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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY TO CREATE ARVEST PARK GREENSPACE

MCALESTER, Oklahoma – The City of McAlester will begin construction converting the parking lot on the southeast corner of South 2nd Street and East Chickasaw Avenue into a city park next week. The project, known as Arvest Park, is possible thanks to the donation of the land to the City of McAlester from Arvest Bank in May 2018.

The first phase of construction calls for stormwater management improvements along the alley between Chickasaw Avenue and Cherokee Avenue followed by removal of all concrete at the site. The City's Public Works Department will build new curbs, gutters, and sidewalk as well as replacing the underground stormwater system. The project will also remove 3 feet of existing dirt and install new soil and sod. This initial phase is expected to last for approximately 6 weeks.

The new greenspace will provide many benefits to residents, visitors, and businesses in the downtown area. Urban parks serve as meeting spaces, support healthy lifestyles, and promote environmental benefits. Reports from the National Parks and Recreation Association show that green spaces improve health and attitudes, promote active lifestyles, and reduce stress for those who access them.

“We are looking forward to helping enhance the sense of community in Downtown McAlester,” said City Manager Pete Stasiak. “Replacing an underused concrete parking lot with a park will complement the Streetscape project and numerous new and growing businesses in the district.”

Landscaping designs call for the eventual planting of trees, flowers, and the installation of natural rock features. Additional future plans for the park include picnic tables, shade fixtures, benches, a gazebo, and a water feature.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Giacomo at 918-423-9300.

