the benefit of LLELA and the community.
5. **Compliance and Accountability:** Both parties agree to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and the terms of the lease agreement governing LLELA. Additionally, mechanisms for reporting, record-keeping, and liability management ensure accountability and transparency in the partnership.
6. **Long-term Vision:** The agreement reflects a long-term vision for the preservation and sustainable management of LLELA, with provisions for annual planning, ongoing collaboration, and adaptive management to address evolving needs and challenges.

The agreement establishes a formal relationship with FOL for a term of five years, automatically renewable for additional five-year terms unless terminated by either party with 60 days' notice. Overall, the agreement represents a proactive and collaborative approach to environmental stewardship and community engagement, highlighting the importance of partnerships between governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in achieving shared conservation goals.

CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to execute the agreement as set forth in the caption above.