CITY OF NORMAN, OK

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/05/2026

REQUESTER: Karla Sitton, Administrative Tech IV

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE NORMAN FORWARD MASTER PLAN UPDATES

DISCUSSION:

On October 13, 2015, Norman residents passed the Norman Forward initiative, which encompasses various quality-of-life projects, with a 1/2% sales tax collected over 15 years.

Norman Forward is a citizen-initiated proposal to renovate, expand, construct, and fund quality-of-life projects, such as multiple recreational facilities, libraries, parks, athletic venues, public art, trails, swim complexes, and other quality-of-life projects throughout Norman. The initiative came to the City Council from community groups, stakeholders, and Norman residents, who prepared an initial package using analysis and information from recreational planning professionals and research firms. Citizens passed the initiative at the polls in October 2015.

There have been numerous improvements to existing parks and facilities, including Griffin Park and Reaves Park, as well as the construction of new parks and facilities such as Ruby Grant Park, the Young Family Athletic Center, and the Adult Wellness and Education Center. The Norman Forward initiative has also made it possible to upgrade and/or replace playground equipment, picnic shelters, sidewalks, and other amenities in many of Norman's neighborhood parks. Remaining Norman Forward Projects include Saxon Park, Canadian River Park, Trail Development, and Neighborhood Park Development.

At the April 2, 2026, Park Board meeting, Staff presented an update on the financial status of the Norman Forward program, which could result in $11 million in excess funds. Staff also gave an update to Council at a Council Study Session, at which time Council directed Staff to allocate funds for design and, eventually, construction as they become available for Andrews Park, Reaves Park Kids Space, Griffin Park playground and restroom building, and the Adult Wellness & Education Center (AWE) multi-sports gym space.

Staff would like to share the proposed updated master plans for Reaves, Griffin, Ruby Grant, the future Multi-Sports Park, YFAC, and AWE to gather input from the Park Board.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF Reaves Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION 2: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF Griffin Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION 3: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF Ruby Grant Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION 4: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF Multi-Sports Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION 5: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF YFAC Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION 6: Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the updated NF AWE Master Plan