



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/06/2025

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

PRESENTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A NAME FOR TWO NEW PARKS IN NORMAN.

BACKGROUND:

The Norman Board of Park Commissioners has several subcommittees appointed from its membership, including a Naming Committee, which is convened to help choose a name for a park or a facility. Often, park names are selected to be the same name as the neighborhood wherein the park exists. However, we have considered other names in cases where several neighborhoods have contributed to the parkland or when there is a request to name a park something different than the closest neighborhood. Our most recent park addition was named "Bentley Park" in honor of the former Parks and Recreation Director after his recent passing. Two new parks are being planned for the coming year, and staff would like to get a recommendation from the Naming Committee for these two locations as we proceed.

DISCUSSION:

Several years ago, a land decision was made to develop the South Norman apartment community called "The Links." This large residential property includes a golf course ("The Links at Norman") for its residents, and it generated a public parkland dedication of nearly 4 acres. The parkland has been undeveloped for several years, but it was identified as one of the new neighborhood park sites to be built as part of the Norman Forward program. We have now surveyed the residents in the area and created a park design, which was approved at a previous Park Board meeting. Now that we are starting construction, we want to make a name for the park. This will help avoid confusion associated with the sizeable recreational amenity provided by "The Links" golf course adjacent to the site.

Also, the City of Norman recently acquired property at the corner of Alameda Street and Carter Avenue, just east of Porter Avenue, from an individual who held the land for years but had asked for help in cleaning up the property, which had become a large homeless encampment and garbage dump. The City eventually acquired the property, as it would provide an opportunity to do a significant amount of stormwater control on the Bishop Creek watershed. A Landscape Architecture and Engineering team has designed the site to fulfill the water retention functions desired by the Public Works Department and provide a park setting for those areas not being re-designed for stormwater control. The Park Board has also reviewed this project, which is being bid for construction this year.

Before this night's meeting, the Naming Sub-Committee met to consider a name for both parks based on a list of possible names presented by Parks and Recreation Staff and those on the Sub-Committee. After discussion, a name for each park was decided upon for recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

City Staff recommends that the Norman Board of Park Commissioners accept the name being presented for the park adjacent to The Links golf course and apartment community.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

City Staff recommends that the Norman Board of Park Commissioners accept the name being presented for the park at the intersection of Alameda Street and Carter Avenue.