

CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (CBMCA)



Mailing Address:
462, 1811-4 STREET SW
CALGARY AB T2S 1W2
Website: www.cliffbungalowmission.com

Location of Community Hall:
2201 CLIFF STREET SW, CALGARY
(West of 5th Street on 22nd Avenue SW)
Phone: (403) 245-6001

22 May 2020

Michelle Reid, CSLA, MCIP
Cultural Landscape Lead, Calgary Parks
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, #54
Calgary AB T2P 2M5

Re: Naming small riverside natural area at 199 - 26th Avenue SW (east end of MIS248)

Dear Ms. Reid:

We propose naming the small natural area at the above address "Goose Park." Attached is a map of the area.

For years, riverside residents Ted and Bette Best enjoyed watching geese gathering along the Elbow river. As development increasingly threatened the birds' favourite places, Ted and Bette wondered about reserving a space among the high-rise towers for the geese.

On the brink of retiring in 1985, Ted went to City Hall to investigate ownership of a pay-parking lot on the above site and discovered the land was actually owned by The City. He suggested reclaiming it from the property owner who had expropriated it and creating a park. The City agreed, dismantled the lot, and provided loam and seed. Ted and Bette provided the labour and much of the cost.

Ted rented a backhoe and spent many hours levelling and spreading loam and seeding. A City water truck came by until seeds took root. The geese have taken full advantage of Ted and Betty's work and since the reclamation, local residents have referred to the area as "Goose Park." We believe the time has come to formalize the name.

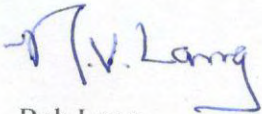
We have informed the community about this process in our community newsletter, The Mission Statement, which is delivered to every household in the community and have received no objections. We assume, therefore, we have the full support of our residents. Our councillor, Jeromy Farkas, also supports the project as illustrated by his attached letter.

We are proposing that a sign be erected and a bronze plaque (approximately 18" x 24") be attached to an adjacent brick column. Attached are copies of the proposed plaque text, examples of the type

of sign and plaque we would install, and an image showing their proposed locations. Our sign would, in fact, be more attractive as we would require a glossy black finish and decorative ends for the posts. We agree to pay the full cost of materials and installation.

If you require any further information, please contact Bill Longstaff at 403-245-9587 or ballot@shaw.ca or Eilish Hiebert at 403-891-6765 or eilishiebert@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. V. Lang". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Lang,
President

Goose Park

For years, from the windows of their home Ted and Bette Best watched geese gathering along the river. As development increasingly threatened the birds' favourite places, Ted and Bette wondered about officially creating a park to accommodate the gathering gaggles.

On the brink of retiring in 1985, Ted went to City Hall to investigate ownership of a pay-parking lot on this site and discovered the land was actually owned by The City. He suggested reclaiming it from the property owner who had expropriated it and creating a park. The City agreed, dismantled the lot, and provided loam and seed. Ted and Bette provided the labour. "It was my retirement project," said Ted.

Ted rented a backhoe and spent many hours levelling and spreading loam and seeding. A City water truck came by until seeds took root. Ted still laughs about the time he was leaning on his shovel when a passer-by yelled at him, "You City workers! Get moving on the job!"

As to the cost of the work, Ted and Bette simply said "We didn't keep track. We just bought and paid for whatever was needed to make it a park for the public and, of course, for the geese."

The geese LOVE it!



Calgary

Office of the Councillors
COUNCILLOR JEROMY FARKAS

Michelle Reid, CSLA, MCIP
Cultural Landscape Lead, Calgary Parks
PO Box 2100, Station M #54
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

May 20, 2020

Dear Ms. Reid:

Re: Naming of small riverside natural area at 199 – 26 Ave SW (east end of MIS248)

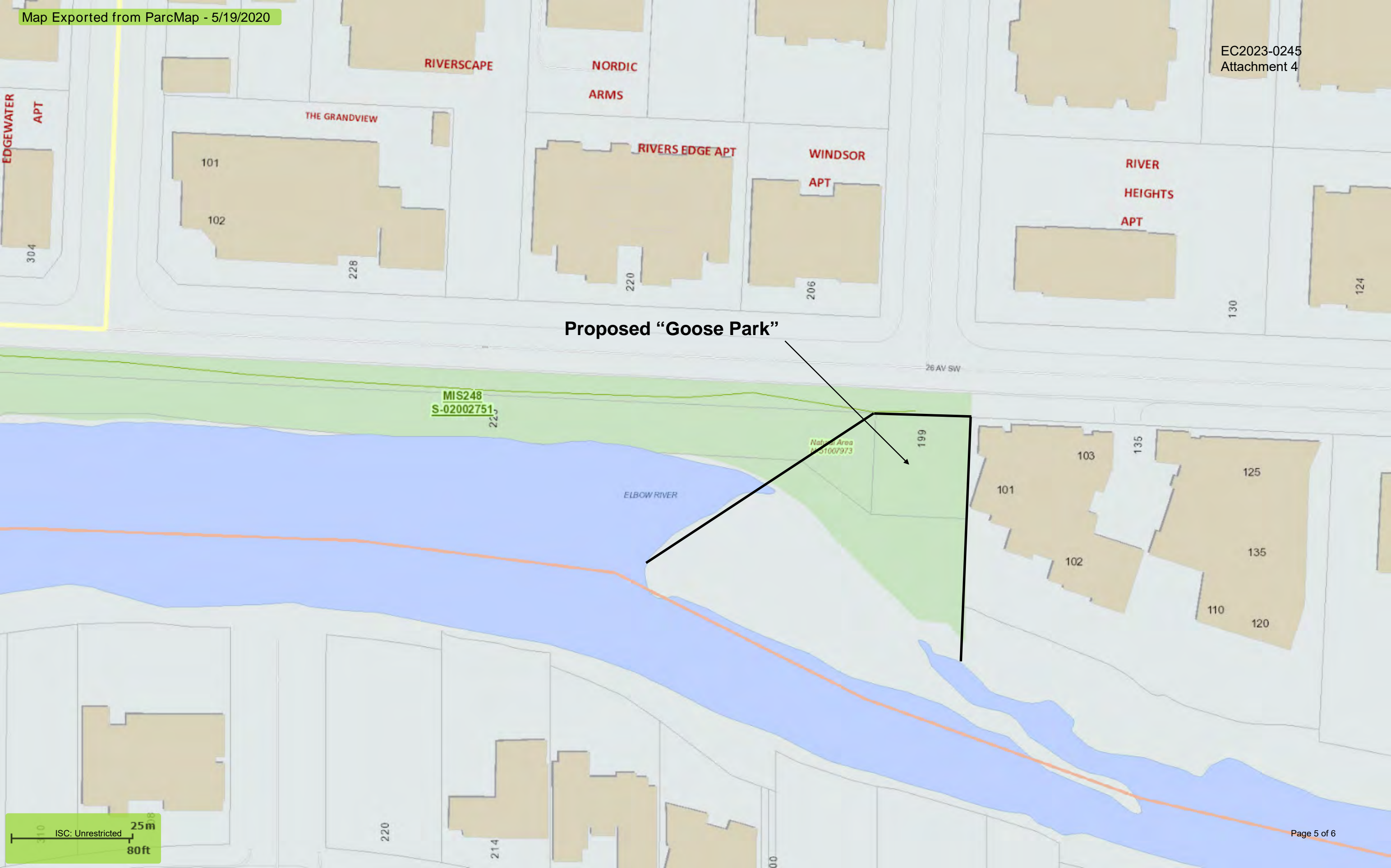
Please accept this letter in support of the Cliff Bungalow – Mission Community Association’s (CBMCA) application to name the natural area at the above location “Goose Park”.

This green space owes its existence largely to the efforts of Mr. Ted Best, a long-time river resident, recently deceased. Mr. Best wanted to preserve a space among the high-rises where Canada Geese could continue to gather and have their presence enjoyed by the surrounding communities, much as he himself had enjoyed them. Mr. Best was responsible for a large part of the reclamation work of the site, which was previously a parking lot, performing much of the grounds work himself. Local residents have since commonly referred to the area as “Goose Park”. Given the extraordinary contributions by Mr. Best, the CBMCA would like to name the park after the inhabitants he created the space for – the Canada Geese – and erect a sign and plaque in honor of his memory.

I happily support the community’s effort to memorialize Mr. Best’s contributions to the natural environments of the City of Calgary, and commend them for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeromy Farkas
Councillor, Ward 11



RIVERSCAPE

NORDIC
ARMS

THE GRANDVIEW

RIVERS EDGE APT

WINDSOR
APT

RIVER
HEIGHTS
APT

Proposed "Goose Park"

MIS248
S-02002751

Natural Area
M51007973

ELBOW RIVER

ISC: Unrestricted
25m
80ft

Sign

4 metres south of sidewalk, 3 metres east of utilities pole



Bronze plaque

East face of column

