



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/24/2026

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RFP-2526-17 AND CONTRACT K-2526-149: A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND HAPPY PLAYGROUNDS, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$230,000.00, MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2526-50, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2526-68; AND STATUTORY BOND B-2526-69 FOR THE NORTHEAST LIONS PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT, AND RESOLUTION R-2526-107, GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS. (Ward 6)

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, Norman voters approved funding for the Norman Forward program of capital projects focused on quality-of-life improvements. One of the program's projects was to renovate our existing neighborhood parks at varying levels of detail (trails, playgrounds, sports courts, tree planting, etc.), as evaluated by staff. Another project was focused on funding the construction of five new neighborhood parks, based on survey responses from the residents around these park sites.

Since the program started, we have completed renovations in several parks (Oakhurst, Rotary, Prairie Creek, and Sonoma Park, among others) and have completed several small projects to improve park furnishings, signage, trails, and other amenities in many parks. Not all parks were budgeted for playground replacements in the original Norman Forward program that was presented to voters. However, in the ten (10) years since the program started, all our parks have aged to the point that any future funding requests will include replacing the remaining playgrounds in town in a "worst-to-best" order, as is being done with the current project for renovations.

DISCUSSION:

On November 21 and 28, 2025, RFP Number 2526-17 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project was advertised in the Norman Transcript, Construct Connect, e-Plan, and other plan distribution services; and was advertised on the City's website. We received over a dozen proposals for the project on December 18, 2025. Bidders were instructed to use all available funds in their proposal, and to include synthetic turf safety surfacing and a shade structure over a large portion of the new equipment. No Add-Alternate items were considered in the process.

We evaluated each proposal to ensure it met the criteria in the RFP, and to determine which would best fit the park site and neighborhood being served by the park.

At Northeast Lions Park, the new equipment will be located in the newly incorporated part of that park that used to be called "High Meadows Park", before the conjoining of those two parks with the land the City gained from Norman Public Schools east of Eisenhower Elementary last year to make one large park property (now collectively called Northeast Lions Park). This is being done to help address the main problem with the old Northeast Lions Park play equipment: it was the most vandalized and damaged playground in the park system, and it was isolated entirely from view at night by the pond in Northeast Lions, behind a large group of trees with no lights. By the time the replacement project was bid on in late 2025, the playground was missing many parts (slides, tunnels, spring riders, etc.) that had been damaged and were no longer available for purchase as replacements.

Staff recommend awarding Contract Number K-2526-149 to Happy Playgrounds, LLC, in the total amount of \$230,000.00 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: It is recommended that RFP Number 2526-17 be awarded to Happy Playgrounds, LLC, in the amount of \$230,000.00 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project. The funding is available for this project in the Norman Forward Neighborhood Park Improvements Construction Account (account 519830452-46101; project NFP101--\$1,171,030).

RECOMMENDATION NO.2:

It is further recommended that City Council approve Contract K-2526-149, Performance Bond B-2526-68, Statutory Bond B-2526-69, and Maintenance Bond MB-2526-50 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project.

RECOMMENDATION NO.3:

It is further recommended that Happy Playgrounds, LLC, be authorized and appointed as project agent for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project by Resolution R-2526-107.