



Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAWNEE NATION- March 6, 2023

Solar Lights at Pawnee Nation Pirau Park to provide safety and security

From the Pawnee Nation Planning Office

Pawnee, Okla., March 6, 2023--This Spring the Pawnee Nation Pirau Park, located on the Pawnee Nation Campus, will receive a major safety upgrade, solar lighting around the perimeter of the beautifully planned and continually improving community recreation area. The lighting project is funded by grants from the Siletz Tribal Charity Contribution Fund, Indian Electric Coop, and Enbridge totaling \$25,500.

“The priority is safety and now we have safety and it’s all solar powered,” said Sky Gawhega, Planning and Tribal Development Coordinator. Gawhega is the grant writer and project lead. “The best part about building solar lighting as the next update to Pirau Park is that it’s going to provide more time for healthy activities and children, teens, adults and families will be safer while enjoying a community recreation area provided by the Pawnee Nation,” he added.

Gawhega said the project was supported by a letter of endorsement from the Pawnee Nation Police Chief David Kanuho and approval to move forward by the Pawnee Business Council to continue to improvements on Pirau Park, especially for public safety.

Solar lighting joins a long list of additions made to Pirau Park by grants successfully awarded to the Planning Office. The park has been expanded and updated with new equipment added to the playground, a full-court basketball area, an additional pavilion, two horseshoe areas, the installation of a water faucet and electrical pedestal, and certified playground mulch.

Gawhega said renderings for the solar lighting have been approved and installation of the lights begins in a few weeks and the project will be completed before May 2023. The vendor or builder for installation is Grid Shift Solar Lighting in Norman, Okla.

For questions and comments contact the Planning and Tribal Development Coordinator Sky Gawhega at 918.762.3621 or sg0195@pawneenation.org. Contact Pawnee Nation Communications and Creative Media at 918.762.3621 or communications@pawneenation.org for more press information.

About the Pawnee Nation- The Pawnee Nation has a long and proud history spanning time immemorial. Early in the 18th century, more than 60,000 members of the Pawnee Nation inhabited the area along the North Platt River in Nebraska. The Pawnee then and now are composed of four distinct bands: the Chaui “Grand,” the Kitkehahki “Republican,” the Pitahawirata “Tappage” and the Skidi “Wolf” and a unique and traditional government comprised of traditional Nasharos (Chiefs) and an elected Pawnee Business Council. Today, the Pawnee Nation is the largest and most successful employer in Pawnee County and has a long history of providing valuable quality of life and lifesaving opportunities and services to constituents and Pawnee people in the direct service area. Pawnee Nation enterprise has successfully contributed to multi-million-dollar improvements and expansion of healthcare, education, infrastructure, social services, and law enforcement for Pawnee people, constituents, and partners.