

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Newport Hills Park Name Recommendation

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Parks & Community Services

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

DIRECTION

Staff will present an update regarding the process to name the new park under development in the Newport Hills neighborhood, share community name preferences, the latest name recommendation from the Parks & Community Services Board.

Staff is seeking Council direction regarding selection of a name for the new park in the Newport Hills neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to direct staff to return with a Resolution adopting the Council's preferred park name.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Staff will share the updates to Newport Hills area park naming process, including community preferences, and the Parks & Community Services Board's updated recommendation to support Council's selection of a name for Bellevue's newest neighborhood park.

Community Naming Preferences

The new park planning process began in May 2019 and concluded eight months later with a Parks & Community Services Board recommendation and Council support of a preferred design for a new 13-acre park. The planning process included three community meetings, two Parks & Community Services Board meeting discussions, and a Council study session, all well attended. During the planning process, staff asked the community for park name suggestions. The most frequent suggestions included references to the neighborhood and natural features such as woods, creek, sunset and trails and recognition of the area's rich coal mining history and local neighborhood historical figures.

In the fall of 2020, staff conducted an online survey to refine the community suggested park name options to better understand the community's preferences. The 203 survey responses received identified the following top preferred names: Newport Hills Neighborhood Park, Ringdall Park, Newport Hills Sunset Park and Newport Woods Park.

After thorough deliberation, the Parks & Community Services Board passed a motion to recommend the name "*Borghild Ringdall Neighborhood Park*" to Council.

At the May 3 Council meeting, Council opted not to adopt a name for the new park,

and provided supplemental park naming guidance to the Park Board. Council directed that the park names for consideration:

- not be named after a person;
- not duplicate existing park names;
- include Newport or Newport Hills;
- include 'glen' or 'meadow' in the name option; and
- preferences be informed by the Newport Hills neighborhood.

At the June 8 Parks & Community Services Board meeting, the Board supported subsequent community outreach processes, and selected the five final name options based on Council's updated naming guidance and the community's preferences. The name options were Newport Hills Woodlawn Park, Meadow at Newport Hills Park, Newport Happy Trails Park, Newport Glen Neighborhood Park and Forest Haven at Newport Hills Park.

A survey with the five name options was mailed to all Newport Hills neighborhood residents. The survey communicated that while a popular vote was not the basis for name selection; both the Parks & Community Services Board and City Council would value and appreciate the community's preferences in the continuance of the name deliberations.

Several methods were used to solicit input including 3,098 mailed surveys with free return, the project website was updated, and 1,200 email notices were sent to support awareness.

Parks staff received 338 responses to the second name preference survey from the neighborhood. Community feedback for the new neighborhood park name, in order of preference, is:

<u>Park Name</u>	<u>Community Preference</u>
• Newport Hills Woodlawn Park	29%
• Meadow at Newport Hills Park	24%
• Newport Happy Trails Park	22%
• Newport Glen Neighborhood Park	16%
• Forest Haven at Newport Hills Park	9%

Parks & Community Services Board Recommendation

On September 14, the Parks & Community Services Board unanimously selected Newport Hills Woodlawn Park as their recommendation to City Council for the new park name based on the community preference survey results.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Resolution No. 8229 (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 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.

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 Council's preferred park name.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Neighborhood Vicinity Map
- B. Park Naming Policy - Resolution No. 8229

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A