



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2025

REQUESTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE PROPOSED URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

BACKGROUND:

An Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) is a document designed to guide a municipality in making informed decisions about the ongoing care and management of its urban forest. In 2024, the City of Norman hired DAVEY Resource Group (DAVEY) to produce a UFMP. The project for the UFMP included a process of assessing the current state of the Forestry Division and Norman's urban forest, gathering input from a steering committee, several stakeholders and public meetings, comparing Norman's current forestry programming to towns of similar size and location, as well as national averages, and making recommendations for how to move forward based on all of this information. DAVEY worked in close partnership with City staff from several Departments to find how the Forestry Division of the Parks and Recreation Department interacts with their tasks and how to strengthen the work of each part of the City to best achieve a strong UFMP for the next 15 to 20 years.

DISCUSSION:

After months of study and public input, DAVEY presented a draft UFMP to the Parks and Recreation Department for review and revisions. Once this was completed, the plan was formatted as a companion document to the recently approved Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan completed earlier this year. The work in the UFMP is also aligned with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which was reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners and City Council before its adoption earlier this summer. The findings included in the Norman UFMP will help the Forestry Division plan for staffing, budget, equipment, and programming needs at a much higher level as Norman continues to add population and grow its built environment while managing our forest canopy. We will use this information to help us plan updates and improvements to Norman's park system, including protection and expansion of trees as a high-value natural resource. At the September 4, 2025, Park Board meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners approved the recommendation of the UFMP to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Urban Forest Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

It is also recommended that the City Council amend the 2025 AIM Norman Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan to include the Urban Forest Master Plan as adopted.