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BROKEN ARROW

Holiday spirit

The Broken Arrow Noon Lions Club spends evening singing to residents at Broken Arrow Nursing Home.
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Skateboard facility project back on track

▶ Third round of bids the charm for proposed skate park.

By **TIM STANLEY**
World Staff Writer

Like the skateboarders who'll eventually benefit from it, a stalled city parks project may finally get off the ground, Broken Arrow parks officials say.

After two unsuccessful bid phases, a planned public skate park has received a construction bid roughly on target with available funds, officials said.

"I think some of the skaters thought we had given up on it," Parks Director Scott Esmond said. "But we hadn't. We were just trying to make this work within our budget."

The park, which will also serve BMX bike riders, will be built on a site next to the Broken Arrow Youth Community Center at Nienhuis Park.

The City Council will review the bid — \$370,000 from Jonesplan Inc. of Tulsa — at its Jan. 2 meeting, officials said.

If the bid is approved, construction could begin as early as February with the facility ready for use by October, said Roger Hughes of the city's engineering department.

The city has \$300,000 from city bond and park capital improvements money available

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SKATE:

This time, the project received two bids.

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for the project.

"The remainder will be made up with savings from other projects," Esmond said.

The bid is for the proposed park's first phase — a 12,700-square-foot streetscape for skateboarders and bike riders.

The planned second phase, to include smaller bowl-shaped areas for beginners and more advanced skaters, will follow as funding becomes available.

"Phase One is the phase most of the skaters would use anyway and it will be a good way to introduce people to skateboarding," Esmond said. "It's what Broken Arrow skaters wanted and what we think will serve the most people."

The process had begun to discourage city officials.

The first time the project was opened to bids, it generated only one — at four times the estimated construction cost. Officials decided against redesigning the project and opened it again to bids, but the second time they received none.

"A lot of it depends on how much work is out there on the market," Esmond said. "We wanted to try it one more time."

The project got two bids this time.

Hughes said Jonesplan Inc. would subcontract with Ideal Skateparks of Austin, Texas, for the concrete surface.

In planning the skate park, officials looked at similar facilities in Oklahoma City, Edmond and Dallas, and formed a committee of local skateboard shop owners and other interested parties.

The facility will have different features than the nearest skate park in Tulsa.

A gymnasium and a swimming pool at Nienhuis, both of which are now under construction, were altered due to rising construction costs.

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