

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: Stacie Anaya, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: October 3, 2022

SUBJECT: **Approval of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lewisville, Texas Designating Fifty Parcels of Land Within the City Limits (Identified Herein) as Public Parks for Park and Recreational Uses; Approving the Names for Said Parks as Recommended by the Park Board; Approving the Renaming of the Frederick P. Herring Recreation Center to the Frederick P. Herring Parks and Recreation Center; and Providing an Effective Date.**

BACKGROUND

Parkland Designation and Naming

In 2017, the City Council endorsed participation in the 10-Minute Walk to a Park Campaign - an initiative built by the Trust for Public Land with the support of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to celebrate communities that have made a commitment to creating an equitable, safe, and healthy environment for their residents and visitors. The standard was incorporated into the current parks, recreation and open space master plan and serves as the inspiration for the development of the Healthy Infrastructure Plan to be adopted in March 2023.

The City received multiple grants in 2018 and 2019 that informed efforts for bridging gaps in areas of Lewisville where residents do not have access to a park or open space. In addition to the partnership with LISD regarding out-of-school time parks, accelerating park acquisition and park improvement projects, staff began to analyze existing city-owned properties (not dedicated as parkland) that may serve to alleviate identified park deserts.

Several properties were identified for consideration:

- .35 acre on Palisades Drive (2 lots, former lift station site)
- 3.28 acres on Timbercreek Drive (these lots became available after homes were purchased and demolished with FEMA funds)
- 28.264 acres (near the FedEx Distribution Center on Bennett Lane)
- .4165 acre on Holly Oak Drive (near Fox Creek Greenbelt).
- 8.29 acres of the Rodeo Grounds (corner of Mill Street and Parkway Drive).
- 4.68 acres near Prairie Creek/IH35 access road (former equipment and trucking yard).
- .6 acre on Purgatory Pass (two parcels separated by street).

Castle Hills Parkland Naming

When Castle Hills was annexed in November 2021, 81 properties to be used as public open space were dedicated to the City of Lewisville (per an agreement signed in August 2021). While these properties have been dedicated as public parkland, the names of each property have not been formally adopted – in some cases, residents of Castle Hills use two or three common names for a park.

Since annexation, the department has been working with the group of ambassadors from Castle Hills to determine what names should be formally assigned to each park. In April 2022, the attached presentation was shared with the ambassadors. At the end of the presentation, the ambassadors were asked to vote on the names of the five parks with two or three names. The names chosen by the committee were congruent with the staff recommendation.

Of the 81 properties dedicated as parkland, 15 are typical neighborhood parks used by the community. Sixteen of the parcels are small open spaces to be considered pocket parks. In several areas, a string of the smaller parcels can be linked together to form a linear park (sometimes with a trail or enhanced sidewalk connecting them). There are four parcels that have limited value as publicly accessible open space and will remain unnamed.

Frederick P. Herring Recreation Center Name Change

On August 18, 2008, the City Council approved a recommendation from City Staff to rename the Civic Circle Recreation Center to honor Frederick P. Herring for his service to the City of Lewisville. Mr. Herring began his career with the City in October 1977 and retired in August 2009. He served as the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department (formerly known as the Parks and Leisure Services) for 31 years. During his tenure, the department grew from four parks and 10 employees to over 30 parks and greenbelts and more than 75 employees. The center that bears his name was opened in 1982 and was the catalyst for a strong recreation program within the community. Mr. Herring was instrumental in the creation of the Senior Activity Center, Memorial Park Recreation Center, the Sun Valley and Old Town Aquatic Parks, the Library Expansion and Railroad Park.

During the initial process for planning Thrive Recreation Center, there was conversation that Herring Recreation Center would be taken out of operation and all recreation programs would move to the new facility. However, as budget constraints limited the size of and recreation spaces in Thrive, management pivoted to reimagining how Herring Recreation Center might operate to continue to offer recreational sports programs and alleviate the pressures for gym space at Thrive. As construction at Thrive began to taper, funding for upgrading the gym floors at Herring Recreation Center was earmarked.

In 2019, the City conducted a study to determine office and conference meeting space. The study highlighted the lack of space for the growth of the departments at the Municipal Annex. As the City began to entertain the idea of a combined Public Safety Facility in 2020, plans for relocating the administrative offices of the Parks and Recreation Department to Herring Recreation Center.

Kirkpatrick Architecture Services was hired to design the conversion of the activity rooms and fitness area into offices in 2021. Centennial Construction was hired for construction in 2022.

Upgrades to flooring of the two gyms were complete in 2021; the remodelling of the activity rooms and fitness areas will be complete in November 2022.

ANALYSIS

Each of the properties, except for the property near FedEx, are currently maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. The properties will be improved according to the department master plan development standards for each type of park. Most of the properties will be treated as pocket parks or natural areas with minimal improvement focused on native vegetation and trees. Designation and use as parkland may increase the maintenance burden for each property.

The Park and Recreation Facility Naming Guidelines states that parks and facilities should be named within 180 days of acquisition or dedication. Preference for naming parks is given to adjacent streets, landmarks, or subdivisions in effort to remain consistent with naming practices for parks dedicated by plat during development. The proposed names for each of these properties is consistent with this practice.

On June 8, 2022, staff present recommendations for park dedication and naming to the Parks Board. After discussion and suggestions for a few modifications to proposed names, the Parks Board approved the following parcels for dedication and names listed in the table below:

Proposed Name	Location	Future Purpose
Palisades Park	Palisades Drive	Pocket Park
Holly Oak Park	Holly Oak Drive	Pocket Park
TC Acres Park	Timbercreek Drive	Nature Park/Open Space
Green Commons	Mill Street/Parkway Drive	Rodeo Grounds/Open Space
Purgatory Pass Park	Purgatory Pass	Pocket Park
Bennett Nature Park	Bennett Lane	Nature Park/Trails
Harn Park	IH-35/Prairie Creek	Trailhead/Pocket Park
Lewisville Kayak Launch at Hebron Parkway	Hebron Parkway/Trinity River	Kayak Launch/Blueway Trail Head
Parker Place Park	Garrison Drive	Neighborhood Park
Glory Park/Parque La Gloria	Kia Drive/Southwest Parkway	Neighborhood Park

Collectively, these parcels will increase the amount of park acreage in the system by over 50 acres. Individually, each of these properties will increase provide increased access to parks and nature throughout Lewisville and improve our community's ratio of residents living within a 10-minute walk to a park. As a special use park, the rodeo grounds have the capacity for different

types of programming throughout the year. The kayak launch at Hebron Parkway and the Trinity River is now fully operational with signage indicating it is part of the Trinity River Trail recognized as a part of the National Park Service Recreational Trail system. Visit <https://trinitycoalition.org/> for more information about the designation.

Once designated and approved, the department will move forward with updating the park inventory on GIS and Play Lewisville website, begin fabrication and installation of park signs at each site. Funding for this is available in various CIP Projects and 4B Fund for the signage.

Castle Hills Parkland Naming

Below are the park names recommended for consideration by both the Ambassadors for Castle Hills and the Park Board. Of the 81 properties dedicated as parkland, 15 are typical neighborhood parks used by the community. Sixteen of the parcels are small open spaces to be considered pocket parks. In several areas, a string of the smaller parcels can be linked together to form a linear park (sometimes with a trail or enhanced sidewalk connecting them). There are four parcels that have limited value as publicly accessible open space and will remain unnamed. Once approved the department will begin working on park signage for each area. Funding for this is available in the Castle Hills CIP Project.

Proposed Name	Location	Future Purpose
Hidden Park	Damsel Katie Drive	Neighborhood Park
Train Park	Lady Carol Lane	Neighborhood Park
Berndt Park	Elsa Avenue	Neighborhood Park
Pirate Ship Park	Sir Percival Land	Neighborhood Park
Fan Park	Queen Elaine Drive	Neighborhood Park
Castle Park	Sir Turquin Lane	Neighborhood Park
Damsel Park	Damsel Caitlyn Drive	Pocket Park
Queen Margaret Park	Queen Margaret Drive	Neighborhood Park
Dragon Park	Merlin Drive	Neighborhood Park
Queen Elizabeth Park	Queen Elizabeth Boulevard	Pocket Park
Echo Park	Sir Andred Lane	Neighborhood Park
Fitness Park	Round Table Boulevard	Neighborhood Park
Damsel Mckenzie Park	Lady Tessala Avenue	Pocket Park
St. Ives Park	St. Ives Lane	Pocket Park
Gildas Park	Gildas Lane	Pocket Park
Dame Ragnel Park	Dame Ragnel Drive	Pocket Park
Westminster Park	Westminster Drive	Pocket Park
Vagon Castle Park	Bans Crown Boulevard	Pocket Park
Palamedes Trail	Wiltshire Boulevard	Pocket Park/Trail
Highwood Park	Wiltshire Boulevard	Pocket Park
Kadin Park	Warwick Boulevard	Pocket Park
Vera Park	Warwick Boulevard	Pocket Park
Warwick Park	Warwick Boulevard	Pocket Park

Engelswood Park	Engelswood Trail	Pocket Park
Windsor Park	Windsor Castle Way	Neighborhood Park
Almsbury Park	Almsbury Lane	Neighborhood Park
King Lionel Park	King Lionel Lane	Neighborhood Park
Stoney Passage Park	Stoney Passage Lane	Neighborhood Park
Sir Craig Park	Windhaven Parkway	Pocket Park
Polser Park	Polser Road	Pocket Park
King Mark Park	King Mark Drive	Neighborhood Park
Olive Branch Linear Park	Olive Branch Drive	Linear Park
Sir Percival Linear Park	Sir Percival Lane	Linear Park
King Arthur Linear Park	Avalon Drive	Linear Park
Dragon Banner Linear Park	Carlisle Drive	Linear Park
Tessala Linear Park	Lady Tessala Avenue	Linear Park
Umberland Linear Park	Umberland Drive	Linear Park
Joyus Linear Park	Joyous Circle	Linear Park

Frederick P. Herring Recreation Center Name Change

Once remodelling is complete, the facility will serve as the central administrative office for the Parks and Recreation Department in addition to providing rental space for sports teams, scheduled sports tournaments and leagues, and racquetball activities. On June 8, 2022, staff presented a recommendation to the Parks Board to consider renaming the facility to Frederick P. Herring Parks and Recreation Center to better reflect the new scope of services and purpose of the facility. The Parks Board approved the recommendation unanimously.

If approved, there is funding in the project budget to update the name of the facility on the façade of the building.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the resolution as set forth in the caption above.