



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2025

REQUESTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE WESTWOOD PARK GOLF AND TENNIS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PROJECT.

BACKGROUND:

The 2023-24 Capital Improvement Plan included the Room Tax Fund funding a project to hire a design consultant to create a Master Plan for Westwood Park Golf and Tennis Facilities at 24th Avenue and West Robinson Street. This is a 137-acre special-use park home to an 18-hole golf course, a United States Tennis Association (USTA)-Accredited Tennis facility, and our Westwood Family Aquatics Center (WFAC). Westwood has served the community for over 60 years and is one of Norman's most visited parks, especially in summer.

The Aquatics Center Reconstruction project was one of the first things completed as part of the Norman Forward Quality of Life Initiative passed by voters in 2015. It has been successful since its opening day and set the standard for the other extensive park system improvements that have been repeated with the projects at Griffin Soccer Complex, Reaves Baseball/Softball, and the Andrews Park Skatepark, among others. The Parks Department also completed the construction of a two-court indoor tennis facility at Westwood, which has greatly increased the number of plays in the hot summer months.

Recently, Norman cut the ribbon on the Adult Wellness and Education Center and the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC), which have also helped mark the beginning of a new level of service offered by the City of Norman through the Parks Department. To prepare for any future package of additional Quality of Life projects, we need to create master plans for those facilities that need improvement. At Westwood, the golf pro shop, grill building, and the golf maintenance facilities at the park entry have operated since the 1960's. They have had minor upgrades over the decades but are now reaching the end of their functional life versus constant maintenance costs.

Similarly, the tennis pro shop was built in phases but is nowhere near large enough to meet the needs of the growing number of paddle sport players, especially with the increasing popularity of pickleball and the continued growth of tennis programs. The tennis shop needs additional restroom facilities and would greatly benefit from adding lockers and showers. The parking lot

could also benefit from a redesign, similar to the Aquatics Center parking lot improvements as part of the Norman Forward project. After decades of use for daily activity, which can be hundreds of people and vehicles per day, the Staff has determined that it is time to plan for the next 60 years at Westwood Golf and Tennis—starting with this design phase.

DISCUSSION:

In February 2024, Parks staff advertised a Request for Proposal RFP-2324-44 for Professional Design Services for the Westwood Park Golf & Tennis Facilities (WWPGT) Master Plan. The Review Committee selected the services of the team led by GSB, Inc., from Oklahoma City for this project. The GSB team is comprised of GSB, Inc. (Architects), along with Wallace Design Collective (Engineers and Landscape Architects), Tom Hoch Designs (Clubhouse and Sports Pro Shop Design Specialists), Craig + Coyne Designs (Golf Course Designers), and White & Associates (Cost Estimators).

On May 28, 2024, the City Council appropriated funds for \$29,240 from the Community Park Development Fund Balance into the Westwood Park Master Plan Project and approved Contract K-2324-184 to GSB, Inc., in the total amount of \$54,240 for the WWPGT Master Plan project. Staff selected local citizens and/or professionals to give input and assist with the design of the WWPGT Master Plan.

The process used to develop the master plan included utilizing a project steering committee, a public input process, Parks and Recreation Staff, and a review by the Norman Board of Park Commissioners. The Board of Park Commissioners approved the WWPGT Master Plan at the June 5, 2025, Park Board meeting.

City Council's Business and Community Affairs Committee (BACA) discussed the proposed WWPGT Master Plan at its September 4, 2025, meeting. Specifically, use LED lighting to reduce light pollution, set reasonable hours, & install guardrails at the driving range; support for on-street parking along Fairway Drive versus constructing additional parking lots elsewhere in the park; reposition the 12 outdoor tennis courts from south to north starting at the aquatics center and add raised sidewalks to maintain pedestrian circulation in the center and vehicle traffic along the perimeter; Merkle Creek, the golf course ponds for irrigation remains a priority, emphasizing returning waterways to a natural state; support for a traffic study for new entry and entrances along Robinson to include the idea of a south exit from Westwood at Tee Circle; and a commitment to not connect to Fairway Drive as a southbound exit from Westwood Park.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Westwood Park Golf & Tennis Facilities Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

It is further recommended that the City Council amend the 2025 AIM Norman Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan to include the Westwood Park Golf & Tennis Facilities Master Plan as adopted.