

Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	3/10/2026
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 11570 - A Resolution Approving the Parks & Recreation Commission’s Recommendation to Name Neighborhood Park #1 “Jackrabbit Hill Park”
FROM:	Parks and Recreation Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

The Parks & Recreation Department recommends the City Council approve Resolution No. 11570 – A Resolution Approving the Parks & Recreation Commission’s Recommendation to Name Neighborhood Park #1 “Jackrabbit Hill Park”.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2021, the City Council approved a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission for a new park and facility naming policy established by Resolution No. 10696. Resolution No. 10696 rescinds and replaces the prior park-naming Resolutions, Nos. 5177 and 3951, by creating a new park and facility naming policy. The new policy offers greater clarity and specific guidelines regarding name selection. The Park Naming Policy states that the Park Naming Subcommittee recommends a primary name, along with two alternative options, to the Parks & Recreation Commission, which then forwards a recommended name to the City Council.

At the June 3, 2025, meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission reviewed park development priorities and recommended Neighborhood Park #1 (NP1) as the next park to be developed in the Folsom Plan Area. Funding in the Fiscal Year 2025–26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to initiate the park design process was approved by the City Council on October 28, 2025.

In alignment with the intent of the Park and Facility Naming Policy and the City’s ongoing commitment to community engagement, staff discussed a request from a Councilmember to explore the potential use of a public voting process to allow residents to express their preference among policy-compliant name options. Under this approach, public voting results would be presented to the City Council for final consideration and approval.

Park Naming Process

On October 14, 2025, the Parks & Recreation Commission Planning and Development Subcommittee met to review a list of eligible park names, including five options recommended by staff: Jackrabbit Hill Park, Hawk Ridge Park, Golden View Park, Horizon Park, and Sanjivini Park. During the meeting, the Subcommittee discussed revising the name Golden View Park to Golden Vista Park and determined not to advance the name Horizon Park, as it was not favored. The Subcommittee requested that staff conduct additional research on the remaining name options.

Following the Subcommittee meeting, staff conducted further research on the four remaining name options to respond to questions raised by Subcommittee members. This research included correspondence with community members who submitted the names Hawk Ridge Park, Jackrabbit Hill Park, and Sanjivini Park, as well as outreach to a neighborhood resident who has hosted a Diwali festival near Neighborhood Park #1, providing additional cultural context and background related to the name Sanjivini.

On November 14, 2025, the Parks & Recreation Commission Planning and Development Subcommittee convened for its second meeting. Staff presented additional information along with an updated list of three suggested names and one alternate. Following the discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to forward four names to the full Parks & Recreation Commission for public vote to determine the preferred park name, consistent with a Council Member's request.

POLICY / RULE

The City of Folsom City Council approved a new park and facility naming policy established by Resolution No. 10696 in 2021 (Attachment 2). Resolution No. 10696 rescinds and replaces the prior park-naming resolutions, Nos. 5177 and 3951, and establishes a new park and facility naming policy. The new policy offers greater clarity and specific guidelines regarding name selection.

ANALYSIS

Establishing a park name at this stage helps provide context. It can inform the overall theme and character of the park during the design process, including wayfinding, signage, and community identity. Staff scheduled the first park community engagement meeting in January of 2026.

Neighborhood Park #1 is approximately 11.98 acres and located at the corner of Empire Ranch Road and Mangini Parkway. The site is intended to serve surrounding residential neighborhoods and contribute to the City's broader park system. Below is a vicinity map showing the location of Neighborhood Park #1 (Exhibit A).

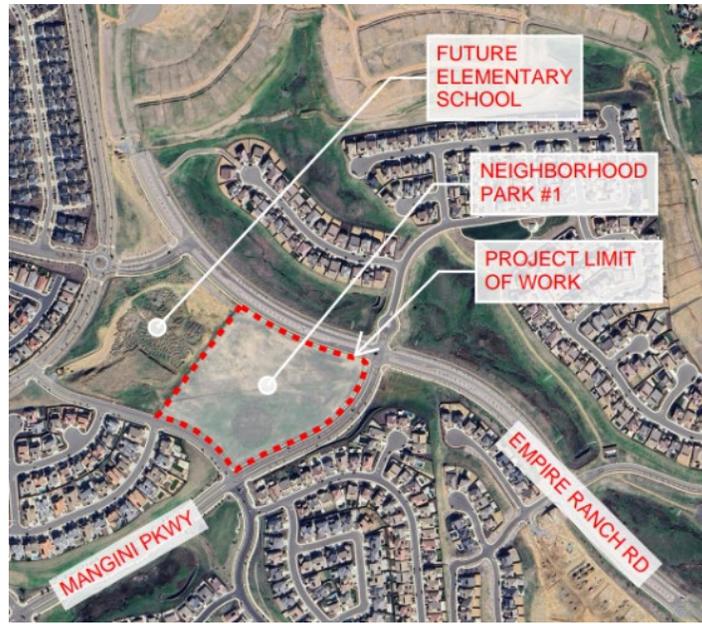


Exhibit A – Map of Neighborhood Park #1 Located Next to a Future Elementary School on the Corner of Empire Ranch and Mangini Parkway in the Folsom Plan Area.

According to Resolution 1096 for Park and Facility Naming Policy, it states:

“Neighborhood Parks (typically 7 acres to 10 acres in size) should be named after: 1. Individuals who donated land or a large financial contribution to a specific facility or park, or 2. Site-specific names to include geographic location, outstanding feature, design or theme of the park, whether natural geographical or manmade, native plants or wildlife, historical significance such as an event, group culture or place.”

In alignment with the park naming policy, staff reviewed the recommendations collected from the community. Staff grouped names by recurring themes and repetitive recommendations for the park name. Based on this analysis of names, the staff recommended that the subcommittee consider the following names.

Jackrabbit Hill Park

The name Jackrabbit Hill Park reflects the local **wildlife**, specifically jackrabbits that are frequently seen on and around the NP1 site. Black-tailed Jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*) are native to the Folsom area and play an important role in the natural ecosystem. The word “hill” is geographically appropriate given the park’s sloped terrain.

Ten submitted names centered on jackrabbits or rabbits.

One resident noted: *“The jackrabbit is a native animal frequently seen in our area, and it has become a beloved and familiar sight for residents. Whether it’s early in the morning or during golden sunsets, spotting a jackrabbit often brings smiles, joy, and a sense of connection to the natural beauty of Folsom.”*

Golden Vista Park

The name Golden Vista Park reflects the NP1 site's geographic location, natural beauty, and topography. The NP1 site has a southwest-facing aspect, which will capture views of the sunset. The name is inspired by the golden-colored landscape, rather than mining history.

Fourteen of the name submissions during the public call reflected themes of gold and golden.

One community member wrote: *“When I first moved to Folsom in 2011, my introduction to the Folsom Ranch area was unforgettable. As the sun set over the hills, the entire landscape glowed with a warm, golden light. The fields shimmered like gold, creating a breathtaking scene.”*

Hawk Ridge Park

The name Hawk Ridge Park highlights the **local wildlife**, particularly the various hawk species native to the Folsom area, including the Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, and Cooper’s Hawk. The term “ridge” also reflects the park’s topography, which features a 20-foot elevation change across the site.

Six of the name submissions during the public call included references to birds of prey or raptors.

One community member wrote: *“I think Hawk Ridge Park fits perfectly with the spirit of Folsom and its motto, ‘Distinctive by Nature.’ It celebrates the wildlife, open spaces, and beauty that make Folsom such a unique place to live.”*

Sanjivini Park

Submitted to reflect the **cultural heritage** of those living in the Folsom Plan Area, “Sanjivini” is a Sanskrit word meaning “life-giving” or “reviving.” The name symbolizes themes of health and rejuvenation.

Eighteen name submissions reflected broader themes of peace and unity, including Sanjivini.

The submitter shared the following: *“A park is often associated with nature, greenery, health, and rejuvenation - all of which align perfectly with the symbolism of Sanjivini. Naming the park Sanjivini Park conveys:*

- *A place of restoration - where people can rejuvenate, much like the mythical herb restores life.*
- *Connection to nature - since Sanjivini Booti was a plant/herb, it ties naturally to greenery and plants.*
- *Cultural resonance - the name reflects a sense of Indian heritage, mythology, and respect for natural healing.”*

On December 2, 2025, in alignment with the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee, staff recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the selection of Golden Vista Park, Hawk Ridge Park, Jackrabbit Hill Park, and Sanjivini Park as the name options to be presented to the community for public voting on the preferred name as requested by a City

Council Member. The public voting results would then be presented to the City Council for final approval.

After deliberation the Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously on a motion to adopt the name Jackrabbit Hill Park to forward to City Council in line with the existing Park and Facility Naming Policy, with a note stating if City Council would like the Commission to reconsider public input or public voting on the preferred name, to send it back to the Parks & Recreation Commission and revise Resolution No. 10696. The Commission noted that their alternate choices for the park name are Golden Vista Park, Hawk Ridge Park, and Sanjivini Park.

While the Parks & Recreation Commission acted in accordance with the existing policy, the commission recommends that, if we would like the community to vote to select park names in the future, we revise the policy to better reflect the City's commitment to public engagement in naming new community assets.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact on this decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

There is no environmental review required for this decision.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 11570 - A Resolution Approving the Parks & Recreation Commission's Recommendation to Name Neighborhood Park #1 "Jackrabbit Hill Park"
2. Attachment Resolution No. 10696
3. Park Name Suggestions List

Submitted,

Kelly Gonzalez,
Parks & Recreation Department Director

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. 11570

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION'S
RECOMMENDATION TO NAME NEIGHBORHOOD PARK #1 "JACKRABBIT HILL
PARK"**

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2021, City Council adopted Resolution No. 10696, which rescinded and replaced prior park naming resolutions and established a comprehensive Park and Facility Naming Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Recreation Department solicited the community for potential park names in August and September 2025; and

WHEREAS, 131 names were submitted; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2025, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the name Jackrabbit Hill Park for Neighborhood Park #1, with alternate name options identified as Golden Vista Park, Hawk Ridge Park, and Sanjivini Park; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby approves the Parks and Recreation Commission's Recommendation to Name Neighborhood Park #1 "Jackrabbit Hill Park".

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of March 2026, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):
NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Justin Raithel, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO. 10696

A RESOLUTION TO RESCIND AND REPLACE RESOLUTION NO. 5177 AND RESOLUTION NO. 3951 TO CREATE A NEW PARK AND FACILITY NAMING POLICY

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 3951, a park-naming policy was adopted by City Council on February 9, 1993: and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 5177, City Council adopted a modification to the park-naming policy on August 27, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation Commission has forwarded their recommendation to the City Council to rescind and replace the existing park naming policy included in Resolution No. 3951 and 5177 to reflect desired changes expressed by the Community to expand naming options; clarify naming conventions; specifically include language for the naming of facilities, and allow for funding and sponsorship opportunities for entire parks and facilities and/or assets within them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby rescinds and replaces Resolution No. 3951 and No. 5177 and adopts the following new policy:

PARK NAMING CRITERIA

1. Community Parks/Fields/Facilities should be named after (Community Parks are typically 20-50 acres in size):
 - a. Individuals/Families (*see below*)
2. Neighborhood Parks (typically 7 to 10 acres in size) should be named after:
 - a. Individual who donated land or large financial contribution to a specific facility or park; or
 - b. Site-Specific Names
 - i. Geographical location
 - ii. Outstanding feature, design, or theme of the park, whether natural geographical or manmade
 - iii. Native plants & wildlife
 - iv. Historical significance, such as event, group, culture, or place
3. Local Parks (typically 1-3 acres in size) should be named after:
 - a. Adjacent streets or subdivision in which they are located; or
 - b. Individuals who donated land or large financial contribution to a specific facility or park

If Naming after Individuals or Families:

1. Preference is for an individual to be deceased
2. Only the last name to be used for the formal name
3. Preference is for individual to have left public service for a minimum of 6 years
4. Considerations:
 - a. Donation of land or large financial contribution to a specific facility
 - b. Died or disabled in the line of duty as part of City service
 - c. Contributed substantially and improved the quality of life in Folsom
 - i. 10+ years of accomplishment
 - ii. Voluntary work (*beyond the normal course of employment*)

- iii. Resume can include: service clubs, civic organizations, school community, elected/appointed positions, non-profit groups, youth sports
- 5. If named after a family, 1-4 above should apply to 2+ people

Sponsorships for Existing and Future Parks/Facilities

This policy allows for sponsorship opportunities to fund amenities within a park or facility as well as fund a portion of a park or facility. Recognition would be commensurate with said donations or funding. Such recognition could be plaques, signage, and/or other name recognition opportunities within the park or facility.

Process for Naming of Parks and Facilities:

- 1. Staff opens up the nomination period - this is done on an as-needed basis
- 2a. Nomination of an individual/family name
 - a. A public nomination must be submitted in writing with justification. The request should include the proposed name, naming justification, letters of support, requestor contact information, and any other relevant items of support.
 - b. Staff and P&R Commission may submit names
 - c. Letters of support should be from non-related individuals
 - d. Names will remain on the list for a period of 5 years, at which point they will need to be resubmitted to be considered
- 2b. Nomination of site-specific name
 - e. Nominations may be submitted in writing with justification
 - f. Staff will provide site-specific relevant information about each park including but not limited to information about history, groups/individuals, botany/wildlife. These names may be recycled if not chosen.
 - g. Parks & Recreation Commission may submit names
- 3. If not already active, a new Ad-Hoc Park Naming Subcommittee will be formed to review and recommend a primary name to the Parks & Recreation Commission, with two alternate names or choices
- 4. Parks & Recreation Commission recommends a name to the Folsom City Council
- 5. Folsom City Council formally adopts a name

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of September 2021, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):
NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

Attachment 3

Name Submissions for Neighborhood Park #1

Historical significance (event, group, culture, or place)

Park Name

ANGUS Park	Heritage Grove Park	Pony Express Park
Cattle Ranch Park	Heritage Hollow	Pony Express Park
Chung Wah Park	Kow-O Park	Powerhouse Park
Cowbell Farm park	Little Farm Park	Prison Blues Park
Farmers Market Park	Mormon Island Park	Pyrite Park
Frontier Park	Pioneer Crossing Park	Rhoades Ridge Park
Future Frontier Park	Pony Express Community Park	Southern Pacific Park
Golden Spike		

Native plants & wildlife

Park Name

Aspen Rise	Falcon Park	Jackrabbit Park
Blue Oak Meadow Park	Folsom Coyote Hill Park	Jackrabbit Park
Blue Oak Meadows	Gentle Jumper's Grove park	Jackrabbit park
Buckeye Oak Park	Golden Eagle Park	Jackrabbit Run Park
Coyote Call Park	Grand coyote park	Jackrabbits Hill Park
Coyote Hill Park	Hawk Ridge Park	Poppy Park
Coyote Park	Hopper's Summit Park	Poppy Park
Desert Cottontail Park	Jack Rabbit Park	Soaring Raptor Park
Eagles' Nest Park	Jackrabbit Hill Park	Valley Oak Park
Falcon		

Outstanding feature, design, or theme

Park Name

Ahimsa Park	Hello Park	Sky ball Park
Confluence Park	Horizon Park	Skyline Park
Data Springs Park	Kaleidoscope Park	Solara Park
Diversity Park	Magic Hill Park	Terra Byte Park
Fusion Grove	Magic Hill Park	Unity Grove Park
Gateway Park	Moonlight Park	Unity park
Gumby Park	Namaste Park	Unity Park
Harmony Park	Sanctuary Park	Urban Oasis Park
Heavenly Park	Sanjivini Park	Vertex Park

Geographical location

Park Name

Empire Hills Park	Golden Prairie Commons	Russell park
Empire Meadows Park	Golden View Park	Russell ranch park
Empire Ranch Park	Granite Bluff Park	Sierra View Park
Empire Ranch Park	Green Heaven park	Valley View park
Empire Ranch park	Hilltop Park	Vista Del Oro Park
Empire Ridge Park	Prairie Park	Vista Ridge Park
Empire Ridge Park	Prairie Point Park	White Rock
Empire Vista Park	Ranch View Park	White Rock Park
Folsom Ranch Vista Park	Rock Springs Park	White Rock Park
Golden Hills	Rock Springs Summit Park	White Rock Park
Golden Hills Park	Rolling Hills	White Rock Ranch
Golden Hills Park	Rolling Hills Park	White Rock Springs
Golden Meadows Park	Russel Ridge Park	

Ineligible Names

Park Name

Anna Maria Spark Park (or
Spark Park for short)

Aquino Family Park

Bandaid

Butt cheese lazy govt worker

Cruntley Park

DO NOT NAME IT AFTER A
PERSON FAMILY OR
POLITICIAN.

Escoto Park

Joerger Family Park

Laurel A Finta

Livermore Park

Malcolm X Park

Nisenan Park

Perfect Park

Pyrite Park

Take the measure G put it up
your measure A

Tom Paniagua Park