



Regional Board Policy

PARKS NAMING, RENAMING, AND DEDICATIONS

Category: Parks Services	Number: #BP1 - 2022	Replaces: 4.04 Naming of Parks
Type:	Authority:	Approved By:
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Office of Primary Responsibility: Parks Services		
Date Adopted: July 25, 2022		Date to be Reviewed: 2027
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PURPOSE:

1.1 To provide updated direction as well as a clear process regarding how regional and community parks will be named or renamed.

POLICY:

2.1 Definitions:

“**Dedication**” is on-site recognition on a sign, plaque, suitable monument, or associated exhibit with an inscription recognizing a donor, civic leader, or Indigenous leader;

“**Dual Naming**” means giving a regional park or park feature two names (for example, an English language name and an Indigenous language name);

“**Naming**” means giving a regional or community park or park feature a name;

“**Park Features**” refers to park sites, natural features, trails, facilities and structures, portions of facilities or structures, or other regional park assets;

“**Renaming**” means replacing a current name with a new name or a dual name;

“**Regional or Community Historical or Cultural Significance**” means a place that is strongly associated or identified with ways of life, events or people that had an important influence on the history and development of the region or a community. To be historically or culturally significant, a place should be the location where an event occurred, or contain in situ authentic remains or physical artifacts related to, or characteristic of, the way of life, the event or the person for which recognition is being proposed, and should lend itself to the interpretation and presentation of related information to the public; and

“Support” means, in relation to an individual’s name, a letter of support from that person or their family (if deceased), in relation to an Indigenous language name, a council resolution (or equivalent) in support of the Indigenous language name from the First Nation or First Nations whose traditional territory includes the Regional or Community Park

POLICY STATEMENT:

- 1.1. Naming, renaming, and dedication of regional and community parks and park features is a way to celebrate the Central Okanagan’s unique history and cultural diversity, and to recognize donors and those who have provided services to regional and community parks.
- 1.2. The Regional District of Central Okanagan’s practice is to name regional and community parks as well as park features using geography, local history, or tradition. In appropriate circumstances and in accordance with this Policy, regional and community parks and park features may be named, renamed, or dedicated after a donor, local government or Indigenous leader.
- 1.3. All regional and community parks and park features can be named, renamed, or dedicated.
- 1.4. Naming, renaming or dedication may be acknowledged with a ceremony.
- 1.5. Any naming, renaming, or dedication must be approved by the Regional District of Central Okanagan’s Board of Directors.

New Parks

- 2.1. Subject to the exceptions listed below, new parks will be named for their location or significant geographic features with which they are associated.
- 2.2. All park names must also contain the words “Regional Park” or “Community Park” in conjunction with the Regional District of Central Okanagan service program that is associated with the relevant park’s annual budget process (i.e., Regional Parks Service Program, Electoral Area Central Okanagan West Community Parks Service Program, Electoral Area Central Okanagan East Community Parks Service Program)

New Park Exceptions

2.3. Regional or Community Historical or Cultural Significance

- 2.3.1. In rare cases, a park may be given a name with regional or community historical or cultural significance, if, during the park land acquisition or planning process, there is evidence of broad regional or community support for the proposed name.

2.4. First Nations Names

- 2.4.1. Where a First Nation proposes a name for a new park the name proposed by the First Nation may be used as the name of the park or the park may be co-named with an English language name identified in accordance with this policy.

2.5. Commemorative or Honourific Names

- 2.5.1. Where a person donated the land that comprises a new park or has otherwise made a significant and enduring contribution to the regional or community park in question, or to the RDCO park system generally, other than as part of that person's employment, a new regional or community park may be named for that person, or given the name that the person or the person's family (if the person is deceased) suggests for the park.
- 2.5.2. Other than in a case where a person has donated the land that has become the regional or community park, the Regional District of Central Okanagan will not consider naming a new park after a person until at least 2 years have passed since the date of the person's death.
- 2.5.3. Lands that are donated for addition to existing parks will not be given a name that is different from that of the park to which the land is being added.

Existing Parks

- 3.1. Subject to the exceptions listed below, existing regional and community parks will not be renamed.

Existing Park Exceptions

3.2. First Nations Names

- 3.2.1. An existing regional or community park may be renamed or given an indigenous co-name with the existing English name where a First Nation requests that an existing park be renamed or co-named and collaborates the RDCO Parks Department in accordance with Section 4 of this policy demonstrating that the location reflects a culturally important place, person, way of life or event.

3.3. Regional or Community Historical or Cultural Significance

- 3.3.1. A request to rename a regional or community park will be brought forward to the RDCO Board for consideration where a person or a community group:
 - a. Provides evidence that the location was known for or was linked to a regional or community historically or culturally significant event, person or way of life;
 - b. Provides evidence that there is broad-based regional support in relation to a regional park for the change OR local community support in the case of a community park within an Electoral Area for the change as the case may be; and
 - c. Follows the process set out in Section 4 of this Policy.

3.4. Alternate Locational or Geographic Name

- 3.4.1. A request to rename a regional or community park will be brought forward to the RDCO Board for consideration where a person or community group:

- a. Provides evidence that there is a locational or geographical name that is more appropriate for the regional or community park;
- b. Provides evidence that there is broad-based regional or community support for the change; and
- c. Follows the process set out in Section 4 of this Policy.

Park Renaming Request Procedure

4.1. The following process will be used to administer a request to change the name of an existing regional or community park:

4.1.1. The First Nation, person or community group requesting the change must submit a written request to the Director – Parks Services, requesting the name change.

4.1.2. The request must include:

- a. written documentation in support of the proposed name change that adequately explains why the name change is being requested and why the proposed name is appropriate for the regional or community park;
- b. any information required by Sections 2 or 3 of this Policy;
- c. comments on the proposal from the municipal council, Electoral Area Director or the local government in which the regional or community park is located;
- d. comments from appropriate representatives of the First Nation(s) whose asserted traditional territory includes the area in which the regional park is located (if comments from the First Nation(s) cannot be obtained, evidence demonstrating what efforts were made to obtain those comments must be provided); and
- e. for First Nations, a Band Council Resolution in support of the name change.

4.1.3. RDCO Parks staff will refer the request to the RDCO Board of Directors for consideration. RDCO Parks staff will evaluate a proposed new name according to the following criteria in making a recommendation to the Regional District Board of Directors:

Names should:

- a. primarily and principally be related to their location or significant geographic features with which they are associated such as mountains, rivers, creeks, coves, flora, fauna within the region
- b. have a strong connection to the region for regional park renaming proposals and the local community for Electoral Area community parks
- c. have historical, social or cultural relevance to the region (regional parks) or local community (community parks)
- d. engender a positive image
- e. avoid similar sounding names in the region or community
- f. generally, avoid honourific or personal names except in occasional circumstances
 - the RDCO will not consider re-naming an existing park after a person until at least 2 years have passed since the date of the person's death.
- g. be tested for use in abbreviated format to avoid the use of inappropriate abbreviations or acronyms

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- h. The person or community group making the request will be informed of the meeting at which the request will be considered and invited to address the RDCO Board of Directors as a delegation
- i. The RDCO Board of Directors may direct RDCO Parks staff to undertake regional (regional parks) or local community (community parks) consultation in relation to the request. Staff will report back to the RDCO Board of Directors with the results of any such consultation and seek a RDCO Board decision.
- j. Following the selection of a new name, RDCO Parks staff will notify relevant public bodies, government agencies, emergency responders, internal departments (for updates to databases), Google Maps, and other groups as needed, of this change.

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AGREEMENTS AND/OR BYLAWS:

***** END OF POLICY *****

<u>Policy No.</u>	<u>Date Adopted</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>	<u>Amended (Y/N)</u>	<u>Date Reissued</u>	<u>Authority(Resolution #)</u>
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