

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution adopting Isan Park as the name for the park property located at 11101 Main Street.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This proposed action adopts the name Isan Park based on community engagement, the recommendation of the Parks & Community Services Board, and direction given by the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10659

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At its July 21 meeting, the City Council reviewed the Parks & Community Services Board recommended name for a park at the corner of Main Street and 112th Avenue SE. The park site being named was initially acquired by Sound Transit to support light rail staging and construction of the south tunnel portal. As part of Sound Transit's park impact mitigation requirements, the city and Sound Transit collaborated on the design of a park space to be developed above the tunnel portal infrastructure.

In September 2024, the park was transferred to the city, and Parks & Community Services assumed full maintenance and operations responsibility. At its May 19 meeting, the council received a study session presentation focused on the city's partnership with the organization Isan Bellevue to develop a commemoration project at the park that honors Japanese American heritage in Bellevue.

Naming Process

Public engagement for the naming process began in spring 2025 and was conducted using an online survey. Information about the survey was shared in a wide variety of digital and hard copy formats. The survey was translated into the six most spoken languages within a 1/3-mile vicinity of the park and resulted in 258 unique name suggestions, proposed by 157 respondents. Of these suggested names, approximately 30 met the criteria in the City Council naming policy. Staff researched the 30 names that were compliant with policy and narrowed the list of possible park names to nine options for Parks & Community Services Board review.

Park & Community Services Board Recommendation

After careful deliberation of the nine name options presented, the Board unanimously recommended the name Isan Park to City Council for consideration.

Isan means "legacy" or "heritage" in Japanese. Variations of this name in English, as well as the Japanese word, were suggested by community members who completed the naming survey. The

Board noted their appreciation for the community's name suggestions and expressed an interest in a unique name for the park that would support the Japanese American Legacy Project. While some of the proposed names reflect the park's location on Main Street and its view of Mount Rainier, the Board observed that many of the other candidate names were common in the region or throughout the country.

The Board identified Isan Park as the preferred name because of its distinctive character and connection to Bellevue's heritage.

The name Isan Park meets criterion 3 in the city's park naming policy as a name of "historical or cultural significance." The name honors the Japanese American community's contributions to Bellevue, both historically and today.

At its July 21 meeting, the City Council directed staff to prepare a resolution to formalize the name "Isan Park" for the park.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Resolution No. 10151 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 Parks & Community Services Board, which is based on public input from individuals and organizations.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting Isan Park as the name for the park site.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Resolution 10151: Park Naming Policy
Proposed Resolution No. 10659

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A