

PARKS AND RECREATION

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October 14, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for the Urban Forest Master Plan

Honorable Mayor Holman and City Council,

On behalf of the Norman Board of Park Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for adopting and implementing the proposed Urban Forest Master Plan.

Urban trees and green spaces are essential components of a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable community. The Urban Forest Master Plan offers a comprehensive and strategic vision for preserving, managing, and enhancing Norman's urban forest. The plan reflects sound arboricultural practices and supports broader community goals, including climate resilience, stormwater management, public health, and neighborhood livability.

The Board of Park Commissioners recognizes the significant value that urban trees bring to our parks, streetscapes, and public spaces. Through an inclusive planning process, this Master Plan addresses key challenges, including canopy loss, aging tree populations, equitable access to green spaces, and climate adaptation, while outlining clear goals, policies, and funding recommendations to guide implementation over the next several decades.

We believe the Urban Forest Master Plan is a timely and forward-thinking investment in Norman's natural infrastructure. It aligns well with the City's long-term sustainability initiatives and the goals outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City of Norman's Strategic Plan.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the City Council to adopt the Urban Forest Master Plan and commit to its long-term implementation and funding. We appreciate your leadership and continued support of Norman's parks and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Sherrel Sheriff, Chair

Norman Board of Park Commissioners