

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Presentation of options and background to name a new park located on 140th Avenue NE in the Bridle Trails neighborhood.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DIRECTION

Staff seeks Council's preferred name for the new park in the Bridle Trails neighborhood and direction to return with a resolution adopting that name.

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to return with a resolution adopting the name Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park for the new neighborhood park on 140th Avenue NE.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Construction started earlier this year on a new neighborhood park on 140th Avenue NE in the Bridle Trails neighborhood and is nearing completion. This park is one of the final projects funded from the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy. Prior to its opening in 2024, the park must be named. The process of naming parks is guided by policy provided in City Council Resolution No. 10151.

Community Engagement and Name Preferences

Park name suggestions were solicited throughout the community engagement, design and permitting processes for this new neighborhood park. Outreach efforts included community mailings, meetings, and regular ongoing project website updates. Requests to suggest park names and preference surveys were sent to those who had indicated interest in following the progress of park design and development. Staff also worked with the Bridle Trails Community Club to update and alert their membership and attended Bridle Trails Night Out events in 2019 and again this past summer in August 2023.

All park name suggestions were considered and evaluated for conformance to the City Council adopted Park Naming Policy (Attachment B). Ultimately, five community-suggested park names that met the naming policy criteria were nominated. At the request of Bridle Trails Community Club, the 'Bridle Trails' neighborhood identifier was added as a modification to two of the name options. As a final step, the combined seven park name options were included in a survey for community feedback. Those names were:

- Valley Creek Park
- Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park
- Bird Song Park
- Bridle Trails Bird Song Park

- East Bridle Trails Park
- Bridle Trail Playground Park
- Belmond Park

The final survey asked respondents to identify their top three name choices in order of preference. The survey made clear that a popular voting exercise would not be the basis of a name selection; however, both the Parks & Community Services Board and City Council would include the community's preferences in their deliberations.

The two names with the strongest support from the survey were Valley Creek Park (for the named creek running through the adjacent seven-acre Bellevue Utility-managed wetland) and Bird Song Park (a nod to the many varieties of birds and other wildlife seen and heard on the site). The options that added Bridle Trails to these two names were also strongly supported. The remaining three name options ranked significantly lower.

Parks & Community Services Recommendation

At their October 2023 meeting, the Parks & Community Services Board discussed and deliberated on the new name options. During public comment, representatives from the Bridle Trails Community Club expressed their preference for the name Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park. The board discussed all the name options fully. Considerations included:

- Respect for the neighborhood association's recommendation and all of the name ideas and community preferences provided;
- Appreciation for the collaborative relationship with the Bridle Trails Community Club throughout the process;
- Caution about creating an expectation that all new park names will include the neighborhood in which they are located. While including the neighborhood helps place the park geographically, it could be perceived as exclusionary and less welcoming to park users from other neighborhoods.

After discussion, the Board passed a unanimous motion (7-0) to recommend the name "Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park" to Council.

Next Steps

The Council can designate the park name recommended by the Parks & Community Services Board, a different community-suggested name, or a name not previously identified. The new park name must comply with the adopted naming policy discussed below. The construction of this new park is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. We look forward to celebrating the grand opening when weather allows, in spring 2024.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Resolution No. 10151 (Attachment B) sets forth the policy and procedure for naming public parks and recreation facilities. The City Council designates the names of public parks and park or recreation facilities and may seek a recommendation from the Park & Community Services

Board, which is based on public input from individuals and organizations. It is the policy of the City to choose names for parks and facilities based on the following criteria:

- a neighborhood or geographical identification;
- a natural or geographic feature;
- a historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance; or
- a corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual who has made a significant contribution to the park system and who has a compelling connection to Bellevue or the park system.
- In the case of names for individuals or historic figures, consideration of how such name meets other City priorities including diversity, equity and inclusion.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with selecting the name for the park.

OPTIONS

1. Direct staff to return with a resolution adopting the name Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park for the new neighborhood park on 140th Avenue NE.
2. Direct staff to return with a resolution adopting a different name as determined by the City Council for the new neighborhood park on 140th Avenue NE.
3. Provide alternate direction to staff regarding the name or naming process.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Park Naming Policy - Resolution No. 10151

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A