

CITY OF NORMAN

Welcome



2023 Annual Report

WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

OUR MISSION

Working Together to Deliver Exceptional Service.

TO FULFILL OUR MISSION, THE CITY OF NORMAN

EMPLOYEES PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO THESE VALUES:

Teamwork

We value each other's contribution and encourage teamwork.

Caring

We value service to others in a caring manner. We listen with a willingness to understand the needs of others. We respond in a friendly, helpful way.

Accountability

We are responsible for our work and our actions.

Service

We are committed to providing exceptional service in a courteous, dependable and efficient manner.

Respect

We respect our differences and treat each other with understanding and dignity.

Fairness

We seek to understand the needs of others. We strive for equity in the delivery of services and in the treatment of individuals.

Professionalism

We value a knowledgeable, capable and effective organization.

Responsiveness

We value a timely response to both customer and employee.

From the Desk of the City Manager



Darrel Pyle, Norman City Manager

It is again time to share with our Community the City of Norman Annual Report. This report is prepared for and provided to the people of Norman and their elected representatives, the Norman City Council. The goal is to share information regarding city programs, accomplishments, opportunities and challenges.

When the City of Norman was incorporated in 1891, it would have been difficult to imagine we would become the third largest city in the state, and continue to grow at the second fastest pace. We recognize

this achievement to be possible through the continued focus of our elected officials on the quality of life. This vision of an unparalleled lifestyle is shared by our Community as we continue to receive support on investments in public infrastructure.

That infrastructure focus includes voter approval of the local sales tax measures known as Norman Forward and Public Safety Sales Tax II, or PSSTII. Voters also approved General Obligation bonds for the largest school bond in Norman's history and the first Bridge Bond to receive that support. The Norman Forward investments continue with recent celebratory ribbon-cuttings at the Adult Wellness & Education Center and the Young Family Athletic Center. Both facilities were scoped and followed by the Citizen's Advisory Committees assembled for each project. The volunteers who served in that capacity contributed heavily to the final project success enjoyed by the entire Community.

Public Safety Sales Tax revenue set the initial capital investment in the new Emergency Communications and Operations Center (ECOC) now under construction. This new facility is designed to meet "essential service standards," being hardened to withstand the most damaging weather Oklahoma sends our way.

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Continue City Manager

The new ECOC will house the Norman Emergency Communications Division, responsible for dispatching first responders through the 911 system. There is capacity in the facility for 16 dispatch work centers, replacing the current capacity of five located in the basement of the Norman Police Department. This will provide capacity for generations to come and we are looking forward to an official ribbon-cutting in Summer 2024.

In 2023, the Norman City Council recognized the need for a focused funding source to address the maintenance needs of bridge infrastructure. With over 80 bridges and culvert crossings requiring inspection and maintenance, the need far exceeds the capacity in the street maintenance program. Recognizing that there are no state or federal bridge maintenance grants available, the City Council authorized a ballot question to be considered by Norman voters. After engaging the voters in an information gathering process, it was determined that Norman residents also recognized the scope of the need, and supported a \$50 million bridge bond question. This is the first of its kind in Norman, and possibly the State of Oklahoma!

We recognize that a community can only achieve the highest quality of life if that lifestyle is supported by its education and healthcare systems. To meet that challenge, Norman Public Schools (NPS) secured

voter approval for the largest bond question ever considered. NPS is in the early stages of scoping this \$350+ million bond, which includes the development of the new Oklahoma Aviation Academy at the University of Oklahoma's Max Westheimer Airport. This concept school will allow students with a passion for the aerospace industry to graduate high school with certification making them eligible to enter the workforce, fill jobs in high demand and avoid the cost of higher education if desired. Additional investments in new classroom capacity, student security, and athletic opportunity are all part of this exciting program.

The University of Oklahoma continues to set records for student enrollment. To keep pace, 2023 saw the demolition of one of the three student housing towers to make way for a new, more modern student housing project now under construction. We also witnessed the new Patty Gasso Love's Softball Stadium come out of the ground. This new state of the art softball facility will be a focal point as the City of Norman advances the Jenkins Avenue widening project. This project will not only take Jenkins to a full 4 lanes from State Highway 9 to the Gaylord Family Football Stadium, but will also include the realignment of Constitution and Imhoff Streets to meet on Jenkins in a new roundabout! A public art piece is anticipated to take center stage in that roundabout.

This past year, we also saw major advancements in the expansion of the Norman HealthPlex located at Interstate 35 and Tecumseh. This expansion will ensure Norman Regional Healthcare is able to meet the needs of our growing community for many years to come. Last year's opening of the new Emergency Department on State Highway 9, known as "Norman 9," is in full operation and reducing critical drive times for the population of East Norman.

The Norman City Council has recently approved platting for over 1,000 home sites in Norman. We are hopeful the home builders in Norman can keep pace with the demand we see ahead. All of these activities highlight the progress being made in establishing the quality of life we all seek. As a local government professional with 35 years in the industry, I have never felt more blessed to live and work in a Community with such a warm presence and bright future. That future can be achieved with the continued focus of our City Council, support from residents, and dedication of our incredible workforce.

Respectfully,



Darrel L. Pyle, City Manager

City of Norman Executive Staff



Pictured, Back Row, from left: Chris Mattingly, Utilities Director; Kevin Foster, Police Chief; Travis King, Fire Chief; Jane Hudson, Planning Director; Tim Powers, Information Technology Director; Jason Olsen, Parks & Recreation Director; Anthony Francisco, Finance Director. Front Row, from left: Tiffany Vrska, Chief Communications Officer; Kathryn Walker, City Attorney; Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Dawn James, Human Resources Director; Ronda Guerrero, Municipal Court Administrator.



The City of Norman was again recognized as a Certified Healthy Community and a Certified Healthy Business in 2023. Community partners from the Cleveland County Health Department presented the award to municipal staff. Pictured, from left: Samuel Shattuck, Norman Police Officer; Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager; Tiffany Vrska, Chief Communications Officer; Micah Caruso, Health Educator of the Cleveland County Health Department; and Master Police Officer Jamie Crowe.

The Certified Healthy Oklahoma Program is a free, voluntary statewide certification to highlight entities that are committed to supporting healthy choices through environmental and policy change. These entities work to improve the health of Oklahomans by implementing elements, policies, and programs that help Oklahomans eat better, move more, and be tobacco free.

Norman City Council



Pictured, from left, back row: Stephen Tyler Holman, Ward 7; Michael Nash, Ward 5; Elizabeth Foreman, Ward 6; Matt Peacock, Ward 8; and Austin Ball, Ward 1.

Pictured, from left, front row: Lauren Schueler, Ward 2; Mayor Larry Heikkila, Helen Grant, Ward 4; and Bree Montoya, Ward 3.

The City of Norman was incorporated May 13, 1891. The City Charter was adopted on June 28, 1919. This document has been the guiding force in how the city government operates, who makes up the city government, and what the City of Norman does as an organization. The City Charter identifies the roles of the Mayor and City Council Members, and identifies the City Manager as the administrative head of the city government. The City of Norman operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council is the policy making body of city government. The City Council appoints the City Manager who directs Norman's day-to-day activities. The council members are elected for two year terms and represent eight wards within Norman. Elections are staggered by odd/even ward numbers and held each year in February. The Mayor is elected at-large by the entire community and serves a three year term. Newly elected officials of the City of Norman are sworn in annually in July. The City of Norman is comprised of multiple departments and approximately 850 employees that perform unique functions within the city government.

The Communications Division



The Communications Division serves with a mission to encourage transparency and enhance public trust through consistent, timely communication with City of Norman residents, businesses and stakeholders. The Division ensures the dissemination of accurate and quality information from the Office of the City Manager and manages primary social media platforms, creates web content, maintains vital relationships with community partners and communicates with the Press on behalf of the City of Norman. Additionally, the division oversees large-scale public information campaigns, digital accessibility of public meetings and various educational initiatives.



Utilities Director Chris Mattingly, left, and Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Vrska attend a Resource Fair in May 2023 at a local recreation center to share information about the water rate election and help register Normanites to vote.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 INCLUDE:

PROGRAMMING & INITIATIVES

- ~ Management, by way of communication and branding, for two voter-approved municipal propositions and the 2045 Norman Comprehensive Plan
- ~ Water Rate Increase, June 2023 - 56.33% approval
- ~ Bridge Maintenance Bond Program, October 2023 - 57.61% approval
- ~ AIM (Area & Infrastructure Master Plan) Norman - Fall 2023 Rollout
- ~ Launch of the #WaterWednesdays digital media educational campaign in collaboration with the Department of Utilities
- ~ Expansion of “Service Spotlight” digital series, to include City of Norman facilities
- ~ Coordination and graduation of second City of Norman Citizen’s Academy, Fall 2023

ANALYTICS & INSIGHTS

- ~ Consistent audience and subscription growth of communication platforms.
- ~ 57% subscription increase - City Manager Weekly Reports
- ~ 13.7% subscription increase - Norman E-News
- ~ 19% follower increase - City of Norman Instagram
- ~ 11% follower increase - City of Norman Facebook
- ~ 4.5% follower increase - City of Norman X
- ~ 4.3% subscriber increase - City of Norman YouTube



Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Vrska, left, and Recreation Manager Veronica Tracy, right, were honored in January 2023 as Norman NEXT “Under 40” award winners – a program recognizing professionals under 40 striving to make a difference in Norman.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- ~ Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Vrska again led the City's United Way campaign alongside Recreation Manager Veronica Tracy and the organization raised more than \$48,000, landing in the Top 5 of Organizational Donors within the community for the second consecutive year.
- ~ Chief Communications Officer led media relations and communications training for businesses and partner agencies by presentation at the 2023 Oklahoma Indian Nations SWANA Conference in March.
- ~ The City of Norman led significant crisis communication operations in partnership with applicable agencies for two major events: A tornado experienced in Norman in February 2023; the discovery and ongoing remediation of mold at Norman Public Library Central in November 2023.



City of Norman staff members that comprised the 2023 United Way Employee Committee were honored by proclamation at a City Council meeting in November. Pictured, from left: Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Vrska, Mayor Larry Heikkila, Lt. Derrick Hopkins, Planning Administrative Technician Whitney Kline; Public Works Management Analyst Amy Shepard; Utilities Administrative Technician Melissa Godwin.



Media relations and communications guidance was given by way of presentation by Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Vrska at the 2023 SWANA Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Pictured, from left: Brett Scovill, Solid Waste Manager; Vrska; Terry Richmond, Utilities Supervisor; Faith Haynes, Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator; Michele Loudonback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager.

Municipal Court



also accommodating a broader range of legal activities or events. The new building reflects a renewed dedication to upholding the highest standards of fairness, transparency and efficiency in our judicial processes.

Municipal Court employees pose for a photo at their new facility. Pictured: from left, front row: Maggie Griffith, Deputy Court Clerk 2; Cindy Robins, Deputy Court Administrator; Ronda Guerrero, Court Administrator; Sheila Wiard, Administrative Tech III; and Kim Whitson, Deputy Court Clerk 2. Back row, from left: Tami Jones, Deputy Court Clerk; Charity Johnson, Deputy Court Clerk; LouAnn Jelosek, Administrative Tech IV. Not pictured: Chuck Daily, Municipal Court Officer; Beth Pickett, Deputy Court Clerk; and Kim Ridner, Deputy Court Clerk.



MOCK JURY TRIALS

Doors are opened for educators and the Oklahoma Bar Association to use City of Norman courtrooms to teach trial techniques or host their mock trial competitions each year. This allows students to simulate a trial in a courtroom setting to learn about the legal system and develop their advocacy skills. Mock trial competitions are a popular educational activity for students interested in law or debate. It exposes the students to the realism of the judicial process and the consequences of illegal behavior. The students deliberate and determine whether the defendant should be found innocent or guilty and then discuss the rationale behind their decisions.

The knowledge gained through this experience should serve to foster more respect and a better understanding of the judicial and legal systems, city government, law enforcement, public service,

responsibilities of citizenship and develop a more constructive attitude towards authority.

NEW MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING

The successful relocation of the new court building at the end of 2023 represents a significant milestone for the City of Norman. The new facility embodies a commitment to providing a modern, efficient, and accessible environment for the administration of justice and community engagement.

The new building is equipped with modern courtrooms, updated technology, and improved amenities to better serve the needs of staff, legal professionals and the community. The new building offers increased space for operations, allowing for improved workflow and better accommodation of any future needs. The enhancements enable staff members to conduct proceedings with increased efficiency and effectiveness, while



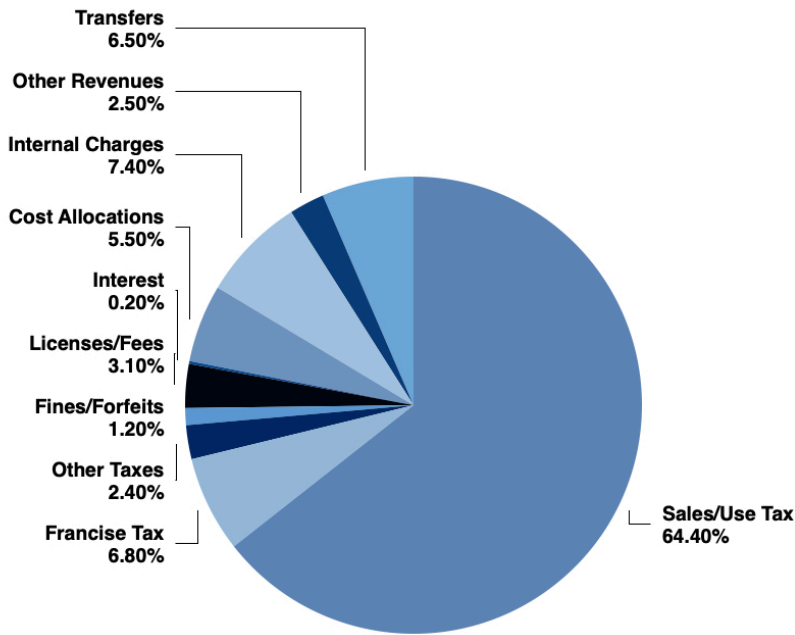
Finance Department

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS TO PLAN, RECEIVE, MONITOR, SAFEGUARD, INVEST, ACCOUNT FOR AND EXPEND THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY OF NORMAN IN THE HIGHEST LEGAL, ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARD PRACTICAL, AND TO RESPOND TO THE SERVICE NEEDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS IN A TIMELY, COURTEOUS AND ACCURATE MANNER.

The Finance Department assists hundreds of customers a week in bill payment and utility-related questions, by way of counter visits, phone calls, and digital communications.

The Finance Department is the central manager of the City's assets and is responsible for controlling and recording the organization's financial activity. Specifically, the department reviews and monitors financial activity against the City's financial plan (budget); initiates and records all investment activity; prepares financial statements and schedules for audit and public information; provides purchasing, payroll, and printing services to user departments; and provides utility services connections, disconnections, billing, collections, and meter reading services to customers in the City of Norman. It is led by Director Anthony Francisco.

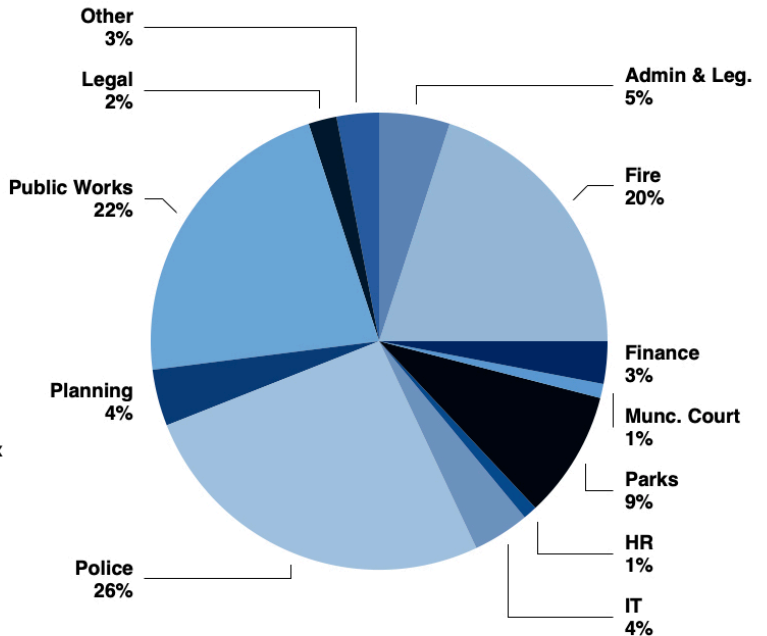




2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Taxes comprise approximately 74% of the General Fund's revenue; sales and use tax represents 64.4% while franchise fees represent 6.8% and other taxes account for 2.4%. Cost allocations represent 5.5% of the General Fund's revenue. These allocations are charges for central services such as management, accounting and data processing provided by the General Fund to other funds such as Enterprise Funds. Transfers include charges to the utility funds (payments in lieu of franchise fees and property taxes), a transfer from the Capital Fund for reimbursement of street maintenance crew labor used for capital projects and financing General Fund capital equipment needs, and a transfer from the Debt Service Fund for judgments and claims against the City. Other revenues include miscellaneous revenues such as animal adoption fees, weed abatement fees, returned check fees, etc.

The Trae Young Family Foundation presenting a check for the Young Family Athletic Center.



2024 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

The largest departmental expenditure from the General Fund is the Police Department. The Police Department's expenditures total \$27,738,761 or 26% of total General Fund expenditures. Public Works has the next highest amount of General Fund expenditures, accounting for 22% of total General Fund expenditures. Public Safety (Police and Fire) and Public Works account for 68% of General Fund expenditures. 642 of the city's 916 employees are paid for by the General Fund.



General Fund Expenses by Department

		2024	2023	2022	2021
Admin & Legislature	5.2%	\$5,615,848		\$6,675,737	\$4,458,479
Fire	19.9%	\$21,401,463		\$16,788,906	\$16,573,678
Finance	3.4%	\$3,638,990		\$3,790,549	\$3,631,361
Municipal Court	1.2%	\$1,313,520		\$1,219,876	\$1,179,069
Parks	8.7%	\$9,414,572		\$6,179,009	\$5,576,040
Human Resources	1.4%	\$1,547,936		\$1,025,183	\$1,000,033
Information Technology	4.3%	\$4,588,257		\$3,215,220	\$2,938,324
Police	25.8%	\$27,738,761		\$23,565,826	\$22,601,745
Planning	4.2%	\$4,478,028		\$3,894,585	\$3,737,090
Public Works	21.5%	\$23,188,032		\$18,685,622	\$18,808,950
Legal	1.5%	\$1,613,018		\$1,295,698	\$1,310,584
Other	2.9%	\$3,081,954		\$1,021,434	\$3,373,087
	100%	\$107,620,379		\$87,357,645	\$85,188,440

General Fund Revenues by Category

		2024	2023	2022	2021
Sales/Use Tax	64.40%	\$67,659,654		\$55,346,512	\$51,184,186
Franchise Tax	7.60%	\$7,153,746		\$6,743,092	\$7,337,273
Other Taxes	2.35%	\$2,472,000		\$2,559,900	\$2,485,340
Fines/Forfeits	1.16%	\$1,219,602		\$1,514,396	\$2,245,877
Licenses/Fees	3.08%	\$3,236,353		\$1,125,428	\$1,192,324
Interest	0.18%	\$193,214		\$185,711	\$182,070
Cost Allocations	5.54%	\$5,815,832		\$4,394,694	\$4,162,923
Internal Charges	7.42%	\$7,798,924		\$5,952,951	\$6,520,195
Other Revenues	2.54%	\$2,668,037		\$4,815,958	\$4,101,473
Transfers	6.51%	\$6,840,524		\$6,050,665	\$5,483,575
	100.00%	\$105,057,886		\$88,689,307	\$84,895,236

Information Technology

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTOMATION

The IT Development team along with multiple city departments and divisions have completed the final ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) project. This new software will allow for the automation of business licenses, permits, and reviews. In the past, city staff and its customers have gone over a cumbersome list of procedures and paperwork to secure planning and community development needs. Today these processes are automated, allowing for online completion, submittal, review, and payment. As the city grows, so will the offerings of this software and it will greatly enhance and improve our planning and community development efforts.

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

The IT staff along with all city department heads have made the decision to educate and test our network users on the various ways cyber criminals attack businesses daily. This education comes in the form of monthly videos for our network users to watch. These videos contain education on the ever-evolving methods



The City of Norman was recognized again as another Top 5 Organizational Giver during the 2023 community-wide United Way Campaign! The Department of Information Technology had a departmental donation increase of more than 400% over the prior year, earning them the United Way Campaign Champions travel trophy!

cyber criminals use to gain access to business networks. Additionally each network user receives test emails that test their knowledge and make the user aware of the dangers of cyber-attacks. Unfortunately in today's business environment, cybercrime has become commonplace and evolves quickly. Our diligence in testing and training our users will help minimize the potential of cybercrime within the city network.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Over the past year, the IT team has implemented multifactor authentication to all network users at the City of Norman, as well as outside vendors. The IT cyber security team continues a layered approach to guard the network from unauthorized access from potential cyber criminals. Multifactor Authentication creates a more secure environment by protecting the network from hackers who may obtain network user passwords. With multifactor authentication, the attacker would not be able to gain access to the network with stolen credentials alone. This layered approach to network security will continue as hackers evolve their methods.

BUILDING MOVES AND NETWORK DESIGN

The IT staff has completed multiple projects over the past year for new building operations and building redesigns. Included in this effort were the new Senior Health and Wellness facility, the Young Family Athletic Center, the Municipal Court, and the Line Maintenance Facility. In addition, the IT team continues to focus efforts on network design and moves for the redesigned HR/IT facility, the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Traffic Management Center. The IT Departments role in each of these building projects includes local and wide area network design, cyber security mitigation, physical moves and set up of workstations, and training on new procedures.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

The City's Network team has started work on the replacement of numerous devices related to the city's network infrastructure. This effort will take approximately three years to complete and will enhance the city's network security, while adding speed and additional space capabilities for the future as city resources expand.

Fire Department

The Norman Fire Department provides fire, rescue, medical, and hazardous materials and technical rescue response services for the City of Norman. The city limits encompass 195 square miles of Cleveland County, serving a population of approximately 120,000. Norman maintains nine fire stations, a fire investigation building, a fire administration building, a training center, and employs approximately 164 people.

2023 PROMOTIONS:

Carl Tomczak

Driver/Engineer, May 5, 2023

Kyle Nonast

Driver/Engineer, June 15, 2023

Jared Tipton

Driver/Engineer, October 18, 2023

SUPPRESSION DIVISION

New Apparatus – Engine 1

The Norman Fire Department contracted with Sutphen for the first time on a newest apparatus in the NFD fleet and it went into service on December 12, 2023. Engine 1 is our busiest unit and last year responded to 4,050 calls. Some noted features include alternative storage areas which allow for additional room in the

cab for personnel and the equipment they need access to, as well as roll-up doors on compartments which limit opportunity for damage. It also has brighter lights to help light up the scene on nighttime responses. You'll be able to identify this unit if you see it around town by old glory painted on the back panel!

PREVENTION DIVISION

Investigations and Arrests

Since the transition to having an Inspector/Investigator assigned to each 24-hour shift last year, the department has seen a marked improvement in the ability to have a presence on fire scenes quickly. As a result, investigations were conducted for 141 of the 270 fires in Norman in 2023. Five arrests have been made and three of those have seen convictions to date with 2 others pending mental health evaluation.

EMS

Emergency Medical Services Audit

In June, the department earned a perfect score on its Emergency Medical Services audit. The State Department of Health (OKSDH) is tasked with inspecting and auditing EMS agencies throughout the

State of Oklahoma. A perfect score translates to improved preparation, better service, and exceeds state and department mandates. The Inspection and outstanding results include the following items being inspected:

- ~ Record keeping
- ~ Licensure and certifications
- ~ Equipment and medications
- ~ Cleanliness

Expansion of EMS level of care at Stations 5 & 6

In August, the Norman Fire Department expanded its EMS level of care at Stations 5 and 6. These two stations serve rural citizens where calls can take place that are time sensitive and require immediate intervention to help stabilize a patient. The expansion to existing Advanced Life Support (ALS) Protocols have included ZOLL Cardiac Monitors and ALS medications. These monitors can help first responders recognize cardiac abnormalities and other life threatening conditions and allow them to act in a timely manner to intervene. NFD thanks Norman Regional EMSstat, the Cleveland County Public Safety Sales Tax Committee and Firehouse Subs (by way of grant funding) for their support!



Cardiac Arrest Training at OU Football and Basketball

Cardiac arrest on the field or court of play or in the stands is something nobody ever wants to see happen. However, NFD knows that it can, so measures have been taken to ensure preparedness. On August 10, NFD Station 3 C Crew, EMS Director Justin Garrett, and BC Ronny Davenport – in partnership with Norman Regional EMSSTAT personnel and OU Football staff – participated in emergency preparedness training that included drills for cardiac arrest. On October 25, the 2023 Recruit Academy participated in the same type event for basketball. NFD stands ready to respond and serve in all emergency situations.

TRAINING DIVISION

Peer Support

In April, 14 Norman Fire Department Personnel received Peer Support training provided by Serving Heroes

and hosted in Lawton. In August, many of the same personnel participated in a 4-Day CISM / Peer Support Event by Warrior's Rest Foundation. First Responders including Military, Police, Fire, EMS and dispatch personnel see and hear things daily that most people may never experience in their lifetime. Learning how to support each other is critical, which is why such trainings and event participation is so important.

Fire Service Training Swiftwater Conference and Competition

In October, NFD participated in the Fire Service Training Swiftwater Conference and Competition. The conference is open to departments around the nation and the world and has training in skills like swiftwater basics, rope rescue, rescue boat operations, US&R animal rescue and night operations. On the last day of the conference, firefighters

have the opportunity to compete as individuals and teams. NFD represented well in the competition with several members placing Top 3 in each swim event and Joe Rabuffo placed overall first, edging out 50 plus other swimmers from across the nation and Australia.

Recruit Academy 2023

On December 14, five recruits graduated from the Norman Fire Academy. They completed 12 weeks of rigorous physical and academic training and each graduated with their Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications. Three recruits received special recognition for best academic, physical and overall performance.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Norman Firefighters, Inspectors, EMS and Command Staff represent the department throughout the year at many community events. Staff are present at every OU home game, the Medieval Fair, the Music Festival, the County Fair, the Aviation Festival, parades, station tours, municipal academies, Shop with a Cop, activities at JD McCarty and more. Showing love and appreciation for the residents is a favorite part of the job!



Game Ball for Red River Rivalry

Fire Marshal Elliott and Training Chief Mitchell donned their running shoes in October to share in the 26 year Naval ROTC tradition of running the Red River Rivalry game ball from Oklahoma Memorial Stadium to the Cotton Bowl. Representatives from the programs at both OU and UT relay for around 200 miles to deliver the game ball.

First Pitch at OU Softball for our female firefighters

Norman's Female Firefighters, Jayci Jacks and Meredith Wolfley were honored to throw out the first pitch at and OU Softball game in March. The game also featured an all-female officiating crew.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

During 2023, Emergency Management continued to provide support

for numerous community events. Events include supporting amateur radio field day, the National Weather Festival and the Max Westheimer Annual Aviation Festival. Numerous other smaller events – such as supporting the Cleveland County Wellness Center, the first annual Walk out of Darkness Suicide Prevention Effort and the Annual Norman Conquest Bike Ride – allow for the emergency response volunteers to practice medical and other skills utilized during disaster response.

In 2023, for the first year and upon request, the division supported the first two OU home football games with medical first aid teams, cooling tents and water stations. The weather conditions were extreme heat and those waiting in line were appreciative of the support.

The event highlight for the division was the University of Oklahoma's

Incident Type	Total	%Total
Fire	270	1.39%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear-no fire	8	0.04%
Rescue and emergency	11,897	61.25%
Hazardous conditions - no fire	378	1.95%
Service call	1,691	8.71%
Good intent Call	4,253	21.9%
False alarm and false call	894	4.6%
Severe weather and natural disaster	2	0.01%
Special incident type	11	0.06%
Incomplete reports	17	0.09%
Total unique incident count	19,421	100%
Total unit responses	24,832	

annual Medieval Fair. This event typically has 250,000 to 300,000 visitors and provides an outstanding opportunity for response volunteers.

Norman Emergency Management coordinates the Cleveland County Medical Reserve CORPS and provides mutual aid support to events like the Moore Band Festival. The festival will host 12-15 bands in an all-day competition. Support begins before sunrise and usually ends after midnight. The volunteer effort provided well over 15,000 volunteer hours throughout the year.

Norman Emergency Management become part of the OK Homeland Security Preparedness team coordinating Youth Preparedness Camps around the state. Colleges

that have hosted these camps also provided a certain number of elective credit hours free to the students.

Norman experienced an EF2 tornado in February 2023 that resulted in several million dollars in damage and debris. The storm was not a state or federal declared disaster and Norman Emergency Management coordinated with the preparedness partners such as the Red Cross, Southern Baptist, local church groups and others to provide immediate and long-term assistance to those affected by the storm.

2023 was a very productive year for Emergency Management and the Division looks forward to providing the highest level of service to citizens in years to come.



Norman Fire Department personnel pose for photo after the Swiftwater conference and competition.



Police Department

CRIME REDUCTION IN NORMAN:

A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN 2023

Norman witnessed significant strides in crime reduction, reflecting the Norman Police Department's ongoing commitment to enhancing public safety and overall community well-being. Through the use of collaborative efforts, innovative strategies, and proactive measures, the Norman Police Department saw a reduction of nearly 5% in Group A crimes and 1% in total reported collisions.

Key Initiatives and Strategies:

Community Policing: NPD continued to prioritize community engagement and partnership-building through its community policing initiatives. Officers actively interacted with residents, established trust-based relationships, and worked to address neighborhood concerns.

Data-Driven Approaches: Leveraging advanced data analytics, NPD implemented targeted enforcement strategies to address crime hotspots and emerging trends effectively. By analyzing crime data and utilizing the Proactive Crime Enforcement Unit (PACE), NPD identified areas of concern and allocated resources strategically to develop short and



long term solutions for criminal activity and social harms.

Collaboration with Stakeholders: Collaboration among law enforcement agencies, local government entities, community organizations, and residents played a pivotal role in crime reduction efforts. Through joint initiatives and information-sharing platforms, stakeholders worked together to address underlying factors contributing to crime and implement holistic solutions.

Impact and Results

These concerted efforts yielded tangible results in crime reduction across various categories, including significant reductions in some property crimes such as burglary and theft from vehicles. Various crimes against people also saw reductions.

NPD is committed to continuing its efforts to reduce Group A crimes as well as fatal and injury collisions, while also increasing quality of service throughout the department and furthering collaborative partnerships to address community concerns related to homelessness, mental health, and drug abuse. These efforts are centered on fostering a safer and more secure environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION

In 2023, the Norman Police Department held four police academies and graduated 19 new police officers. The 62nd Norman Police Academy included two lateral transfers who were commissioned on February 24, 2023. The 63rd Norman Police Academy consisted of six cadets who graduated from the Basic Police Officer Certification Program (BPOC) at the Moore Norman Technology Center and then completed a five-week extended training period at the NPD Training Facility. The six

cadets were commissioned on June 14, 2023. The 64th Norman Police Academy was a full 26-week academy that graduated nine officers who were commissioned on December 14, 2023. The 65th Norman Police Academy included two cadets who attended BPOC and graduated on December 15, 2023 and then started the five-week extended training period at the NPD Training Facility to be commissioned in early 2024.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Throughout 2023, NPD conducted numerous community outreach events. During these efforts, officers developed partnerships with citizens and focused on addressing crime trends in the community. To spotlight the actions of NPD, officers hosted cookouts at various locations, provided valuable information during neighborhood and community meetings, and worked with mental health

outreach organizations to better the community.

The department's holiday outreach provided assistance to more than 300 children and 60 families in Norman, including NPD's annual Fill the Cruiser drive that collected more than 2,000 diapers and thousands of wipes for donation to a local non-profit. Furthermore, officers participated in other organized events such



as Community Safety Day, Norman Polar Plunge, Clash for a Cause, Chili Supper, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run to bring awareness and donations for special causes.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out was held on October 2 at Sooner Mall. This year's National Night Out featured a community-wide event with a number of local, state, and federal law enforcement partners and community organizations. Hundreds of citizens attended and engaged with the various agencies through discussions and exploration of equipment and agency vehicles displays. Held annually, National Night Out helps facilitate important dialogue and partnership between law enforcement and the Norman community.



SAFETY TOWN

The Norman Police Department hosted Safety Town throughout June 2023. In its 47th year of operation, Safety Town provides a unique and hands-on educational experience centered on bicycle, street, and personal safety for children ages five and six. The program graduated 420 children in 2023.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS CENTER

Officials broke ground on the Norman Emergency Communications and Operations Center (ECOC) on January 19, 2023. Located at 2801 E. Robinson Street, the new 20,000 square-foot facility will provide a modern space for a unified and expanded Emergency Communications 911 Center, Emergency Operations Center, Incident Command Resources, and space for a future Traffic Management Center. Norman voters first approved the ECOC as part of the 2014 Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST). Additional ARPA funds were allocated by the Norman City Council in 2021 to allow for project completion. The facility will be constructed at a cost of approximately \$13.5 million and is expected to open in summer 2024.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Norman Animal Welfare partnered with the non-profit organization Dog



Is My CoPilot to organize four animal rescue flights that sent a total of 168 animals to rescues in the Pacific Northwest in 2023. This incredible collaboration allowed Norman Animal Welfare to extend its reach and make a significant impact on the lives of homeless pets in Norman. These rescue flights were a monumental effort that required the coordination of multiple teams and organizations. Norman Animal Welfare staff worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of each animal prior to every journey. These efforts included securing proper documentation, organizing transportation logistics, and ensuring every detail was meticulously planned to guarantee a successful operation. Each animal rescue flight is transforming the lives and creating a brighter future for animals in our community and beyond.

AWARDS

- ~ 299 total awards
- ~ 2 Meritorious Medals
- ~ 1 Medal of Valor
- ~ 1 Police Shield
- ~ 11 Lifesaving Awards
- ~ 2 Certificates of Customer Service Excellence

PROMOTIONS

- ~ Richard Monson – Lieutenant



Summary of Offenses	2023	2022	Five Year Average
Murder	2	2	3
Sexual Assault	180	208	187
Robbery	39	40	42
Aggravated Assault	320	291	291
Burglary of Building	451	476	508
Larceny / Theft	2,414	2,853	2,714
Motor Vehicle Theft	391	392	436
Arson	5	9	8
Kidnapping	25	19	25
Fraud / Forgery	905	925	993
DUI/APC	410	341	393
Public Intoxication	612	544	518
Runaways	367	236	267
Drug Violations	618	537	640
Threats/Harassment	498	480	459
Vandalism	993	1,028	1,010
Other	7,391	6,985	7,024
Total Reported Offenses	15,621	15,366	15,518

Summary of Traffic Collisions	2023	2022	Five Year Average
Fatality	10	15	10
Injury	667	676	650
Non-Injury	1,458	1,485	1,416
Number of People Injured	967	967	951
Total Collisions	2,135	2,176	2,075

Number of Calls for Service	2023	2022	Five Year Average
Norman Police	88,049	80,290	85,939
Norman Fire	19,435	18,920	17,886
EMSSTAT	26,105	23,898	23,215
Total Incoming Calls	309,600	297,999	

Planning Department



FULL AND PARTIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCIES ISSUED FOR MAJOR PROJECTS DURING 2023

NORMAN REGIONAL NINE

2000 Ann Branden Blvd., 45,960 SF

Value: \$21,000,000

SAGE COBBLESTONE CREEK

4403 12th Ave. SE.,
168 units, 196,608 SF

Value: \$15,480,000

NORMAN ADULT WELLNESS CENTER

602 N. Findlay Ave., 32,000 SF

Value: \$12,000,000

DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY

1320 College Ave., 20,041 SF

Value: \$10,000,000

ALPHA CHI OMEGA

1115 College Ave., 35,278 SF

Value: \$9,500,000

GRIFFIN PARK SOCCER FIELDS AND CONCESSION

1002 E. Robinson St., 2,700 SF

Value: \$5,800,000

LEARNING EXPERIENCE DAYCARE/SHELTER

3301 24th Ave. NW, 10,000 SF

Value: \$3,200,000

KEDPLASMA

2101 W. Lindsey St., 11,097 SF

Value: \$3,156,500



BTS INDUSTRIAL SHELL BUILDING

2345 Industrial Blvd., 40,000 SF

Value: \$3,000,000

THE VIRTUE CENTER

2457 Wilcox Dr., 14,000 SF

Value: \$2,800,000



TECUMSEH CROSSING SHELL BUILDING

3321 W. Tecumseh Rd., 25,729 SF
Value: \$2,750,000

CITY OF NORMAN SANITATION OFFICE

2301 Goddard Ave., 4,367 SF
Value: \$1,700,000

AG CLASSEN RETAIL SHELL BUILDING

3075 Classen Blvd., 6,526 SF
Value: \$1,625,000

LANDMARK FINE HOMES

2911 Adams Rd., Suites 101 & 111, 7,977 SF
Value: \$1,500,000

RAPID WASH

1212 N. Flood Ave., 4,367 SF
Value: \$1,300,000

LANDMARK FINE HOMES

2901 Adams Rd., 6,610 SF
Value: \$992,000

ARVEST BANK

212 E. Comanche St., 856 SF
Value: \$900,000

**NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL
MEDICAL PARK WEST OFFICE BUILDING**

3151 Healthplex Dr., 10,000 SF
Value: \$800,000

CSO DEVELOPMENT APARTMENTS

209 W. Apache St., 8,135 SF, 6-units
Value: \$800,000

STARBUCKS

1200 W. Lindsey St., 1,249 SF
Value: \$750,000

LANDMARK HOMES SHELL BUILDING #24

4331 Adams Rd., Suites 101 & 111, 4,397 SF
Value: \$700,000



LANDMARK HOMES SHELL BUILDING #25

4341 Adams Rd., Suites 101 & 111, 5,422 SF
Value: \$700,000

LANDMARK HOMES SHELL BUILDING #26

4351 Adams Rd., Suites 101 & 111 & 121, 5,473 SF
Value: \$700,000

LANDMARK HOMES SHELL BUILDING #27

4361 Adams Rd., Suites 101 & 111 & 121, 5,529 SF
Value: \$700,000

CITY VIEW

After several years of research and review, in November 2023, the City of Norman implemented a new permitting, licensing, planning software – creating an online portal platform. The online portal allows clients to perform the majority of their business from the portal account, making the department almost paperless. The software remains in its early stages and staff continues to optimize the new platform. This was a large update to a number of processes and workflows, which will ultimately lead to better services by a number of departments.

BUILDING CODE UPDATE

In June 2023, City Council adopted Ordinance No. O-2223-41, updating the City's minimum Building Codes to the 2018 I-Codes and 2020 NEC. This update was necessary to stay in compliance with the states minimum standards. By updating Building Codes this helps ensure the current standards are maintained and newer technologies and methods are properly addressed.

STAFF TRAINING

The building inspectors completed a variety of training to maintain their Inspector licenses. Some of the inspectors completed their training in remote sessions and others completed in-person classes. Additionally, the plan review staff participated in online training

regarding commercial/residential plan review. Staff also participated in numerous training activities over the course of the year with many of the training sessions conducted with other city's inspection staff to help build continuity with other municipality's inspection practices.

METRO AREA BUILDING OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION

Throughout the year, staff participated in monthly meetings, countless discussions and exchanges with other building departments around the Oklahoma City Metro. These meetings and discussions focused around building code interpretation and best practices. The goal and purpose of these meetings was to coordinate between the various departments to strive for consistency in applying building codes.

HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM (HERS) ENERGY RATING INDEX (ERI) PROGRAM

During 2023, 120 homes enrolled in the HERS/ERI program. Forty-six of these applicant's homes completed the program and received full or partial credit. Two applicants withdrew from the program and 72 remain in the program pending completion. The pilot program began in 2019 and has been renewed several times

with the most recent Resolution R-2122-137 being renewed in June of 2022 for two years updating the programs benchmark to 57. The program was initiated to prompt residential homeowners and builders to construct energy efficient residential homes in the City of Norman.

VISITABILITY PILOT PROGRAM

In 2023, seven homes enrolled in the program, one of these homes completed the program and received full credit, four are still enrolled and ongoing, and two withdrew from the program. In June 2021, Resolution R-2021-118, created a pilot program, the Visitability Resolution. Resolution R-2021-118 Amd. #1 renewed the program in June of 2023, extending it for an additional two years. This program was fueled by years of community input, pushing to create an incentive program to encourage builders to build homes that made considerations for accessible construction. The program allows builders to receive a credit of their building permit fee if they build a home that is compliant as a visitable home.

LICENSE RENEWALS

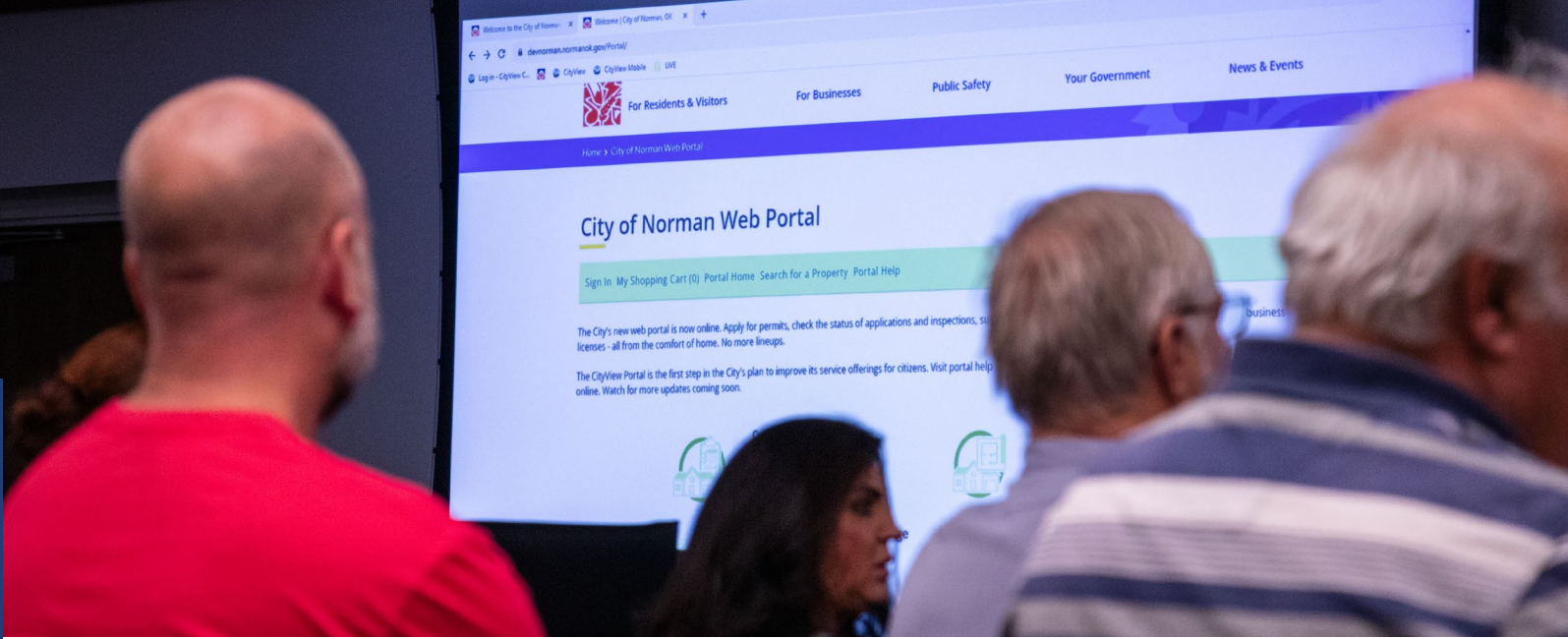
During 2023, 1,192 licenses (Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Sign, and Structure Moving) were processed totaling \$85,150 in fees. Annual license renewals occurred during March.

NEW/ADDITION/ALTERATION COMMERCIAL PROJECTS \$500,000 AND OVER - WITH CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Description	Address	Reported Valuation
City of Norman-Development Center Remodel	225 N. Webster Ave.	\$7,144,323
MNTC Classroom/Lab Remodel	4701 12th Ave. NW	\$5,000,000
NPS-Adams Elementary Class/Safe Room Add.	817 Denison Dr.	\$3,320,818
NPS-Madison Elementary Classroom/Safe Room Add.	500 James Dr.	\$3,009,465
NPS-Jackson Elementary Classroom Add.	520 Wylie Rd.	\$2,500,000
NPS-Jefferson Elementary Safe Room Add.	250 N. Cockrel Ave.	\$2,100,000
Raising Cane's Remodel/Expansion	765 Asp Ave. Suite 100	\$2,000,000
MNTC-Hanger Remodel	4701 12th Ave. NW	\$2,000,000
NPS-Lincoln Elementary Library & Classroom Add,	915 Classen Blvd.	\$1,816,768
Beacon Building Products Remodel	4100 28th Ave. NW	\$1,597,000
Touchstone Medical Imaging Office	2901 Adams Rd.	\$975,000
Norman Transit Center Remodel	320 E. Comanche St.	\$956,049
Burlington Stores, Inc. Remodel	620 Ed Noble Pkwy.	\$900,000
NRH-Pulmonology Clinic Medical Office Remodel	3151 Healthplex Dr.	\$790,000
Chick-Fil-A Drive Thru & Interior Remodel	120 12th Ave. NE	\$700,000
City of Norman-City Hall Office Remodel	201 W. Gray St.	\$604,000
Intergris Health Urgent Care	3075 Classen Blvd. Suite 105	\$580,000
OEC Meeting Room Remodel	2520 Hemphill Dr.	\$500,000

STATISTIC INFORMATION

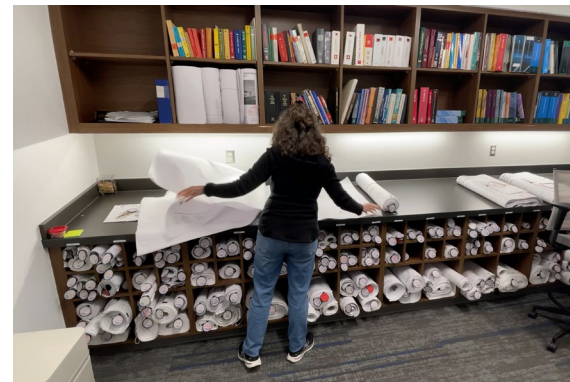
- ~ Completed 25,516 inspections (includes administrative inspections).
- ~ Issued 8,274 construction and trade permits.
- ~ Building inspectors safely drove 81,283 miles.
- ~ Transacted \$2,951,386 in permit and related fees.
- ~ Coordinated and completed 1,517 residential plan reviews.
- ~ Coordinated and completed 198 commercial plan reviews.
- ~ Maintained Occupational Licenses for over 1,100 persons.
- ~ Supported City Clerk by conducting 60 Food and Beverage inspections, and 27 Medical Marijuana inspections.
- ~ Maintain the Automated Phone Line System for 4,710 inspection requests.
- ~ Maintain the On-Line Inspections System for 9,090 inspection requests.



CENTER CITY FORM BASED CODE (CCFBC)

The Center City Form Based Code (CCFBC), like many planning documents, is a living document. As development moved forward in this area, further revisions to bring the development and the Code in line with the community’s vision for the Center City are necessary. City Council adopted amendments to the CCFBC in June 2022. The development community and staff worked with those amendments for approximately one year and found corrections and clean-up of the document were needed. This year’s amendments included: Removal of duplicative language, corrections to typos and errors, amendment of Required Build Line (RBL) on Boyd Street, and correction of code reference sections throughout the CCFBC document to the newly adopted codified municipal code and Engineering Design Criteria.

The recent amendments also added the requirement that property lines, Required Build Lines (RBLs) and Parking Setback Lines must be shown on the Certificate of Compliance Site Plan submitted for review. City Council adopted the revised document on August 22.



NEW/ADDITION/ALTERATION COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ISSUED - \$500,000 AND OVER:

DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	REPORTED VALUATION
NRH Cancer Center	3240 Healthplex Pky.	\$43,000,000
OEC Office Addition/Remodel & Shelter	242 24th Avenue NW	\$15,000,000
City of Norman-Emergency Comm. & Operations Center	2801 E. Robinson St.	\$13,500,000
Landers New Office and Auto Service Center	2601 Parkway Dr.	\$8,000,000
Moore Norman Technology Center Indoor Gun Range	5200 12th Ave. NW	\$7,000,000
McFarlin Memorial Classroom Remodel	419 S. University Blvd.	\$3,850,000
Genesis of Norman	551 Interstate Dr.	\$3,595,200
Battison Auto Dealership	4812 Interstate Dr.	\$3,500,000
Landmark Fine Homes	4240 28th Avenue NW	\$3,160,000
City of Norman Municipal Court Remodel	321 N. Webster Ave.	\$3,150,000
Brockhaus Jewelry	1905 24th Avenue NW	\$2,900,000
Bancfirst	3401 36th Avenue NW	\$2,700,000
Le Visage Spa and Wellness	3540 R.C. Luttrell Drive	\$2,337,000
City of Norman-HR/IT Remodel	313 N. Webster Avenue	\$2,279,521
Monroe Elementary Remodel	1601 McGee Dr.	\$2,126,643
McKinley Elementary Fine Arts/Shelter Addition	728 S. Flood Ave.	\$2,000,000
Robin Hill Classroom/Safe Room Addition	4801 E. Franklin Rd.	\$2,000,000
Hitachi Computer Products Remodel	1800 E. Imhoff Rd.	\$2,000,000
Sterling Property Management	4260 28th Avenue NW	\$1,800,000
City of Norman Generator Enclosure Building	2801 E. Robinson St.	\$1,730,000
Beacon Building Products Remodel	4100 28th Avenue NW	\$1,597,000
Walmart Remodel	2551 Classen Blvd.	\$1,500,000
Green Power Remodel	3595 E. State Hwy 9	\$1,500,000
Alan J. Couch Remodel	1650 W. Tecumseh Rd.	\$1,300,000
Medwise Urgent Care	3743 Classen Blvd.	\$1,100,000
Dr. Bigbie Skin Cancer	3209 24th Avenue NW	\$1,100,000
Luxe Life Norman Remodel	1060 Rambling Oaks Dr.	\$1,100,000
J. Ford Downtown	229 W. Main St.	\$1,050,000
Walmart Remodel	3651 Classen Blvd.	\$1,000,000
Norman Transit Center Remodel	320 E. Comanche St.	\$965,049
Burlington Stores, Inc. Remodel	620 Ed Noble Parkway	\$900,000
Pine Creek - Clubhouse Addition	3714 Basin Way	\$800,000
Springs at Flint Hills	1281 Wilmot Dr.	\$750,000
Legacy Business Park (Shell)	219 W. Rock Creek Rd.	\$750,000
Unlimited Potential Pediatrics	3221 24th Ave. NW	\$700,000
Chick-Fil-A Drive-Thru & Interior Remodel	120 12th Avenue NE	\$700,000
Vision Bank Remodel	3600 W. Main St.t #100	\$700,000
Integris Health Urgent Care Remodel	3075 Classen Blvd. #105	\$580,000
Apostolic Worship Remodel	3221 N. Porter Ave.	\$500,000
Prime Architects Remodel	425 W. Gray St.	\$500,000
Bob Moore Nissan Remodel	3901 Journey Parkway	\$500,000
Windstone/Scissortail Office Remodel	300 W. Main St.	\$500,000
Dunkin'	3281 Classen Blvd.	\$500,000

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT



During 2023, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs continued to address the needs of low and moderate-income citizens of Norman. These needs ranged from avoiding eviction, necessary home repairs, providing Fair Housing services, and support for nonprofit entities. The CDBG Policy Committee assisted staff in the development of the Fourth Year Action Plan (FYE24) that was approved by City Council and subsequently by HUD. The Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for the Third Year Action Plan (FYE23) was submitted to HUD in September and approved in December. This document details all the activity by the CDBG program for the program year. The CAPER is available online at <https://www.normanok.gov/your-government/departments/planning-and-community-development/grant-programs>.

The CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program continued with their two main activities: the Emergency Repair Program for owner occupants and the Accessibility Modification Program for both owner and renter occupied

structures. Twenty-three Emergency Repair projects were completed at an average cost of \$8,621.73 per project; the average age of each recipient was 57 years old. Ten Accessibility Modification projects were completed at an average cost of \$6,374.31; the average age of each recipient was 62 years old. During the 2023 calendar year, over 48 different projects were underway.

In addition to the housing rehabilitation activities, multiple residences within the CDBG Target Area received tree removal grants and the planting of new trees where warranted. The remaining construction items at the Senior Congregate Meal Kitchen were completed. As discussions are held in response to the opening of the Adult Wellness and Education Center on North Findlay and senior activities shifting to that location with the exception of the production kitchen, additional work items may be considered at 329 S. Peters.

CDBG staff in conjunction with the City Attorney's office developed and administered RFP-2223-89 for the procurement of a qualified developer for the submittal of a Low Income Housing Tax Credit Project (LIHTC) to the Oklahoma Housing Finance

Agency (OHFA). Six proposals were received with Milestone Property Management LLC being selected. The resulting proposal is for 75, one, two, and three bedroom apartments all affordable at or below 60% of Median Family Income. The application was submitted to OHFA late 2023 with the award announcements to occur in Spring of 2024. The City of Norman will participate in the project by utilizing \$5.5 million dollars of ARPA funding as a low interest loan to the developer. Once repaid, these funds will be returned to the City of Norman for reuse in subsequent affordable housing projects. An Affordable Housing Trust Fund is in the process of being established to administer these funds upon return.

An extensive consultation process as required by HUD was completed to program the HOME ARP award of \$1,560,908. The Allocation Plan was submitted in the spring of 2023 and approved by HUD in the fall of 2023. Currently staff is researching appropriate sites and operational partners for the construction of a small apartment development to provide permanent housing to individuals who are chronically homeless. All funds must be committed by 2026 with construction completed by 2030.



AIM NORMAN FESTIVAL SETUP: Chris Mattingly and wife Angela volunteer at the Downtown Norman Fall Fest to share AIM Norman information and candy with festival goers.

AIM GROUP MEETING: AIM Norman contractors and steering committee members meet at the Development Center for a meeting in Fall 2023.



AREA & INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN - AIM NORMAN

The City initiated the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the comprehensive planning process in 2022. The City of Norman’s Area and Infrastructure Master Plan (AIM Norman) will help shape the course of the community over the next two decades through the insights and engagement of Norman community members. It represents a crucial roadmap that will provide essential guidance to city leaders and decision-makers as the community plans for the future. The study is guided by RDG Planning & Design and Garver, in close partnership with the City of Norman. Officially launched in September 2023, the project is expected to be completed late 2024.

The AIM Norman project is examining seven distinct elements of city infrastructure, services and growth, including:

- ~ Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- ~ Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update
- ~ Housing Market Analysis & Affordability Strategy
- ~ Parks Master Plan Update
- ~ Stormwater Master Plan Update
- ~ Wastewater Master Plan
- ~ Water Master Plan Update

The Steering Committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month. Subcommittees have been formed and efforts to gather community input are ongoing. As of January 2024, engagement numbers include:

- ~ Small Group Listening Sessions: 20 Sessions
- ~ Website Visits to AimNorman.com: 6,186 Visits
- ~ Monthly Survey Responses: 1,206 Surveys completed
- ~ Pop-Up Events: 15 Events
- ~ Comment Cards: 180 Cards received

Historic Preservation in Norman Oklahoma

THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Historic District Commission reviewed 19 projects including three



feedback sessions in 2023. The Commission approved Certificates of Appropriateness requests for 14 projects, including the first ever demolition of an historic structure. During this demolition review, the Commission worked diligently to ensure there were no other options for this historic structure located in the Miller Historic District including reviewing opinions from an experienced historic restoration company and structural engineer. The companion request for this project was for a new single-family house with a garage apartment which was approved by the Commission. The demolition of this dilapidated house, along with the construction of

a compatible modern-day structure, removed a blighted property from Miller Historic District. Only two requests were denied last year with

the Commission finding that the requests did not meet the Preservation Guidelines.

In addition to reviews of proposed work for Certificates of Appropriateness requests, staff designed a set of postcards,

which were mailed in April to every property owner within the three city-designated Historic Districts. The card contained an aerial map of the district for which the owner's property was located and also include a QR code that links to the Preservation Guidelines for the Historic Districts. A second postcard was sent in May inviting Historic District property owners to a virtual community meeting in June where their

questions regarding the Historic Districts would be answered by staff.

Staff also mailed postcards to property owners in the three city-designated Historic Districts announcing the opportunity to register for a Wood Window Repair Workshop in September. The Wood Window Repair Workshop was successfully held on September 23 and 24, 2023, at the Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum. The contractor instructed participants in wood window repair skills including: unsticking windows, paint removal, epoxy repair, and painting of wooden windows. Two windows on the south side of the Moore-Lindsay House Museum carriage house were restored by the workshop participants.

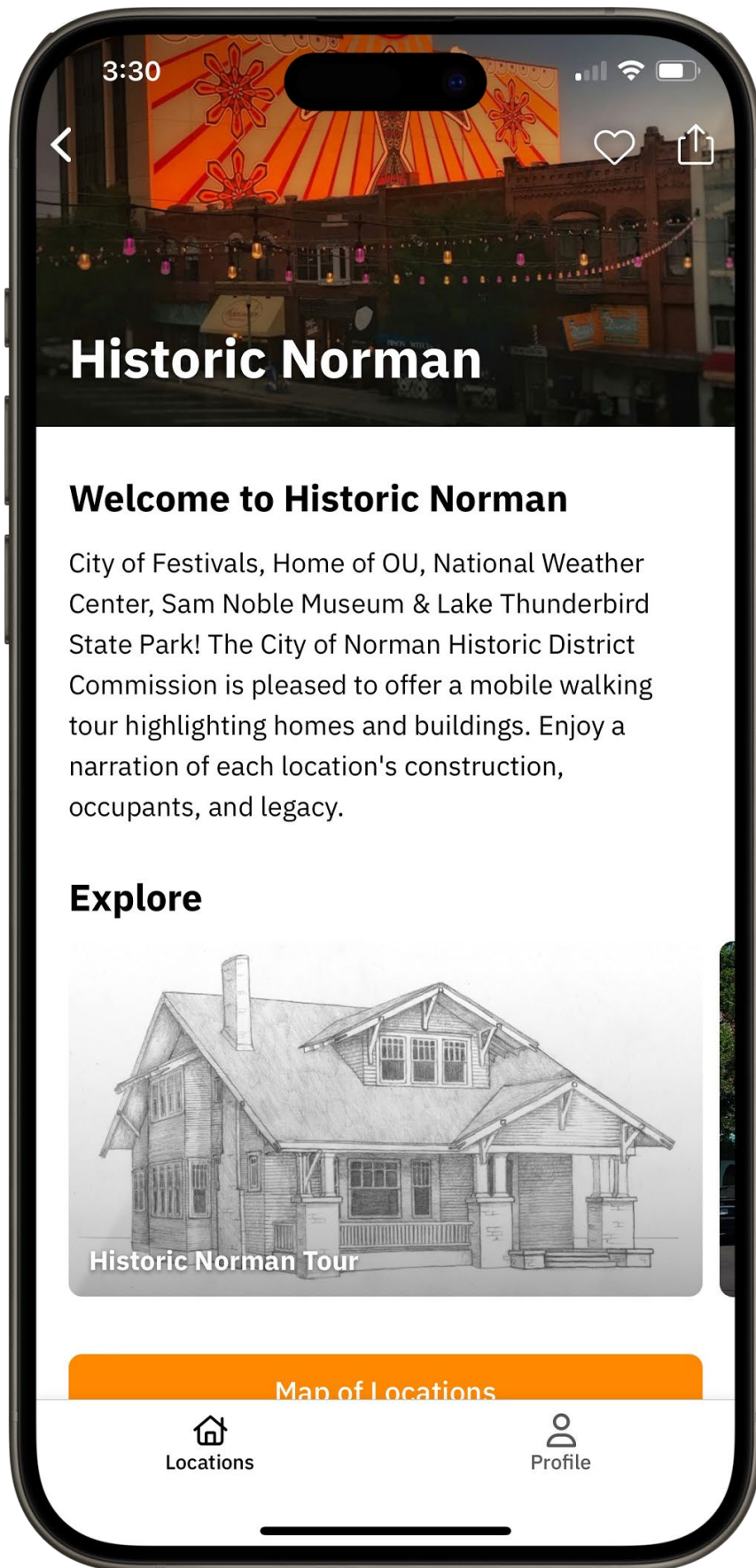


Working with a consultant, staff began the development of the Historic Norman Tour App (a mobile app) in February, which would allow residents and visitors to take a self-guided tour of 23 historic structures in Core Norman including 16 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The app allows



residents to explore the historic sites, while learning about the significance of these structures to the history and development of Norman. The Historic Norman Tour App went live in December and can be downloaded at Normanok.gov or through the the STQRY App by searching “Historic Norman.”

The Historic Norman Tour App development, Window Repair Workshops and educational mailings were all funded through the Certified Local Government Program, with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior.



Public Works

BLUE SEAL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The City Public Works/Fleet Division was awarded the Blue Seal of Excellence by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) for the 14th consecutive year. The Fleet Division has 20 qualifying technicians with a total of 190 ASE certifications. The award is granted to vehicle repair shops with 75% or more of their automotive technicians certified in each service area. City of Norman Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT) hold twelve (12) EVT certifications as required by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which certifies these technicians to repair and maintain all City fire apparatus.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES IN PARTNER AGENCY LEADERSHIP

Taylor Johnson, Transit & Parking Program Manager in Public Works, serves on the board of the Oklahoma Transit Association (OkTA) as the small urban at-large director, is chair of the Urban/Small Urban Task Force, and represents the City of Norman at regional and state levels.

Jason Huff, Transit Planner & Grants Specialist in Public Works, serves on

the board of the Oklahoma Mobility Institute (OMI). OMI is the 501c3 sister organization of the Oklahoma Transit Association (OkTA) for receiving grants to increase mobility for Oklahomans.

Paul D'Andrea, Capital Projects Engineer, is currently serving as the American Public Works Association (APWA) Oklahoma Chapter Delegate to the Council of Chapters and as the Region VII representative to the Council of Chapters Steering Committee. In this role, D'Andrea helps with planning objectives and plans for APWA on the national and state level.

The American Public Works Association Past President, Mr. Stan Brown gave a presentation to City Council to mark the achievement.



APWA RE-ACCREDITATION

The City of Norman's Departments of Public Works, Utilities, and Parks & Recreation received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the fourth time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes that the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA's Public Works Management Practices Manual.

Staff from 11 of 13 City departments spent hundreds of hours reviewing and improving City policies and practices over the past year as part of the re-accreditation process, emphasizing that public works operations cannot function without good finances, human resources, communication, City records management, planning services, information technology, emergency management and legal services.

INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Taylor Johnson, Transit & Parking Program Manager in Public Works, was honored as Oklahoma Transit Association's (OkTA) 2023 Transit Professional of the Year. To be selected as the Transit Professional of the Year, an individual must meet or exceed certain qualifications, such as: demonstrating exemplary leadership qualities, effectively assist a given community to accomplish goals, creating collaborative partnerships, and promoting best practices in the transit system.

TRANSPORTATION

2012 Transportation Bond Program

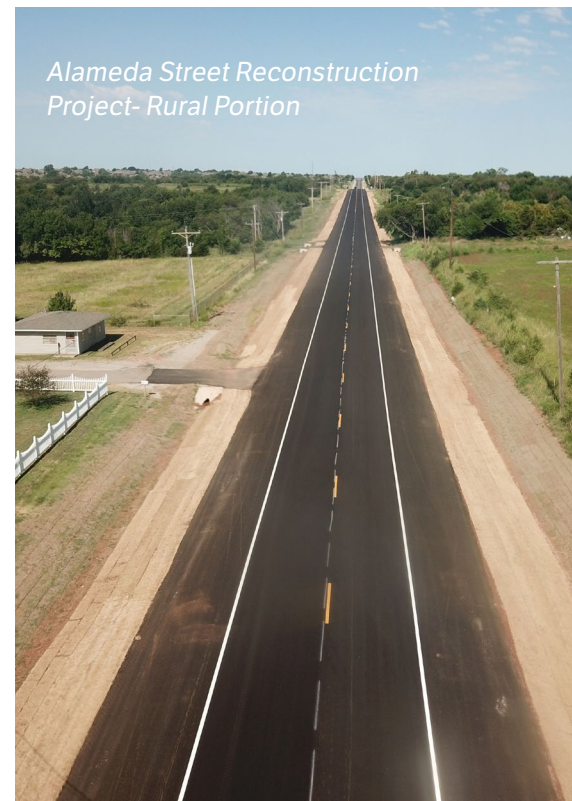
All of the 2012 Transportation Bond Projects (valued at nearly \$89M) are underway. Seven of the eight projects are currently completed and another is under consideration in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal funds in fiscal years 2026 or 2027. The TIP is administered by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG). This is the first step in obtaining the federal matching funds for construction of the projects.

- ~ Alameda Street reconstruct project was awarded to Silver Star Construction at a \$3.6 million construction cost. The project widened Alameda Street from Ridge Lake

Boulevard to 36th Avenue SE to a 3-lane urban section with bike lanes and sidewalk on the south side of the roadway. The section from 36th Avenue SE to 48th Avenue SE was reconstructed and 10 foot shoulders were added. Left-turn lanes were included at the intersections. Construction began in March 2022. The urban roadway section from Ridge Lake Boulevard to 36th Avenue SE was substantially complete and opened to traffic in December 2022. Work began on the rural road from 36th Avenue SE to 48th Avenue SE section in January 2023 and the project was completed in July 2023.

- ~ 36th Avenue NW from Tecumseh Road to Indian Hills Road is ready for construction. Right-of-way has been acquired and utilities have been relocated where needed. This \$16.9 million project will widen 36th Avenue NW to four lanes with bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the corridor. The intersection at Franklin Road will be signalized and turns lanes added as necessary to facilitate the traffic projected through the corridor. The Indian Hills Road is also planned to be a signalized intersection. However, it may become part of proposed

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority east-west connector route, which will then be designed as an interchange with frontage roads along Indian Hills Road. City staff should soon learn whether or not the 36th Avenue NW Project ranked high enough to receive ACOG federal funds in the two fiscal year lock of 2026 or 2027. While awaiting funding for the entire project, the city is moving ahead in 2024 with the construction of a new signalized pedestrian crossing of 36th Avenue NW near the entrance to Ruby Grant Park. This project is currently under design with a projected construction completion date near the end of summer 2024.



2019 TRANSPORTATION BOND PROGRAM

The 2019 Transportation Bond was approved by the residents of Norman in 2019 and contains 18 individual transportation projects valued at nearly \$140 million. One of the projects (Porter and Acres Intersection) has been completed, one is under construction (Porter Avenue Streetscape), three are anticipated to begin construction this year (Gray Street 2-way conversion, James Garner Avenue Phase 3 and Jenkins Avenue. Widening Project), eight are currently under design (Cedar Lane Road Widening, Constitution Street Reconstruct, 24th Avenue NE Widening, 36th Avenue NW Widening PH. 3, 36th Avenue SE Widening, 48th Avenue NW Widening Ph.1, and the two Lindsey Street Special Corridor Projects). Four of the projects have been awarded funding through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal funds in years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Four of the projects are under consideration in the TIP for federal funds in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The TIP is administered by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG). This is the first step in obtaining the federal matching funds for construction of the projects.

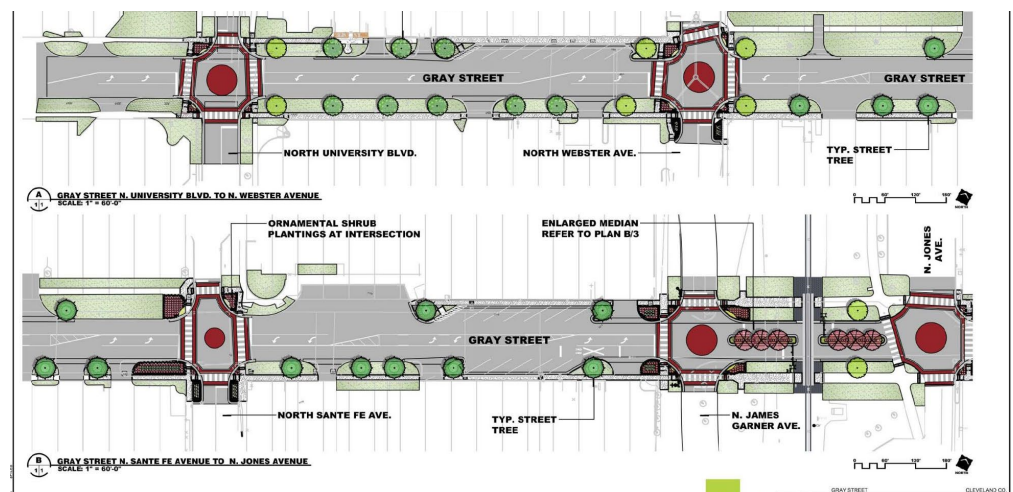
- ~ Porter Avenue Streetscape is a \$4.6 million project that will provide walkability and aesthetic enhancements

through the corridor from Alameda Street to Robinson Street. This project will provide American with Disability Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks through the entire area and provide a platform for a more pedestrian friendly experience for the businesses and users of the corridor. This project has received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for 80% of the construction costs in 2022. The project was bid by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in October 2022. Construction began in April of 2023, and is expected to be completed in April of 2024.



Completed sidewalk and planters near Porter Avenue and Main Street

- ~ Gray Street 2-way Conversion project will convert the roadway from a one-way to a two-way street from University Avenue to Porter Avenue. This \$4.7 million project will include additional traffic signals at intersections, improved railroad crossing, sidewalk improvements, decorative paving and landscaping, and appropriate on-street parking. This project has received Federal Highway



Gray Street Conceptual Drawing

- Administration (FHWA) partial funding for the construction costs in year 2023. This project will be bid through ODOT in March of 2024.

~ Jenkins Avenue Widening project is a \$9.6 million construction project that will widen Jenkins Avenue from Imhoff Road to Lindsey Street to four lanes with signals at the intersection at Timberdell Road. The project will also align Imhoff Road and Constitution Street at a new roundabout on Jenkins Avenue. The project includes pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The project will help serve the Reaves Park improvements and new University of Oklahoma softball facility. The project was submitted for consideration for federal funding through ACOG and we received the maximum amount of \$7.5 million since 80% of the construction cost exceeds the cap. This project is proposed to be bid through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation at the September 2024 bid opening with construction anticipated to start in late 2024.

~ James Garner Avenue Phase 3 reconstruction project is a \$4.9 million project to improve James Garner Avenue from Acres Street to Duffy Street. The project will improve the roadway with intersection improvements, signalization at Main Street intersection, appropriate on-street parking and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The project is currently in the final design phase and utility relocations are underway. The project is expected to be bid in March of 2024 and will begin construction in summer of 2024.

~ Cedar Lane Road from Black Locust Court to east of 36th Avenue east is a \$9 million dollar project to widen and improve Cedar Lane Road including the 36th Avenue SE intersection and all four legs on this intersection. Design is currently at the 65% Plans stage and is anticipated to have final design plans completed summer 2024.

Construction can be underway as early as January 2025 as soon as federal funds or excess 2019 Bond funds are available to fund the remaining 80% of construction. Projects currently at the 60% design stage include 36th Avenue NW- Indian Hills Road to Moore City Limits, 24th Avenue NE-Rock Creek Road to Tecumseh Road, and 36th Avenue SE-Cedar Lane Road to State Highway 9. These projects will convert the existing rural 2-lane roadways to urban 4-lane roadways with curb and gutter, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

The three new projects that design has just been initiated on include: 48th Avenue NW, Phase 1, Robinson Street to Rock Creek Road; Lindsey Street Special Corridor Project, Elm Avenue to Jenkins Avenue; and Lindsey Street Special Corridor Project, Pickard Avenue to Elm Avenue.



James Garner Avenue Phase 3 Conceptual Drawings

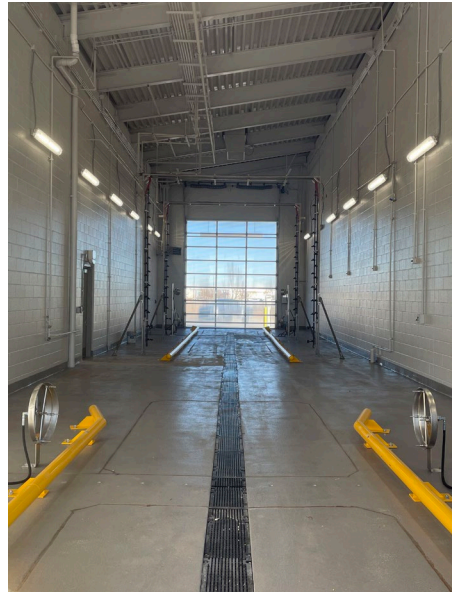
NORTH BASE WASH FACILITY

This facility gives the City of Norman the ability to regularly wash all city fleet and transit vehicles in-house. This facility also allows for a much more cost effective and environmentally friendly way to clean fleet over the current method of using private car washes and contracting out for mobile washes in the transit parking lot. L5 Construction, LLC of Oklahoma City was selected to construct the facility and construction began in January 2023. The wash facility is in the final testing and inspection phase and should soon be completed.



*North Base Vehicle Wash Facility
exterior and interior*

*North Base
Conceptual Drawing*



*North Base Vehicle Wash Facility
exterior and interior*

NORTH BASE MASTER PLAN

The North Base Master Plan planning goal was to develop a sound, actionable, and fiscally responsible plan that supports all aspects of operational needs for the applicable departments of Public Works, Utilities, Norman Fire, and Parks & Recreation. Currently, the Public Works Department has operations at three major locations: North Base, Lindsey Yard, and City Hall. The City Utilities Department also has operations at North Base, City Hall, and five other locations including a new line maintenance facility. Parks and Recreation Department operates at North Base and City Hall.

The Fire Department training facility and Fire Station #8 are located at North Base. The North Base Master Plan focused on the preservation and potential redevelopment and/or re-adaptation of current facilities as well as the identification of and/or planning for the new facilities to establish a framework for the anticipated Department facility needs for the next 20 to 30 years. This Master Plan was accepted by City Council in March 2023.



TRANSIT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

Working together, the Public Works Transit & Parking and Fleet Divisions continue to make great strides in overhauling the transit fleet that was inherited from the University of Oklahoma. During calendar year 2023, 14 vehicles have been replaced in the transit fleet that have met and exceeded their useful life according to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) standards. The City's first two battery electric vehicles were put into service at the beginning of calendar year 2023 and compliment the electric vehicle chargers that have been installed at the City's Northbase complex. In addition, the City received 5 new CNG transit buses in 2023. All new fixed route transit buses feature new amenities such as USB chargers and a modern mobility device securement system. Additionally, staff received delivery of two SUV support vehicles and three minivan paratransit vehicles. For current orders, the City also received 2 out of 5 new paratransit vehicles by the end of calendar year 2023. Lastly, the City received an award from the FTA's competitive Low- or No-Emissions Program to replace 6 additional paratransit vehicles with new CNG units.

*Norman Transit Center
Ribbon Cutting October 16, 2023*



2 of the 5 New CNG Transit Buses

NORMAN TRANSIT CENTER

The Go Norman Transit Plan was adopted unanimously by Council in June 2021 as the strategic guide for investing into Norman's transit system. In 2023, the City implemented the first phase of the Plan, which was updating the route network utilizing current resources. This included opening the Norman Transit Center at 320 E. Comanche on October 16, 2023. Serving as the main transit hub for the City of Norman, the property was purchased by the City in April 2022 and a remodel of the facility occurred between March-October 2023. Improved amenities include indoor waiting area, water access, public and staff restrooms, and a staff breakroom.



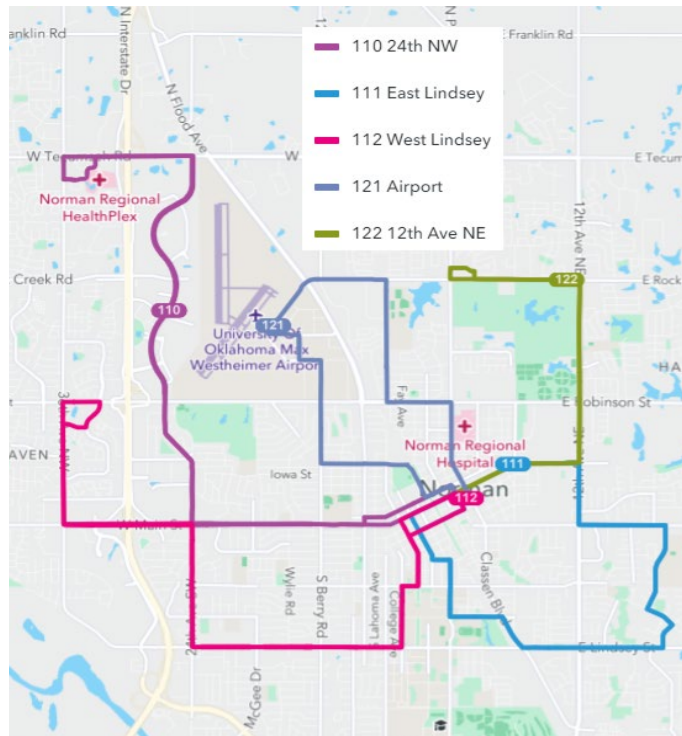
NORMAN ROUTE MODIFICATIONS

The Go Norman Transit Plan was adopted unanimously by Council in June 2021 as the strategic guide for investing into Norman's transit system. In 2023, the City implemented the first phase of the Plan, which was updating the route network utilizing current resources. This included a system wide route modification that aligned with the opening of the Norman Transit Center. This followed a public participation process and approval by City Council for the proposed route changes at the end of calendar year 2022. Most of the routes recommended to convert from a large loop to operate bidirectional, or along the same path to/from the Transit Center. This makes for a more user and operational friendly transit system to operate. Coinciding with the route changes were the installation of 60 new bus stops.

MICOTRANSIT PILOT PROGRAM

Norman On-Demand

Following work completed in calendar year 2022, in 2023 staff conducted a competitive bid process and for a turnkey provider to establish a microtransit pilot program in Norman. City Council approved the contract with Via Transportation and service began on August 21, 2023. Microtransit tends to fill service needs that would normally not be efficiently provided by large, traditional public transit vehicles. Branded Norman On-Demand, the service is available on-demand through an app or phone number with late night operating hours and operating hours on Sundays. These hours accommodate inclusion of the University of Oklahoma's SafeRide program which allows eligible accounts registered with an OU student email address to book free rides (subsidized by OU) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. The pilot period is through August 2024, at which time the pilot program will be extended or discontinued.



New Norman Transit System Routes Effective October 16, 2023

Norman On-Demand Vehicle at Unveiling Event



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (RTA) OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Since its creation in 2019, the RTA has completed and approved a System Plan, conducted an alternative analysis of the proposed corridors, and selected the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for each corridor (north/south and east). The RTA is now working on preliminary design plans for the proposed corridors to create an operating and construction cost estimate for the system. A regional ballot initiative is expected in the near future to request voters to fund the local share of the system's construction and operating costs. Federal funds will also be requested to compliment the regional local match.

CLEVELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE PARKING PAY STATION MODERNIZATION

New modern parking pay stations were installed around the Cleveland County Courthouse at the beginning of calendar year 2023. The four pay stations accept payments by cash/coins, cards, text, and through an app, replacing the 49 single space meters that only accepted coins. This project completes the modernization of the City's current areas where the public pays to park, following the upgrade to Campus

Corner that occurred in 2019. This system also matches the University of Oklahoma's, streamlining the way visitors and residents pay to park to access these major destinations.

MULTIMODAL PATHS AND BICYCLE LANES

In 2023, the City completed the Constitution Street Multimodal Path between Jenkins Avenue and Classen Boulevard. This project was constructed, in part, using Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds. Upon completion, this project added a 10-foot wide concrete path to the north side of Constitution Street from Jenkins Avenue and Classen Boulevard including a crossing of the BNSF Railroad. The project completed a gap in the Legacy Trail between the University of Oklahoma and southeast portions of Norman along Classen Boulevard and State Highway 9. It was completed in April.



Development Center Grand Opening event, January 2023



Completed Constitution Street Multimodal Path between Jenkins Avenue and Classen Boulevard North Side of Street



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PRO- GRAM GRANTS

In late 2017, in response to a call for projects issued by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) that included \$8.4 million in available funds, the City submitted grant applications for five different projects. Three of the projects were selected and federal funds in the amount of \$1.5 million were secured to fund a substantial portion of the construction cost.

The projects include:

- ~ Multimodal Path paralleling State Highway 9 (from 36th Avenue SE to 48th Avenue SE), which provides the second mile of a ten-foot wide paved path for pedestrians and bicyclists along the north side and connects the urbanized area of Norman with Lake Thunderbird State Park — completed in late Fall of 2020.
- ~ Multimodal Path along Flood Avenue (West Side) from Robinson Street to Tecumseh Road and along Tecumseh Road (South Side) from Flood Avenue to 24th Avenue NW, which includes a ten-foot wide paved path for pedestrians and bicyclists connecting northwest Norman with Downtown Norman and the University of Oklahoma Main Campus, and completing an eight mile long loop

around Max Westheimer Airport —expected to begin in coordination with ODOT in Spring 2024.

In late 2022, in response to a call for projects issued by ODOT, the City submitted grant applications for two more miles of path along State Highway 9. The grant winners, for which the City was an awardee, were announced in early 2023. The two projects awarded for funding include:

- ~ Multimodal path along north side of State Highway 9 between 48th Avenue SE and 60th Avenue SE—under design currently
- ~ Multimodal path along north side of State Highway 9 between 60th Avenue SE and 72nd Avenue SE—under design currently

In late 2022, in response to a call for projects issued by ACOG, the City submitted grant applications for three projects. The grant winners, for which the City of Norman was awarded two projects, were announced in late winter 2023. The two projects awarded for funding included:

- ~ Lindsey Street ADA Sidewalk Improvements between 12th Avenue SE and 24th Avenue SE—under design currently
- ~ Alameda Street Road Diet from Classen Boulevard to Ridge Lake Boulevard including continuous bicycle lanes in each direction of this portion

of Alameda Street—under design currently

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND UPGRADES

Two projects were awarded by ODOT in late 2023 and will begin construction in early 2024 including:

- ~ Emergency pre-emption upgrades at various locations (Phase 3). This will complete the city's conversion from infrared emergency vehicle pre-emption of our traffic signals to a GPS based system.
- ~ Installation of fiber optic signal interconnect on 36th Avenue NW between Robinson Street and Tecumseh Road. Completion of this installation will bring the existing traffic signal on 36th Avenue NW at Rock Creek Road into our Centrac Traffic Signal Management System as well as provide for future traffic signals to be installed on 36th Avenue NW at the Bart Conner Drive, Crail Drive, and Cascade Boulevard intersections.

Two new traffic signals were activated in late 2023 including:

- ~ Robinson Street at State Drive. This signal will serve the renovated Griffin Park.
- ~ 12th Ave NE at High Meadows Drive. This modification provided exclusive left-turn

lanes and left-turn signal phases on 12th Ave NE and will serve as the east entrance to the renovated Griffin Park.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER

After years of thoughtful planning, the development of a Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Norman took three major steps forward in 2021-2022. The team of Stantec-EST was hired to complete a Systems Engineering Analysis (SEA) for a potential TMC in Norman. This is the essential first step necessary to qualify for federal funds for the construction of a TMC. This SEA was completed in October 2020 in time to secure a perfect score of 100 in the ACOG TIP rankings assuring the availability of federal funds for construction in FYE 2022. TMC's will be established at the ECOC and in Building C. Design of the TMC space began in June 2022 with a bid for construction expected in early 2024.



Pictured below, right: December 2023, the City of Norman bid farewell to longtime Public Works Director Shawn O'Leary. He was congratulated for more than 16 years of heartfelt service to the City of Norman! Pictured, from left: Scott Sturtz, City Engineer; Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager; Shawn O'Leary, retired Public Works Director; Amy Shepard, Public Works Management Analyst; Taylor Johnson, Transit & Parking Program Manager; David Riesland, Transportation Engineer; Mike White, Fleet Program Manager; Joseph Hill, Streets Program Manager.



2023 BRIDGE BY BRIDGE BOND ELECTION

Following unanimous approval of City Council in August of 2023, residents of Norman were given the opportunity to vote on a 10-year, \$50 Million dollar bridge replacement and rehabilitation program on October 10, 2023. This bond program is a culmination of roughly 2.5 years of evaluation and development completed in partnership between outside third party consultants and City staff. The bond program covers up to 18 locations citywide with 10 of those locations designated for replacement and 8 locations designated for rehabilitation. This proposal passed with nearly 57.61% voter approval on October 10, 2023. The first projects included in this program are slated to begin construction in late spring of 2024.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Critical funding needed for the implementation of transportation infrastructure project was applied for in 2023. Ten project applications were submitted to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments as part of the formulation of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). These federal funds are disbursed on a competitive basis on the merit and need of individual projects. Successful applications will be announced in early 2024. Norman projects that were submitted for inclusion in the FFY 2025 TIP with total funding (Federal and Local Match) include:

- ~ Lindsey St Improvements Elm to Jenkins —\$5,071,091
- ~ 36th Ave SE State Highway 9 to Cedar Lane—\$8,235,043
- ~ 36th Avenue Phase 1—\$12,286,215
- ~ 36th and Tecumseh and 36th at Crail Intersection Bundle—\$3,384,370
- ~ Lindsey St Improvements Pickard to Elm—\$6,634,347
- ~ 36th Ave NW at Cascade Blvd and 36th Ave NW at Bart Conner Drive Signalization Bundle (100% Safety)—\$1,162,740

- ~ CCTV Cameras Phase 1 (100% Safety)—\$366,578
- ~ Reflectorized Traffic Signal Backplates (100% Safety)—\$537,235
- ~ Transit Bus Replacements (1 Units)—\$706,526

All of these projects were submitted in October, 2023, for consideration as part of the FFY 2026-2027 TIP formulation process. Below is an updated history of federal funding received since FFY 2007.



STORMWATER REPAIRS

The City of Norman Stormwater Division completed multiple emergency repair projects, to include:

- ~ Repair on East Comanche Street, caused by a 48-inch failed clay pipe
- ~ Repair on Boyd Street, with the assistance of the Streets Division, caused by a 20-inch failed clay pipe

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FEDERAL FUNDING

Funding was secured through Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant programs in 2022. These grants were applied for in 2021, and in 2022, the City was awarded the funds in the amount of \$1,143,590. Council accepted the grants and dedicated funding for the 25% local match.

- ~ Vineyard Detention Pond Modification (HMGP) - \$893,590
- ~ Project Scoping for Midway Drive Flood Mitigation (BRIC) - \$150,000
- ~ Flood Warning System Development and Implementation Scoping (BRIC) - \$100,000

Construction of the Vineyard Detention Pond Modification began in June of 2023; it is expected to be

completed by February 2024. The scoping projects for both Midway Drive and the Flood Warning Systems were out for bid at the end of the first quarter of July 2022 and forward movement is currently underway.

INLET REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Intent on reducing the maintenance burden of aged inlets, staff compiled a list of community inlets in most need of replacement that met budgetary limitations through the start of the 2023 Inlet Rehabilitation Program. The locations of this project included sites on Oakhurst Avenue, Sundown Drive, 48th Avenue NW, East Gray Street, Tarman Circle, Hawks Nest Drive and Foxborough Court. The program was completed through a contract with SAC Services Inc. for a total amount of \$207,936.25. Based on the success of this project, funding for FYE 2024 Inlet Rehabilitation Project was approved by Council.

SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Bus Stop Addition and Upgrade Project

In total, 1304 square yards of sidewalk and over 700 linear feet of curbing were installed (which provide ADA compliant access to buses), to meet the needs of the transit route modification. The project was completed in October of 2023.

Capital Improvement Project – 24th Avenue SW

This project removed and replaced sidewalks, ramps and driveways that were not in compliance from Lindsey Street to Main Street on both sides of the road. In total, this project repaired by replacement 1,870 square yards of sidewalk, 410 square yards of driveway approaches, 225 square yards of ramps and 890 linear feet of curb and gutter which eliminates unsafe conditions and provides a more direct path for differently-abled persons. The project was completed in June of 2023.

Capital Improvement Project – FYE 23 Concrete Projects

These projects removed and replaced sidewalks, ramps, driveways, curb and gutter and pedestrian push button actuators that were not in compliance or non-existing in various location throughout the city. In total, this project repaired by replacement or new installation: 2,364 square yards of sidewalk, 66 square yards of driveway approaches, 164 square yards of ramps and 400 linear feet of curb and gutter, which eliminates unsafe conditions and provides a more direct path for differently-abled persons. The project has one more portion to be completed along a portion of Boyd Street.

Sidewalk 50/50 Program

Sidewalk Reconstruction (50/50) program has completed 61 sidewalk repairs throughout the community; the cost to date is \$116,228.10.

Utilities Department

The Department of Utilities strives to provide environmentally sound, efficient utility service to our customers in a professional, safe manner at sustainable rates through six divisions: Administration and Engineering, Water Treatment, Line Maintenance, Environmental Resilience & Sustainability, Sanitation and Water Reclamation.

Line Maintenance Divisions

- ~ Water Line Maintenance
 - Staff made repairs to the City's largest water line of 42" that leaves the Water Treatment Facility, which is one of two main lines feeding the distribution system. This line break repair is the largest repair made by City of Norman staff to date. During the month of January, Norman experienced a deep freeze lasting over 100 hours. Staff responded to 226 emergency calls on top of continuous checks for frozen waterlines.
- ~ Sewer Line Maintenance - Staff maintained 14-sewer lift stations, washed 1.1 million feet of sewer lines and televised 281,000 feet of the collection system to prevent sewer stoppages and



bypasses. Norman Regional Healthplex Lift Station was placed in service, two new standby generators were installed at Ashton Grove and Sutton Place Lift Stations to ensure normal operations in case of power loss.

Events, Accolades & Achievements

- ~ The City of Norman earned the Transformational Innovation Award from the WaterReuse Association at the 2023 WaterReuse Symposium for its Indirect Potable Reuse project alongside Garver Engineering. This award recognized technological advances, research breakthroughs and innovative practices

that advance the adoption, implementation or public acceptance of recycled water.

- ~ Utilities Manager Steve Hardeman was honored as the Oklahoma Water Environment Association's (OWEA) Lifetime Achievement Award winner at the 2023 Spring Conference in May 2023. Hardeman oversees day-to-day operations at the Water Reclamation Plant and began his career at the City of Norman in 1984.
- ~ The City of Norman received a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for their continued use and monitoring of fluoride in the water system. Fluoride is added to the treatment process to prevent tooth decay for City of Norman water consumers.
- ~ Through recognized environmental service and sustainability efforts, the City of Norman was nominated as a Finalist of the Year for Keep Oklahoma Beautiful.
- ~ The City of Norman celebrated the opening of a new 6,300 sq. ft. Solid Waste Facility at North Base in September 2023, which serves as a central hub for collection drivers, administrative workers and managers.



Water is Life

Norman voters approved a Water Rate Proposition with 56.33% of the vote on January 13, 2023. Passage of the “Water is Life” proposition provides funding for waterline replacement, upgraded disinfection systems for groundwater, lead and copper line mandates, and water service operations. Many improvements are already well underway. This water rate increase represents the first to be approved in eight years in the City of Norman.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Household Hazardous Waste Facility and E-waste Collection Events

The first full year of operation for Norman’s Household Hazardous Waste Facility was a success, as staffed served more than 750 cars at the drive-through facility. The on-demand kiosk for oil, antifreeze and cooking oil was also a great resource for residents this past year and both

resources coupled with two electronic waste (“E-waste”) collection events. The E-waste events occurred at Reaves Park and served more than 550 cars. Residents were able to properly

dispose of and, divert from the landfill, over 75.5 tons of household hazardous waste materials!

Watershed Clean-up and Garden Maintenance Events

During 2023, a total of 14 clean-up events were held and 281 dedicated community members removed 2,854 pounds of trash from our watersheds; additionally, volunteers helped plant and maintain three pollinator gardens in the Brookhaven watershed located in Prairie Creek and William Morgan Parks. These events are often held in partnership with local community organizations such as OU, Hitachi, Friends of Bishop Creek, and Norman Public Schools. This year was also the start of the Clean Neighborhood Project, an on-demand way for residents to perform litter control in their neighborhoods. Residents decide where they want to work, sign-up online, and then pick up their supplies and drop off their waivers at the Development Center. After participants finish, DoERs handles the waste disposal after weights are taken.

Lake Thunderbird Watershed Projects

Facing critical pollution, Lake Thunderbird, our vital community resource, received a “diet” for pollution: a Total Maximum Daily Load plan. Norman, a founding member of the Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance (LTWA), leads the charge with a dedicated stormwater program. This year, the LTWA began plans to create a groundbreaking project, partnering with researchers, residents, and developers. The plan transforms detention ponds at the Little River entry point into beacons of hope. This makeover showcases the beauty and effectiveness of nature-based solutions for water quality, paving the way for replication through educational components and a comprehensive manual. With a grant application submitted, the LTWA is hopeful to receive the funding needed in calendar year 2024.

Another exciting initiative: Norman’s Blue Neighborhood Pilot Project blooms like a vibrant rain garden, transforming residential yards into miniature water quality champions. This groundbreaking pilot program tackles the hidden challenge of high nitrogen and phosphorus loads in the Woodcrest Creek sub-watershed, by empowering residents to become partners in environmental stewardship. Participants can collaborate with Norman in this cost-share program to install rain or pollinator gardens,

rain water harvesting through rain barrels or cisterns, or compost soil amendments with or without wildflower over-seeding, all transforming individual actions into collective impact. From applications in October 2023 through site visits to upcoming spring installations, the project blossoms with hope. The Blue Neighborhood project is a beacon of inspiration, proving that collective action, powered by nature's ingenuity, can cultivate a brighter future for our cities and our planet.

Monarchs in the Park and Earth Day Festivals

The Earth Day Festival returned in April 2023. Over 3,500 guests enjoyed music, games, activities, and celebrated our environment. Additionally, in partnership with Oklahoma Biological Survey, the DoERS team hosted the annual Monarchs in the Park festival at Andrews Park and had almost 1,000 attendees. The event was low-waste, and all waste generated during the event was composted or recycled through Fertile Ground. The event ended with a pollinator parade to a plot where a native, pollinator-friendly garden was planted near the skate park.

FOG

Norman created a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program in the mid-2000s to address the large number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) that we were experiencing

throughout the collection system. The program is voluntary and allows restaurants and other food service establishments to use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep FOG out of their sewer lines and remain out of the higher regulated Industrial Pretreatment Program. The FOG program has turned out to be extremely successful, and SSOs have decreased exponentially and now often only occur from privately-owned lines over which we have limited control. This year, the FOG program kept over 350,000 gallons of fat, oil and/or grease out of the collection system!



Quarterly Statewide Pretreatment Coordinators Meeting

The City of Norman was selected as the first host city for the Oklahoma Statewide Pretreatment Coordinators Quarterly Meeting. Norman hosted attendees from around the state and from State and Federal agencies to discuss emerging concerns in the field such as PFAS/PFOA and handling waste from breweries. Visiting agencies ended the day with a tour to Norman's state-of-the-art Household Hazardous Waste Facility and a visit to a local brewery.

Blue Thumb Certification and Adoption of Dave Blue Creek

In June 2023, DoERS staff became certified Blue Thumb volunteers by completing their two-day training. Staff learned about aquatic macroinvertebrates, fish, chemical testing procedures, quality control and quality assurance. DoERS staff have adopted a site on Dave Blue Creek within the Lake Thunderbird Watershed.

Spooky Stormwater Scramble

As part of stormwater programming, builders and developers are educated about stormwater rules and ways to stay in compliance with them. This year, Stormwater Quality developed a unique and innovative way to educate and network with our building and development stakeholders – they held the First Annual Spooky Stormwater Scramble on Friday, October 13, 2023. Mixed teams from City staff, building and development stakeholders and sponsors played rounds of golf. Teams were given the opportunity to answer stormwater trivia questions correctly to have their final scores reduced. Educational booths were set up to allow for interaction with various vendors.

Educational Workshops and Events

Part of the DoERS mission is to educate residents on environmental topics including how to be more resilient and sustainable on an individual level. Several workshops and events were held to meet

these goals in 2023. These include hands-on workshops for making rain chains from repurposed littered glass, building and installing a floating wetland for young spring break campers, and compost bin science and bin building, as well as educational talks like Moth Night, Prairie Preservation and the Bee Walk during Pollinator Week. Future planned efforts include beekeeping and small solar projects.

Annual Rain Barrel Distribution

On March 31 and April 1, 2023, the Annual Rain Barrel Distribution Event was completed in coordination with Stormwater Maintenance of the Public Works Department. Staff distributed 84 rain barrels, composters, and accessories to people who ordered them through the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) rain barrel promotion.



Artful Inlets

On April 6-7, 2023, five pieces of stormwater infrastructure in Colonial Estates Park were transformed into artwork as part of the Artful Inlets

program. These artworks, combined with past pieces, will educate the public and raise awareness about the harmful effects that pollutants in stormwater runoff can have on our local waterways in an artistic and meaningful way. This fun and amazing program is a great collaboration between Utilities, Public Works and the Norman Arts Council.



ENGINEERING

Well 5, 6, 52 blending

Approximately 2,400 feet of waterline was installed and one 2,600 feet existing waterline was repurposed in order to bring water from well 5, 6, and 52 to the Water Treatment Plant to be used as a combined point of entry at \$584,950. Combining these wells into one location will save staff time and money on sampling, and brought back two underutilized wells, which allows for an additional 500,000 gallons per day for the City.

Porter Avenue Project

In conjunction with the Public Works project to repair Porter Avenue, waterline was replaced between Robinson Street and Alameda Street. Phase I was completed in 2021 and consisted of replacement between Gray Street and Frank Street only. Phase II was recently completed and consisted of replacement of 6,500 feet of waterline between Robinson Street and Frank Street, and Gray Street and Alameda Street at a cost of \$2,039,328.

Groundwater Blending

Twenty-eight acres of land was purchased in 2022 for the purpose of a combined groundwater treatment site. Staff recently began design efforts and construction is expected to begin in FYE25. This project will bring most of Norman's active groundwater wells to one location where it will be disinfected prior to

being sent to the distribution system. This will create a new combined point of entry, which will reduce sampling time and funding. Currently, all 43 of Norman's active water wells are in compliance with standards set forth in both federal and state regulations, however, the NUA also treats and distributes surface water from Lake Thunderbird. Since the water from the surface water source and groundwater wells in blended in the distributions system piping, ODEQ has indicated that the system will need to be modified so that a minimum disinfectant residual of 1.0 mg/L total chloramines be found throughout all parts of the system. In addition, maximum contaminant levels of total chromium and arsenic may be lowered by the EPA, and a new maximum contaminant level for hexavalent chromium may be established in the future, thus requiring additional treatment for

groundwater wells. This 28 acres will allow the system to expand following any changes to rules and regulations in the future.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Safety record

Water Treatment Plant staff continue to maintain their safety record and are now on year 14 without a lost time accident. The Division works 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. They have a crew of 15 people who continually work with large machinery and automated equipment, bulk chemicals, and large pumps and motors that require 480 volts of electricity. It is a great honor to recognize their accomplishment of serving 5 billion gallons of drinking water per year to the citizens of Norman while maintaining a safe work environment.



UCMR5

Every three years the EPA establishes a new project to collect data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The goal of these projects is to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not currently have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The contaminants that are monitored change for each project. Staff has started to collect data under the fifth UCMR (UCMR5) which consists of collecting data for 29 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances, along with Lithium. Sampling for Norman will continue through 2024. Once the EPA has data from all systems required to perform the monitoring they will make the data for the entire nation available to the public and use this information to potentially establish new limits for these compounds. Norman is proud to be contributing data to such projects that help continue research and establish improved goals for public health.

JOINT EFFORTS

42-inch water line break

A 42-inch water line (the largest diameter pipe in Norman's distribution system) leaving the WTP broke in September 2024, requiring emergency cooperation from multiple City departments and Divisions. The Water Treatment Plant staff monitored water tower levels and the flow through the treatment

process while Line Maintenance staff worked to isolate the break and Police helped direct traffic around the large quantities of water flowing into the street. Additionally, Public Works staff provided traffic control equipment and Communications staff informed the public of the incident. The break was isolated within 3 hours and pressures started to return to normal. Staff also took samples in



Pictured, above: Water Reclamation team members at the City of Norman pose with the 2023 Transformational Innoval Award from the WaterReuse Association. Pictured, below: Michelle Chao of the Division of Environmental Resilience & Sustainability leads an educational workshop with Norman residents.





Pictured, above: City Manager Darrel Pyle visit staff members of the Utilities Department preceding a morning shift. Pictured, below: Solid Waste Manager Bret Scovill shows members of the 2023 Citizen's Academy equipment used in sanitation service in Norman.



the area to ensure quality in the distribution system. The broken section of line was replaced within the following week after parts for the large diameter line were obtained.

Distribution Water Quality

High temperatures in the summertime can have a negative effect on water quality in the distribution system. Our staff frequently monitors water quality throughout the entire year and notifies Line Maintenance staff of areas of concern that might require flushing. Additionally, WTP operators raise and lower tower levels regularly during the summer to establish better water quality with decreased stagnation periods.

Well 31 media change out

Norman has one groundwater well that uses an ion exchange system to treat and remove naturally occurring arsenic. The system was installed in 2009 following EPA's lowering of the maximum contaminant level in 2006. The treated water is monitored extensively to ensure it meets all state and federal regulations, in addition to providing an understanding of when the media has been exhausted and is in need of replacement. Once exhausted, the well is turned off until the old media can be removed, and new media installed. This work was originally contracted out, but due to cost increases in the last few years, it is no longer economically

feasible to do so. Instead, WTP staff has coordinated this change out and disposal with other utility divisions. With the use of Line Maintenance staff and their specialized equipment, the media can be removed from any of the three vessels. Working with other City divisions, rather than outside contractors, equals a cost-savings of more than \$30,000 for all three vessels each time the media needs to be removed.



Line Maintenance workers repair a water pipe in June 2023.



Parks and Rec

RECREATION EVENTS

In 2023, the Norman Parks and Recreation Department orchestrated 51 diverse events, ranging from ribbon cuttings to festivals and 5K races, fostering community engagement and well-being. These well-attended events included:

- ~ Daddy Daughter Dance
- ~ Shamrock Run
- ~ Norman Spring Egg Hunt
- ~ Mom Prom
- ~ Outdoor Movie Series
- ~ Fishing Derby
- ~ Juneteenth Festival
- ~ Norman's Fourth Fest
- ~ International Festival
- ~ Zombie Run
- ~ Andrews Park Tree Lighting
- ~ Winterfest at Legacy Park
- ~ Ugly Sweater Run

PARKS DEVELOPMENT

- ~ The community celebrated completed ADA upgrades to the playground at Andrews Park in March, which features a poured-in-place rubber surface and many play features that accommodate children with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities.

- ~ Work occurred to draft a master plan concept for Andrews Park, which has now been presented to City Council, staff and other stakeholders. This plan will help guide budget and coordination to breathe new life into Norman's original park, a unique 17-acre downtown location.
- ~ A contractor was hired in late summer to construct a 12-car parking lot addition and improvements to the south walking trail spur at George M. Sutton Urban Wilderness. The project is being funded 80% by a grant from the Oklahoma Recreational Trails Program.

Work will include improving the drainage and trail surface along the walking trail spur that leads to Griffin Park from the south end of the dam in Sutton Wilderness, and is expected to be completed early 2024.

Some of the oldest courts in the north part of the Westwood Tennis Center were resurfaced to ensure quality of play and eligibility standards for the U.S. Tennis Association certification in order to host tournaments.

- ~ Major maintenance and accessibility work was completed at Lions Park, to include crack-fill and seal coating of the parking lot off of Pickard Avenue as well as restriping to adjust locations of handicap-accessible parking spots. More work will be carried out in 2024.



- ~ Site analysis was done for the new park at the corner of Alameda Street and Carter Avenue. Information gathered in this process helped refine the overall design which will include green infrastructure aimed at slowing, detaining, and treating stormwater runoff. In light of such goals, Park Planner Bethany Grissom completed the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program to gain the expertise necessary to design, inspect, and maintain green infrastructure projects, such as: Rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavements, bioswales and retention/detention ponds.
- ~ Work on several small interior remodel projects at the 12th Avenue Recreation Center improved both the accessibility of the spaces and cosmetic improvements to the floors, walls, ceilings, counters, doors, and other areas. Work will soon begin with an architect at this highly used recreation center to design a remodel of the restrooms and the after-school room to bring them up to current ADA standards for counter heights, fixtures, materials, and signage.
- ~ Bicycle Planning efforts continue with solar-owered



path lights having been installed on bicycle bridges over Imhoff Creek between Berry Road and Brookside Drive, making the route safer at night while not causing excessive light to spill onto adjacent properties. Design was completed in 2023 on the trail along the west side of Flood Street, from Robinson to Tecumseh Road, and then along Tecumseh from Flood to 24th NW, which will complete the off-street multi-modal path loop around Max Westheimer Airport. Other sections of the trail are being designed and built along the north side of Highway 9, heading to the Clear Bay area of Lake Thunderbird.

FORESTRY

The Forestry Division continues pruning projects around the community, to include efforts to “limb up” areas and remove dead trees that pose hazards. Trees were replanted in the Campus Corner area and established at Royal Oaks Park. Efforts to increase the urban forest footprint in Norman through phases are ongoing.

A contractor was hired to review Norman’s Tree Ordinance and begin work on an urban tree inventory, which will help produce an Urban Forest Master Plan. An Oklahoma Forestry Services grant was accepted to help with this project and will create a guiding document for the Forestry Division for years to come.

The first “Walk In the Forest” event in September at Ruby Grant Park was

RECREATION PROGRAMS

- ~ The 12th Avenue, Irving, and Whittier Recreation Centers offered several programs, including after-school programs, Winter Break, Spring Break, and President's Day Camps, as well as Summer Camps. Recreational field trips this past year included visits to the OKC Zoo, the Science Museum of Oklahoma, and the Westwood Family Aquatic Center. Groups such as Extreme Animals and Dart Battles of Oklahoma are also brought in to do in-house activities.
- ~ Westwood Family Aquatic Center (WFAC) opened on May 27 and ended its regular season on September 5. WFAC had an outstanding summer season, selling over 7,679 season passes and had 130,349 in attendance. This was an increase in all categories from 2022. Aquatic programs and classes also performed 26% better than the previous year. More than 2000 swimmers participated in swim lesson programs and the World's Largest Swim Lesson – an annual event – saw 890 participants.
- ~ The Norman Senior Center joined forces with partner agencies to share knowledge about library services,



a great success. Several points of interest were set along the walking trail south and east of the pavilion, with staff from the State Forestry Division on hand to help educate participants about the benefits of trees for health, recreation, environmental quality, and a variety of other things. A station to discuss managing trees as a resource for urban and rural settings was also available for attendees.

The Forestry Division is working alongside the Norman Fire Department to apply for a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Forestry that will assist in the creation of a Wildfire Prevention Plan for Norman. This is the first step in becoming a FireWise Community – a

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) program that helps cities to fully assess and understand potential risks in the case of a wildfire event. The plan will include identifying underbrush and dead plant material that need clearing, among other items that can be controlled and mitigated between collaborative partnerships.

The City hosted its Annual Tree Giveaway in November and attendees were able to take their pick from five different species. The event was made possible through gifts from OEC and First United Bank, as well as funds available through the Parks and Recreation Department and the Division of Environmental Resilience and Sustainability.

electronic devices, taxes and more. SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) also held monthly meetings to discuss various topics promoting senior adult safety and awareness. Special events included a Valentine's Day Social, Mystery Dinner trips, Grill & Games, a journey to an OKC Dodger baseball game, and a Thanksgiving luncheon. On December 29 the Norman Senior Center closed its doors as the community saw the opening of the start-of-the-art Adult Wellness & Education Center.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Park Maintenance remains hard at work with event setup assistance across the city, storm debris operations, major facility opening

support and vector control program management. The vector control program added six additional sites in 2023, which created a more comprehensive count to accurately depict mosquito populations across the community in order to monitor and safeguard residents.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

In September, team transitions increased efficiencies in the Parks & Recreation Department to include: Wade Thompson began managing only the Park Maintenance Division; Lance Harper hired as Facility and Construction Program Manager; and Blake Madden hired as Facility Maintenance Supervisor. Several heating and cooling issues have been resolved by reprogramming current units in place and working on the HVAC systems' scheduling function. Several roofing projects have also

been completed, such as: Fire Administration, Firehouse Art Center, Whittier and Irving Rec Centers and the Reaves Adult Softball facility.

WESTWOOD GOLF MAINTENANCE

Westwood Golf Course strives to provide the Norman residents, guests and visitors with the best possible golfing conditions. Bunker renovations are underway, to include new drainage, sodding bank surrounds, and new sand that will improve the course visually and practically. Irrigation in Oklahoma is a high priority for improving and maintaining turf grass quality; staff is addressing the functional side of that and the scientific side of water quality. Other projects include drainage, weed control, and driving range improvements.

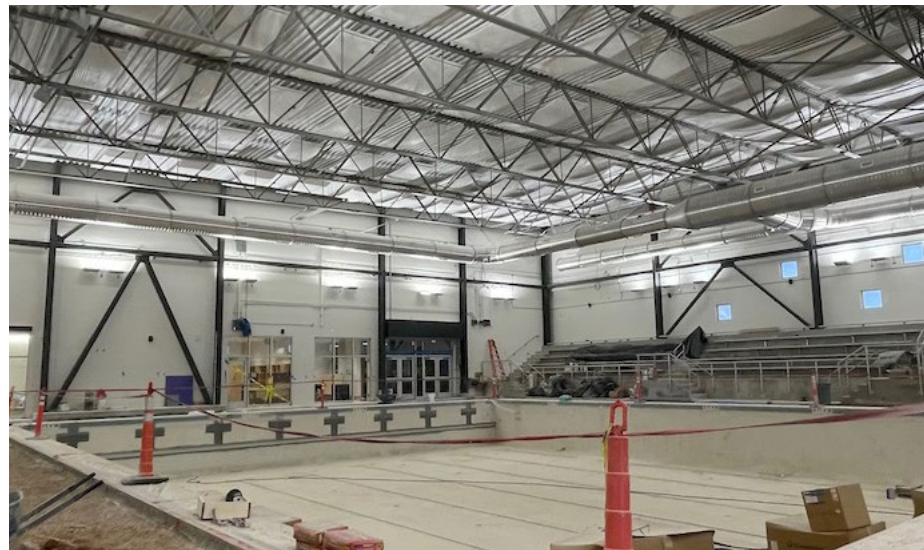


Norman Forward

In October 2015, Norman residents passed the Norman Forward initiative encompassing 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. Below are updates from various Norman Forward projects in the works!

GRIFFIN PARK PROJECT

Phase 6 of the project began in March 2023 and included a road off High Meadows Avenue to the two new parking lots, two restroom/concession buildings, and earth/grade work, including sprigging, on eight new fields. The project was completed, and a ribbon cutting was held on September 16. The project included the construction of 11 new soccer fields, renovation of 11 existing fields for a total of 22 soccer fields, irrigation, fencing, sprigging, sodding, concrete walks, concession buildings, restroom buildings, parking lots, reconstruction of Robinson Avenue including traffic signal and intersection construction.



REAVES PARK PROJECT

A Reaves Park ribbon cutting was held on March 25. The work managed by Flintco is complete, and the new T-ball fields hosted their first games at a tournament that following week. Over 17 months, the old park maintenance facility was demolished and replaced with a new quad of 8-U ballfields, covered bleacher seating, LED field lighting, windscreens and cap rails, and Tahoma-31 sod playing surface. A new loop road was constructed through the park (Reaves Park Road) that accesses hundreds of new parking spaces in the park interior, a new detention pond, upgraded electrical service and lighting in all vehicle areas, and improved parking on the north end of the park at the softball fields off Timberdell Avenue.

Reaves Park hosted the Medieval Fair, Earth Day, Juneteenth, FourthFest, Brewtoberfest, and several other events. Additional work included replacing lights on the old fields and new scoreboards at the new T-ball complex that were supplied free of charge by a group that will sell advertising on the boards and split the revenue with the City. Future improvements are: fencing at the older fields, constructing a small maintenance shop and material yard for the park, and replacing the old restroom building near the playgrounds in the park.



New public art funded through Norman Forward was unveiled at Reaves Park on December 5. “Mechan 14”, a 15-foot robot sculpture by artist Tyler Fuqua, is the first giant robot in Norman and offers a dynamic presence in the park. The giant robot has interchangeable parts allow it to transform from a Home Run Mechan with a baseball bat to a Bold Knight Mechan with a sword during the annual Medieval Fair.

ADULT WELLNESS CENTER

Construction was completed, and a ribbon cutting was held on November 13. The celebration included tours of the new facility, meet-and-greets with the new program instructors, live music and more. A Mural Dedication in the natatorium took place after the facility’s ribbon cutting. The total approved project budget was \$14 million, and amenities include a walking track, warm saltwater pool,

multipurpose rooms for classes and exercise, multiple classrooms for art, a strength training area, and a teaching kitchen, all housed in an over 30,000 square foot facility. Within a month of opening, the AWE had 900 members and continues to grow.

YOUNG FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

Construction continued at the Young Family Athletic Facility (YFAC). Operator contract negotiations ceased with Santa Fe Family Life Center, and the Parks & Recreation Department will operate the facility. A YFAC policy – including fees, scheduling, and hours of operations – was adopted. A Street Dedication Ceremony honoring Trae Young was held on November 5, during which the new street in front of the YFAC was officially renamed Trae Young Drive to recognize the basketball star’s contributions to the City of Norman. The winter basketball league

saw over 1,700 enrollees and games began in January 2024.

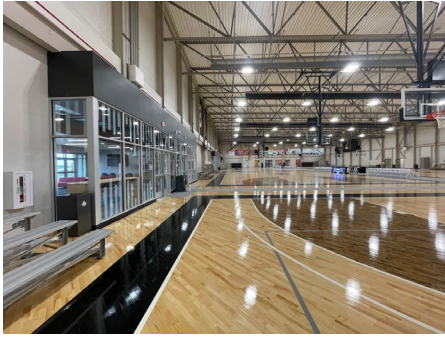
JAMES GARNER AVENUE PHASE 2

James Garner Avenue Phase 2 is a \$7.8 million project that will extend James Garner Avenue from Flood Avenue to Acres Street. This will include a roundabout at the connection to Flood Avenue and a new bridge over Robinson Street next to the railroad bridge and the underpass. This project has received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for 80% of the construction costs in 2022. The project was bid by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in October 2022. Construction on the project began in April 2023. A majority of the mainline paving is complete and construction of both the bridge over Robinson Street and the new multi-lane roundabout are underway. The roundabout will also feature a public art piece; construction is expected to be complete by May 2024.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RENOVATIONS

Cherry Creek Park

A new playground with synthetic turf and shade was installed, along with park furniture, additional walkways, and an expanded soccer practice area. Drainage was also improved, and an area of native landscape was added.



Earl Sneed Park

A contractor was hired to renovate the arbor structure, which included a new concrete floor poured in the middle of the structure that connects to a covered extension that will act as a turnaround for wheelchairs. A new picnic table was placed under the arbor, and stand-alone cedar gateways were added to each end of the central shrub bed. A landscape contractor will complete and connect all these areas with a garden path loop off the main pass-through asphalt path on the park's eastern edge.

High Meadows Park

A drainage issue was resolved where a perched water table had kept a section of the park trail wet year-round. To remedy this, a trailside drainage system was expanded to create a way for the water to drain under the trail and into the creek. The area was topped with new sod to prevent further accumulation of silt on the trail after rains.



Bentley Park

The newest Norman Park is being developed to serve the Bellatona and Summit Valley neighborhoods. The park is named in honor of Parks & Recreation Director Lionel Bentley, who passed away unexpectedly in 2022. This new park is being funded through a combination of Norman Forward and Neighborhood Park Funds, plus a generous private donation from the Bentley family. New trees with irrigation were planted in the Spring, and several areas were seeded with native plant species for the areas that will remain in a more natural, un-mowed state.

A new playground will be installed in early 2024, and work has begun on new tennis and pickleball courts. Other amenities include a large picnic pavilion, a perimeter walking path, a basketball practice court, and all associated park furnishings.

Colonial Commons Park


A new shade structure was installed in response to neighborhood requests for more shade during the summer while the community gardening, sports practices, and skate areas are more active.


Falls-Lakeview Park and Sunrise Park

Additional park renovation projects will take place at these locations and preliminary work is already underway. Improvements will include: Upgrading the park trails, furnishings, signage, and landscaping.





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