



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 2/5/2026

**REQUESTER:** Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

**PRESENTER:** Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA MONARCH SOCIETY'S PATHWAYS FOR POLLINATORS AND PEOPLE PROJECT

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Norman has been selected as a municipal partner in the Oklahoma Monarch Society's Pathways for Pollinators & People Project. This initiative and statewide program is focused on expanding native pollinator habitat while engaging communities through education and public art.

Through this partnership, the City will receive up to \$11,000 in funding, materials, and technical assistance to support the installation of new pollinator habitat on City property. Project elements include native plant installations, educational signage, community outreach activities, and an eight-foot monarch-themed mural by Oklahoma artist Rick Sinnett. The initiative is supported by the Oklahoma Monarch Society and its public education program, Okies for Monarchs, with funding provided by the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

The project aligns with the City's ongoing efforts to support pollinator conservation, environmental resilience, and nature-based solutions across City spaces.

### **DISCUSSION:**

As part of the agreement, the City of Norman will prepare the site at the front entrance to City Hall for pollinator habitat installation, coordinate the installation of pollinator-friendly native plants that provide blooms throughout the growing season, and provide long-term maintenance of the habitat, mural, and signage for a minimum of five years. Habitat design and implementation will be coordinated with Parks staff and project partners to ensure coordination with operations and maintenance practices.

The monarch-themed mural will be installed on the southeast wall of the Development Center near the Gray Street entrance to City Hall. This location was selected for its visibility, suitable wall conditions, and proximity to the habitat area, reinforcing the connection between public art, education, and environmental stewardship.

The Environmental Control Advisory Board (ECAB) has reviewed the project and recommended that it be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. Consistent with that recommendation, staff is bringing the project forward to the Board of Park Commissioners for awareness and input, recognizing its unique role as one of the new hybrid Parks/Utilities special-use environmental infrastructure spaces with defined maintenance and operational practices. These types of environmental infrastructure spaces are intended to be governed by Parks policies that explicitly codify their unique maintenance and operational requirements, ensuring long-term functionality while avoiding application of traditional park maintenance standards.

Project planning is now being finalized, with habitat and mural installation anticipated in spring and required project completion by October 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Park Commissioners recommend forwarding the Oklahoma Monarch Society's Pathways for Pollinators & People project to the City Council for consideration and approval.