



Recognition and Naming Policy

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

JULY 20, 2026

Purpose

- Establish clear and consistent criteria and processes for naming or renaming City-owned public facilities and streets.
- Ensure names reflect Camas's history, values, sense of place, and community identity.
- The policy would also be followed in considering recommendations to state, federal, and/or intergovernmental boards taking actions regarding geographic names, naming, or renaming.
- Currently, street naming authority exists in the Camas Municipal Code, but there is no clear comprehensive policy for naming other City facilities.

Applicability

- Applies to City-owned facilities including:
 - Streets, in accordance with the Street Naming Manual
 - Parks, trails, open spaces, and associated amenities
 - Buildings, including meeting rooms and other interior spaces
 - Major infrastructure systems and components, including bridges
- Does not apply to routine donor recognition elements, such as bench plaques, donor walls, engraved pavers, or similar features installed under an approved fundraising, memorial, or sponsorship program.



Naming Criteria

- Names may be based on:
 - Geographic location or natural features
 - Historical significance
 - Civil service or individual recognition
 - Significant monetary, property, or in-kind contributions
- Names should be clear, pronounceable, and not create confusion.



Individual Recognition

- Facilities may be named for individuals who made significant and positive contributions to Camas.
- Relevant contributions may include public service, civic leadership, community initiatives, cultural contributions, or historical significance.
- Facilities are not ordinarily named for living individuals.
 - City Council approval required for naming after a living individual or individual who has been deceased for less than ten years.

Contributions

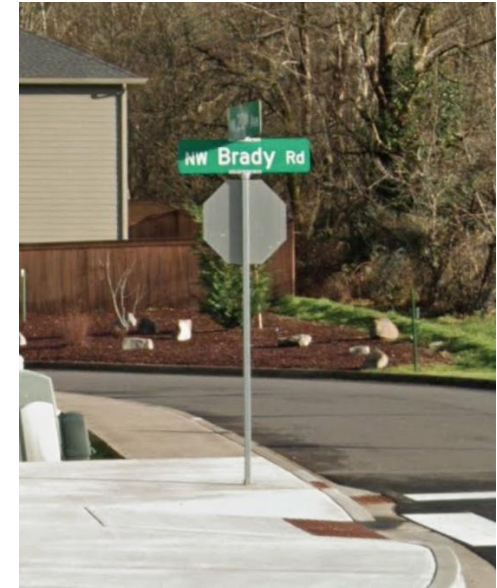
- Naming can occur for an individual or organization who has made a significant direct property, monetary, or in-kind contribution toward the development of a facility.
- Naming consideration and duration shall be proportional and appropriate to the contribution.
 - Naming consideration may be appropriate only when a transaction includes a donation, discount, or other contribution that provides a clear public benefit beyond fair market value.
 - Properties sold to the City for fair market value should not be named for the seller.
- Contribution-based naming may be permanent or time-limited, as determined by the applicable naming authority and documented in a written agreement. Perpetual naming rights should not be granted unless expressly approved by the City Council.

Renaming

- Renaming existing public facilities or streets is generally discouraged and should be undertaken only after careful consideration of historical context, community input, and potential impacts.
- Renaming proposals must demonstrate a clear public benefit and alignment with this policy.
- For facilities whose names have been listed on general usage maps for fifty years or more, name changes should only be considered when the proposed name is supported by other City policies, priorities or initiatives.

Naming Authority

- Community Development Director
 - names and numbers of City streets pursuant to the Street Naming Manual
- Public Works Director
 - names of all new infrastructure systems and components
- Library Board of Trustees
 - names of any new library facilities, including rooms or other library spaces
- Parks and Recreation Commission
 - names of any new city parks, trails, open spaces, and associated amenities
- City Council
 - any other naming or renaming of existing facilities
 - Any naming of a living individual or individual who has been deceased for less than ten years
 - Council has ultimate authority in all naming decisions



Procedures

- Proposals may be initiated by City Council or City staff, members of City boards or commissions, and members of the public.
- Proposals include:
 - The proposed name, the rationale for the proposal, and an explanation of how the proposal satisfies the criteria in this policy.
 - Background information on the individual, place, or concept being honored.
 - Any historical, cultural, or community significance.
 - Disclosure of any associated donation, sponsorship, or naming rights request.
- Proposals must be submitted to the appropriate naming authority. The naming authority may approve or deny the proposal or refer it to the City Council with a recommendation for action.

Alternatives to Naming

- Permanent naming is not always appropriate or necessary.
- The City may favor an alternative form of recognition when permanent naming or renaming would cause operational confusion, substantial public expense, displacement of an established name, or other impacts disproportionate to the proposed recognition.
- Alternatives may include interpretive signage, plaques, public art, or other forms of recognition that provide context and education while preserving flexibility for future community needs. City departments may also consider temporary or time-limited recognitions, such as proclamations, interpretive displays, or digital storytelling elements that highlight community history, cultural heritage, or individual contributions.



Thank you!
