



Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association

Park Naming Project

Submission to City of Calgary: Recommended Names for Ten Parks

March 31, 2022

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Executive Summary

Bridgeland – Riverside evolved from two of Calgary’s earliest communities, having been annexed in 1907 and 1910. Prior to white settlement the area was traversed by indigenous people over many years. As a working-class community, Bridgeland - Riverside has been home to a wide range of people but especially immigrants from Europe, leaving the community with a unique ambiance. Today it is a vibrant inner city setting that is undergoing significant development with infill housing and multi-family buildings. This growth and COVID challenges have increased awareness of the importance of our parks and green spaces. In April 2020, members of the BRCA Beautification Committee recognized that ten of our small parks and green spaces were unnamed and potentially unknown and under-utilized by Bridgelanders. To address this matter the BRCA Parks Naming Project committee was formed. The committee’s goal was to give the ten parks a name and identity so that people could use these spaces in more meaningful ways.

The committee undertook extensive research on the history, culture, people, environment, and landscape of the parks. This research led us to begin a process with suggested names for the parks which fit the City of Calgary’s Naming Criteria Policy. Bridgelanders were actively engaged about the suggested names through a variety of means including: posters, surveys, door knocking, conversations, social media, open houses, group discussion, and, engaging with community groups and non-profit organizations. The feedback we received increased our appreciation of our community as a “home of people with many ideas and perspectives”. We were responsive and flexible, but mindful of the city’s criteria for Park Naming. The feedback and conversations about the Parks and the names led us to modify the initially suggested names. The many assets and future potential for these parks is now better appreciated by more people. All efforts have led to a comprehensive project, a stronger community and parks that will have names reflecting the multifaceted identity of this historic community.

In this submission we invite the City of Calgary to be part of our process, to learn the history of our community and the stories behind the recommended names of these parks, and to consider and approve these names as official and formal names for these Bridgeland- Riverside parks.

Park Name Recommendations

The following Park names are presented to the Parks Asset Steward and City Council for consideration and approval. These recommended names meet the criteria in CP2016-01 Schedule 2, have the broad support of Bridgelanders and, are endorsed by the BRCA Board of Directors.

- Park #1: (Deferred for Indigenous Naming)
- Park #2: Hidden Slopes Park
- Park #3: Olmsted Terrace
- Park #4: Normie Kwong Park
- Park #5: Schule Park
- Park #6: La Piazza
- Park #7: Annie Gale Park
- Park #8: Helen's Garden
- Park #9: Safe Haven Park
- Park #10: (Deferred for Indigenous Naming)



Introduction and Process

From the Bow River's edge North to the escarpment, Bridgeland-Riverside has numerous small parks and green spaces. Many of these places are unnamed; people are too often unaware that they exist. Some of these areas have minimal amenities and are under-utilized. A place name provides meaning and importance and helps to locate parks as places to enjoy, alone or with others. The population of Bridgeland - Riverside is growing rapidly and our well known, larger parks (which have formal names) are becoming more heavily used. But what of our small, less known and unnamed parks? They too are an important and equally important resource to our community. These parks need names to become all that they can be., The BRCA Beautification Committee initiated the *Parks Naming Project* to make recommendations to the city for the names of ten parks and green spaces.

The goal of our *Parks Naming Project* was more than recommending names for these parks. We also wanted to facilitate a conversation with our residents and in the process to build a stronger sense of community and connection to our parks. Since these are City of Calgary assets it was essential to comply with the city's Naming Policy (CP2016-01), where history is a key features of the naming requirements.

As one of Calgary's earliest settlements, the working class predominantly immigrant community of Bridgeland - Riverside has a rich and unique history, which could be better recognized through place names. Much of our community's physical history is no longer visible and its diverse past is often not known by the people who now live in the community. The challenge was to engage people in learning about the community's past and connect this with the future via the naming of our small parks and green spaces.

The committee, which consisted of 5 Bridgelanders planned a comprehensive process. We reviewed the history, geographic features and assets of each of the parks and suggested names that would reflect one or more of these aspects. We committed to being open to alternate suggestions from fellow Bridgelanders that would fit with the naming requirements. We researched our suggested names to ensure that they complied with the criteria set out by the city Naming Policy (and not linked with discrimination, oppression or systemic racism, misleading, offensive or divisive) We created posters for each park describing the Park Naming Project and the suggested park name and invited people to complete a survey indicating their support for the suggested name, alternate suggestions as well as other relevant perceptions about the park. We utilized a QR code to access the survey but contact info was provided for those who preferred to connect in person and complete a paper survey.

Our engagement process was robust despite the presence of Covid-19 restrictions, especially the limitations for group gatherings. Our public conversations took place between July 2021 and March 2022. We ensured that engagement was safe, multi-pronged and occurred over a sufficient period of time. We wrote articles about the project with in-depth information about the people and places we were naming in our monthly community newsletter "Bridges"(delivered to over 5000 homes). Our Community Association website and Facebook pages were utilized for updates and access to the surveys as well. We connected with people, park by park, utilizing our community mascot, Bridgeland Betty to "announce" via the displayed poster that engagement was invited. We spent time in the parks with "Betty" and conversed with passersby, inviting them to complete the Park Naming survey. We went door to door on the streets in the vicinity of each park and shared project information with residents. In some cases we spoke with people gathered in parks during events such as evening fireworks or other activities. In November 2021 we hosted an open house where we shared

Powerpoint presentations of each of the parks and the results of our surveys. Good discussions were had in all venues, not only about the park names but also about the things people appreciated or found lacking in the parks and wanted to see happen in the future. To provide an incentive for completing the survey we offered a draw for 7 gift certificates to local businesses.

Discussions and written feedback led us to make some changes. In some cases we found that misinformation and/or lack of understanding about the City Naming policy led to voiced opposition. We tried to connect with people in person to provide additional and accurate information where possible.

We heard from numerous residents that the presence of Indigenous people should be reflected in our recommended names for the parks. We recognized the importance of this and sought out sources documenting the presence of Indigenous people as well as personal knowledge. A full description of our research can be found in Appendix B. It is important that an Indigenous Naming process follows the expected protocols with proper representation so we are deferring Indigenous Naming of two specific parks to a time when such a process is available to us.

A final review of the suggested park names and compiled feedback from all sources (surveys, open house, doorstep meetings, in park conversations, emails, etc.) helped make our final recommendations. We believe that these names are collectively a valid reflection of our community's life over the years and into the present. Future indigenous naming will represent the story of the land from pre-settlement. Names such as Schule, La Piazza and Safe Haven represent the people and groups who built their homes and lives here over the past many decades. The parks named for prominent people such as Normie Kwong and Helen's Garden illustrate the diversity of residents in the community, their great character and the importance of these individuals. Some names connect us to the larger history of Calgary, (Annie Gale) and Canada (Olmsted Terrace). Our geographic terrain is illustrated in Hidden Slopes.

We presented the recommended Park names to the BRCA Board of Directors in February and received their unanimous support. We have received permission from the family of Normie Kwong and from Helen Jusic for use of their names with our parks. Letters of support have been received from 18 relevant organizations from within and beyond our community.

The Bridgeland - Riverside Park Naming Project Committee is pleased to present this report to the City of Calgary Asset Steward and City Council for consideration and approval.

Park #1 (BRD 117) Summary

Recommended Name: Deferred for Indigenous naming

Suggested Name originally presented to the community: Regal View Park.

Location: 5 Avenue / 4 Street / Edmonton Trail

Background: This grassy slope has long existed adjacent to Edmonton Trail - which was an historic and significant travel/ commercial corridor Northward to Edmonton in the late 1800s. With the completion of nearby condominium projects, this land was added to the Calgary parks system as a natural area park. In 2016 the hill was sculpted, trails and benches were installed and native vegetation planted. North of the park was an early Calgary community called Regal Terrace that, in the 1950s became part of the new community of Renfrew. We originally suggested naming this park Regal View Park. However community feedback requested consideration of Indigenous naming. We learned that this area was part of the Great North Trail that was used by Indigenous people over many years. With the replanting of native vegetation we would like this park be considered for Indigenous naming when there is a clear process established to do so. We reconnected with residents who had completed the first survey regarding the Regal View name and they were generally supportive of the change to future Indigenous naming.

Survey Results:

- 49 Surveys completed
- 84% Supportive, 12% Neutral, 4% Opposed



Park #2 (BRD 777) Summary

Recommended Name: Hidden Slopes

Suggested Name originally presented to the community: Hidden Park

Location: 4A Street/ 5 Avenue NE

Background: This steep hillside area adjacent to 4A St and 5 Ave has been a park for many years. In the past playground equipment was present but was removed as the number of children diminished in the area. Tucked into the grassy hillside, the park bench, trees and mowed flatter area make this a sheltered, quiet, and pleasant place to spend time. However the steep hillside and back lane access has made it difficult for people to find and use the park.

We are recommending that the park be named “**Hidden Slopes**”.

Survey Results:

- 43 surveys completed
- 88% supportive, 5% neutral, 7% opposed



Park #3 (BRD 778) Summary

Recommended Name: Olmsted Terrace

Suggested Name originally presented to the community: Olmsted Corner

Location: 5 Avenue / Bridge Crescent

Background: The section of land that became the community of Bridgeland was deeded to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) by the federal government in the late 1800s. The CPR divided the land and sold small lots for housing to fund the building of a transcontinental railway that connected our country from sea to sea. In 1912 the CPR hired the Olmsted Company, pioneers in the new discipline of landscape architecture, to design the street layout on Bridgeland's hilly escarpment as well other CPR owned lands in Scarborough/ Sunalta and Mount Royal. The designers favoured gradually rising streets and park like settings to take advantage of the escarpment topography instead of the usual grid streetscape.

This small green space, adjacent to 5 Avenue and 6A / 7 Streets, is located between two parts of Bridge Crescent and is on a significant slope. Our recommended name is in recognition of the legacy of this unique and functional streetscape that was designed by the Olmsted company in the very early days of this community. Not only has this streetscape design enabled easy ascent from the bottom to the top of our escapement but it has also made possible the building of many homes along the streets that have an amazing view of the downtown and distant mountains. We recommend naming this sloped green space "**Olmsted Terrace**" in recognition of the unique contribution of the Olmsted firm to our community's escarpment streetscape.

Survey Results:

- 45 Number completed
- 69% Support, 16% Neutral, 15% Opposed

Feedback suggested that "Corner" was not the best descriptor for the park and indeed "Terrace" seems to be a better fit for this very sloped area. It would seem that there is considerable opportunity for future evolution to make this green space more usable. Criticism that the Olmsted family was involved in slavery was unfounded.



Park #4 (BRD 780) Summary

Recommended Name: Normie Kwong Park

Prior Unofficial Name: 9A Street Park (traditional)

Felker Park (Google maps /playground plaque)

Location: 9A Street/ 4 Avenue NE

Background: This endearing space has been known informally as 9A Street Park by at least four generations of Bridgelanders. Mature trees, the children’s playground and spider web climbing structure, picnic tables and park benches make this a very enjoyable place to spend time. In 2021, winter festival funding enabled the building of a small skating rink, artwork on the fence, Adirondack chairs and portable games. This is Bridgeland’s most complete and popular park.

Normie Kwong was born, raised and attended school in Riverside. He was the first football player of Asian heritage in the Canadian Football League, playing with both Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton Eskimos, and winning four Grey Cups and many other awards. After retiring from football, Normie worked in real estate and was part of the ownership group which brought the Flames to Calgary as well as contributing to the resurgence of the Stampeders in the 1990s. Philanthropic and community work added to his legacy but his appointment in 2005 as Lieutenant Governor of Alberta completed his career. Normie is also remembered as a family man who related to people from all walks of life.

We are recommending this park be named **Normie Kwong Park** to acknowledge his beginnings in Riverside, his character and his many lifetime achievements.

Survey Results:

- 52 Surveys completed
- 62% Support 8% Neutral, 30% opposed

Early in the engagement there was some opposition to the suggested name due to the perception that the park was already formally named. This was incorrect. Google maps has erroneously recorded the name as Felker Park, possibly due to a dedication on a plaque that was placed when the playground was updated in the early 2000s. Proponents of this alternate name were invited to make a proposal and provide background information to support their nomination. None was received.



Park #5 (BRD 887) Summary

Recommended Name: Schule Park (pronounced shula)

Prior Unofficial Name: Tyndale Park (from Google Maps)

Location: 2 Avenue / 11A Street, behind Delta West Academy

Background: Since 1921 this green space North of 2 Ave at 11A Street has been part of the Bridgeland School playground. Due to declining enrolments Calgary Board of Education closed the school and it was purchased by Delta West Academy in the early 2000s. The large playing field and adjacent steep hillside is now a registered Calgary park that came to unofficially be called Tyndale Park. The origin of this name cannot be found, it has no known connection to the community and compliance with city naming policy cannot be established.

Germans from Russia were some of the very earliest residents in Bridgeland Riverside such that the Riverside area was originally known as “Germantown ” and some streets were originally named for German cities. After the second world war, more German speaking immigrants arrived. Germans were well known for their businesses selling delicious sausage and bakery items and their heritage is still evident in the number of small churches here.

To recognize the long presence of Germans in Bridgeland - Riverside we are recommending that this area be named ‘Schule Park – ’ which translates to ‘school ’ and which connects naturally with the adjacent historic Bridgeland School.

Survey Results:

- 61 Surveys Submitted.
- 75% support



Park #6 (BRD 771) Summary

Recommended Name: La Piazza

Suggested Name originally presented to the community: The Piazza

Location: 1st and General Avenues / 8A to 9 Streets NE

Background: Calgary General Hospital, played a central role in the community for 88 years and after its implosion in 1998 a new development “The Bridges” was established. Several park areas were created and this area beside 1st Avenue, ringed by new condominiums included a small park. Known as ‘General Plaza’ in recognition of the hospital, the park has new enhancements that attract many people to stop and enjoy this central gathering area. There are current efforts to build a more complete commemoration to the General Hospital in the area adjacent to the memorial wall along Centre Avenue. It is felt that the General Plaza name can be transferred to this new area.

The first Italians came to Bridgeland – Riverside in the early 1900’s with a many more arrivals after the second world war, when the community became known as ‘Little Italy’. Over the years Italians have left their mark in grocery stores, restaurants and with flourishing vegetable gardens and fruit trees around the neighbourhood. To recognize their presence here we are recommending that the park be renamed “**La Piazza**” which translates to “village square’.

Survey Results:

- 54 Surveys Submitted
- 92% support
- Respondents noted this park has the “Piazza identity and vibe”



Park #7 (BRD 774) Summary

Recommended Name: Annie Gale Park

Location: Bottom of 7A Street stairs, near Vacant Garden

Background: A new park can be found just North of two recently built CALgary Housing apartments at 816 McDougall Road. This sheltered and nicely treed green space is also bordered by the Vacant Lot Garden Heritage Park, the 7A Street stairway, and the off leash /natural area slope.

An early member of the Vacant Lots Garden Club, Annie Gale was concerned about matters of public health, especially food quality and security. She was instrumental in establishing the municipal market which sold local produce. She formed the Women's Ratepayers Association of Calgary, advocating for hospitals, children's playgrounds and an improved streetcar system. Shortly after Alberta women won the right to vote, Annie Gale was elected in 1917 as the first female alderman in Calgary and in Canada.

We are recommending this park be named **Annie Gale Park** to honour her advocacy and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Calgary's residents.

Survey Results:

- 28 Surveys Submitted
- 100% support



Park #8 (BRD 002) Summary

Recommended Name: Helen's Garden

Suggested Name originally presented to the community: Open to community recommendations

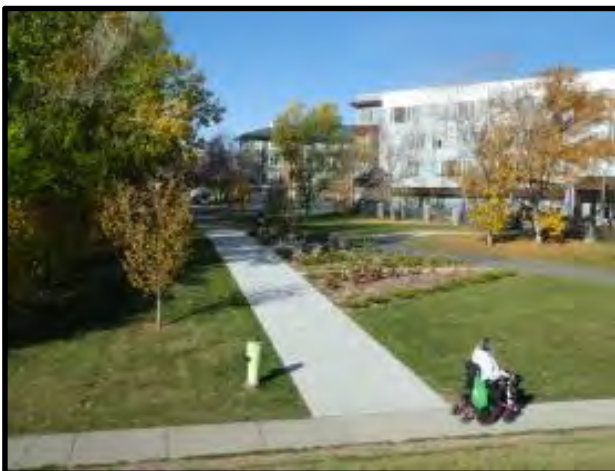
Location: Beside Bishops Manor/ Colonel Baker Place

Background: Tucked in the SE corner of our community, this small new park area was created with the recent construction of Forward Housings' Bishops Manor residence (200 Nina Gardens). Originally this area would have been open grassland, grazed by buffalo and later by cattle of settlers. During the 1988 Olympics small cottages were built here for the media. They were then converted to Seniors Independent Living and managed by Bishop O'Byrne Seniors Housing (now Forward Housing) and decommissioned in the early 2000s. A residence for the blind was nearby and many generations of seniors have lived in the vicinity.

The recommended name for Park 8 is "**Helen's Garden**" in recognition of the significant and long-standing involvement of local resident, Helen Jusic. From her arrival to Calgary in the 1950s, to work at the Calgary General Hospital, to years of volunteering with agencies and residences in this Southeast quadrant Helen has shown caring to others. The pandemic presented new challenges for us all and Helen responded by being present at the 1st Avenue /12 Street corner to share a friendly greeting with passersby. Helen, who is also a successful gardener has made a huge difference to many people in our community now and over the years and we are recommending that park 8 be named for her.

Survey Results:

- 78 surveys submitted
- 100% support



Park #9: Summary (Not yet BRD numbered)

Recommended Name Safe Haven

Location: 11 - 11A Street / Bow Valley Drive

Background:

This park is in the planning stages and will be built as part of the development of Silvera lands between 11 and 11A Streets and South of McDougall Road NE. The park will include a linear connecting pathway between the two streets and a large square grassy area where different forms of recreation will be possible.

The surrounding area of East Riverside is home to many social service and housing settings, including Silvera for Seniors, Forward Housing, Rehabilitation Society of Calgary, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Children's Cottage and Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre. Over the years many people have come here to find support services and/ or a home. This park will be one of the earliest features of this parcel of land and will be built in the next few years. Silvera for Seniors graciously requested that the naming of this park be included in our BRCA Park Naming process.

The recommended name "Safe Haven Park" is in recognition of what this area of the community has meant and will continue to mean to the many people of all ages who come here to live, work, play and access services.

Survey Results: N/A

Surveys submitted - 41

Support – 59% strong and moderate support 17% unsure. 24% not supportive

COMING SOON!
a New Park in East Riverside

location



Silvera for Seniors has an exciting new development coming to East Riverside, including a brand new public park space for everyone in the community to enjoy...

... and we'll need your help naming it!

We look forward to working with the BRCA Parks Naming Committee to choose a name for this upcoming park.



park concept



Park #10: Summary. (BRD # uncertain)

Recommended Name: deferred for Indigenous Naming

Location: Bow River pathway behind the zoo (adjacent to the MuskoX paddock)

Background:

This park is found at the far Southeast corner of our community boundaries – next to the confluence of the Bow River and Nose Creek. This park shows great potential for Indigenous naming because of the natural setting next to the river. Near here was the original trail from Calgary to Blackfoot Crossing. Settler history is also evident in the train bridge built in the early 1900s. A park bench provides a peaceful place to pause and enjoy the scenery. The native vegetation includes grasses, small shrubs and chokecherry bushes along the pathway.

We recognize that there is likely significant connection to Indigenous history in this area. We are recommending the naming of this park be deferred for Indigenous naming

Survey Results: Two surveys completed, supportive of Indigenous naming process



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Appendix A: Parks Naming Project Timeline

Time Line	Activities
April to September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Naming Sub-Committee visits 8 parks to: observe, meet with people in parks, make notes about what each park offers the community and list ways to activate each park to get more people coming out and enjoying them. No parks had not been formally named. • Heritage Committee report to BRCA Board: "Naming our parks according to City of Calgary policy is a way to build community and deepen our appreciation of local history"
January to April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project planning & brainstorming sessions by Parks Naming Sub-Committee • February: Sub-Committee meets with Renfrew CA to introduce the Naming project and potentially work together to name three parks that are on the Bridgeland - Renfrew border. The meetings were useful, however, Renfrew CA is focusing on other initiatives. • March & April: Articles about Parks Naming Project in Bridges Newsletters
May 2021	<p>Review of history of the park areas resulted in 'suggested' names for 8 parks according to City Naming Policy CP2016-01. These names are "conversation starters" for the Community Engagement Process.</p>
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Engagement Process includes these Consultation Activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Bridgeland Betty' display and information posters 2. In park discussions 3. On Line surveys 4. Door to door canvassing of nearby residences 5. Welcome alternate names suggested by Bridgelanders 6. Community communications: Bridges Newsletter Articles, BRCA Website, CBC Radio Interview, Facebook/Bridgeland Love 7. Community Events: Riverside Park Field Day, Rockstars Scavenger Hunt, etc. 8. Familiarization with cultural protocol for respectful collaboration with Indigenous peoples 9. Meetings with Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Indigenous people living in Bridgeland ▶ Forward Housing re: Park #8 ▶ Silvera for Seniors re: Park #9 ▶ Identify & engage with additional stakeholders • BCRA AGM: Introducing Parks Naming Project with slide presentation
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project presentation at BRCA Board Meeting. Feedback from Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Engagement must be comprehensive & inclusive ▶ Must have Indigenous consultation/participation ▶ Concern about naming parks after people • Park #5 Engagement July 25 to August 7. Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Bridges Newsletter: Project Update & Normie Kwong Profile Part 1 • Informal consultation with folks at Park #1 watching Canada Day fireworks
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park #6 Engagement August 8 to 21 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Park #3 Engagement August 22 to September 4 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Bridges Newsletter: Normie Kwong Profile Part 2

Time Line	Activities
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park #1 Engagement September 5 to 18 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Park #2 Engagement September 5 to 18 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Twyla Moon (community Social Worker) facilitated meeting with Indigenous people living in Bridgeland. • Parks #9 & #10 added to project
October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park #8 Engagement Sept 19 to Oct 11 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, & 5 • Park #7 Engagement Sept 19 to Oct 11 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, & 5 • Park #4 Engagement Oct 12 to 26 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 • Heritage Committee updates BRCA Board about Parks Naming project. • Parks #1 & #10 are natural spaces which align with Indigenous people's connection with the land. The other 8 parks are "urban setting" parks developed according to settler people's traditions. • Walkabout Parks #1 & #10 with Distance Bullock, an adopted member of the Blackfoot. Comments & suggestions by Distance added to our understanding of Indigenous perspectives, especially "connection with the land". • Bridges Newsletter: Project Update & Helen Jusic Profile
November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House: Project Update to Community: Good two way discussions & feedback from Bridgelanders! • Park #10 Engagement Nov 16 to 25 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, & 5 • Bridges Newsletter: Photos of Park# 8
December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks #1 & #10 are removed from the naming process and will be named with Indigenous consultation in a follow up project to be done at a future time. The 8 remaining parks will be named with the affirmation of our engagement process. • Idea Exchange with Alexandra Hatcher of Hatlie Group, retained by Heritage Calgary to update naming policy & procedures for Historical Resources. Positive comments about our Project Indigenous consultations involve multiple parties & levels; our project team can't do this alone. • Bridges Newsletter: Project Update, Open House Report & Silvera Introducing Future Park #9
January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park #8: Revised proposed name "Helen's Garden" to recognize Helen Jusic's active role in making Bridgeland a better place. Respond to and meet with people who suggested alternate names • Park #8 Second Engagement: Jan 8 to 23 Consultation Activities #1, 2, 3, & 5 • Prepare Recommended Names for each park in compliance with City Naming Policy • Bridges Newsletter: Project Update
February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park #9 Review preliminary design with Silvera for Seniors. Suggested name "Safe Haven". It is exciting to be involved at beginnings of a new park! • Presentation of Recommended Names to BRCA Directors
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received support from BRCA Board for the Recommended Names for the 8 parks. • Park #9 Community Engagement with Silvera residents by Information sheets & paper surveys • Obtain letters of support from Stakeholders: Italian Cultural Community, Germans from Russia Historical Society, Silvera for Seniors, Renfrew Community Association, etc.
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Parks Naming package to City of Calgary Naming Steward • Receive feedback from Naming Steward & provide additional information as required.
Proposed May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming Steward reviews the package with names for 8 parks in preparation for presenting to Calgary City Council
June - December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage & Information plaques for the 8 parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Preliminary exploration of designs & costs ▶ Identify funding sources, grants, etc.

Time Line	Activities
"In The Near Future"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive decision by Calgary City Council for Recommended Names for Parks #2 to #9 • Indigenous Engagement for Parks #1 & 10. This may be a long & complex process... timeline is uncertain.

Appendix B: Exploring Indigenous Presence and Naming Possibilities

As part of the history aspect of the naming process we are wanting to reflect the people who have lived in Bridgeland - Riverside over the years. In addition to the Germans, Italians, Ukrainians and other immigrants who settled in this community in the late 1800s, we believe that Indigenous people were here over many years.

Here's what we have been able to find from available documentation:

1. Uncovering Human History Archaeology and Calgary Parks

Archaeological findings suggest that there was indigenous presence in numerous locations around Calgary and specifically in the area of the current day Bottomlands Park and Tom Campbell Hill Parks. The area around the confluence of the Elbow and Bow Rivers on the South side of the Bow River is thought to have been an important stopping place for Indigenous groups and likely contributed to the establishment of Fort Calgary in this location. There is no further information available about any other locations of archaeological significance within the boundaries of Bridgeland Riverside. Refer to: <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/parks/history/parks-history.html> and [archeology-and-Calgary-parks.pdf](#). page 20 for Tom Campbell Hill and Bottomlands Park

2. The Old North Trail / buffalo scar (Edmonton Trail)

Personal communications with Donald Smith, University of Calgary Professor Emeritus in History in June 2017 suggests that there was a scar in the escarpment where the buffalo descended and crossed the shallow area of the Bow River near Reconciliation (formerly Langevin) Bridge. This scar/trail was also the likely site of the Great North Trail used by the native people over many hundreds of years. It is also likely where the North West Mounted Police arrived from the North to cross the Bow River and founded Fort Calgary in 1875. This scar/trail became well used in the late 1800s as the main transportation route for bull trains and stagecoaches heading to Edmonton (prior to the building of the railway between Calgary and Edmonton in 1894) (Photo from Glenbow Archives NA-83)



3. **The Trail between Blackfoot Crossing and Calgary** was a well established trail adjacent to our current community during the late 1800s, early 1900s and possibly earlier. The trail crossed Nose Creek near the confluence with Bow River, skirted the South end of Tom Campbell Hill. Travelers along the trail likely crossed to the South side of the river in a shallow area near the site of the present day Reconciliation Bridge.



4. **John Hammond painting called “View Near Calgary”**. Completed in 1894 and thought to be of the area North of Bow River in what may now be Bridgeland. This painting is part of the permanent collection at the Glenbow Museum (987.97.1). The picture was featured on a brochure by Calgary Parks titled “Bison Spirit Land” that featured ‘Aboriginal Culture and History in Calgary parks, originally accessed in the mid 2000s but no longer available on the city website. The painting shows the appearance of the land and presence of Indigenous encampments before white settlement



5. **Pictures taken early in the 1900s in the area adjacent to Tom Campbell Hill** – note the open grassy area where Bridgeland - Riverside street layout/ settlement was built



6. **“At The Meeting of The Waters: Cultural Historical Context Summary Report on the Elbow and Bow River Confluence on St Patrick’s Island”** prepared for CMLC by Lifeways of Canada Ltd March 17, 2010. This report provides support for the presence of Indigenous people, the Old North Trail, and the settlement of Bridgeland Riverside. The importance of the southside confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers as a key geographic/ cultural intersection was highlighted.

BRCA Submission to City of Calgary: Recommended Names for Ten Parks – Apr 4 '22. Page 22 of 34

7. Indigenous naming of a park in Mission-Cliff Bungalow Community

The community of Mission Cliff Bungalow embarked on Indigenous naming as part of their community's heritage strategy. In consultation with the city and a Blackfoot Elder a park along the Elbow River was named - Mok-nstsis - and in 2014 a commemorative plaque was installed. For more details see <https://www.cliffbungalowmission.com/mok-nstsis-park>. It is recognized that a more robust engagement process is now expected for Indigenous naming of a city park

8. Calgary Foundation

The Calgary Foundation website has done work on Reconciliation and has a number of resources that encourage more engagement with Indigenous people. This quote resonates with us:

“Every society in one way or another lays claim to a territory. Within that claimed territory a culture arises for the mutual relationship with the land. It is through this mutual relationship with the land that cultural icons, symbols, images, values, customs, ceremonies, stories, songs, beliefs of the people are developed. These in turn are embodied into the very being of the people” - Dr. Leroy Little Bear

9. Engagement/ Discussion

Bridgeland - Riverside residents spoke to us through the parks surveys, open house, and informal chats to emphasize the importance of acknowledging Indigenous presence in our community through our naming process. The BRCA Park Naming Committee very much supported this by incorporating the following activities and ideas in our engagement process:

- We invited residents of Indigenous heritage who live in Bridgeland Riverside to a discussion about our project and their Indigenous perspective.
- We participated in the Indigenous Cultural tour of St Patrick's Island by Many Chiefs Tours (<https://www.manychieftours.com>) and learned the Blackfoot perspective of history of the colonization of the West.
- We have talked with an individual who has strong connections to Indigenous groups and listened to his perspective about potential Indigenous connections with parks while visiting Parks #1 & #10.
- From these interactions we have heard consistently about the importance of connection to the land, its plants and animals and stewardship of the land. The role of Elders is critical in discussion and decisions about the land.
- It has been challenging to find Elder representatives from the Treaty 7 First Nations and Metis and a forum where such collaborative discussions can take place. We hope to explore Indigenous perspective further and engage in naming of some of our park
- Building on the Truth and Reconciliation report (2015) and the White Goose Flying report (2016) the city's Indigenous Policy Framework outlines areas to be pursued – ways of knowing, ways of engaging, ways of building relationships and ways toward equitable environments.
- All departments within the city are exploring opportunities. Refer to
- <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cns/first-nations-metis-and-inuit-peoples/first-nations-metis-inuit-peoples.html>
- We understand that the Parks Department has undertaken consultation with the Indigenous groups representing Treaty 7 and sought guidance for how the Parks Department can better engage with them. A response is expected in the near future. Their response and further discussions should provide guidance to a supportive process for Indigenous naming.

- Our Bridgeland - Riverside process of suggesting names for our local parks follows the goals of the Parks department and the Naming policy guidelines set out in Schedule 2 of the city’s Naming policy (CP 2016-01). We understand that selection of Indigenous names must come out of engagement with representatives from the signatories of Treaty 7 – including the Blackfoot Confederacy, TsuuTina, Stoney and Metis people from area 3. We look forward to a future opportunity to engage with representatives in naming in park areas within our community.

Most of the 10 parks we are considering for naming are small with treed areas and grass that is regularly mowed. Some have playground structures, benches, picnic tables etc. There is no clear evidence of past Indigenous presence nor is there native vegetation in these parks. However, two parks within the boundaries of Bridgeland - Riverside are considered part of our city’s Natural areas... Park #1 and Park #10. These two parks lend themselves to naming that reflects the Indigenous perspective.

Park #1 found adjacent to Edmonton Trail has been recently reclaimed and restored as much as possible to natural environment featuring prairie vegetation. Pathways and benches were also added to encourage visits. We originally suggested the name Regal View Park but due to feedback from residents we recommend this park to be considered for Indigenous naming.



Park #10 is located at the confluence of the Bow River and Nose Creek. This park is the Southeast corner of Bridgeland - Riverside’s current boundaries and not far from what would have been the trail to Blackfoot Crossing. There is a park bench, picnic table and garbage bin and the parklet is surrounded by the Bow River, Nose Creek and birds and animals native vegetation.



Park #1 & Park #10 may be of significance and interest to Indigenous peoples. We would like to continue our Park Naming process by working with Calgary Parks Department and Indigenous individuals and groups to explore how the presence of Indigenous people can be reflected in these park spaces.

Appendix C: Letters of Permission & Letters of Support

Letters of Permission received from:

- Helen Jusic
- Normie Kwong family

Letters of Support received from:

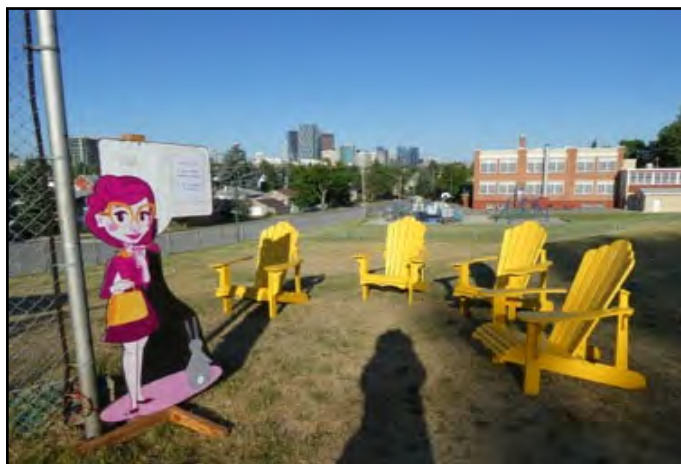
- AHS GS – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia – Calgary Chapter
- Bridgeland Business Improvement Area
- CNIB,
- Chinook Country Historical Society
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- Forward Housing,
- Heritage Calgary
- Italian Cultural Centre
- Nancy Janovicek – Annie Gale sculpture committee
- Jeannie Gartly - Olmsted Calgary
- Piazza Condo board
- Portico Condo Board
- Rehabilitation Society of Calgary
- Renfrew Community Association,
- Silvera for Seniors
- Wee Wild Ones Nature School
- Women's Centre of Calgary

Appendix D: Park Engagement Dates with Bridgeland Betty

- Bridgeland Betty with QR codes to online survey
- Volunteers in parks engaging in conversations with residents
- Door knocking to park neighbours

Park or Event	Dates
Park #1	September 5 - 18, 2021
Park #2 – Hidden Slopes	September 5 – 18, 2021
Park #3 – Olmsted Corner	August 22 - September 4, 2021
Park #4 – Normie Kwong	October 12 - 26, 2021
Park #5 – Schule park	July 25 – August 7, 2021
Park #6- La Piazza	August 8 – 21, 2021
Park #7 – Annie Gale	September 19 – October 11, 2021
Park #8 – Helen’s Garden	Sept 19 – October 11 January 8 - 23, 2022
Park #9 – Safe Haven	March 4-19, 2022
Park #10	November 16 – 25, 2021
Open House	November 2, 2021
Indigenous Residents conversation	September 8, 2021

•



Appendix E: Example Poster

Honouring History Together

From the Bow River's edge North to the escarpment, Bridgeland-Riverside has numerous parks and green spaces. Many of these places are unnamed, so people are unaware that they exist. Giving a place a name helps to identify and recognize it. The BRCA Beautification Committee is leading the *Parks Naming Project* to find names for the community's small parks & green spaces.

The area now known as Bridgeland-Riverside has a rich and diverse history. Indigenous peoples have traversed here over thousands of years and white settlers arrived in the late 1800s. Bridgeland-Riverside is home to many people from all parts of the world.

The Parks Naming Project's goal is to have a community conversation that will result in formal naming of these eight special places. We must comply with the City of Calgary's Policy CP2016-01 which requires consideration of history, geography, plants and animals, and notable public figures. The Parks Naming Project team is proposing names that reflect the unique aspects of Bridgeland-Riverside. Now it's time for Bridgelanders and other stakeholders to get involved by providing their feedback.

Some background about Park #5 & Recommended Name

Since 1921 this green space North of 2 Ave at 11A Street has been part of the historic Bridgeland School playground. In 1998 the CBE closed the school and Delta West Academy moved in. The playing field and adjacent hillside is now a registered Calgary park and is unofficially called Tyndale Park. The origin of this name cannot be found so compliance with city naming policy cannot be established.

The Project Team's Recommended Name for Park #5 is Schule Park. This name recognizes the role immigrants of German descent played in the history of Bridgeland Riverside. "Schule" (pronounced shula) means school in German.

We welcome your response to this proposed name and want to know what this green space means to you. Here's how you can do it:

Do the online survey about this park and share your ideas for the park

By scanning here:



Or www.brcacalgary.org/bridgeland-love and go to park 5

Those who complete the survey can enter a draw to win a gift card from local business

2. **Connect with us** if you need more info or a paper copy of the survey or if you have another name suggestion. Email the Project Team: brca.beautification@gmail.com
3. **Attend an Open House**, planned for the fall when all park names will be reviewed

Thanks for taking the opportunity to engage in our Park Naming Project !!

Appendix F: Example Survey Questions – Park #6

Your Response to Proposed Name of Park #6: The Piazza

strongly supportive somewhat supportive neutral somewhat opposed strongly opposed

2. Do you have any comments:

3. If you would like to suggest an alternate name, please contact brca.beautification@gmail.com

4. Have you been to this park:

YES NO

5. What do you LIKE about this park:

(ie. views, trees, walking, dog-related activities, accessibility, activities/events, historical significance, social meeting place, etc)

6. How SAFE do you feel in this park:

very safe somewhat safe neutral somewhat unsafe very unsafe

7. What would make you VISIT this park more often:

8. You are a RESIDENT of:

Bridgeland/Riverside Renfrew Crescent Heights East Village Downtown

Other neighbourhood:

9. Would you like to be entered into the draw?

YES NO

A total of eight parks / green spaces will be named in Bridgeland-Riverside and we want feedback from you and your neighbours on as many parks as possible. Please watch for more park naming events and surveys on the BRCA Website at <https://brcacalgary.org/bridgeland-love/>.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to engage in our Park Naming Project!

***Draws made for six \$20 gift certificates for local businesses

Appendix G: BRCA Board Reports 2020/2021/2022

- April 2020 – BRCA AGM _NOV – Beautification Committee identified parks and greenspaces with no names
- June 2020 – Heritage report – Committee formed for Park Project and started identifying unnamed parks
- September 2020 – Heritage report – Committee assessing parks, Bridgeland Walks include park spaces
- January 2021 – Heritage report – Continuing to assess parks, collaborate with Renfrew, identify City of Calgary criteria for Park Naming
- February 2021- Heritage report – In discussion with Renfrew regarding parks along community boundaries
- June 2021 – BRCA AGM Presentation – 8 parks and green spaces identified, residents will be engaged, park stories will be shared, spending time (using Bridgeland Betty) in parks and start doing surveys of recommended names, residents can submit alternate names with rationales, once names confirmed it goes to the City of Calgary for approval.
- June 2021 – Heritage report – Park Naming project requires \$100 in funds
- July 2021 – Heritage report – power point slide provided to all board members about Park Naming Project
- September 2021 – Heritage report – Park Naming project update, spending time in each park doing surveys and engaging residents.

Appendix H: List of BRCA Newsletter “Bridges” Articles

- January 2021: Our Natural area Treasures - Overview
- January 2021: Park Walk draw winners
- February 2021: Exploring our Natural Areas - McDougall Slope
- March 2021: Our Natural Areas _ Tom Campbell Hill
- March 2021: Park Naming - In and Around Bridgeland - Riverside
- April 2021: Can you Name that Park?
- July 2021: Bridgeland Riverside Parks Update
- July 2021: Normie Kwong - Hero from Riverside Part 1
-
- August 2021: Normie Kwong - Hero from Riverside Part 2
- August 2021: History in the Naming - Summer Progress
- October 2021: Park Naming Update
- October 2021: The Kindness of Helen Jusic
- November 2021: Picture of Park #8 and Wayfinding L on front page
- November 2021: Park Naming Update - Search for Identity in 10 small parks
- December 2021: New Park coming to East Riverside
- December 2021: Park Naming Project update - Open House
- January 2022: Park Naming – Summary of Park Names
- March 2022: Park Naming update–progress-names of draw winners
- April 2022: Park Naming – Naming a park for Annie Gale
- May 2022: Park Naming – The Olmsted Legacy and our Escarpment Streetscapes

Appendix I: City of Calgary Park Naming Criteria Policy CP 2016-01 (Schedule 2).

[cp2016-01-municipal-naming-sponsorship-and-naming-rights\(15\).pdf](#)

City of Calgary Naming Rights Policy – CP2016-01

Schedule 2 - Requirements for Municipal Naming of City Assets (Other Than Communities and Roadways)

1. Municipal Naming of City Assets

1.1 What City Assets can be named

Only City Assets in common use by the public shall be specifically named.

1.1.2 City-owned facilities used as work areas shall be named according to this policy and as operational procedure requires.

1.2 How City Assets can be named

1.2.1 The proposed City Asset names should either reflect Calgary's Heritage or local geographic feature(s), including flora and fauna, and/or further a sense of community.

1.2.2 City Assets may also be named after the following individuals, groups or organizations:

- a. Notable Calgarians, Canadians, international individuals and groups that have displayed exemplary public or community service;
- b. Former elected representatives of Council, Members of Parliament (federal), Canadian Senate (federal) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (provincial); and
- c. Individuals, groups or organizations who have provided a Donation to The City.

1.3 Other requirements for naming City Assets

1.3.1 City Assets, once named, shall not normally be renamed. Council may consider renaming a City Asset in exceptional circumstances.

1.3.2 When naming City Assets after individuals:

- a. The practice shall be to use names of individuals who are retired (and therefore no longer active in their field of expertise) or deceased; and
- b. Where appropriate, a written consent from the individual or his/her estate shall be obtained.

1.3.3 Names should not be divisive in nature. When an individual or group is identified by a name, best efforts should be taken to ensure that the name is not seen as linked with discrimination, oppression and systemic racism nor in violation of community standards as they exist today. Names that are otherwise offensive, misleading, or ineffective are also not permitted.

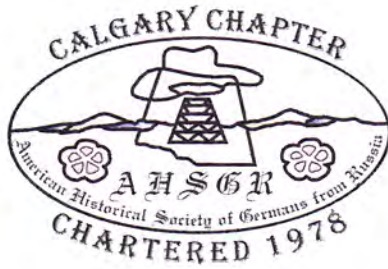
1.3.4 Proposed City Asset names shall be distinct from names used for City Assets of similar nature elsewhere in Calgary (e.g., park and cemetery). Similar sounding names shall be avoided due to confusion it may create for citizens or emergency services

Appendix J: Park Naming Compliance Matrix with CP 2016-01 (Schedule 2)

Park#	Recommended Name	Ethnic Aspect	Historical Aspect	Geographic Aspect	Prominent Person?
1	Indigenous Name (Future)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
2	Hidden Slope			Yes	N/A
3	Olmsted Terrace		Yes	Yes	N/A
4	Normie Kwong	Yes	Yes		Calgary Alberta Canada
5	Schule	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
6	La Piazza	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
7	Annie Gale		Yes	Yes	Calgary
8	Helen's Garden	Yes	Yes		Bridgeland Calgary
9	Safe Haven		Yes		N/A
10	Indigenous Name (Future)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

Appendix K: BRCA Park Naming Project Committee Members

- Deb Lee
- Sarah MacDonald
- Allan McIntyre
- Lucia McIntyre
- Maria Schmid



Calgary Chapter
American Historical Society
of Germans from Russia

Box 31043 Bridgeland RPO
Calgary AB T2E 9A3, Canada



March 3, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam,

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years.

The proposal of Schule Park for Park #5 is of most interest to our society as some our members are descendants of the German from Russia immigrants who settled there years ago. Calgary needs to be aware of our history.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Heinrich,
President,
Calgary Chapter American Historical Society of Germans from Russia



March 2, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

RE: Bridgeland Riverside Park Naming

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. I would like to thank you and your team for your thoughtful engagement on this project.

The Bridgeland BIA is pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Sanderson
Executive Director, Bridgeland BIA

Bridgeland BIA, 809 – 1st Ave. NE
Calgary, Alberta T2E 0C2

April 7, 2022

Michelle Reid

Cultural Landscape Lead and Asset Steward

Calgary Parks

City of Calgary

Subject: Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) Parks Naming Project

It gives me great pleasure, in my capacity as President of the BRCA, to provide you with this letter of support endorsing the March 31, 2022 Submission of the BRCA Park Naming Project to the City of Calgary (the "Submission"). The Submission is the result of an enormous amount of work on the part of a small, but very dedicated, group of volunteer residents of our neighbourhood. This project was their initiative and they planned and executed an extensive program of community engagement, with a goal of obtaining a broad range of views and opinions as to what names would best suit these green spaces that have not yet been officially named.

You can see from the Submission that the Committee engaged in a thorough historical review before commencing their public consultation process and, in doing so, brought to the attention of residents a great deal of information about the heritage of this part of Calgary. Throughout the project, the Committee reported regularly to the BRCA Board of Directors and to the community at large through articles in our monthly newsletter, "Bridges", distributed to over 5000 households and published on our website and social media.

The community engagement part of the project can certainly be described as robust, as it took place over a nine-month period and included on-line surveys, on-site interviews, and door knocking, all conducted during a pandemic in accordance with health rules.

When the Committee presented the results of their work to the BRCA Board, we had no hesitation in unanimously approving their recommendations. We hope the Submission is received by City Council with the same enthusiasm it has generated in our community. We are very thankful for the initiative and many hours of hard work put in by the Committee and look forward to the day when their efforts are rewarded by the official naming of these parks.

Sincerely,



Alex MacWilliam
President

Letter of support BRCA Park Naming Project

CNIB
#10-11A Street NE
Calgary AB, T2E 4Z3

March 22, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. ***Other specific aspects or parks/ names that you would like to comment on***

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,



Tracy Howk
STEP Coordinator and Team Operations CNIB

With Permission of Christall Beaudry,
VP, Western Canada • **Foundation** Programs



CHINOOK COUNTRY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chinook Country Historical Society
Suite 311, 223 – 12 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0G9

March 3, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

RE: Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association Park Naming Project

Dear Mr. MacWilliam:

I am the President of Chinook Country Historical Society; we are the local chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta. Our mandate is to “foster our community through a thought-provoking discussion of local history”. The Chinook Country Historical Society is a group of people dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of Alberta history in Chinook Country for people of all ages. Organized in 1958 and incorporated in 1993, the CCHS covers the region from Olds to Nanton and from the BC border to the Saskatchewan border.

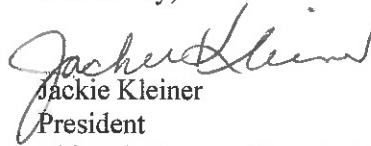
We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. For example, the choice of Olmsted, Normie Kwong, Schule and La Piazza are particularly significant in our view. These names will provide the foundation for conversation and remembering those who came before. The identification of Indigenous place names will also be a welcome addition.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the

important role that park spaces play in the lives of citizens. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors

Yours truly;


Jackie Kleiner
President
Chinook Country Historical Society

kleiners@shaw.ca
587-229-2495



March 16, 2022

Dear City Council,

Re: Bridgeland Riverside Community Association (BRCA) Parks Naming Project

The Federation of Calgary Communities (The Federation) is a member-based support organization for over 240 not-for-profits in Calgary, including the 152 community associations. We work to support board members and volunteers who improve neighbourhood life in Calgary by providing programs and services that help them build their organization's capacity to support and mobilize residents, and to be on the front lines of important issues affecting their community.

We are a recognized voice for community and advocate for small non-profits. Along with our city's 152 community associations we make up the largest collective volunteer movement in Calgary, with more than 20,000 volunteers strong!

We first would like to commend the BRCA and their team of volunteers for researching ten different parklets with their neighborhoods – the report is impressive and engaging! It captures the history; the engagement conducted and celebrates a diversity of people past and present. This volunteer group, during COVID-19, undertook this project engaging with residents in a manner that not only created interest in the history but sought input into the naming.

Volunteer efforts such as this are to be commended, acknowledged, and rewarded. Not only does this project contribute a better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside but it also helps residents to gain an appreciation for the important role that park spaces play in our social and community lives. Finally, it is fitting that that two of these parks names will be deferred for naming to ensure the recommendation acknowledges the indigenous history of this community.

Suite 110, 720 – 28th Street NE
Calgary, Alberta T2A 6R3

T 403.244.4111

F 403.244.4129

E fedyyc@calgarycommunities.com

calgarycommunities.com



The Federation of Calgary Communities fully supports this project. This is an excellent example of the contributions community volunteers make to improving neighbourhood life. We would further ask, that as it moves through the various levels of approvals, up to and including council, that if barriers exist to prevent its approval, that City resources be allocated to resolve those barriers. Resident led projects like this should have clear lines of sights and little red tape to make them a reality.

Sincerely,



Leslie Evans, BSc., M.M.
Executive Director

cc. Alex MacWilliam, President, BRCA

Suite 110, 720 – 28th Street NE
Calgary, Alberta T2A 6R3

T 403.244.4111

F 403.244.4129

E fedyyc@calgarycommunities.com

calgarycommunities.com



Letter of support: BRCA Park Naming Project

Annemarie Schiemann, Communications Coordinator
Forward Housing Association
#510 1540 Northmount Dr. N.W.
Calgary, AB, T2L 0G6

March 3rd 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. Park #8, recommended to be named Helen's Garden, sits directly behind our newest building, Bishop's Manor. We believe Helen's Garden is a fitting name. It is a wonderful ode to a dedicated, spirited, and admired senior resident of Bridgeland Riverside on a piece of land which has a longstanding history in serving seniors.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to a better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Schiemann



March 15, 2022

Alex MacWilliam
President
Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Ave NE
Calgary AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam:

Re: BRCA Park Names

I am writing on behalf of Heritage Calgary in support of the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association and your work to name green spaces in your community.

Heritage Calgary is a charitable Civic Partner of The City of Calgary focused on the research, education, and preservation of our shared heritage in Calgary. We believe heritage is a dynamic process by which identity is experienced, interpreted, and represented and take pride in working with Calgarians to honour the fabric that we are all a part of.

We are aware of the extensive work that has been done by the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association in undertaking the Park Naming Project. Your extensive community engagement has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two additional parks for Indigenous naming in the future.

The names you are recommending to City Council truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland-Riverside as it has evolved over the years.

As you may be aware, Heritage Calgary is currently undertaking the creation of a framework for Naming, Renaming and Commemoration. During this work we have identified twelve principles that should be considered for community naming. We are pleased to see that you have already incorporated many of them into your work including:

- Involve community for whom the issue is important.
- Identify opportunities for education and awareness (i.e., historical significance, diversity of the community, impact for equity-seeking communities).
- Amplify histories, people and events that have been traditionally under told or less known.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that green spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Josh Traptow'.

Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary



CALGARY ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

EC2023-0245
Attachment 3

March 3, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

The Calgary Italian Cultural Centre (CICC) is aware of the work which has been done by the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) in conducting the Park Naming Project.

The BRCA's extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommending names for eight small parks and green spaces in the community. We also understand the BRCA hopes to include two more parks for naming to recognize the Indigenous roots of the area. The names the BRCA will be recommending to the city is an excellent representation of the diverse identity of Bridgeland-Riverside as it has evolved over the years. The names recommended not only capture the cultural identity but also acknowledge individuals and other entities whose history and/or accomplishments is rooted in the Bridgeland-Riverside Community.

CICC is proud to support this initiative and believe that the naming or renaming of these parks, especially the "General Plaza" to "La Piazza", will contribute to a greater understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland-Riverside, of which the Italian community played a significant part over the decades.

Sincerely,

Luigi Audia
President CICC

416 - 1st Avenue NE Calgary, AB, Canada, T2E 0B4 | **Phone:** 403.264.4133 | **Fax:** 403.264.0626

info@calgaryitalianculturalcentre.com

www.calgaryitalianculturalcentre.com

8 March 2022

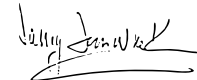
Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland – Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary AB T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam,

I am writing on behalf of the Annie Gale Project to support the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association's Parks Naming Project – in particular, the proposal to name Park #7 the Annie Gale Park due to its proximity to the only remaining vacant lot garden in Calgary. Annie Gale was instrumental in establishing the Vacant Lot Gardens in the city's early years when she served as Calgary's first woman alderman.

The Annie Gale Project is a non-profit organization that plans to commission and install a monument to Annie Gale, ideally close to City Hall. COVID-19 has slowed our project but we are committed to the completion of the monument. Naming this Bridgeland park after Gale is a fitting commemoration of one of her most significant legacies: food security. This is complementary to the work that we are doing and I am excited to see more commemorations of the work that Gale did to improve lives of people living in Calgary.

Sincerely,



Nancy Janovicek



J M Gartly Design Studio Inc.
Heritage Conservation | Urban Design
Jeanie Gartly | Principal
CAHP, MArch, MEdes, MCIP, RPP
2035 – 2 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T2N 0G6
Ph: **403.952.5787**
Email: Jeanie@jmgartlydesign.ca

January 10, 2022

To: Heritage Committee
c/o Deb Lee
Bridgeland Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB T2E 0C6

Re: **“Olmsted Park” Naming Support Letter**

Dear Deb Lee,

I am excited to provide a letter of support to the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association’s Heritage Committee for your advocacy and next steps to historically name the community park located along Bridge Crescent and 5 Avenue NE.

Through my extensive heritage conservation and urban design/planning work over the years in Calgary, and elsewhere, I fully understand the value of parks to our communities and equally their historic value to retaining a communities unique “sense of place”. For the last couple of years, I have worked extensively with the Scarboro Community Association to prepare a Historical Context Paper and identify the community’s heritage values and character-defining elements. That work entailed extensive research on the original residential layout and design that was completed by John Charles Olmsted, the stepson of Fredrick Law Olmsted. John C., of the Olmsted Brothers firm, was engaged by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1909 to design residential neighbourhoods in three areas of Calgary – Scarboro, Mount Royal, and Bridgeland. Although Scarboro is the only one in Calgary that was fully realized (fully developed per the original plan), a portion of Mount Royal was also completed as was a portion along the escarpment in Bridgeland.

For Calgary to have three historic Olmsted residential neighbourhood plans prepared is of significant heritage value and therefore, where any portion of these original plans were realized it is of utmost significance to Calgary and most importantly to each of these neighborhoods. With the realization that a current park in Bridgeland-Riverside was not historically named at the time the plan was completed, there is heritage value to consider providing recognition of Olmsted’s design in Bridgeland through the naming of this identified historic park as “Olmsted Park”. Scarboro and Mount Royal’s Olmsted designed park layouts were named as a part of the original design therefore, Calgary does not yet have a park named after Olmsted to recognize one of his key community design values which is to respect the “genius of place” by staying true to the character of a community’s natural surroundings which this sloped, and uniquely shaped, park space does within Bridgeland.

It would therefore be most appropriate to consider historic naming for this park space to protect the Olmsted historical significance for Bridgeland-Riverside citizens to learn and be aware of, celebrate, enjoy, and share with others that use the community.

I commend the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association’s desire to continue to integrate its history with redevelopment and the naming of this park to recognize the original residential community design. The work of the Community Association’s Heritage Committee to bring forward heritage values is important at a time where it is relevant and most needed. For these reasons, and as a heritage conservationist who knows the commitment and time to volunteer in the heritage field, I highly support the Heritage Committee’s advocacy for the potential for this park beginning with a historic, meaningful, and inspiring name that can further realize its

potential for enhancement and usage and the inspiration it will bring to Calgarians on our history, stories, and built-heritage.

Thank you for your consideration of the Heritage Committee's efforts to recognize Olmsted's hand in the original community design for its citizens.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanie M. Gartly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jeanie M. Gartly, CAHP MArch, MEdes, MCIP, RPP
Principal | Heritage Conservationist

"It has been said that, at it's best; preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

(William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places)

March 3, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years.

The Piazza building and park has been a staple of Bridgeland and owners and tenants in the surrounding area call it the heart of Bridgeland and a place for everyone to come together in unity. Naming the park La Piazza gives it the high regard that the residents have come to give it themselves.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Kind regards,
Barclay Street Real Estate Ltd.



Theresa Wright

Executive Vice President, General Manager Property Management



Portico Condominium Corporation
716 5th Street N.E. and 532 5th Ave N.E.
Calgary, AB, T2E 3W8 / T2E 0L2

2nd March 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

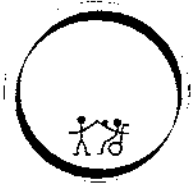
Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the thorough work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. The park that is near our two buildings is aptly named "Hidden Slopes" as our corporation has the marketing nickname of "Slopes of Bridgeland" as seen in our logo.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Chrystal
Portico Condo Board, President



The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary
7, 11 St NE, Calgary,
AB T2E 4Z2Y

Date: March 29, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland - Riverside as it has evolved over the years.

As an organization that has been active in the Bridgeland Riverside community for over 65 years, the Rehabilitation Society of Calgary members have always enjoyed the beautiful green spaces available in the community. The recommendation to name Green Space #8 Helen's Garden in recognition of Helen Jusic is particularly exciting for our members as Helen has contributed many volunteer hours to our organization. We feel that this action will honor Helen's dedication to the community and her tireless efforts to bring joy to the people who live and work in Bridgeland - Riverside.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland - Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Blanchard'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends upwards and to the right.

Alison Blanchard,
President, Board of Directors,
Rehabilitation Society of Calgary



Renfrew Community Association
811 Radford Road NE
Calgary AB T2E 0R7

March 23, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We have been aware and watching the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your committees extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years. We look forward to what Indigenous names will given to the park/green space we share between our communities and would like to attend the ceremony when the naming takes place.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read "m. linton", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mary Grace Linton
President
Renfrew Community Association



March 29, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB. T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam,

RE: Bridgeland – Riverside Community Association, Park Naming Project

We became aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project. Your extensive engagement with the community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The names you are recommending to the city truly describe the diverse identity of Bridgeland Riverside as it has evolved over the years.

Silvera for Seniors has been providing housing for Seniors since the late 1950's with over 600 residents currently living in the area. As an operator at Willow Park on the Bow as well as Aspen, Spruce and Bow Valley Buildings in Bridgeland - East Riverside, we are excited to be part of this project – by inclusion of a park that will soon be developed on Silvera land.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland - Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in the lives of people of all ages. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here.

Sincerely,

SILVERA FOR SENIORS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lorne Robertson'.

Lorne Robertson
Chief Development Officer

*** If possible, please email your response to heritage@brccalgary.org thank you!





Wee Wild Ones & Of the Wild
10 11a St NE
Calgary, AB
T2E 4Z3

EC2023-0245
Attachment 3

Letter of Support BRCA Park Naming Project

March 3rd, 2022

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

Wee Wild Ones is a child care centre in the Bridgeland community, since 2016. We educate our youngest citizens from 12 months to 12 years of age. We are a nature based school with a focus on inquiry based learning. Our vision is to help raise future leaders and innovators who are passionate about the environment and their community. Our children and educators access the green spaces throughout the Bridgeland area every day and we are honoured to have park 8 right outside the front entrance of our centre.

We are aware of the wonderful work being done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association with the Park Naming Project. Your engagement with this exciting community has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. At Wee Wild Ones we are in our own process of decolonization and reconciliation as we look to honour the land we are on here in the Treaty 7 region of Alberta.

We are excited to support this initiative and feel that the naming of these parks will contribute to better understanding of the diversity and heritage of this community and add value for years to come. Here's to the next generation of leaders who are mindful of their past and ready for the future!

Sincerely,

Katherine Kaiser

Katherine Kaiser
Executive Program Director
Wee Wild Ones & Of the Wild

WOMEN'S CENTRE OF CALGARY

39-4th Street N.E Calgary, Alberta T2E 3R6

Tel: 403 264 1155 Fax: 403 264 1203

womenscentrecalgary.org

info@womenscentrecalgary.org

EC2023-0245

Attachment 3

March 15, 2022

Alex MacWilliam, President
Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Avenue NE
Calgary, AB, T2E 06C

Dear Mr. MacWilliam;

We are aware of the work that has been done by the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association in conducting the Park Naming Project, and have had the opportunity to visit some of the parks in the neighbourhood that are up for naming. We understand you have done extensive engagement with the community, and this has resulted in recommended names for eight small parks and green spaces with hopes to include two more parks for Indigenous Naming in the future. The Women's Centre would like to share that we are excited to see two parks specifically named after important women in the community.

We are pleased to support this initiative and believe that the naming of these two parks will contribute to a better understanding of the diversity and heritage of Bridgeland Riverside and a greater valuing of the important role that park spaces play in our lives. This initiative will make for an even stronger and vibrant community here. The Women's Centre is proud to be in relationship with the Bridgeland - Riverside Community Association and its residents, and we look forward to continuing this important relationship.

Sincerely,



Bo Masterson
Executive Director



United Way
Calgary and Area



BRCA Park Naming Project
BRCA – 917 Centre Ave NE
Calgary Alberta

March 12, 2022

Dear Helen Jusic,

Thank you for allowing your name to be nominated for the new park in Bridgeland Riverside that is located between 11A and 12 Streets, adjacent to the new Forward Housing residence – Bishop’s Manor and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

We are pleased to inform you that the proposed name for the park – Helen’s Garden - received unanimous strong support from the 78 people who responded to the survey. We are delighted and believe that you are very deserving of your name on this local park. Your volunteerism over the years – to many organizations in this part of the community and beyond - and your present day efforts to reach out and show caring to people during these challenging days of the Covid-19 pandemic is exemplary and will be celebrated.

Our BRCA Board of Directors gave their approval for the recommended park names. We will next be seeking letters of support from stakeholders and relevant supporters. Then we will submit our recommendations to the city of Calgary Council for their formal approval of the park names. The name of the park will be seen on city of Calgary maps and in future we hope to erect a sign with the Park name as well as a plaque that will share the story of your important contribution to our community.

It is important to document your support and approval for use of your name on this park. Please complete the information below and return to us.

Thank you Helen for all you have done and all that you continue to do that contributes to our great community.

Sincerely, Deb Lee

On behalf of the BRCA Park Naming Project and
BRCA Board of Directors

I HELEN JUSIC consent to the use of my name – Helen’s Garden - on the new park located between 11A and 12 St NE and adjacent to the new residence Bishops’ Manor and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Signature Helen Jusic

Date 16 March 2022

BRCA Park Naming Project
BRCA – 917 Centre Ave NE - Calgary

March 2, 2022

Dear Greg Kwong,

Thank you for allowing the name of your father, Normie Kwong to be nominated for the Bridgeland Riverside park that is located on 9A Street at 4 Avenue NE.

We embarked on the process of naming 8 neighbourhood parks in our community. From July 2021 to January 2022 we conducted community engagement – via our newsletter articles, posters in the parks and on nearby mailboxes, door to door conversations. We invited residents and people visiting the parks to complete a survey and indicate their support for the suggested name of each park and to share feedback on other aspects of the parks (i.e. safety, ideas for evolution of the parks). We conducted this survey specific to the 9A/4ve park in October 2021 and had many good conversations with residents.

We are pleased to inform you that the proposed name – Normie Kwong Park -received significant support from the people who responded to the survey. In some cases we found that we were educating park visitors about our community's history – that included your grandparents grocery store on 4 Street, your Dad's growing up and school years at Riverside/ Langevin School and his important lifetime of accomplishments - as a father and husband, star football player, Calgary Flames and Stampeders leader, philanthropist and as our province's Lieutenant Governor. Normie Kwong's character and attitude to life only add to his stellar achievements. We believe that Normie Kwong is more than deserving of naming of our favourite neighbourhood park.

Our Bridgeland Riverside Community Association Board of Directors gave their full approval for the full slate of recommended park names. We will next be seeking letters of support from stakeholders and relevant supporters. We will then submit our recommendations to the city for formal approval of the park names. The name of the park will be seen on city of Calgary maps and in future we hope to erect a sign with the Park name as well as a plaque that will share the story of Normie Kwong's important achievements and contribution to the larger community.

It is important to document your support and consent for use of your father's name on this park. Please complete the information below and return to us.

Sincerely, Deb Lee
On behalf of the BRCA Park Naming project and Director on BRCA Board

I Greg Kwong as a representative of the Kwong family, consent to the use of my father's name - Normie Kwong - and the story of his lifetime of achievement on the Bridgeland park located at 9A Street and 4 Avenue NE

Signature  _____

Date March 3, 2022

Place Calgary, AB