

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Keefer and members of the City Council
cc: Brandon Hammond, City Manager
From: Carla McLane, Planning Official
Date: July 29, 2025
RE: Park Naming Competition Results

As part of the Parks Master Plan process there was discussion about park naming which recognized that several parks needed to be named or be renamed to better reflect the parks uniqueness. This memorandum provides the background for the following name recommendations:

- City Hall Park = Tatone Park
- Hillview Park = Hillview Park and Sports Complex
- Park Blocks = Heritage Park Blocks
- River Ridge Parks I – IV = Blayden Park, Parque Los Niños, Pájaro Azúl Park, and Meadowlark Park

A total of 44 name submissions were received over a three-week survey period. The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed all entries based on the competition's stated themes—local history, natural environment, community spirit, and indigenous or multicultural influences—as well as rules such as no names of living individuals, ease of pronunciation, originality, respectful tone, and no close resemblance to existing park, street, or public space names in the region. The PAC aimed to advance two or three names per park to City Council for final decision-making; however, in some instances, a single name was selected by consensus due to strong agreement among committee members. The following names were recommended by the PAC for City Council consideration:

City Hall Park

Tatone Park

Named for nearby Tatone Street and the Tatone family, who were instrumental in shaping the community in the 1960s–70s. The name is locally meaningful and widely recognized.

Hillview Park (Sports Complex)

Hillview Park

Retains the existing subdivision name and was supported by some PAC members as a straightforward, recognizable option.

Parque Cultural (revised from *Parque Puente Cultural*)

PAC members supported the name based on its explanation—meant to reflect the

connection and mutual respect we should have for all cultures, and the value of respect taught through sports. The original name was simplified for clarity and ease of use.

Ryan Neal Memorial Parque Cultural

This name blends two suggested names—Ryan Neal Memorial Park (initially recommended for the Park Blocks) and Parque Cultural (see above). Ryan Neal was a Boardman native recognized for his contributions to youth sports and scholarships. The name was considered fitting, as the site is planned as a future sports complex. PAC members also noted that the site could be master planned to incorporate cultural elements alongside athletic facilities. Some PAC members expressed concern about naming a park after an individual who is already widely recognized through other local initiatives—such as the Ryan Neal Memorial Golf Tournament and Neal Learning Center—and noted that many other long-serving community members have not been similarly recognized.

Park Blocks (BPA Easement Corridor)

Heritage Park Blocks

The name reflects and reinforces the planned alignment of the Morrow County Heritage Trail, which is set to run directly through the corridor west of Main Street—routing the Heritage Trail through the Heritage Park Blocks by both name and route. There is also potential to extend the trail east toward Laurel Lane, under the freeway, through the Port, and loop back, creating a continuous pedestrian loop. The name reflects the community’s desire to celebrate local history through interpretive features and supports a cohesive master plan vision. Each block could serve as a distinct element within a unified heritage corridor.

River Ridge Subdivision Parks (3 or 4 total)

Blayden Park

Honors C.G. Blayden, a community-nominated individual (deceased) recognized as the first permanent settler in Boardman in 1915, following Samuel Boardman’s original homesteading of the land in 1903. Suggested for use if interpretive context can be provided, as some community members may not be familiar with the name’s significance.

Parque Los Niños (modified from Parque de Los Niños)

Originally submitted in Spanish, this name—meaning “Children’s Park”—was revised to a simplified bilingual form. It was favored for one of the River Ridge neighborhood parks and reflects the community’s desire for a park geared toward children.

Pájaro Azul Park

Means “Bluebird Park” in Spanish. The name aligns with the bird-themed street names in the neighborhood and was appreciated for contributing Spanish-language representation.

Meadowlark Park

Named after Oregon’s state bird, this name was supported for its local symbolism—especially given the bird-themed street names in the neighborhood—though some felt it was a little wordy.