

NAMING OF A CITY PARK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a request for the east Bowmont park area in Ward 1 to be named “Dale Hodges Park.” Bowmont Park touches several communities in Ward 1 including Silver Springs, Varsity, and Montgomery. A community and park site map showing the park area to be named is included as Attachment 1.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the naming of the east Bowmont park area located between 40 Avenue NW and the Bow River, as the “Dale Hodges Park” (Attachment 1);
2. Receive this report as an item of urgent business at the 2017 April 24 Council meeting; and
3. Direct that the report and attachments be heard *in-camera* pursuant to subsection 23(1)(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and remain confidential under subsections 24(1)(a)&(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until such time as Council rises and reports.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, DATED 2017 APRIL 18:

That Council:

1. Approve Recommendation 1 contain in Report PFC2017-0339; and
2. Keep the report and attachments confidential pursuant to Section 24(1)(a) and 24(1)(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until such time as Council rises and reports.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2016 April 11, Council approved the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01), replacing the previous Municipal Naming Policy (CS03); the Naming Rights Guidelines – City-Owned, Civic Partners Operated Facilities (CSPS012); and the Sponsorship Policy – City-Owned, City Managed Assets (CS011).

BACKGROUND

In March 2016 Calgary Parks was contacted with a request to commemorate the 30 year career of public service of Alderman Dale Hodges by naming a park within Ward 1 in his honour.

Alderman Dale Hodges is Calgary’s longest-serving member of Council, as he served Ward 1 for 10 terms, from 1983 - 2013. His career included milestones such as The City hosting the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, building the northwest LRT, and the expansion of numerous parks and recreation facilities. During his years in office, he guided developers and City Administration to support his vision of vibrant new Ward 1 communities through his experience and knowledge of community planning issues.

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Alderman Hodges worked to improve transportation and parks facilities for the residents of Ward 1 and the larger Calgary community, but recognized the need to balance these objectives. He lobbied for the Transportation Utility Corridor Stoney Trail ring road project, while also considering the need to protect and conserve the lands that would be impacted. Alderman Hodges was an advocate against transportation infrastructure he believed would not ultimately benefit the community. For example, the original Sarcee Trail extension alignment would have physically divided the community of Bowness; however Alderman Hodges' successful advocacy protected the community and saved the escarpment adjacent to the community of Silver Springs. The trails and the multi-use pathway through the escarpment now align with Alderman Hodges' vision for connectivity in public spaces. Across the Bow River, the escarpment staircase to Greenwood Village is another example of Alderman Hodges' effective advocacy on this issue.

Alderman Hodges is a lover of parks and green spaces. During his tenure as Ward 1 Alderman, he worked tirelessly with the late Ward 2 Alderman Theresa Baxter and former Ward 4 Alderman Bob Hawkesworth to ensure the continuing protection of Nose Hill Park after it was officially designated as a protected area. Alderman Hodges also played a significant role in the establishment of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program to ensure a consistent source of capital funding for City parks.

The east Bowmont park area is an appropriate piece of new parkland to commemorate Alderman Hodges' significant public service. It was a long-term goal of Alderman Hodges to reclaim the former concrete pit site that previously operated in the area into a public park. Alderman Hodges was an advocate throughout the process to secure and develop the park lands currently known as the east Bowmont park area. In 2009, he played a key role securing the lands that comprise the majority of the park and was supportive during the park planning phase, which included extensive community engagement.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The proposed name, Dale Hodges Park, is in accordance with the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01) that honours individual contributions of Calgarians that have displayed exemplary public or community service. Alderman Dale Hodges is a long-serving, former elected representative, and a proponent of community development in Calgary. Alderman Hodges' efforts in Calgary's Ward 1 are significant and important and contributed to the development of communities, parks, and pedestrian connections.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

A letter of support for the park naming has been provided by current Ward 1 Councillor Ward Sutherland (Attachment 2).

Strategic Alignment

The naming of an existing park is aligned with City Council approved Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

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The naming of Dale Hodges Park will commemorate a long-serving Alderman who contributed to the lives of Ward 1 residents and Calgarians via numerous initiatives and community projects. Alderman Hodges' legacy will be commemorated and remembered by Calgarians by having a park named in his honour.

Environmental
Not applicable.

Economic (External)
Not applicable.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

No impact to current or future Operating Budget.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

Minor one-time capital budget will be required to install new signage identifying the park with the new name. This signage will include information outlining Alderman Hodges' contributions to Calgary and Ward 1.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with the park naming recommendation.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Approval of the naming of this new park area fits within the criteria outlined in the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01) and honors Alderman Hodges' dedication and contribution to park development across the city.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Community and Park Site Map (Confidential)
2. Letter of Support from Councillor Ward Sutherland (Confidential)