



CITY OF NORMAN

# Possible updates to ordinances related to City Parks

**CITY OF NORMAN**  
Building an Inclusive Community



# Possible Updates City Park Ordinances

## Park Land Dedication

- Est. 1976
- How park land is dedicated to the City through residential development

## Park Development

- Est. 1994
- Sets aside up to \$150 per new residential dwelling for park impact fees.

## Tree Protection

- Est. 2018
- Establishes the need for a City Forester and outlines policy on how to protect, alter and remove trees.

## Park Rules

- Sutton Wilderness Rules Est. 1982
- Park Commission recently requested for some park rules related be updated to ordinances.





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# Park Land Dedication Ordinance

## Current Ordinance (30-VII)

- Established in 1976 to provide land for neighborhood parks;
- Residential development greater than 1 unit per acre requires donation of land or fee in lieu of land for the purpose of providing public parks;
- 2.5 acres per 1,000 projected population;
- Park Board must review prior to submission of preliminary plat to determine recommendation for land dedication, fee in lieu, or dedication of private park.

## Suitability of Land

- Unity, Shape, Access & Topography.

## Fee in Lieu of Land

- Fee negotiated with developer to be paid instead of dedication of park land;
- Payment collected before of final plat;
- Fees to be used in general area from where they were collected.

## Private Park Option

- Must be requested by developer, then recommended by staff;
- Must be at least twice the amount of land required under public land dedication;
- Must be held and maintained by mandatory POA/HOA.

## Recommended Updates

### Fee in Lieu of Land

- Modify price to a set fee determined by the average value of park land and/or floodplain valuations from Cleveland County Assessor records, to be confirmed and set annually by Board of Park Commissioners, instead of negotiations over “fair market price” per each development.
- Fee in Lieu would be set aside to purchase land for future parks in Norman based off quadrant allocation model used for Park Impact Fee assessments (i.e. fee in lieu spent within same quadrant from where collected).

### Private Park Option

- Modify amount of land required for private park option (reduction in required size).
- Updates under Park Impact Fee Ordinance for requirements for such private parks.



# Park Development Ordinance

## Current Ordinance (6-III)

- Established in 1994 to provide for development of park land;
- \$150 per residential dwelling unit: \$75 for neighborhood park improvements in the area, \$75 for community park improvements;
- Neighborhood Park fees go to nearest park to the development (no greater than one mile from where fees generated);
- Community parks: Andrews, Griffin, \*Lions Park, \*Little Axe, Reaves, Ruby Grant, Sutton, and Saxon;
- Fees assessed to builder at issuance of building permit;
- Community park fees typically budgeted in 5-year CIP;
- Neighborhood park fees appropriated as-needed for projects.

## Recommended Updates

### Raise Fees and Simplify Credits Process

- Fees will be in three tiers based on:
  1. \$400 per dwelling unit for development done with new public park;
  2. \$300 per dwelling unit for development with no new park but within one mile of existing park;
  3. \$200 per dwelling unit for development with a private park.
- Establish Builder Index Formula that provides for automatic increases to the impact fees according to inflation, evaluated every five (5) years.

### Change Neighborhood vs Community park designation to quadrant district system.

- Park system divided into 4 districts. Fees collected within a district may only be used within such district for park & recreation infrastructure development.
- Retroactively update currently existing park impact fees into new district system.

### Private Park Option Changes

- Ease back requirements for private park development:
- What qualifies as recreational amenities; size requirement under Park Land Dedication.
- Developers still must follow Suitability of Land standards in Park Land Dedication Ordinance.



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# Tree Protection Ordinance

## Current Ordinance (16-IX)

- Established in 2018 to maintain the preservation of mature trees and protecting trees during construction, to contribute to the long-term viability of existing trees and to control the removal of trees when necessary;
- The ordinance aimed to address trees in the public right-of-way, meaning the area between the public sidewalk and the curb;
- Established a process to apply for removal of trees in the right-of-way along streets determined by the tree's health and whether a fine should be paid and used to re-plant after removal;
- Included a "Historic Tree" designation via a nomination and review process.

## Recommended Updates

- Clarify/Update definitions generally, but specific focus on what trees are "Regulated Trees" under the ordinance.
  - Does not protect trees from being removed by private development on private property; only controls trees located in public right-of-way.
- Centralize & clearly define regulated/prohibited activities for tree planting, maintenance, and removal.
- Define and establish Tree Districts to be adopted by Board of Park Commissioners.
  - "Commercial Tree District(s)" wherein trees shall fall under exclusive care of City (areas where City has invested in establishment of street trees).
  - "Historic Tree District(s)" to replace current "Historic Tree" designation with a better enforceable policy with more focus on neighborhood buy-in.
- Establish permit process for alterations and removal of regulated trees.
- Establish arborist license for certain commercial tree services performed in City.
- Establish tree protection plan requirements for construction on City property and new platting construction projects.



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# Park Rules Ordinance

## Background

Norman Board of Park Commissioners

- On June 4, Park Board sent a letter to City Council asking for consideration of Park Related Ordinances related to the recent Homeless Encampment at Francis Cate Park.
- Letter referenced other City's in Oklahoma that have a no camping related ordinances in parks. OKC, Tulsa, Lawton, Shawnee, Moore, Noble and Yukon.

## Basic Park Information

Types of Parks & Hours

- Community Park - 6 am – 11 pm
- Neighborhood Park – 6 am – 9 pm
- Special Use Park - Hours set by Director
- Trails and Greenways – Open 24 hours
- Community/Recreation Center – Hours set by Director
- Cultural Center – Hours set by Director

## Park Rule vs. Ordinances



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# Park Rules Ordinance

## Sutton Urban Wilderness Ordinance (24-507)

No person shall engage in the following activities within the Sutton Urban Wilderness, except by written permit for scientific purposes issued by the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Littering;
- Operating any motorized vehicles or bicycles;
- Starting or maintaining a fire;
- Camping;
- Swimming;
- Hunting;
- Trapping;
- Collecting biological or geological specimens;
- Cutting or collecting wood;
- Operating a boat or canoe;
- Fishing by means of a trotline or jugline;
- Possessing a bow, slingshot, air gun, firearm, or any other such device to hurl projectiles;
- Defacing or damaging any natural object or park facilities or appurtenances;
- Introducing plant or animal species.

Organized group events exceeding 35 people shall have written authorization by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Parks and Recreation Department may issue permits for scientific study, park maintenance, and conservation or other purposes appropriate to use of wilderness area; and where questions arise concerning administration of the permit system, the George M. Sutton Urban Wilderness Advisory Committee shall act in an advisory capacity.



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# Park Rules Ordinance

## Norman Board of Commissioners - Park Rules

- Do not litter, deface or remove park property.\*
- Do not molest, damage or remove trees, plants or landscaping materials.
- Do not plant trees, plants or any landscape materials.
- Do not place signage of any kind in park, trail and/or greenspace.
- No hunting of any kind.
- No animals in parks, trails or greenspaces unless leashed.\*
- No fire of any kind, including no fireworks, explosives or pyrotechnic agents.
- Restroom use only in designated areas.
- No unauthorized vehicles.
- No alcohol or consumption of alcohol without event permit.
- No smoking, vaping or use of tobacco or marijuana products.\*
- No revenue-generating activity without permit.
- No unauthorized watercraft on park ponds or waterways.
- No unauthorized fishing.
- No camping.
- No glass containers.
- No drones or remote-control aircraft.
- No controlled dangerous substances and/or associated paraphernalia.
- No bullying, aggression or unsafe behavior.
- No harassment, intimidation tactics, use of profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures.
- Obey and listen to public safety and park officials.

\* Existing Ordinance

## Potential Updates

### Definitions

- Add further definitions about the types of parks and outline who has the authority to set hours in parks.

### Rules

- Keep the majority of park rules and regulations in the purview of Park Board and staff.
- Identify park rules that merit enforcement by mechanism other than trespassing.
  - Example: No Camping, No Fires, No Hunting, No Unauthorized Vehicles.



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# QUESTIONS



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