



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 04/22/2025

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

PRESENTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF EASEMENT E-2425-18: A PERMANENT EASEMENT GRANTED BY THE CITY OF NORMAN TO WILDWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC. ON AND THROUGH A SECTION OF THE HALL PARK GREENBELT FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

Wildwood Community Church approached the Parks and Recreation Department with a request to construct an access bridge and accompanying sidewalks across Parkland, known as the Hall Park Greenbelt, to access the church from a southern parking lot they are in the process of constructing. Wildwood has done a similar project in the past, on/around 2009, for their north side parking lot.

Wildwood presented this project to the Board of Parks Commissioners in December 2024 and received approval for such project. An easement is needed to protect both the City and Wildwood during the construction and ongoing maintenance and use of the bridges and accompanying sidewalks.

DISCUSSION:

No easement was executed for the bridge that was previously constructed and currently exists on the north side of the property to connect the north side parking lot. Therefore, this easement covers both the north side bridge as well as the to be constructed bridge structure to the south.

The easement and covenant permits Wildwood to construct the bridge and accompanying sidewalks for the southern bridge project, as described in the legal description, and keep the bridge to the north. This permission includes the potential needed removal of trees and shrubs in the area that interfere with the construction or may harm the safety for the bridge structures thereafter, subject to the reasonable written approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

In exchange, Wildwood agrees to assume sole responsibility for the construction, maintenance, operation, use, and safety conditions of both bridges and accompanying sidewalks and for any

damage to the premises during construction, with the requirement to restore it to the condition prior upon completion of the work. Wildwood also agrees to indemnify the City for any and all liabilities resulting from the construction, operation, maintenance, and use of both bridges and accompanying sidewalks.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of Permanent Easement E-2425-18 granted to Wildwood Community Church, Inc. on and through a section of the Hall Park Greenbelt.