



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6426
March 5, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6426: Park Area Naming Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the Park Area Naming Policy.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	1. Park Area Naming Policy (Draft)
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	2. Sustain and enhance our natural environment, especially parks and open spaces, to benefit this generation and others that follow.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present the Park Area Naming Policy as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) for City Council review and approval (Exhibit 1).

- The PRC supported reviewed this policy during two meetings and is recommending the Park Area Naming Policy to the City Council for consideration.
- The selection and approval of the name for a City-owned Park Area is the function of the City Council.
- The intent of this policy is to provide the City Council with criteria to guide the selection of a name if an opportunity to name or rename a Park Area is desired.
- The naming of a Park Area is intended to be permanent (to the extent permissible by law) unless the naming falls under a time-limited sponsorship agreement or for other reasons determined by the City Council.
- The procedures for naming a Park Area will vary considerably and therefore written procedures will not address every possible naming scenario.

BACKGROUND

Naming policies for Park Areas are a standard municipal tool that guides the selection of names consistent with public values. The City of Mercer Island does not currently have a naming policy for parks or similar assets (“Park Areas”).

Naming or renaming a Park Area is an infrequent occurrence for Mercer Island; however, over the last decade or so, such City Council action has occurred twice. In 2013, “Park on the Lid” was renamed to “Aubrey Davis Park” and in 2022 the “Skate Park at Mercerdale Park” was renamed the “Kirk Robinson Skate Park.” In both cases, the renaming was to honor the legacy and contributions of an Island resident.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The selection and approval of the name for Park Area is the function of the City Council. The intent of a naming policy is to provide the City Council with a set of criteria to assist in the selection of a name should an opportunity to name or rename a Park Area be desired.

In 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission supported the development of a draft Park Area Naming Policy. This work took place over the course of four months and included two meetings: [June 1, 2023](#) and [September 7, 2023](#). Following deliberation and revisions throughout the process, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Park Area Naming Policy (Exhibit 1) to the City Council for consideration.

The recommended Park Area Naming Policy provides the following policy framework to assist the City Council with the review of potential names:

- Naming Criteria
- Disqualifying Criteria
- Duration of Name
- Renaming of Park Areas

Typically, a set of procedures are developed for policy implementation. Given that the application of this policy will be diverse, the procedures for naming a property or asset will vary considerably. Therefore, it is not practical to develop written procedures to address every possible naming scenario. Staff will seek direction from the City Council regarding the process to undertake for each unique application of this policy.

NEXT STEPS

Following approval by the City Council, staff will upload this policy to the Parks and Recreation webpage for community access.

As City Council desires to name or rename a Park Area, staff will seek direction on that specific scope of work from the Council and implement the appropriate process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Park Area Naming Policy substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1.