CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



TO: Mayor and Commissioners

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

Assistant City Manager, Eduardo Santamaria

FROM: Vice Mayor Vince Lago

DATE: June 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Miami-Dade County Park Transfer Proposal- Banyan Drive Park

It has come to my attention that Miami-Dade County's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department is interested in transferring a park named Banyan Drive Park with a lot size of 43,560 sq. feet, located within Coral Gables to the City of Coral Gables for recreational use (see Exhibit A). As a long-time advocate for increasing our green open space inventory and acquiring more land for recreational use, I would like to encourage the City to strongly consider this transfer.

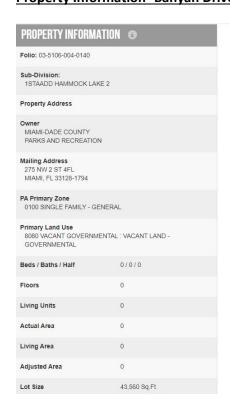
In accordance with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP), when a municipality incorporates or annexes, the County divests itself of its small neighborhood parks and transfers them to the municipality. The goal is for the municipality who is most familiar with the neighborhood, to properly manage and program the park in response to the needs of their community. Although there are a few parks in the area, none of them belong to the City of Coral Gables. The closest City-owned park is Coral Bay Park which is approximately 4 miles south of Banyan Drive Park (see Exhibit B).

There are many benefits to acquiring this park. It will increase the city's park inventory, walkability score, overall coordinated level of service and most importantly, enhance the quality of life of residents. In addition, it will also allow the City to control the future use of this parcel and incorporate programing that is reflective of Coral Gables standards.

Recently, I have been in contact with several homeowners in the Banyan Drive Park area including the Hammock Lakes-Banyan Homeowners Association to gauge their interest in this opportunity which seemed very supportive of this idea. Furthermore, I understand the City's concern with the overall maintenance and other long-term costs that may be associated with the acquisition of this park. However, it is my understanding that Hammock Lakes-Banyan HOA may be interested in becoming responsible for the regular maintenance of Banyan Drive Park which will thereby eliminate any concerns relating to maintenance costs.

To discuss and review this matter further, I will be adding it to the July 14th City Commission Meeting Agenda as a Discussion Item.

Exhibit A **Property Information- Banyan Drive Park**



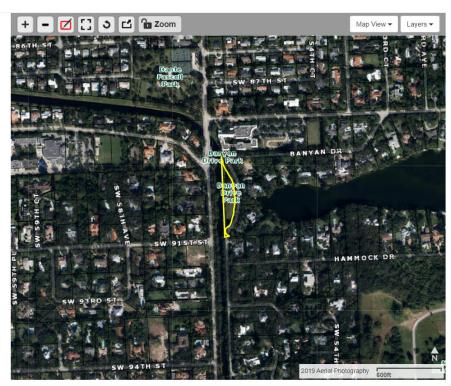
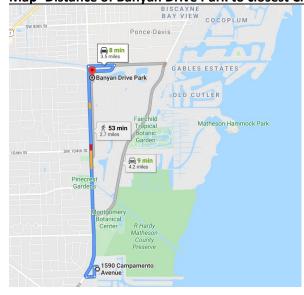


Exhibit B

Map- Distance of Banyan Drive Park to closest City-owned Park



CC: City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro
Asst. Parks and Recreation Director, Carolina Vester