Maple Ridge

**COUNCIL POLICY**

| **Title: Park Naming Policy** | | **Policy No: 4.36**<br>**Supersedes:**<br>Parks and Leisure Services Commission Park Naming Policy P117 (2013); Resolution 1152, January 12, 2010 |
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| **Effective Date:**<br>September 8, 2026 | **Amended Date:** | **Review Date:**<br>September, 2029 |

**Policy Statement:**
The City is committed to naming parks and Public Spaces in a manner that reflects its cultural heritage, community values, and the contributions of its citizens, aiming to create names that are meaningful, unique, and have lasting legacies.

**Purpose:**
This Policy provides structured guidelines for the naming, renaming, and dedication of parks and Public Spaces within the City. The Policy aligns with municipal legislation and strategic goals to honour historical significance, community contributions, and cultural diversity.

**Scope:**
This Policy applies to all parks and Public Spaces under the jurisdiction of the City.

**Definitions:**
**City** means the City of Maple Ridge.

**Naming** means the process of Council approving a name for a park.

**Park** means a Public Space on property owned or operated by the City.

**Park Feature** means a feature or amenity within a Park that can be named separately.

**Public Space** means accessible outdoor areas for public use and enjoyment.

**Procedure:**

1. The following are general guidelines that staff will apply in developing a recommendation for Council to name a Park or Park Features:
   (a) A name must be distinctive, enduring, and universally accessible;
   (b) A name must reflect the Park classification specific criteria;
   (c) A name must avoid commercial, developer, or current politician names unless it aligns with the City's Sponsorship, Advertising, and Naming Rights Policy;
   (d) A name must be respectful and must not discriminate against, harm, or demean any person or group;
   (e) Park Features may be named in alignment with the City's Sponsorship, Advertising, and Naming Rights Policy and the Park Naming Policy;
   (f) Unless immediately adjacent, a Park must not be named after a nearby school or facility to avoid confusion about its location;
   (g) where an individual's name, family name or an Indigenous language name is proposed for park naming, such action must be supported by the family and/or First Nation in writing.

**Process:**

2. City staff will vet name proposals, review name options, engage with affected parties as needed, conduct community engagement on park naming (as and when appropriate), conduct background research and provide recommendations to Council in the form of a report.

3. Council will consider a Park name or Park Feature name recommendation and may approve the name, suggest alternative names, or direct City staff to return to Council with a new recommendation. Only Council may name Park names.

4. Once approved, the new Park name will be added to the City's official Park name register, and signage will be installed at the Park site that includes the Park name.

**Park Classification Specific Criteria:**

***Signature Parks***

5. Names can reflect historical significance for the City, Indigenous place names or geographical names of importance

***Destination Parks***

6. Names can reflect historical significance for the City, Indigenous place names, natural features of the park or geographical names of importance.

***Community Parks:***

7. Names can reflect historical significance for the community, Indigenous place names, individuals or families that have made significant community contributions or recognition, the community location, or immediately adjacent school or facility names.

***Neighbourhood Parks:***

8. Names can reflect unique elements of a neighbourhood's geographic or social fabric, Indigenous place names, natural features or flora of the park, local street and subdivision names, unique local names or immediately adjacent school or facility names.

***Pocket Parks:***

9. Names can reflect unique elements of a localized areas geographic or social fabric, Indigenous place names, natural features or flora of the park, local street and subdivision or multi family urban development names.

***Open Spaces:***

10. Names can reflect historical significance for the City, Indigenous place names or geographical names of importance.

***Conservation areas or Greenbelts:***

11. Conservation areas or greenbelts are not named. These areas can be referred to by property addresses, PID numbers or an adjacent watercourse name.

**All Park Classifications:**

12. Where a park has not been formally named, but has become known by a name over time, consideration should be given to formalizing that name to avoid confusion.
13. If the park incorporates land or features that have been donated by an individual, family or organization to the City, consideration should be given to naming the park or feature after the donor or their requested name.

**Re-Naming Parks:**

14. An initiative to re-name a park requires Council to pass a resolution to initiate a review of the existing park name. Determining a new park name shall follow the Park Classification Specific Criteria and follow the procedure in this policy.

**Implementation:**

15. The policy will be enacted immediately upon Council approval.
16. The policy should be reviewed every three years to ensure relevance and compliance.

**Administration:**

The policy will be administered by the Facilities, Parks and Properties Department.

**Accommodations:**

Provisions will be made for exceptions where guidelines in this policy cannot be met, with Council discretion for approvals of a park name.

| **(Administration Only)** | **Signature (Council or CAO)** | **Date Signed** |
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| **Resolution No.: R/2026-CM-251** | | October 30/2026 |