

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 28, 2022

TO T.C. Broadnax, City Manager

SUBJECT **City-owned land inventory**

Dear Mr. Broadnax:

Growing up in West Dallas and Oak Cliff, my family relied on our city's parks, trails, playgrounds, recreation centers, and aquatics facilities to get some fresh air, to stretch our legs, and just to relax. It was in these greenspaces that I experienced nature, learned about the natural world, learned how to swim, and built lifelong connections with my community.

In recent years, Dallas has only improved its offerings and programming for families across our city. According to Trust for Public Land, over the last several years, Dallas has brought new parks and trails within a 10-minute walk of nearly 300,000 residents. In fact, Dallas has become a national leader in developing innovative urban green spaces, and other cities are now trying to imitate what we have accomplished here.

But as I mentioned in my State of the City Address, we should not rest on our laurels. Although we have made great strides toward achieving park equity for our city, more than a quarter of our residents still do not have a park or trail within a 10-minute walk of their home. And as Dallas continues to develop, prospective parkland is becoming more expensive and difficult to find.

I believe now is the time to take our efforts to the next level. Through land already owned by the City of Dallas, we have opportunities to create new green spaces and improve neighborhoods across our city.

Therefore, I am hereby requesting a complete inventory of all unused, underused, or vacant city-owned land to determine what we can transform into parks, playgrounds, sports courts, or possibly affordable housing.

This inventory should include a map and a list of the following information:

- The location of the land, including the address if applicable.
- The size of the land.
- The fair market value of the land.
- The current zoning of the land.
- The current use of the land.
- The name of the city department responsible for the land.
- The length of time the city has owned the land.
- Whether a plan exists for this land.

I encourage you to work on this inventory with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Trust for Public Land, who can help us bring a data-based approach to this effort.

This is a project worth our city's time and attention. Creating new public spaces out of land we already own can improve the health and quality of life of countless residents, children, and families across Dallas.

We must be proactive, and we must be bold. We are dreamers, not speculators. We must also be a city of doers, and not perpetual planners.

I am excited to work with you, with our City Council, and with our Park and Recreation Department to make Dallas greener and greater in the years ahead.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Johnson  
Mayor

c: Adam Bazaldua, Chairman, Quality of Life, Arts, & Culture Committee  
Arun Agarwal, Park Board President  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
John Jenkins, Director, Dallas Park & Recreation Department  
Robert Kent, Texas State Director, Trust For Public Land