

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

Date: October 4, 2023

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager  
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Park naming recommendation for new neighborhood park in Bridle Trails  
*For Board Action*

## **SUMMARY**

At the board meeting on October 10, 2023 the Bridle Trails 140<sup>th</sup> Ave. neighborhood park naming processes will be shared along with community preferences. The Parks & Community Services Board will discuss and act on a name recommendation for City Council consideration and adoption.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

Move that the Parks & Community Services Board recommend to City Council the name \_\_\_\_\_ for the new neighborhood park on 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in Bridle Trails.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Bellevue City Council Resolution No. 10151 (2022) sets forth policies and procedures for naming public parks and recreation facilities (Attachment #1). The City Council selects a park name typically after receiving a recommendation from the Park Board, which is based upon public input using the following criteria:

- A neighborhood or geographical identification;
- A natural or geographical feature;
- A historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance; or
- An individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the park system.
- In the case of names for individuals or historic figures, consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion.

## **BACKGROUND & COMMUNITY NAMING PREFERENCES**

To understand the community's preferences, two recent online surveys were conducted. The first survey soliciting name suggestions was conducted between February and June 2023. We received 17 name suggestions from this survey and added these to eleven other names that had been collected from the earlier planning and design process. Staff then applied the City Council's naming criteria and released a second survey with seven finalist name options. This

survey was open between July – September 2023. Respondents were asked to identify their top three name choices in order of preference.

Outreach efforts included project website updates with survey links. A request to participate in both surveys was sent to those who had signed-up to be notified of website updates. Staff also worked with Bridle Trails Community Club to update and alert their membership. We also asked for name suggestions at two Bridle Trails Night Out events in 2019 and again this past summer in August 2023. In addition to the survey, a few name suggestions were collected by phone call and email.

In total, approximately 50 survey responses were received for the finalist options. The most popular names were Valley Creek Park (for the named creek running through the adjacent seven-acre Bellevue Utility-owned wetland) and Birdsong Park (a nod to the many varieties of bird and wildlife types seen on the site). At the request of Bridle Trails Community Club, staff added 'Bridle Trails' as a neighborhood identifier option for the two most popular park names - Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park or Bridle Trails Birdsong Park. Other name options included in the preference survey with lesser scores included Playground Park, East Bridle Trails Park and Belmond Park.

The website and survey clearly stated that a popular voting exercise would not be the basis of name selection; however, both the Parks & Community Services Board and City Council would appreciate including community's preferences in their deliberations.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Parks & Community Services Board is asked to discuss and recommend a name to the City Council for their consideration.

When a recommendation is made, it will be transmitted to the City Council for their consideration later this year or in early 2024.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution No. 10151 – Park Naming Policy
2. Park Name Survey Results

# Attachment 1: Park Naming Policy

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 10151

A RESOLUTION establishing a new policy and procedure for naming public parks and park and recreation facilities, and repealing Resolution No. 8229.

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the designation of names for public parks and park and recreation facilities, such as major public buildings and structures, should be approached with deliberation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further believes that the setting forth by resolution of policies and procedures relating to the naming of public parks and park and recreation facilities is in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to extend the opportunity for naming public parks and park and recreation facilities to individuals and figures who have made non-financial contributions to the parks systems or meets other city priorities such as diversity, equity, and inclusion; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It is the policy of the City of Bellevue to choose names for parks and park and recreation facilities, such as major public buildings and structures, based upon the following criteria:

- (1) Neighborhood or geographical identification (e.g., North Bellevue, Lake Hills, Overlake);
- (2) A natural or geographical feature (e.g., Kelsey Creek, Mercer Slough);
- (3) An historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance (e.g., Bicentennial Park, Children's Park);
- (4) A corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual (living or deceased) who has made a significant land, monetary, or other contribution to the park system and who has a compelling connection to Bellevue and/or the park system; and
- (5) In naming parks and park and recreational facilities for individuals or historic figures, the City should consider how such name meets other City priorities, including diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Section 2. The City Council shall designate the names of public parks and park or recreation facilities. The City Council may seek a recommendation from the Bellevue Park Board, which is based upon public input from individuals and organizations.

Section 3. Following selection of a park or park and recreation facility name by the City Council, the Parks and Community Services Department shall identify the specific park or facility by appropriate signage specifying the name.

Section 4. The City Manager, or his or her designee, shall designate the names of smaller projects associated with individual elements within a park, such as benches, trails, garden rooms, and similar features.

Section 5. Resolution No. 8229 is repealed.


Passed by the City Council this 10<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2022,  
and signed in authentication of its passage this 10<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER,  
2022.

(SEAL)



Attest:

  
Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

  
Lynne Robinson, Mayor

## Attachment 2: Park Name Survey Results

### Finalist Names

- Valley Creek Park  
-or- Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park
- Birdsong Park  
-or- Bridle Trails Birdsong Park
- Bridle Trails Playground Park
- East Bridle Trails Park
- Belmond Park

Note: Birdsong and Valley Creek names repeated with optional neighborhood identifier at the request of Bridle Trails Community Club

### Survey Results

#### Bridle Trails 140th Ave Park Naming Suggestion Opportunity

Help name your new park in the Bridle Trails neighborhood!

We welcome your suggestions for naming our newest Bellevue park, which will be constructed in the Bridle Trails neighborhood at 4432 140th Ave NE. All name suggestions will need to comply with the city's park naming policy

If you would like additional project information for this new park please visit the [Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park webpage](#). If you would like to follow our park construction or naming process please consider subscribing to website update alerts on the project web site. Please submit your name suggestions by May 15 for consideration.

1. Please submit up to three name suggestions

Suggestion 1

Suggestion 2

Suggestion 3

#### Rank Order Weighted Score

Valley Creek	54
Birdsong	49
BT Birdsong	47
BT Valley Creek	46
Playground	29
East BT	26
Belmond	13