

Oklahoma City is ready to move forward with Kitchen Lake park plans

The Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust and Oklahoma City Council are expected to approve plans Tuesday to develop the first 10½ acres of a planned 160-acre park at Kitchen Lake in southeast Oklahoma City.

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City officials are expected to take the first official step Tuesday to develop the area around Kitchen Lake into a southeast Oklahoma City park.

The 38-acre fishing pond at SE 119 and Sooner Road was selected as the site for a park to be paid for by money from the city's 2007 general obligation bond issue.

The project cost hasn't been determined yet, officials said.

Phase one of the park development is to improve 10½ acres on the lake's southwest shore.

The city council and city Water Utilities Trust are expected to formally approve Kitchen Lake for the park's location Tuesday.

The water trust already owns the land, which saves the cost of land acquisition associated with most similar civic projects.

City workers have started cleaning up the lake and the surrounding area, said Ward 4 Councilman Pete White, who spearheaded the effort to locate the park at Kitchen Lake.

He said residents of southeast Oklahoma City who sometimes complain city leaders focus mostly on downtown should start to notice the work.

“I hear that all the time from people, ‘There's nothing happening out here,’” White said.

“Once we got all the trash out of it (the lake) and from around it, I mean it's just a jewel.”

Initial park construction will include a fishing dock and banks, parking, walking paths and landscaping, parks spokeswoman Jennifer McClintock said.

About \$719,000 of the 2007 bond money is earmarked for the first phase.

Construction on phase one will begin in November if the measure wins approval Tuesday.

Long-term plans include further development around the entire Kitchen Lake shore.

The park eventually will be 160 acres, more than twice the size of the MAPS 3 Core to Shore park, if the city follows through with a still-developing master plan for Kitchen Lake.



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