

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Greenbelt Priority Trail Proposal City of Norman Greenbelt Trail System**

Prepared by the Greenbelt Commission

City of Norman  
Oklahoma

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**Purpose:** To provide a conceptual plan for the development of essential Greenbelt trails that will establish the foundation for a more extensive trail system throughout urban and rural Norman. The Greenbelt trail system will connect and provide access to “green” areas such as parks, greenways, natural features and rural areas from points of interest such as schools, shopping and residential areas. This effort will encourage non-motorized travel while providing extensive year-round opportunities for Normanites to interact with nature and to recreate outdoors. These proposed trails integrate with the bicycle and pedestrian plan in the adopted Transportation Plan (2013), current transportation bond projects, and ODOT Transportation projects (e.g. Highway 9 renovations).

**Overview of proposal:** Five trails are proposed that when completed, will form numerous trail loops, ranging in distance from 6 to 35 miles, around urban Norman and throughout rural Norman, with multiple connections to the west shoreline of Lake Thunderbird. In addition, the trails will allow pedestrian travel from downtown Norman to Lake Thunderbird, as well as to the southeast quadrant of Norman, south of Highway 9, and northward to north Norman along Tecumseh Road, where both locations have new and growing neighborhoods.

***The North Norman Tecumseh Trail*** starts at Ruby Grant Park, forming an approximate six-mile loop trail roughly defined by 36<sup>th</sup> NW Ave., Indian Hills Road, the Little River riverbed, and Tecumseh Road. The trail also extends eastward along Tecumseh Road all the way to the northwest corner of Lake Thunderbird State Park where it connects with the Scissortail Trail.

***The Scissortail Trail*** travels along east Highway 9 from southeast Norman to 84<sup>th</sup> Ave., then north to the Dave Blue Creek, where it then follows northeast along the Dave Blue Creek towards the west shore of Lake Thunderbird. At Lake Thunderbird, it will go northward along the west shore where it meets the Alameda segment of the East Norman Trails at the Alameda Bridge. It continues northward along the west shoreline, connecting with the East Norman Trails at Robinson Street, and continuing all the way to Tecumseh Road to connect with the North Norman Tecumseh Trail. The theme of the Scissortail Trail will focus on the flora and fauna of central Oklahoma, highlighting seasonal wildflowers, wildlife and bird identification and their behaviors and habitats, and the unique ecological features of meadows, creek beds, and forested areas of central Oklahoma.

***The South Legacy Trail*** connects with the current Legacy Trail at its southern terminus just SE of downtown Norman, and continues southward, linking Brandt Park (i.e., OU Duck Pond), apartments and high-density developments along Classen Boulevard with south OU campus and on into the far southeast area of Norman, south of Highway 9. This trail will also connect with the Scissortail Trail, thereby connecting south central and south east Norman with trails to Lake Thunderbird. The South Legacy Trail will continue to highlight the history of Norman and central Oklahoma, paying particular attention to the historical and cultural contributions of under-represented groups.

***The East Norman Trails*** comprise a network of trails throughout east rural Norman providing multiple connections between urban Norman with Lake Thunderbird, as well as links between the North Norman Tecumseh Trail to the north and the Scissortail Trail to the south and east. When interconnected with these other trails, the East Norman Trails form multiple loops ranging in distance from 6 to 20 miles. Primary east-west trails are along Robinson (between 12<sup>th</sup> East Ave. and Lake Thunderbird) and Alameda Street and Alameda Drive (between 24<sup>th</sup> East and 72<sup>nd</sup> East, and then along Alameda Drive to Lake Thunderbird). Primary north-south trails are along 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave. and 48<sup>th</sup> East Ave. between Tecumseh and Highway 9. Two spurs connect 12<sup>th</sup> East Ave. and 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave. The first is along High Meadows Drive, Northcliff Ave., and Creighton Drive, connecting High Meadows Park, Northeast Lions Park, and Creighton Park. The second spur is from East Main Street to Crestland Park, and then following along the south bank of Rock Creek to 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave.

***The West Lindsey Extension – 36<sup>th</sup> SW Ave. Trail*** connects west Lindsey Street and 36<sup>th</sup> SW Ave. This connection links west-side Norman and Lindsey Street. Current renovations of west Lindsey Street between I-35 and Berry Road will provide pedestrian access to the South Legacy Trail. The West Lindsey Extension trail will connect with the future Canadian River Park which is a Norman Forward project.

## **DETAILED TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS**

### ***The North Norman Tecumseh Trail***

The North Norman Tecumseh Trail starts at Ruby Grant Park with two paths, one going north and the other going south. The north path will be a continuation of the 10-foot wide Legacy Trail which travels north along 36<sup>th</sup> NW to the city limits of Norman. Here it will connect with Telephone Road in Moore, thereby providing intra-urban connectivity. At the intersection of 36<sup>th</sup> NW Ave. and Indian Hills Road, the trail turns east, following Indian Hills Road over I-35 until it reaches the Little River. At the Little River, this trail continues southward along the western side of the Little River, crossing Franklin Road about halfway between 24<sup>th</sup> NW Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> NW Ave.

The south path from Ruby Grant Park travels south to Tecumseh Road, and then follows Tecumseh Road east, crossing I-35 and the railroad tracks. East of the railroad tracks, this trail turns northward to reach the Little River, where it connects with the north path of the North Norman Tecumseh Trail loop just west of 12<sup>th</sup> NW Ave. Combined, the north and south paths create an approximate six-mile loop trail in northwest Norman integrating Ruby Grant Park and the Little River.

Along Tecumseh Road, the North Norman Tecumseh Trail spans from the west at 36<sup>th</sup> NW Ave. to the east at the northwest corner of Lake Thunderbird State Park, where it will connect with the Scissortail Trail. Although the North Norman Tecumseh Trail follows along a major arterial route, i.e. Tecumseh Road, it is intended that the trail will be distinctly separate from the road infrastructure, meandering through natural areas and connecting residential developments along Tecumseh Road.

### ***The Scissortail Trail***

The Scissortail Trail begins at the intersection of Highway 9 and 24<sup>th</sup> SE Ave. and travels eastward along Highway 9 using the pedestrian/bicycle pathway being built as part of the ODOT upgrade of Highway 9. The Scissortail trail continues along Highway 9 until reaching 84<sup>th</sup> SE Ave. where it turns north along 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. for approximately one mile to where the Dave Blue Creek crosses 84<sup>th</sup> SE Ave. Where the Dave Blue Creek crosses 84<sup>th</sup> SE Ave., the trail follows northeast along the north side of Dave Blue Creek floodplain until reaching Lake Thunderbird State Park property. There the trail turns northward, following the western shoreline until reaching the Alameda Bridge where it will connect with the Alameda Street segment of the East Norman Trails. At this point, there is a park area with trail head parking and restrooms. The Scissortail Trail continues northward along the west shore of Lake Thunderbird, connecting again with East Norman Trails at Robinson Street, until it reaches Tecumseh Road where it connects with the North Norman Tecumseh Trail.

A south spur along 36<sup>th</sup> SE Ave. from Highway 9, travels southward to about halfway between Highway 9 and East Cedar Lane. There the trail travels southwest along the water quality protection zone area, connecting the Scissortail Trail with Saxon Park and the South Legacy Trail on E. Cedar Lane Road.

Trailheads for the Scissortail Trail are located at Saxon Park, the Dave Blue Creek area at 84<sup>th</sup> SE Ave., and at the Alameda Bridge.

### ***The South Legacy Trail***

The South Legacy Trail is a continuation of the current Legacy Trail, extending into south-central and southeast Norman. It has a spur connecting downtown Norman with the East Norman Trails at Griffin Community Park. Likewise, it connects with the Scissortail Trail at 36<sup>th</sup> SE Ave. and E. Cedar Lane Road. Thus, this segment of the South Legacy Trail is a critical link between central, core Norman with the East Norman Trails and the southern Scissortail Trail.

The South Legacy Trail starts at the southern terminus of the current Legacy Trail located at Duffy Street. The South Legacy Trail moves south through neighborhood areas, until reaching the northern boundary of the Brandt Park (i.e., OU Duck Pond) at Brooks Street. South of the Brandt Park, the trail continues south along Classen Blvd. to Constitution Ave., where it turns west and continues to Jenkins Ave. This connects Reaves Park with the South Legacy Trail. At the intersection of Classen Blvd. and East Imhoff Road, the trail turns east along Imhoff to connect with the Scissortail Trail at the intersection of Highway 9 and 24<sup>th</sup> SE Ave.

The South Legacy Trail south of Highway 9 runs along E. Cedar Lane Road from Truman Drive to almost 36<sup>th</sup> SE Ave, where it connects with the Scissortail Trail.

The South Legacy Trail will also travel north from E. Cedar Lane Road along 12<sup>th</sup> SE to cross Highway 9 where there is a traffic crossing light for pedestrians and bicycles. The trail will continue northward along 12<sup>th</sup> SE until connecting with Constitution.

A spur connecting downtown Norman to Griffin Community Park will run along E. Main to the traffic circle at Main and Acres, and then travel north up N. Carter Ave. This will provide access to Frances Cate Park. The South Legacy Trail will continue eastward along the south side of E. Robinson until reaching 12<sup>th</sup> SE Ave., where pedestrian crosswalk and traffic lights allow safe crossing of Robinson and thereby connecting to Griffin Community Park.

### ***The East Norman Trails***

The East Norman Trails forms a network of trails, with multiple trail loops varying from 6 to 18 miles in distance, throughout east rural Norman. This network of trails provides multiple connections between urban Norman with Lake Thunderbird, as well as between the North Norman Tecumseh Trail to the north and the Scissortail Trail to the south.

The two east-west trails are along Robinson and Alameda Street. The trail along Robinson spans from 12<sup>th</sup> East Ave. to the western shore of Lake Thunderbird, thereby linking Griffin Memorial Park with the North Norman Tecumseh Trail along the western shore of Lake Thunderbird. The Alameda Street trail spans from 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave. to 72<sup>nd</sup> East Ave. where it then follows Alameda Drive to the Alameda Bridge, connecting with the Scissortail Trail. Both trails link east urban Norman with Lake Thunderbird State Park.

The two north-south trails are along 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave. and 48<sup>th</sup> East Ave. Both trails reach from State Highway 9 in the south to Tecumseh Road in the north, connecting the Scissortail Trail and the North Norman Tecumseh Trail. Although these north-south trails, as well as the east-west trails along Robinson and Alameda Street, are along a major arterial routes, it is intended that they will be distinctly separate from the roadway infrastructure, meandering through natural areas where appropriate.

Two spurs connect 12<sup>th</sup> East Ave. with the 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave trail, both of which directly link core Norman with the East Norman Trails. The first spur starts at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> NE Ave. and High Meadows Drive. This spur trail follows High Meadows Drive eastward, turning north at Northcliff Ave. and then east on Abe Martin Drive, and continuing on Creighton Drive (Abe Martin Drive and Creighton Drive are connected by a pedestrian path), until it reaches 24<sup>th</sup> NE Ave. This first spur connects the George M. Sutton Wilderness Park, Griffin Community Park, High Meadows Park, Northeast Lions Park and Creighton Park.

The second spur starts at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> East Ave. and East Main Street, traveling east to Crestland Park, where then it follows along the south bank of Rock Creek to 24<sup>th</sup> East Ave.

***The West Lindsey Extension – 36<sup>th</sup> SW Ave. Trail*** connects west Lindsey Street and 36<sup>th</sup> SW Ave. This connection links west-side Norman and Lindsey Street. Current renovations of west Lindsey Street between I-35 and Berry Road will provide pedestrian access to South Legacy Trail. The West Lindsey Extension trail will connect with the future Canadian River Park which is a Norman Forward project.