

CULTURE & RECREATION

RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT

THIS SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT, is made and entered into this ____ day of October, 2022, by and among **Whitfield County, Georgia**, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the “County”), the **cities of Dalton, Varnell and Tunnel Hill** and the **Town of Cohutta**, municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Cities” and individually as a “City” or “Town.”)

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-20 et seq. mandate that Whitfield County and all municipalities located therein shall participate in the development of a **Service Delivery Strategy** through which Whitfield County and said municipalities shall create and maintain a service delivery system which is efficient, effective, and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County;

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-24(1) mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify steps which will be taken to remediate or avoid overlapping and unnecessary competition and duplication of service delivery, and that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify the time frame in which such steps shall be taken; and

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-25 mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy receive the approval of Whitfield County and the governing authorities of municipalities located within Whitfield County, as is more particularly described in that Code Section;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, being duly authorized to act on behalf of the above-named parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, agree as follows concerning Recreation Service within Whitfield County:

WITNESSETH

1. Description of Current Service Delivery Arrangements.

Whitfield County, the City of Dalton, the City of Tunnel Hill, the Town of Cohutta, and the City of Varnell strive to achieve a high level of cooperation and coordination in their provision of recreational facilities and/or programs to the residents of Whitfield County. All five local governments share the primary objective to efficiently provide the widest variety of recreational opportunities to any resident of Whitfield County who wishes to take advantage of those opportunities regardless of actual residency location within Whitfield County.

While each of the five governments of and within Whitfield County may provide some similar recreational facilities and/or programs, this service delivery strategy does not involve any duplication of facilities and/or programs when considered in the context of the primary objective expressed above inasmuch as any overlap results in higher levels of service to the public. The local governments in Whitfield County which provide recreational facilities have located those facilities within distinct areas with non-overlapping boundaries. To the extent that these local governments fund the construction and/or maintenance of such facilities outside of these boundaries, such funding constitutes a part of a joint venture with the other local government(s) of Whitfield County to provide a unique facility. One such facility is the Miracle Field and park area designed for athletic events for special needs children and youth. Another is the City of Dalton's Knob North public golf course attracting players from throughout the region.

The City of Dalton provides leisure services to their residents through recreational facilities, hiking trails, neighborhood pocket parks and unique programs including the Haig Mill lake recreation area managed by the Dalton Parks and Recreation Department. In addition the Dalton Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse youth sports opportunities, adult athletics, a variety of instructional classes, swimming instruction, days camps, therapeutic programs for persons with learning and physical challenges, and four (4) community events per year. The Dalton Parks and Recreation Department holds its events open to all residents of Whitfield County. This is not duplicative because doing so provides a wider range of recreation options to all residents of Whitfield County and reduces the burden for providing recreation facilities and programs on all other jurisdictions.

The Dalton Parks and Recreation Department exists under the jurisdiction and oversight of the Mayor and Council. Additional oversight and policy setting is provided through the Dalton Parks and Recreation Commission Board of five (5) members that reside within the City of Dalton and whom the Mayor and Council of the City of Dalton appoint.

Whitfield County provides recreational facilities and programs through the Whitfield County Recreation Department, which exists under the jurisdiction and oversight of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners. The Whitfield County Recreation Department conducts the daily maintenance and operations of recreational facilities and programs which Whitfield County provides.

The Whitfield County Recreational Department (hereinafter referenced as "WCRD") provides recreational facilities in the ten (10) Whitfield County Elementary School Districts, all of which are located outside of the corporate limits of the City of Dalton, and which include the City of Tunnel Hill, the Town of Cohutta, and the City of Varnell. In close cooperation with the Whitfield County School Board, WCRD has located many recreational facilities on campuses of Whitfield County schools, to aid in the efforts to provide accessible leisure opportunities and recreation facilities for students and residents.

In addition to the parks and athletic facilities which WCRD maintains throughout the county, WCRD directs the administration and operations of their youth and adult athletic programs for county residents.

2. Future Service Delivery Strategy.

The parties hereto agree that the current service delivery arrangements described above are efficient, effective, and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County. Therefore, the parties hereto agree that no need exists to change said service delivery arrangements.

Further, the parties hereto agree that no duplication exists in the delivery of recreational facilities and programs to Whitfield County's residents, as each local government within Whitfield County provides facilities and programs within distinct, nonoverlapping boundaries, while coordinating with other local governments to supplement and augment recreational facilities and programs outside of those boundaries.

The parties hereto agree that should any party undertake any action which may result in overlapping, competition, or duplication in the current service delivery arrangements or in the future service delivery strategy described in this Service Delivery Agreement, that party shall notify the other parties to this Agreement, so as to facilitate continued compliance with the requirements of Georgia law as referenced above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has executed this Service Delivery Agreement on behalf of the respective party set forth below, pursuant to the authority granted to each of the undersigned in the resolution by which each party approved and adopted this Service Delivery Agreement.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Whitfield County, Georgia

By: _____

Jevin S. Jensen, Chairman

City of Dalton, Georgia

By: _____

David Pennington, Mayor

City of Tunnel Hill, Georgia

By: _____

Ken Gowin, Mayor

City of Varnell, Georgia

By: _____

Tom Dickson, Mayor

Town of Cohutta

By: _____

Ron Shinnick, Mayor