

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Staff will present an update on the process to name the new park in the Newport Hills neighborhood and seek direction in selecting a name.

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*Parks & Community Services*

## DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

### DIRECTION

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

## RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to return with a resolution adopting the Council's preferred park name.

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Staff will report on the Newport Hills area park naming process, community preferences, and the Parks & Community Services Board recommendation to support Council in selecting a name for Bellevue's newest neighborhood park.

### Community Naming Preferences

In December 2018, Council approved the 2019-25 CIP budget that included \$3 million to plan, design and construct a new neighborhood park in the Newport Hills neighborhood (Attachment A).

The park planning process began in May 2019 and concluded eight months later with a Parks & Community Services Board recommendation and Council support of a design for a new 13-acre park. The planning process included three community meetings, two Parks & Community Services Board meetings and a Council meeting. Public meetings were well attended, and staff received robust feedback throughout the planning process. During the planning process, staff asked the community for park name suggestions and requested local historical groups help research and inform those name options, resulting in 22 potential park names. 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 fall 2020, staff conducted an online survey to narrow park naming options and better understand the community's preferences. Staff posted the survey (Attachment B) on the City website and sent notifications to over 1,200 interested community members. Staff also sought participation through the City website, the Newport Hills Community Club website, Nextdoor, and signage at the new park site.

Online survey respondents were asked to select their top three name choices in order of preference. The survey stated that the Parks & Community Services Board and City Council would consider the survey responses in their deliberations. 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 (see Attachment C).

### **Parks & Community Services Board Recommendation**

After thorough deliberation, the Parks & Community Services Board passed a motion to recommend the name “*Borghild Ringdall Neighborhood Park*” to Council based on the following:

1. Borghild Ringdall’s significance as a historical figure and her contributions to Bellevue by initiating the first hot lunch program in the Bellevue School District;
2. Park location adjacent to Ringdall Middle School; and
3. It is a name that is familiar to the neighborhood but does not duplicate existing Newport Hills park names.

The Board additionally requested that staff conduct research into the recommended name and the School District’s plans for the adjacent Ringdall Middle School site prior to forwarding its recommendation to the City Council. Staff contacted the Bellevue School District and the Eastside Heritage Society to assist with research (see Attachment D).

### **Next Steps**

The Council can designate the name recommended by the Parks & Community Services Board, a community suggested name, or a name not previously identified. The new park name must comply with the adopted naming policy discussed below. The construction documentation, environmental and land use permits are in process, with anticipated park construction beginning in summer 2021.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Resolution No. 8229 (Attachment E) 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 geographical 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 a 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 Name Survey
- C. Park Name Survey Results
- D. Name Research – Parks & Community Services Board
- E. Resolution No. 8229 – Park Naming Policy

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A