

## INSTRUCTION SHEET NORMAN GREENBELT ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT

The Norman City Council established the Norman Greenbelt Commission and charged the group with reviewing proposed developments, **specifically Land Use Plan Amendments, Preliminary Plats and Rural Certificates of Survey**, in order to increase the preservation of beneficial green spaces and to identify trail system opportunities in new developments where appropriate. This Greenbelt Enhancement Statement was developed to aid the Commission in assessing new developments to insure that green space and trail opportunities are included whenever possible.

***Please complete this Greenbelt Enhancement Statement (pages 5-8) to address the Greenbelt Commission's review and leave it with City of Norman staff at 225 N. Webster Avenue, Norman, OK 73069.***

**Attached are copies of the two (2) applicable sections of the adopted Greenbelt Ordinance, Sections 2-327 and 2-330, to serve as reference while completing this Enhancement Statement. Upon request, a map of the relevant part of the Greenways Master Plan can also be provided for reference or accessed using this online link [NormanOK.gov/MasterPlan](http://NormanOK.gov/MasterPlan).**

At the time you submit your application, you will be provided with the date of the next Greenbelt Commission Meeting. **You are urged to attend the Greenbelt Commission Meeting**, where you will be given an opportunity to present information, discuss your proposed development and to answer questions the Greenbelt Commission might have regarding your submittal. The comments and recommendations from the Greenbelt Commission meeting will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council as part of their agenda packets whenever you make an application to them for consideration of your proposed development. Should you have any questions about this process or any of the below **questions**, please feel free to contact the City of Norman Greenbelt Commission staff at **405-366-5431**.

### **Definitions for Evaluating Greenbelt Enhancement Statements.**

These are the definitions included in the City of Norman's Code of Ordinances, **Section 2-327** and are essential to completing the GES.

**Bikeway** means a thoroughfare designated for bicycle travel by the Norman Bikeway Plan, as may be amended from time to time.

**Cluster development** means as defined by the City Code in NCC 30-101, as may be amended from time to time.

**Conservation easement** means a non-possessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purpose of which include, but are not limited to, retaining or protecting natural, scenic, or open-space values of real property, ensuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational, or open-space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or

preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property.

**Floodplain** means as defined by NCC 36-533 as may be amended from time to time.

**Flowage easement** means an easement purchased by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Norman Project, which grants to the United States and its assigns the perpetual right, privilege and easement to intermittently and completely seep, flood, flow and inundate, and the right to enter upon at any time for the purpose of making surveys, and investigations or for any other purpose incidental to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Norman Reservoir Project and any feature thereof, any and all of the tracts or parcels of land lying below elevation 1064.5 sea level datum.

**Green space** means any land area designated as open space by Norman's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; land determined to be open space or green space on an approved site development plan; or any land area in which the preservation in its present use would conserve and enhance natural or scenic resource, protect streams or water supply, promote conservation of soils, wetlands or marshlands, enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forest, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, sanctuaries or other open space or green space, enhance recreation opportunities, including parks, plazas and narrow corridors or pathways for walking or bicycling even though surrounded by developed areas, preserve visual quality along highway, road, and street corridors or scenic vistas, or retain in its natural state tracts of land not less than one acre situated in an urban area and open to public use on such conditions as may be reasonably required by the granting authority.

**Greenbelt Enhancement Statement** (GES) means a statement on a form provided to the applicant by the City Planning and Community Development Department that is to be included with all applications for a land use plan amendment, a City rural certificate of survey or preliminary platting of land and submitted for consideration by the Commission that articulates how the principles, purposes, and goals of The Greenbelt System are met by the proposed development.

**The Greenbelt System** means and includes the following spaces, regardless of whether they are open to the public:

- (a) A system of trails (both on and off road) intended to connect parks, green spaces, schools, retail, employment, and residential areas.
- (b) Areas of land within the City Limits required to be open space by zoning; areas currently designated for open space, park, floodplain, and institutional use by the Comprehensive Plan and subsequently adopted land use plans; Lake Thunderbird, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) "take-line" and BOR flowage easements; any other areas of land which are designated by easement, by deed restriction, or otherwise required to remain free of structures; and areas designated as green space.

**Greenway** means:

- (a) A green open space, such as a linear open space established along or on either side of a natural or cultural corridor, such as a riverfront, a stream valley, a ridgeline, a railroad right of way, a channel, a scenic road or other route; and/or
- (b) A trail; and/or
- (c) An open-space connector available to pedestrians intended to link parks, nature reserves, cultural features, historic sites, schools, residential or commercial areas with each other.

**Impervious surface** means one that does not permit penetration or passage of water, such as a roof or paved street or parking area.

**Riparian buffers** means the area between developed land and streams, rivers and shorelines that is managed to maintain the integrity of the waterway, to reduce pollution and to provide food, habitat, and thermal protection for fish and wildlife.

**Structure** means as defined by the City Code in NCC 36-101, as may be amended from time to time.

**Take Line** means exterior boundary of the property acquired by the Bureau of Reclamation for construction of Lake Thunderbird.

**Trail** means any natural or landscaped course open to pedestrian or bicycle passage, including but not limited to sidewalks, but excluding roadways, streets, alleys and other passages primarily provided for general public motorized vehicular use. Types of trails include:

- (a) **Community wide (regional or arterial) trails** means trails between **ten feet and 12 feet** in width that provide access from one part of the city to another.
- (b) **Natural trails** means trails at least **eight feet-ten feet** in width composed of compacted earth.
- (c) **Neighborhood trails** means trails between **six feet and ten feet** in width that mimic the system of local neighborhood streets and ultimately connect to larger arterial trails.
- (d) **Parkway trails** means trails between **six feet and eight feet** in width that are constructed with durable materials, and usually include amenities such as decorative light fixtures, landscaping, and ground cover and varying surface treatments at intersections and crosswalks.
- (e) **Sidewalk trails** means sidewalks located alongside streets that are constructed in accordance with City design criteria and designated as trails.
- (f) **Specialized trails** means water trails, equestrian trails, bikeways, or other trails dedicated to some specific use not otherwise listed herein.

### **Specific Principles, Purposes and Goals of the Greenbelt System.**

The following principles, purposes and goals are delineated in the City of Norman's Code of Ordinances, **Section 2-330**, and are essential for your understanding as you complete the GES.

(a) Proposed additions to the Greenbelt System should be guided by the following principles:

(1) The ultimate goal is to create an interconnected system of trails that allow multiple connections across all of the City.

(2) The Greenbelt System should preserve valuable green space, natural habitat and key areas with existing vegetation.

(3) Trail segments should be designed so that they convey the physical and historical character of the City and relate to the neighborhoods through which the trail corridors pass.

(4) Greenway corridors should provide unique opportunities to learn about the history, culture, and accomplishments of the City.

(5) Trails should promote smooth walkable corridors that are open and visible.

(6) The Greenbelt System should contribute to enhancing the physical appearance of the City, whether through new pedestrian features, landscaping added to trail corridors, or simply by revealing natural areas not previously visible to the general public.

(7) The Greenbelt System should encourage the creation of public and private partnerships that help build the entire system more quickly.

(8) Greenbelts should protect environmentally sensitive lands that are generally the least suitable for development, especially floodprone areas and riparian corridors, and provide connectivity between the elements of the Greenbelt System.

(b) The use of lot clustering should be encouraged as a means to develop the Greenbelt System.

(c) The Greenbelt System should be used to link together existing recreation areas.

(d) Multipurpose greenways should be created that:

(1) Create a unique greenway character for the City;

(2) Protect environmentally sensitive areas of the City and serve as a wildlife habitat;

(3) Serve as a storm water management resource for urban runoff and regional detention needs;

(4) Provide recreation opportunities for bicycling, walking, and jogging, as well as an alternate route to move through the City for commuting to work, schools, shopping, between neighborhoods, and/or other destinations by bicycling or walking;

(5) Preserve agriculturally significant lands through conservation easements or other means; and

(6) Provide suitable locations for sanitary sewer easements and facilities.

(e) Greenbelts should be used to provide green space areas adjacent to highways and major streets for sound buffer zones and protection from incompatible land uses.

(f) The Greenbelt System should continue to improve a natural landscape planting and maintenance program for City-owned properties and rights-of-way of major streets and highways.

**GREENBELT ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT**  
**City of Norman, Oklahoma**

**Greenbelt Case No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pre-Development Case No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/Fax/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Development \_\_\_\_\_ Area (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_

General Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a map, site plan and/or survey map illustrating the proposed development.**

Type of Proposal (please check all that apply)

a. **This is a:** Land Use Plan Amendment\_\_\_; Preliminary Plat\_\_\_; Rural Certificate of Survey\_\_\_.

b. Proposed **Land Use:** Residential\_\_\_ Commercial\_\_\_ Industrial\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

1. Briefly **explain the kind of development**, types of buildings/uses, or character of your proposal **and how it achieves the principles, purposes and goals** of Section 2-330.

2. Does your proposed development or project incorporate open space(s)?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please check **what** type(s) of **open spaces are proposed** within your development:

Park: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Public\_\_\_ Private

Open Space: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Public\_\_\_ Private

Detention Pond: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Public\_\_\_ Private

Parking Lot Landscape: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Public\_\_\_ Private

Floodplain/Creek: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Public\_\_\_ Private

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If the above noted areas are **accessible** via some **other arrangement** please **explain**.

3. **Does** the open space for this **development include** some kind of **trail or path** that meets the definitions contained in Section 2-327 of the attached guidelines? (Indicate all that are applicable.)

Public Sidewalks (4-5' wide) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Natural Trails (compacted earth 8-10' wide) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Parkway Trails (durable surface 6-8' wide) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Neighborhood Trails (durable or paved, 6-10' wide) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Community Wide Trails (paved, 10-12' wide) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Specialized Trails (equestrian, water, etc) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Identify** schools, recreational areas (parks, playgrounds), commercial sites, or other public **open spaces within ½ mile** of your proposed development. (If there are **no** such areas within the ½ mile radius please **state** such and skip question 5.)
  
5. Projects in close proximity to schools, recreational areas (parks, playgrounds), commercial sites, and residential neighborhoods should, ideally, allow **connection points** promoting non-motorized transportation between key areas. Please **describe** how the proposed development plan accommodates those using alternative transportation, such as walkers and bicyclists? Examples include sidewalks connecting key areas, designated bike paths, and bike parking. (If there is **no** such connectivity please **state** such.)
  
6. Please **check**, from the following (or attach a list), **any other** geographical and/or environmental factors in your development that might offer **opportunities** for additions to the Greenbelt System (see Section 2-327).
  - Storm water channels
  - Detention ponds
  - Floodplains
  - Stream bank/Riparian corridors
  - Utility Easements
  - Abandoned/Active RR corridors
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**How could** your development **also incorporate** those elements noted into greenbelts and trails?

7. **Please review the statements below and indicated in the space next to each item, whether it does apply (“Yes”), does not apply (“No”), or is not feasible (“NA”) to your development. Of specific interest is how your project fits into the public open spaces and parks.**

In performing its duties, the Greenbelt Commission shall take into account the considerations listed below. The Commission will also consider how your project fits into the public open spaces and parks that are existing. Not all considerations will be applicable or feasible for each application.

- (a) Portions of the Greenbelt System are accessible to the general public.
- (b) Greenways are established and provide connections to other existing and future components of the Greenbelt System.
- (c) Existing easements (e.g., utility, pipeline, oil lease right-of-way, etc.) may be used for Greenways where appropriate and where expressly approved by the easement grantor and grantee.

\_\_\_(d) Greenways connect neighborhoods to each other and to industrial and commercial areas.

\_\_\_(e) Greenways provide alternative routes to move through the City for commuting to work, schools, shopping, between neighborhoods, and/or other destinations by bicycling or walking.

\_\_\_(f) Adverse impacts on existing topography, drainage patterns and natural vegetation are minimized.

\_\_\_(g) Developments between urbanized Norman and Lake Thunderbird include pedestrian and bike connectivity to adjacent parcels to allow for future connections to Lake Thunderbird.

\_\_\_(h) Landscaping required by the City has been/will be planted in conformance with Norman Zoning regulations, including with local drought-resistant low maintenance plants, shrubs and trees.

\_\_\_(i) Vegetative buffers between neighborhoods and railway lines have been provided to enhance safety and reduce the effects of noise and air pollution.

\_\_\_(j) Permeable ground surfaces have been preserved to the extent possible.

\_\_\_(k) Ingress and egress to and from a development is designed to permit safe use by non-motorized traffic in and out of the development and across the ingress and egress provisions of the development.

\_\_\_(l) Fences abutting components of the Greenbelt System, and particularly those abutting green spaces, are of designs and materials that minimize their visual impact to the extent such fences are allowable under Norman City Code and not in conflict with applicable national standards for utility facilities. Examples of acceptable open fences include such types as wrought iron, split rail, low picket fence with every other picket removed, and metal pickets.

\_\_\_(m) Water retention and detention storage facilities are designed in accordance with bioengineering principles and built with bioengineering materials.

\_\_\_(n) Detention facilities are integrated into the surrounding neighborhood as part of the Greenbelt System in as ecologically sound a method as possible.

\_\_\_(o) Storm water management design considers the potential for trail and green space preservation, enhancement and/or creation.

\_\_\_(p) The development layout is designed to preserve the health and diversity of wildlife affected by development in natural drainage corridor areas.

\_\_\_(q) The development layout is designed to minimize the intrusions of noise, trash and other things into the Greenbelt System that would negatively affect visitors' and users' experience of any impacted components of the Greenbelt System.

\_\_\_(r) To the extent possible, the development layout, as designed, does not impair the ability of riparian buffers from serving as corridors for wildlife movement.

\_\_\_(s) Riparian buffers are incorporated into the Greenbelt System.

\_\_\_(t) The commercial developments have provided for pedestrian access.

\_\_\_(u) Pavement is minimized when possible by, among other things, using shared parking areas and/or permeable parking surfaces where feasible and allowed under the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Norman and the City Engineering Design Criteria.

\_\_\_(v) Cluster development has been utilized as a means to develop the Greenbelt System.

\_\_\_(w) Structures, other than utility transmission poles or substations, were located to maximize greenbelt and trail opportunities.

8. **If**, after reviewing the above questions, you feel like your proposed **development** or project **has no opportunities** to add to the City of Norman Greenbelt System, please **explain** briefly below. (Any comments you feel will help the Commission understand your intent to develop the area.)

Signature of Applicant or Contact Person (required) : \_\_\_\_\_

**GREENBELT COMMISSION COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AS SUBMITTED FOR PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION (MAY ATTACH AS SEPARATE SHEET):**