

Proposed Park Names

Preliminary Short List of Park Names

Staff have conducted research on the community-suggested names that are compliant with policy and have narrowed the list of possible park names. These options are listed below, with slight variations that were included in the community suggestions.

** Note: names that are similar are grouped on the same line.*

- Main Street Park
- Mountain View Park / Cascade View Park / Rainier View Park
- Isan Park / Legacy Park / Heritage Park (*Isan means "inheritance or legacy" in Japanese*)
- Bellevue Japanese American Legacy Park
- Bellevue Nikkei Park

Research on Park Names

Main Street Park

"Main Street Park" acknowledges the park's central location along a significant thoroughfare in the city, one that connects Old Bellevue to more recently developed areas. Local historians have described a walk down Main Street as a window on the history and transformation of Bellevue. This name meets the Council naming criterion focused on neighborhood or geographical identification. Among the names meeting the Council naming criteria, "Main Street Park" was identified most frequently in the community survey. While not used in Bellevue or the broader region, this park name exists in many other communities around the country.

Mountain View Park / Cascade View Park / Rainier View Park

The park provides a view of Mt. Rainier to the south, which was highlighted by some of the community members who offered name suggestions. "Mountain View Park" was the most popular recommendation with this theme; however, "Cascade View Park" and "Rainier View Park" were also proposed. This name meets the Council naming criterion that is focused on a natural or geographical feature. There is a "Mountain View Park" in Lynnwood, Sultan, and Ellensburg, WA, as well as in other communities around the country. "Rainier View Park" exists in Sumner, WA, and there is a "Cascade View Community Park" in Redmond, WA.

Isan Park / Legacy Park / Heritage Park

“Isan” means heritage, inheritance, and legacy in Japanese and commemorates the heritage of Japanese American families in Bellevue. “Isan,” “Japanese Legacy,” “Legacy,” “Heritage,” and “Ancestry” Park were all suggested in the community survey. This name could either be the Japanese word or an English translation. Agriculture was at the heart of Bellevue’s early community and economic development, and many of the early farmers in Bellevue were Japanese American. Despite their instrumental role in the development of Bellevue as a community, in World War II Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and incarcerated in inland camps. Many families did not return to Bellevue after the war. This name meets the Council naming criterion that is focused on historical or cultural significance. In addition to its Japanese definition, “isan” has alternative meanings in other languages, including “master” or “lord” in Sanskrit, “happy moon” in Azerbaijani, and “beautiful, attractive” in Arabic. No other Isan Parks have been discovered to date; however, there are a few Legacy Parks around the country, a Heritage Belshaw Open Space in Bellevue, and a Heritage Park in Lynnwood, Olympia, and Kirkland, WA.

Bellevue Japanese American Legacy Park

The name “Bellevue Japanese American Legacy Park” was suggested as a name for the entire park to reflect the Japanese American commemoration project that is being developed onsite through a partnership agreement. The idea to name the park after the commemoration project was inspired by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, where the park site and memorial have the same name.

Bellevue Nikkei Park

“Nikkei” refers to people of Japanese ancestry living outside Japan and was suggested by members of the community as a way to honor the Japanese Americans who were forcibly displaced from Bellevue during WWII (see descriptions above). This name meets the Council naming criterion that is focused on historical or cultural significance. “Nikkei” is a widely used term that also describes an index for the Tokyo Stock Exchange and a financial newspaper. There is a Nikkei Park in Vancouver, WA, which opened in 2021.