



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 6/23/2026

REQUESTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT K-2526-149: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND HAPPY PLAYGROUNDS, L.L.C., FOR THE NORTHEAST LIONS PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND FINAL PAYMENT OF \$230,000. (WARD 6)

BACKGROUND:

On February 24, 2026, the City Council approved RFP 2526-17 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project. This project was funded through the NORMAN FORWARD Neighborhood Park Improvements Program. The project scope included a proposal to provide and install a new playground in the area that used to be named “High Meadows Park” prior to it being consolidated into one contiguous piece of park property made up of the original Northeast Lions Park, the old High Meadows Park and a piece of land that was owned by Norman Public Schools east of Eisenhower Elementary that used to separate the two city parks before the city acquired it in a land swap in 2025. The old playground at Northeast Lions Park, built decades ago behind a large group of trees by the park pond, is difficult to monitor, leading to frequent vandalism and damage. The new playground is much more visible, as it is in an area visible from High Meadows Avenue and the houses and other park and elementary school users in the area each day.

All bidders were asked to maximize the stated budget, provide shade over much of the new equipment, and install a synthetic turf impact-attenuating surface, as is done on all of our new neighborhood playgrounds. Other work in the park, including adding new park furnishings and concrete access walks to the new playground location, would be done by others. After reviewing proposals submitted by five vendors that complied with the RFP requirements, it was decided to award the project to Happy Playgrounds for \$230,000.

DISCUSSION:

City Council approved Contract K-2526-149 for the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project to Happy Playgrounds, L.L.C., for \$230,000; and work began on-site, once the new equipment was shipped in March 2026. Work proceeded throughout the spring, as weather allowed. No partial pay requests were submitted during this period. A single lump-sum payment will cover all costs upon completion.

On May 20, 2026, the City of Norman Parks staff inspected the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project and found it complete per specifications. Other contractors are doing concrete work, site grading, park furniture improvements, and final sod work at the park site.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council accept the Northeast Lions Park Playground Project as complete and authorize the final \$230,000 payment to Happy Playgrounds, L.L.C. Funding is available for this project in the NORMAN FORWARD Neighborhood Park Improvements Project (Account 51798830-46101; Project NFP101).