

City of Edmonds Park Naming Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to establish consistent standard procedures and guidelines for the naming of public parklands owned and/or operated by the City of Edmonds. The renaming of parks is strongly discouraged.

Policy

The naming of City parks, park areas and park facilities shall be the function of the City Council with assistance from Edmonds Planning Board and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Diversity, balance and creativity will be sought during adoption of names. The name selected for a site will be recommended to the Edmonds City Council for approval or amendment. City Council has final authority to approve or amend any recommendation.

Objectives

- A. Provide name identification for individual parks, park areas or park facilities.
- B. Provide criteria for the process of naming parks, park areas or park facilities.
- C. Provide opportunities for public input including a public hearing at Planning Board.
- D. Ensure that the naming of parks, park areas, or park facilities is controlled by the Edmonds City Council through recommendations from the Planning Boarding..

Criteria

The naming of parks, park areas, and park facilities should be approached with caution, patience, and deliberation.

Names submitted for consideration should provide some form of individual identity in relation to the following:

- A. The geographic location of the facility; this includes descriptive names.
- B. An outstanding feature of the facility.
- C. An adjoining subdivision, street, school, or natural feature. No park shall be given the same name as an existing school site or public facility, except where the sites abut one another.

- D. A commonly recognized historical event, group, organization or individual (living or deceased).
- E. An individual or organization that contributed significantly to the acquisition or development of the facility to be named. This can include either a deed or substantial monetary contribution, or contribution toward acquisition and/or development of the park or park facility (typically not less than 50 percent of the value of the property or improvements).
- F. Outstanding accomplishments by an individual for the good of the community. Quality of the contribution should be considered along with the length of service by the individual – this to be fully substantiated by person making recommendation.
- G. Any individual who provided an exceptional service in the interest of the park system as a whole. Typically, while serving in a public office, public officials should not be considered as a candidate for naming.

Donated Land

Parks and park facilities that are donated to the City can be named by deed restriction by the donor (i.e. Hutt Park in Edmonds). The naming and acceptance of land is subject to recommendation by the Planning Board and approval by City Council. Naming rights are not guaranteed if the donation of parkland is a dedication as required by the subdivision ordinance (parkland dedication).

Naming Process

Parks Department staff will notify the Planning Board about proposed naming opportunities. The recommendation of the Planning Board will be subject to final approval or amendment by City Council action.

1. Temporary Naming

In the case of a new project, a temporary name will be designated by the City staff for identification during acquisition and/or development of the park area or park facility. Because temporary designations tend to be retained, the naming process for a new park should be carried out as quickly as possible after its acquisition or development.

2. Permanent Naming

Citizen involvement in the naming process is encouraged and may be accomplished in a variety of ways throughout the naming process.

- A. Individuals, groups and/or organizations interested in proposing a name for an existing un-named park area or park facility may do so in writing

using a “Park Naming Form” that outlines the naming criteria. These will be presented to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department for consideration by the Planning Board.

- B. A variety of means to encourage public participation to submit a name (citizen contests, recommendations from previous owners, historical review of the site, etc.) may be implemented by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department at the request of the Planning Board. The “Park Naming Form” will be available through the City website, copies available at City Hall and the Anderson Center, and publicity through Public Service Announcements, Channel 21, and other means.
- C. The Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed names..
- D. The Planning Board will make a naming recommendation to the City Council for final adoption or amendment.

3. Park Renaming

Critical examination will be conducted to ensure that renaming the park will not diminish the original justification for the name or the prior contributors. Renaming will follow the same procedures as naming the park.

- A. Only parks and facilities named for geographic location, outstanding feature or subdivision should be considered for renaming. Parks that have been named by deed restriction shall not be considered for renaming.
- B. Parks and facilities named after individuals shall not be changed unless it is found that because of the individual’s character the continued use of their name would not be in the best interest of the community.