



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 02/06/2025

**REQUESTER:** Bethany Grissom, Park Planner

**PRESENTER:** Bethany Grissom, Park Planner

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE SITE DESIGN FOR LINKS PARK

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In October 2015, Norman residents passed the Norman Forward Initiative, which funds various projects through a ½ % sales tax increase over 15 years. The Norman Forward Initiative includes a project to construct new neighborhood parks. One of the new neighborhood parks designated in that initiative is Links Park. The overall NORMAN FORWARD Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan was presented to the Board of Park Commissioners in March 2017 and then to the City Council in May 2017 for approval.

### **DISCUSSION:**

In September 2024, surveys were sent out to all residents of the Links Apartment Complex. Residents were given 30 days to complete the survey and return it to the Parks and Recreation Department. Surveys were used to rank the desirability of 11 different park amenities. Park Development staff then spent two months designing a site plan that incorporated as many of the top-ranking amenities as possible based on the size of the site (approximately 3.6 acres) and overall budget. This neighborhood park will primarily serve the residents of the Links Apartment Complex. No other residential developments are planned or anticipated within the foreseeable future. Funding for the construction of this park will come from sales tax collected through the Norman Forward Initiative and Park Development fees collected through the issuance of building permits for the Links Apartment Complex. Upon approval of a site design, this project will undergo a bidding process(es), and construction will begin within 10 days of awarded bids. The project is expected to be completed before the end of 2025. This park will also undergo a renaming process led by a committee of Park Board Commissioners, which will occur at a future date.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff suggests that the Park Board of Commissioners recommend the Director of Parks and Recreation approve the site design for a new neighborhood park near the Links Apartment complex.