

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



*The City Beautiful*

**TO:** Mayor and Commissioners  
City Manager, Peter Iglesias  
Assistant City Manager, Eduardo Santamaria

**FROM:** Vice Mayor Vince Lago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Lago", is written over the name of the Vice Mayor.

**DATE:** June 15, 2020

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

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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 programming 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 14<sup>th</sup> City Commission Meeting Agenda as a Discussion Item.



