



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/01/2025

REQUESTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

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

BACKGROUND:

The 2023-24 Capital Improvement Plan included funding from the Room Tax Fund for a project to hire a design consultant to create a Master Plan for Westwood Park Golf and Tennis Facilities at 24th & west Robinson Street. This is a 137 acre special use park that is home to our 18-hole golf course, a United States Tennis Association (USTA)-Accredited Tennis facility and our Westwood Family Aquatics Center. Westwood has served the community for over 60 years and is one of our most visited parks, especially in the summer months. 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 large park system improvements that has been repeated with the projects at Griffin Soccer Complex, Reaves Baseball/Softball and the Andrews Park Skatepark, among others. We also completed construction of a two-court indoor tennis facility at Westwood, which has greatly increased the play in inclement weather. Recently, we have 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. In order to prepare for any future package of additional Quality of Life projects, we need to create good master plans for those facilities that need improvement. At Westwood, the golf pro shop and grill building and the golf maintenance facilities located at the park entry have been in operation 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 along with continued growth of tennis programs. The tennis shop needs additional restroom facilities and would benefit greatly from adding lockers and showers to their space. The parking lot could also benefit from a re-design, similar to the improvements made to the Aquatics Center parking improvements done as part of that Norman Forward project. After decades of use for daily activity that can be hundreds of people and vehicles per day, 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, Staff advertised a Request for Proposal RFP-2324-44 for Professional Design Services for the Westwood Park Golf & Tennis Facilities Master Plan (WWPGT). 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).

In May 28, 2024, the City Council appropriated funds in the amount of \$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 Westwood Park Golf and Tennis Facilities Master Plan Project (WWPGT) Master Plan. 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 review of the Norman Board of Park Commissioners. If the Norman Board of Park Commissioners recommend moving the master plan forward, Council will consider approval and adoption at the June 24, 2025 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Park Commissioners approve and recommend the Westwood Park Golf & Tennis Facilities Master Plan to City Council for their consideration of adoption.