



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/06/2025

REQUESTER: Karla Sitton, Administrative Tech IV

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECLASSIFICATION OF SEVERAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TO COMMUNITY PARKS

DISCUSSION:

The City of Norman categorizes its parks into three categories: Neighborhood Parks and Community & Special Use Parks. Neighborhood Parks typically range from 3 acres and up, ideally serving a population within a ½ mile radius. They are designed for accessibility and local use, featuring amenities such as playgrounds, open play spaces, and trails, while ensuring safe access away from major streets. In contrast, Community & Special Use Parks range from 15 to 40 acres and cater to multiple neighborhoods, offering a broader range of activities within a 5- to 10-mile radius. These parks are strategically located near major thoroughfares, offering convenient access and adequate parking for larger events.

The Parks and Recreation Department, the Utility Department, and City Cultural Centers host a variety of annual events, including the Fourth of July, Monarchs in the Park, Earth Day, Tree Giveaways, Winterfest, 5K Runs, and more. Many events take place in Community Parks, i.e., Andrews Park, Griffin Park, Reaves Park, Ruby Grant Park, and Legacy Park. At the same time, a few events are held in Neighborhood Parks, including Movies in the Park and Summer Breeze at Lions Park, as well as Little League baseball/softball games at Little Axe Park.

Recently, the Park Board recommended, and the City Council adopted, the AIM Norman Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Master Plan. This plan recommends reclassifying Lions Park and Little Axe Park from Neighborhood to Community Parks, as well as adding Edwards Park back into the Park System as a Special Use Park.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends that the Park Board reclassify Lions Park and Little Axe Park from Neighborhood Parks to Community Parks and add Edwards Park back into the Park System as a Special Use Park, aligning with the recently adopted AIM Norman Parks, Recreation, and Culture Facilities Master Plan.