



Park Naming Recommendations - Report Back

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2017



To review and respond to recommendations from the Park Naming Committee, for naming the following:

- The playing fields at the southeast corner of Hastings Park
- The play space between the sports fields and Playland at Hastings Park
- Park at Yukon Street & 17th Avenue
- Park at Main Street & 18th Avenue

Consider a pause in further park naming to:

- Allow staff, working with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, to update the Park Naming Process to incorporate Indigenous place names.

- The committee must consist of at least 5 volunteer citizens
- Three standing members to provide knowledge, expertise and representation from the following:
 - Environmental/naturalist realm
 - Commemorative/historical realm
 - Youth Realm
- Two or more ad hoc members to provide community and program specific representation

Objective

- “Provide the Vancouver Park Board with recommendations for the name of new parks. It will use a consistent process and include community involvement.”

Role

- Review names suggested by the public and naming committee members, develop a short list, and provide a recommendation to the Park Board.

Geographic Rationale:

- Should generally relate to a constant feature either nearby or within the park. This could relate to a bordering street name or a natural or man-made feature. This does not preclude the consideration of a name already in common use for the park.

Commemorative Rationale:

- When there is no geographic rationale is present or it is desired to commemorate an historical event or person important to the Park Board, City of Vancouver, or a person having made a substantial contribution to the Park Board, a park may be named for that person. Generally, names of individuals should only be used posthumously, except in the case of a living person who has a lifetime achievement consistent with the Park Board's mandate.

- Committee met four times between August 2016 and March 2017.
- Staff and Committee worked together to solicit feedback from the public.
- Committee evaluated proposed park names considering historical, cultural and geographic elements, using the park naming guidelines laid out in the Park Naming Process.
- All decisions were reached unanimously.

Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh

- 2007 Park Naming Process – no mention of role for local First Nations.
- Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh staff - invited to review unnamed parks and indicate desired role in the naming process.
- Tsleil-Waututh staff - initially interested in the process for naming the site currently known as Empire Fields.



Musqueam Nation



Squamish Nation



Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh

- Timing - agreed to move current naming process (the four parks) forward to conclusion.
- Project Pause - consider suspending future processes and contemplate process updates.
- Other opportunities – consider incorporating an Indigenous name at New Brighton Park.



Park Name Recommendations

3311 East Hastings St



- Empire Stadium built in then-named, Exhibition Park in preparation for the British Empire Games in 1954
- Stadium hosted many historic events before being torn down in 1993:
 - ‘Miracle Mile’ race between Roger Bannister and John Landy
 - Elvis Presley in 1957 and the Beatles in 1965
 - BC Lions from 1954 to 1982
 - Vancouver Royals soccer from 1967/68
 - Whitecaps from 1974 to 1982
- ‘Empire Fields’ name is very well used/known (a name change is unlikely to ‘stick’)
- Strong public support for maintaining the name ‘Empire Fields’ on site

- Preferred Name Recommendation: **Empire Fields**
- Secondary Name Recommendation: Empire Fields Park



Park Name Recommendations

3311 East Hastings St



Park Name Recommendations - Rationale

- Active park space located between Playland and Hastings Park sports fields
- Offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities for all ages:
 - Beach volleyball courts, flexible multisport court space, Canada's 1st public outdoor Parkour park, bike park, outdoor ping pong tables, fitness equipment, playground
 - Includes two big, slippery slides
- Playful name 'Slidey Slides', chosen from submissions by children at Hastings Park Childcare (pictured); an unconventional name for an unconventional space
- Connects to local children and the community



- Preferred Name Recommendation: **Slidey Slides**
- Secondary Name Recommendation: Puzzle Park



Park Name Recommendations

Main & 18th Park



- Sun Hop Park
 - Celebrates the Chinese history of the Mid-Main area.
 - Historically area housed many green grocers owned by Chinese immigrants in 1920s through to 1940
 - Many of the companies on Produce Row at Malkin Avenue have their origins with these early firms
 - The Sun Hop Company operated on Main Street at 19th Avenue in 1923
 - The Hing Mai Company opened on 19th Avenue in 1926
- 'Sun Hop Park' - playful, suits the unique and inviting park while connecting current residents with a piece of the site's history

- Preferred Name Recommendation:
Sun Hop Park
- Secondary Name Recommendation:
Hing Mai Park



Park Name Recommendations

Yukon Street and 17th Avenue



- “Lilian To” Park
 - The late Lilian To was the CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., an organization initially founded to help new Canadians from China overcome language and cultural barriers. It is now a multicultural, multi-service agency assisting people at all stages of their Canadian experience
 - Awards
 - Vancouver Multicultural Society’s Distinguished Service Award in 1991
 - YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 1999
 - Federal Citation for Citizenship in 2001
 - The park site is where her home stood until 2013



- Preferred Name Recommendation: **“Lilian To” Park**
- Secondary Name Recommendation: Yukon Park



- A. THAT** the Vancouver Park Board approve the name “Empire Fields” for the playing fields located at the southeast corner of Hastings Park;

- B. THAT** the Park Board approve the name “Slidey Slides” for the play space located adjacent to both Playland and the sports fields on the south side of Hastings Park (commonly known as Plateau Park);

- C. THAT** the Park Board approve the name “Lilian To Park” for the park at Yukon Street and 17th Avenue;

- D. THAT** the Park Board approve the name “Sun Hop Park” for the park at Main Street and 18th Avenue;

- E. THAT** any further naming processes be suspended to allow Park Board staff, working with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh staff, to update the Park Naming Process to incorporate Indigenous place names in Vancouver Parks; and
- F. THAT** Park Board staff report back, by Fall 2017, on recommendations for amendments to the Park Naming Process to incorporate Indigenous place names and steps to resume the naming process.

