



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 01/13/2026

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-96: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, TRANSFERRING \$6,188 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND APPROPRIATING THESE FUNDS TO THE NEET EASEMENT VEGETATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT, FOR THE PLANTING OF TREES IN VARIOUS PARKS.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2023, the City Council approved the establishment of a Capital Project account, which would cover the costs associated with planting trees in various parks, utilizing funds received from a Revocable License and Utility/ROW Crossings Agreement with NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC (NEET). The original negotiated payment received from NEET was \$125,000, which was considered a fair payment for the damage to and removal of trees and vegetation associated with their project. Those funds were allocated to the General Fund, Parks Department Administration Division, Minor Equipment and Tools Account (10770370-43699), and then transferred into the Capital Fund, NEET Easement Vegetation Replacement Project, Construction account (50798813-46101; Project PR0174) to be used for the planting of trees in various parks.

Since that time, the City Forester has initiated a project to plant trees in Griffin Park and other neighborhood parks, which includes the installation of trees and irrigation at each location. This project will continue for years to come and will make a noticeable difference in the number of trees we are able to plant each year, compared to the time before this capital project was implemented. Similar negotiated payments from other projects where healthy trees are requested to be removed as part of an easement or ROW agreement could also be used for this project.

DISCUSSION:

On April 16, 2025, City Council approved a grant of easement to Wildwood Community Church, Inc. (Wildwood) across the Hall Park greenbelt property/park land adjacent to the church, to allow construction of a pedestrian bridge to connect a new south parking lot on land owned by the church with the main church parking lot and building lot (Easement Number E-2425-18).

That Easement Agreement, among other items, addressed the removal of vegetation by Wildwood in the course of the bridge construction and a means of compensating the city for any removal of otherwise healthy trees. City Forestry staff conducted an audit of the trees to be removed (by type, location, and number) in July 2025 and estimated the replacement cost.

Through negotiations, the City and Wildwood agreed that Wildwood would pay \$6,188 in damages for the vegetation, and that amount was remitted to the City. Since the total amount was solely related to the value of the trees removed, the negotiated fee was to be placed in an account for the Director of Parks and Recreation to plant trees elsewhere within the City, following the example of similar tree work done with the NEET project in 2023. Wildwood remitted payment to the City of Norman via check payment in July 2025, and those funds are currently in the General Fund Reimbursements-Refunds Account (109-364251).

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends approval of Resolution Number R-2526-96 authorizing the transfer of \$6,188 received for tree removal and vegetation damage remediation from the General Fund (10930194-48050) to the Capital Fund (509-372910), and appropriating said funds to the NEET Easement Vegetation Replacement Project, Construction account (50798813-46101; Project PR0174), for the planting of trees in various parks to be accomplished by outside contractors.