

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: September 14, 2021

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager
Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Newport Hills Neighborhood Park Naming
(Board action requested)

Action Requested: Recommend to City Council a name for the new neighborhood park in the Newport Hills area.

SUMMARY

At your meeting on September 14th, we will review the Park Naming Policy, City Council's updated naming guidance, and process to-date. Additionally, we will share the community's name preferences regarding Bellevue's newest neighborhood park in support of the Park Board's deliberations towards recommending a name to Council.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Council Resolution No. 8229 sets forth policies and procedures for naming public parks and recreation facilities (Attachment 1). The City Council designates 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.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & INITIAL COMMUNITY NAMING PREFERENCES

In December of 2018 the City Council approved the 2019-25 CIP budget that included \$3 million to plan, design and construct a new neighborhood park in Newport Hills. The park planning process began in May 2019 and concluded with a Parks & Community Services Board recommendation and Council's support of a park plan in December 2019. During the planning process, the community was asked to suggest names for the new park. Park name options consistent with park naming policies resulted in 22 potential park names.

To help narrow name options and understand the community's preferences, an online survey was conducted. The request to participate in the survey was sent to those who had signed-up to be notified of updates on the City of Bellevue, new Newport Hills area park webpage (over 1,200 community members are notified when the webpage is updated). Staff also worked to update the Newport Hills Community Club website, Nextdoor, and post a sign at the new park site requesting participation in the park naming survey. We received 203 survey responses indicating the preferred names of: 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 based on the following:

- Borghild Ringdall's significance as a female historical figure and contributions to Bellevue by initiating the first hot lunch program in the School District;
- Park location adjacent to Ringdall Middle School;
- A name that is familiar to the neighborhood but does not duplicate existing Newport Hills park names; and
- Ringdall was the neighborhood's second name preference.

At their May 3, 2021 meeting, Council did not select a name for the new park, however provided supplementary park naming guidance directing the park name:

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

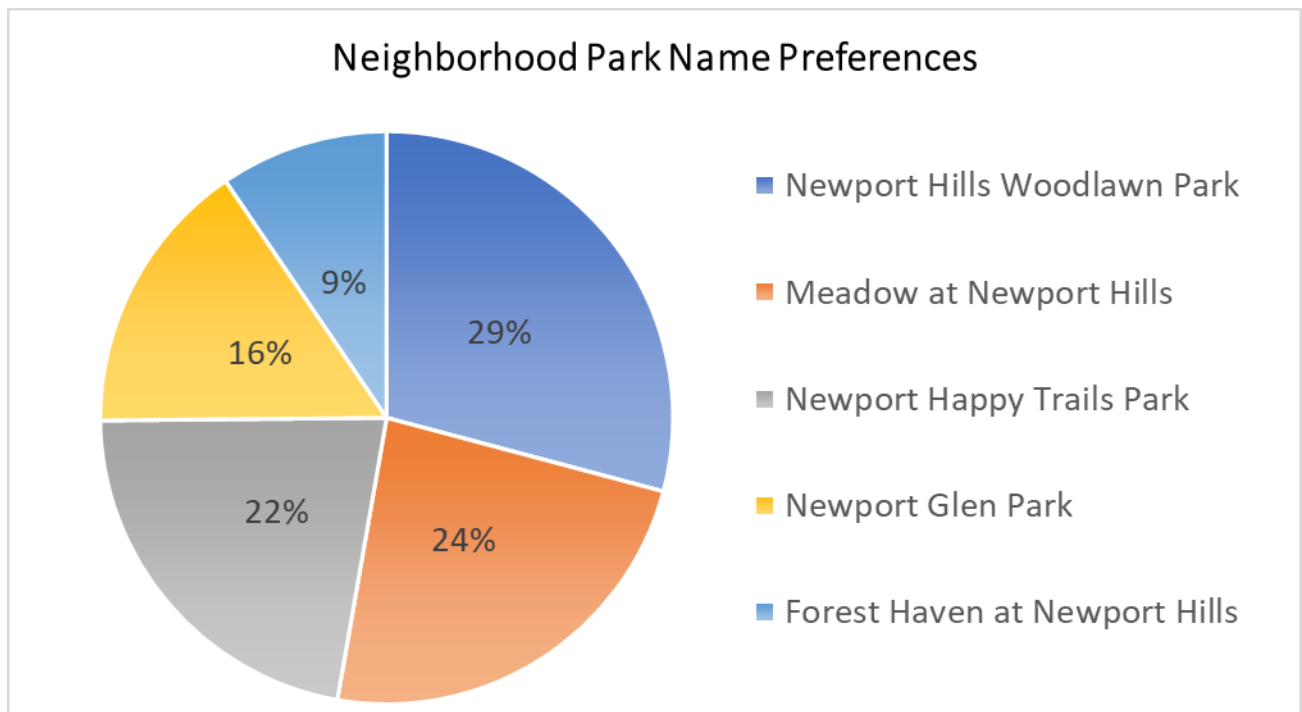
At the June 8th Parks & Community Services Board meeting, the board supported next step processes and selected the five final name options based on community, Council and the Board's name recommendations.

A name preference survey (Attachment 2) was created. The survey met Title VI criteria, reading accessibility and language translation options were provided. The survey communicated 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 the community's preferences in their deliberations. One survey was mailed to each household (3,098) in the Newport Hills Subarea at the beginning of August. Survey responses were due back at the beginning of September.

We received 338 responses to our second name preference survey from the neighborhood. Community feedback for the new neighborhood park name, in order of preference, are:

1. Newport Hills Woodlawn Park
2. Meadow at Newport Hills Park
3. Newport Happy Trails Park
4. Newport Glen Neighborhood Park
5. Forest Haven at Newport Hills Park

The following pie chart identifies the percentages of responses supporting the new park name options:



NEXT STEPS

We anticipate sharing the Parks & Community Services Board updated name recommendation with Council for their consideration and adoption later this fall.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 8229 – Park Naming Policy
2. Park Name Survey #2