



Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN
7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL: Beck, Erdos-Thayer, Hickman, Markfort, Rochon-Washington, Vaith, Sparks
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
 - A. Minutes from 9/23/25 PRFC Meeting
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New Ward 2 Commissioner
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Manor Park Playground
 - B. Sanborn Park Remodel
6. INFORMATION ONLY
 - A. Sanborn Parks Renaming
 - B. Parks Update
7. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

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1. ROLL CALL: x__Beck, _O_Erdos-Thayer, _X_Davis, _X_Rochon-Washington, _X_Sparks
 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Motion: Sparks
2nd: Davis
Vote: 4-0
 3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
 - A. Approve PRFC 8.26.25 Meeting Minutes
Motion: Beck
2nd: Sparks
Vote: 4-0
 4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Sanborn Parking Renaming Submissions

7 Virtues Park: Clarification on “Virtues”
Robbins: Anything tied to founders could have poor historical findings
“Birdtown” over “Bird Town”
Bob Mendenhall Park: assuming he has been dead over a year.
Burk/Enbloom Park: Not enough information
“Whiz Bang” Concerns over sexist and racist content in the Whiz Bang Magazine
Crystal Lake: Three parks are close to Crystal Lake. Additionally naming a park after a neighboring city could be confusing.
Esthler Loe Park: If deceased.
Ethel Ray Nance Park: Confusion on if she was a Robbinsdale resident. “How close” is close enough for local history and inclusion.
Fair Valley Shores: minimize confusion due to it not being on a shore.
Family Gatherings: Not inclusive if you don’t have a family
Gary Tonsager is not dead
Gordy’s Gateway: Not sure if Gordy has passed.
Hollister Park: More information needed
Inataadiwag Park: Not Dakota people which lived on this land. More research needed to make sure we are acknowledging the correct people.
Lake Unity Park: Does not represent the natural features. Hollingsworth is on the lake. This could cause confusion. Similar to Lakeview Terrace
Lakeview Park: Too similar to Lakeview Terrace
Mni Thanks Makoche Waste: Needs more research to determine meaning
“Mni Wichoni Park” not “Park Park”
Poplar Park: Confirm trees are accurate
The Bird Nest: Similar to local establishments. Eagles Nest, could cause confusion
Gary Bjorlin Memorial Gardens or Simply Bjorlin Park: Yes with more information on background. Seems okay but we need to be sure.
Unity: Too many other “Unity” named things in the area.
Verne Gagne Park: Committed murder
Veterans: Too many near locations that share this name.

Victory: Victory Memorial is near by. Confusion.

Beck:

My recommendation for the renaming of Sanborn Park was to re-advance the previous recommendation of the Human Rights Commission: Philando Castille Park or Castille Park.

The HRC initiated this renaming process when it was discovered the Sanborn family used red-lining in their development contract to prevent ownership by non-white citizens. The goal of the HRC in renaming Sanborn Park was to redress this grievance. They chose a (deceased) person of color who had lived in Robbinsdale, whose family lives in Robbinsdale, and who had notably done good deeds, both while living and posthumously.

But I have since learned about the **Wright family**, who are the last entry on the spreadsheet of potential names offered by the community for the park renaming. Choosing the Wright family is a direct reparation to the harm caused by the Sanborns since they were living in Robbinsdale at the same time and suffered significant consequences. **I believe this historical first black family in Robbinsdale is an excellent choice.** This was one of the names originally considered by the HRC as well.

I also support any renaming which reflects respectful connections to **indigenous communities** who first lived on this land.

I strongly support renaming Sanborn Park using any name which provides **equity for communities that are not currently represented** in our park names.

Thank you for your consideration.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Sparks

2nd: Davis

9:15 pm

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
7 Virtues Park	A park named for universal virtues that reflect the aspirations that the community has for its citizens and for the world at large.	
Abraham Lincoln Park	Abraham Lincoln is a unifying figure, appealing both to tradition and to senses of progressive justice. It's also appropriate because Lincoln was the commander-in-chief of the Union army, and Minnesota was the first to offer up soldiers to the war effort.	
Adelaide Robbins Park	Adelaide Robbins was the wife of Andrew Robbins, and she was an avid gardener. She planted several species of trees in the area, and helped to make the grounds of the Robbins estate a beautiful botanical garden. She was also a nurse, teacher, and school principal. It would be good to honor her memory with a park or garden within the city.	
Amarie Alowonle Park		
Amy Robbins Ware Park	Daughter of the founder of Robbinsdale, Amy graduated with a masters degree at the U of M in 1907. She worked for the Naval service during World War I and went to France to help the cause with the American Red Cross. In France, she worked as a nurse in a field hospital. there were no other women in her unit. She wrote a book titled echoes of France about her experiences. I learned of this information from the book images of America, Robbinsdale by Peter James Ward Ritchie. Amy was accomplished and fearless at a time when women were discouraged from excelling and taking risks. At the very least a park should be named after her!	
Andrew B. Robbins Park	There are criminally few reminders of the founder of our town in this town, and most don't know his name or that we aren't named after a bird.	
Arthur Eaton Park	That's my baby's name.	
Bansorn Park		
Bird town park	It's not political or someone's name that may cause issues in the future	
Bird Town Park		
Bird Town Park	I live on Sanborn and would love to incorporate the Robbinsdale nick name into the new park name!	
Birdtown Ball Park or Birdtown Spirit	It would be very disappointing indeed if the park was named after another man! Please keep the children and the spirit of Robbinsdale in mind and not get bogged down in politics and men's names	
Birdtown Community Park or Shoreline Park	It seems that the purpose of renaming Sanborn Park is to avoid controversial people, therefore the new name should not be after a person at all.	
Birdtown Greens	My family lives in Robbinsdale right near the park. My mom walks the park daily. We both came up with this name.	
Birdtown Park	I don't agree with naming parks after people. The nickname Birdtown is not offensive to people while giving a small-town vibe.	
Birdtown park	Stop naming things after a person.	
Birdtown Park		
Birdtown Park or Birdtown Backyard	It seems like last names can sometimes be problematic or controversial, but renaming our park to our town's nickname seems like a neutral and easy to remember park name	
Blake Carlson Park	Its the name of one of your greatest residents, a very well-known person and the name is in pristine condition and ready for use.	
Blonigan Park	I request an exemption that the honored persons must be deceased. Bill has selflessly given over 4 decades of service to this community. He is a champion of Robbinsdale and its citizens	
Blue Bird Park	Given the political climate, let's stray away from public figures being associated with parks and stay true to wild life! I love the catchiness of "blue bird" and easy for kids to say :)	
Blue Ribbon	After Marjorie	
Blue Ribbon Park	In honor of our own multi blue ribbon winner and celebrity Marjorie Johnson, who also loved every one, and just turned 106	
Blue Ribbon Park	After Marjorie	
Blue Ribbon Park	Honor of Marjorie Johnson	
Blue Ribbon Park	Everyone can participate in sports or creative activities and aim for excellence. These achievements highlight determination, perseverance and teamwork all good traits to aspire to. Undoubtedly, there are many Blue Ribbon winners in Robbinsdale.	
Blue Robin Park		
Bob Mendenhall Park	I'm proud to be the daughter in law of Bob (Mr. Music) Mendenhall. Honoring his legacy of first a Robbinsdale s hool district Band Teacher, later the Music Coordinator of the district and Director of the Robbinsdale City Marching Band (First Place Aquatennial Parade winners 17 years in a row). would make his life of community service and his love of sharing through music would make his life complete.	
Brad and Amy Sutton Park for the Punishment of the Unhoused		

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Bud Slepica Park	<p>My grandfather, Merrill "Bud" Slepica, proud son of Bohemian immigrants, was a WWII Navy veteran, lifelong resident, and founder of Robbinsdale Youth Hockey. Bud grew up on the North Side of Minneapolis, graduating from North High School in 1937. Like so many of his generation, Bud answered the call to serve in World War II, proudly enlisting in the United States Navy. After the war, Bud married classmate Louise Briesch, and together they raised four children in Robbinsdale, just down the street from Sanborn Park, along the shores of Lake Crystal. This was not simply their home - it was the center of their community life. Bud's service extended well beyond his family. He worked 30 years at Honeywell, was a lifetime member of Elim Lutheran Church, and served actively in Westphal American Legion Post 251. Bud's greatest community impact came through his mentoring of young people. As the founding father of Robbinsdale Youth Hockey, he built the "Little Robins" program from the ground up, securing funding through the American Legion and outfitting players in uniforms proudly bearing its name. He coached on the outdoor rink at Sanborn Park and the "pond" at Lake Crystal, teaching not only skating and stickhandling but also perseverance, discipline, and teamwork. Among his many players was Bruce Johnson, who went on to play at Augsburg College, became the first head coach at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School (1970-2002), and was inducted into the Minnesota High School Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007. Bud's influence carried into his own family - his children became standout athletes and leaders at Robbinsdale High School, and his sons carried forward his legacy as coaches and mentors. He passed away in 1991 at the age of 72, leaving behind a legacy of service, duty, patriotism, and deep love for Robbinsdale. Naming Sanborn Park for Bud Slepica would honor a man whose life's work strengthened the character and spirit of this community for generations.</p>	
Burk/ Enbloom park	The ran the park and rec dept out of sanborn in the 70s	
Burke/Engblom athletic park	See previous I fixed spelling	
Calhoun Park	Lost an icon park name a couple of years ago but now it's available. Promotes the strong history and culture of Minnesota	
Captain Billy's Park	<p>Captain Billy's Park - I respectfully propose naming this park for Wilford H. "Captain Billy" Fawcett, founder and editor of Captain Billy's Whiz Bang, which he began publishing in Robbinsdale in 1919 after returning from World War I. The magazine's name and tone drew on WWI soldier slang - "whiz-bang" meaning something sudden, flashy, and amusing, and Fawcett said he created the magazine to give returning servicemen a laugh. Capt. Billy's Whiz Bang became a widely read humor magazine in the 1920s and gave Robbinsdale its distinctive festival name; Whiz Bang Days has been celebrated here since 1948. Naming the park for Captain Billy would preserve this colorful piece of Robbinsdale's identity and help teach future generations why our festival is called Whiz Bang Days.</p>	
Castile Park	<p>Philando Castile of Robbinsdale worked for J. J. Hill Montessori Magnet School as a nutrition services supervisor at the time of his tragic death at the age of 32 over nine years ago. In death, he raised awareness of needed reforms in police departments in the region, across the nation, and around the world. In life, he gained notoriety for paying the school lunch debts of students who struggled to afford their meals. This legacy of kindness and compassion served as one of the strongest catalysts for the passage of Minnesota's statewide free school breakfast and lunch program, and brought this need to the entire nation's attention. (Before this program was signed into law in Minnesota, the Philando Castile Relief Foundation gave \$8,000 to wipe out the accumulated lunch debt of all seniors at Robbinsdale Cooper High School. The Foundation had already given \$10,000 for school lunches at J. J. Hill Montessori Magnet School.) Naming this park after Philando Castile would do Robbinsdale proud by highlighting the compassionate acts of one man that reverberated locally and nationally.</p>	
Celebration Park	Parades, Fireworks, Fishing, ice rink, playground and so much more for fun	
Charlie Kirk Park	Charlie Kirk was recently assassinated for trying to hold dialog and find common ground with "the left". Because the park is being renamed due to left wing revisionism, it seems only appropriate to name the park after a right wing martyr.	
Cootie Park	Because Cooties were created in Robbinsdale and they're so fun!	
Courage Park	I remember watching the Courage Center employee softball team play games here as a kid, coached by Tony, a Man born without arms or legs. Why not celebrate the everyday courage of everyday people.	
Crystal Lake Community Park or Lakeside Park	I prefer Sanborn Park. Bad history is still history, as painful as it is. If you must rename it, DO NOT name it after a person.	
Crystal Lake Park	Y park location	
Crystal Lake Park		
Crystal Lake Park	Since no person is perfect and since we seem to be aiming for human perfection and impossibly high standards regarding past decisions and behaviors, do NOT name the park after a person. Stop making everything political. Stop enabling whiners and stop virtue signaling which is really what this "name change" is about.	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Crystal Lake Park	It's just off Crystal Lake!	
Crystal Lake Park	I agree with others that this is a park used by diverse groups and should not be named after racists. While I would like it to be named Castile Park, I think there are too many old, white, racist people living in Robbinsdale who would lose their brains. So why not name it after an adjacent landmark?	
Crystal Lake Park	I think keeping it general is the best solution to not have to rename it again in the future.	
Crystal Lake Park		
Crystal Lake Park	I think it becomes problematic to name things after humans.	
Crystal Lake Park or remain Sandborn Park	The park is overlooking Crystal Lake. Always been Sandborn Park- history can't be erased	
Crystal Village	Historical name before it was Robbinsdale	
Dakota name for Robin	You should hire a indigenous linguist to ensure you have the correct term/name for a robin to honor and respect the fact we are all on native land.	
Emerald City Park	I think a name associated with the color green for ecology and biota and also I think of Robbinsdale as a gem of a city and also Emerald from the Wizard of Oz has a positive image for many including children.	
Esther Loe Park	A history teacher in Robbinsdale for 40 years. Also, the first woman in the state to be a certified driving instructor.	
Ethel Ray Nance Park	Ethel Ray Nance was a native of Minnesota, a civil rights activist, she was one of the first African-American police officer, and worked at the Phyllis Wheatley House in North Minneapolis	
Fair Valley Shores	<p>"Fair" connotes impartiality and honesty...free from prejudice. It's an honest and unpretentious descriptor which implies inclusivity, ensuring that various demographics are represented and that all individuals are welcomed and represented. "Fair" has a dual connotation when combined with "Valley", further conveying a sense of serenity as noted below.</p> <p>"Valley" references the natural geographical feature of the park within its surrounds. It connotes a "hollow" or "dale" conveying a sense of safety and serenity. This is a unique park setting in which guests feel comforted, embraced and protected; feelings I experienced there as a child through young adulthood. "Fair Valley" intimates these feelings.</p> <p>Lastly, "Shores" embraces the park's relationship to Crystal Lake and Shoreline Drive...a sense of peace and tranquility.</p> <p>"Fair Valley Shores"... inclusivity, serenity, peace and tranquility.</p>	
FAMILY GATHERINGS	IT IDENTIFIES WHAT IT IS FOR, MAKE IT SIMPLE	
Family Park	because when you are there, it is always full of families	
Five Daughters Park	Our city's founder Andrew B Robbins had five daughters. They were remarkable women that help build this city long after Ander B. Robbins was gone.	
Freedom Park	I think it represents letting go of the negative elements of our shared past.	
Gary Tonsager Park	Gary Tonsager spent years as President of Robbinsdale Little League taking a team to the Little League World Series. Gary is also an optometrist who has supplied used eye glasses to undeveloped countries while also introducing baseball to the youth of such countries even arranging for these children to come to America and play baseball tournaments here in the Robbinsdale/Crystal/Golden Valley area.	
Gene Park	Gene Okerlund who died in 2019 was a Robbinsdale alum who was known as one of the most recognizable hosts in sports entertainment as a WWE host.	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
GG's Park : Gordy's Gateway to the Grand Rounds	<p>I am a born and raised member of Robbinsdale. I am honored to submit this name nomination of "GG's Park: Gordy's Gateway to the Grand Rounds"</p> <p>One GG was a name my daughter called her great grandma, Shirley Hanson aka GG, she was born and raised and lived and worked in Robbinsdale for 92 years!</p> <p>As did her mother, Anna Mason, my GG- Great Grandma. My Great Grandpa 'Bud' Mason was a fire firefighter whom lost use of his legs when GG was just a little girl. A fall from a ladder while saving a woman -. Baseball and local parks became the e only places Bud and his daughter Shirley could get to enjoy nature relax and watch a game. My great grandma never was a license driver and now great grandpa couldn't drive.</p> <p>My grandma was thrilled the moment Robbinsdale little league opened up to by child. Logan. Logan has played with Robbinsdale recreation baseball age 5-14 any chance available. Just to hang with friends and play a game. That's also what Hackenmueller's Meat market is. A local hang much like our local little league and skating park.</p> <p>A place to smile and take a walk.</p> <p>Gordy recently sold Hackenmueller's Meat Market . I now work there. But I also have been a customer since birth.</p> <p>My grandfather hung out at Hackenmueller's I would love to go out the Grand Rounds through veterans memorial parkway because the current owner, too, shares a veterans status. and now my child is entering Cooper High School and played Baseball last year on the Armstrong Cooper League with Nolan- Gordy's Grandson. This pro is a great community third space- a connection community access space for children and a park they feel safe biking to and through as teens.</p> <p>I love GG. My Grandma . I love Gordy.</p> <p>I love baseball.</p> <p>It is our favorite pastime.</p> <p>I love our veterans and driving slow in their honor on our local Grand Rounds which is connected to this park... GG's Park, Gordy's Gateway to the Grand Rounds.</p> <p>I want Gordy to know how Good of Grandpa figure he has been to all of us.</p>	
Gus Urban Park	<p>GUS URBAN'S MEAT MARKET- - https://robbinsdale.org/big-hearted-gus/ Gus Urban came with other members of his family to Minneapolis in the 1880's. He took a job working for Mr. C. Coulter of Robbinsdale in 1895 as driver, salesman on a meat wagon that went around selling direct to the customer. The first meat market was built by Mr. Coulter in 1889, opening for business on November 23rd. It stood next to Swift ts Drug Store on West Broadway. In 1896 on January 10th, Gus Urban became owner. In 1902 high prices were protested: Round steak sold for .12 a pound Home cured whole hams .12 a pound Corned beef 6 to .8 a pound Lamb chops .15 a pound Eggs were a .15 dozen and .28 butter a pound. This Park belongs in an honored category of history with the meet up and the nod and Historic reference to the towns oldest standing business- Hackenmueller's Meat Market. It is neutral and symbolic. And reminds us that names change! Gus J Urban Meats to Hackenmueller's ... Sanborn to Gus Urban Park.</p>	
Hau Kola	Lakota for Hello Friend. Welcoming phrase for all who come to the park.	
Herbie Hackenmueller's Hidden Helpers Park	<p>Herbie's HHH Park H.Hackenmueller's Park All great alternatives, too. This park is a third space helpers park. It initiates a youth love of recreation and is a slight pocket park within a regional trail system. It would be an honor to nominate a historic helper of Robbinsdale, Hanckenueller's, the meat market being a traditional third spot for community and the park within grill and extension into a greater shared third space for youth familiars the whole BirdTown community.</p>	
Heroes Park	To honor and recognize our community's first responders: police, fire, and medical emergency crews.	
Hollingsworth Park	I walked through Hollingsworth Park and Sanborn Park today. They are essentially the same park. Extending the Hollingsworth name to Sanborn would unify the two parks.	
Hollister	There was a post from the Robbinsdale historical society about three Robbinsdale brothers who lost their lives in the navy in two war two . Please look up post . The navy even named a ship after them that is now decommissioned.	
inataadiwag park	This word in ojibwe means "they play such game or games with each other" I believe that we should reconnect to our indigenous roots of that land that this park sits on. It has a beautiful playground and many games a tree played by all ages such as baseball, soccer, Frisbee golf, pickle ball and many more. By playing games with each other, we are creating a connection within our community to the land.	
Jiigibiig Park / Agamiing	<p>Ojibwe lib.umn.edu/main-entry/jiigibiig-adv-loc It's catchy, of the Ojibwe language, and means along the shore Ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/main-entry/agamiing-adv-loc Agamiing means on the shore</p> <p>Both words are easy to pronounce as well</p>	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Keep it the same. Sanborn Park	I hung out there as a teen back in the 70's, the name is in a way history and should not be changed because of 'who' he was back then. It would be like erasing history.	
Khalil Azad	Robbinsdale PD killed him near this park.	
Koda Park	"Friend" in Dakota	
Koda Park	"Koda" (pronounced ko-dah) is the modern short form of the Native American name Dakota (Dakȟóta), which translates to friend or ally. The Dakota people lived here before their land was stolen. The name Koda encapsulates the importance of alliance, community, and friendship in the Dakota people's societal structure, and is a powerful symbol of unity, strength and loyalty. There are no parks with "Koda" in the name in Minnesota that I could find. - Dakota means "enlightenment" in Korean culture. - Koda is an endangered language spoken in India and Bangladesh - KODA is an acronym for Kid of Deaf Adult, and that can be highlighted to be inclusive to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. - Coda (same pronunciation as Koda) derives from the Italian word "cauda" (which means tail) that refers to a wrap up that provides a satisfying conclusion to a story or piece of music. Renaming to Koda Park would be a thoughtful way to rename that park to a universal theme while also respecting and being inclusive to the indigenous people who lived here.	
Koda Park	It means friend in Dakota language and this was Dakota land before Sanborn put racial covenants on the land around this park.	
Koda Park	Because Koda means "friend" in the Dakota language. It should NOT be called Sanborn!	
Koda. Park	koda means Friend in Dakota	
Lake Unity Park		
Lakeshore Park	The park is across the street from the shore of Crystal Lake	
Lakeshore Park, or Crystal Lake Park	Connection to the lake nearby	
Lakeside Park		
Lakeside Park	Name it after the street that abuts the park.	
Lakeside Park	Simple geographical and descriptive name. Also coincides with a community social event, at Crystal Lake, hosted by a Robbinsdale business (Lakeside Party-Travail).	
Lakeside Park	Just feel strongly that parks should not be named for people. Too controversial & too many people intent on rewriting history.	
Lakeside Park or Crystal Lakeside Park	The 'other' lakeside Park is not seen or used anywhere. Let's eliminate using people's names.	
Lakeside Park, Shoreline Park, Crystal Lake Park	We feel it important to keep personal names out of Park properties. Givevit a name that won't need to be changed in the future.	
Lakeview Park	I live by the park. I live to walk to the park and by the lake because I want enjoy the beauty of the lake. That view is special to our community; to our neighborhood.	
Lakeview Park		
Leapfrog Park	Leapfrog is fun regardless of age. It's a cute, joyous name that makes people want to laugh. I can hear the children screaming. "Let's go to leapfrog!" It's, just, happy, fun and playful	
Legacy of Peace	Welcome to Legacy of Peace Park Today, we gather not only to rename a space, but to reclaim it. This park, once marked by pain, now stands as a symbol of healing, unity, and resilience. The name Legacy of Peace honors the strength of our Robbinsdale community - its history, its values, and its unwavering commitment to building a future where all feel safe, seen, and welcome. May this park be a place where neighbors connect, children play freely, and peace is not just hoped for - but lived. Together, we write a new chapter. One rooted in hope, grown through unity, and carried forward by every person who steps into this space.	
Legends Park	We have so many famous people from Robbinsdale i.e. sports stars, musicians, actors/actresses, war heroes..... why not honor them all	
Luis Park	I'd like to recommend naming Sanborn Park in honor of Luis, who was truly the heart of Robbinsdale. He worked at El Toro, greeted everyone with a smile, and was a constant presence at community events. Luis was known and loved by all, and when he passed, the whole city mourned. Naming the park after him would be a lasting way to honor his memory and the joy he brought to our community. Rest in peace, Luis.	
Marc Akerlind Park	It's my name; I'm a good person and I live nearby.	
Marjorie Eleanora (or E.) Johnson park	She's a proud Robbinsdalean. She is kind, wholesome, and brings joy to all she encounters. She is celebrated nationwide and brings people together. We've been lucky to have her with us for 106 years!	
Marjorie Johnson	Oldest resident in Rdale. Not controversial at all!	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Marjorie Johnson		
Marjorie Johnson		
Marjorie Johnson	She is a published author who has won over 2500 state fair ribbon, been on talk shows, and is still kicking at 106. She is an inspiration to the people of Robbinsdale and the world. It would be a great tribute to our most famous resident, while she is around to enjoy it. She even has her own Wikipedia Page https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjorie_Johnson	
Marjorie Johnson		
Marjorie Johnson	She is a pillar of our community	
Marjorie Johnson Blue Ribbon Park	She's fabulous! She put Robbinsdale and our Great Minnesota Get Together in a huge spotlight.	
Marjorie Johnson or Blue Ribbon Park	As a resident of Robbinsdale, Marjorie Johnson represented our city with her baking and many blue ribbons. It would be nice to honor her legacy.	
Marjorie Johnson Park	Marjorie is our very own celebrity , everyone knows her as the Blue Ribbon Baker and tv celebrity. She's kind and sweet, always smiling and is never too busy to talk to you. What a beautiful legacy for her family in her 106th year	
Marjorie Johnson Park		
Marjorie Johnson Park	Marjorie is a Robbinsdale gem who has won countless awards for her baking, and she just turned 106 years old!	
Marjorie Johnson park	she's a robbinsdale legend!	
Marjorie Johnson Park	She is a local celebrity winning thousands of blue ribbons at the MN State Fair for her baking. She used to walk Victory Memorial Dr path everyday and put Robbinsdale on the map through her tv interviews. She is a woman that showed determination and didn't give up if she failed. She turned 100 in 2019 and even though she doesn't live here currently I feel it would be a great honor to remember her legacy.	
Marjorie Johnson Park	Marjorie is the most award-winning baker in the nation! And she lives right by the park; it's within view of her house. She has brought the city of Robbinsdale to national recognition for her baking skills and is a beloved resident.	
Marjorie Johnson Park	Marjorie is a long-time resident. She's community-oriented, family-oriented, and a role model citizen and human.	
Marjorie Johnson Park	She's an icon	
Marjorie Johnson Park	She's a "rock star" from Robbinsdale	
Marjorie Johnson Park	Because she's an amazing woman who's done amazing things and is from Robbinsdale	
Marjorie Johnson Park	One of Robbinsdale's oldest and friendliest residents, Marjorie has spent years delighting people with her baking and recipes at home ec classes in local high schools, on a variety of local and national TV shows, and is the winningest Blue Ribbon Baker from the Minnesota State Fair. A wonderful person to be proud of, from right here in Robbinsdale.	
Marjorie Johnson park		
Marjorie Johnson Park or Blue Ribbon Park	She is a legend!	
Marjorie Johnson Park or Blue Ribbon Park	Proposal to change "All such honored individuals as indicated above must be deceased for at least one year." All such honored individuals as indicated above must be have reached 105 years old OR deceased for at least one year.	
Marjorie Johnson's Park	The Blue Ribbon Baker!	
Marjorie Park		
Mendenhall	He was a great band teacher and did many good things for the Robbinsdale School district	
Mendenhall Park	Robert Mendenhall was the Music Superintendent in the Robbinsdale School District. Robbinsdale City Band played every year at Sanborn Park & marched in the Whiz Bang Days parades.	
Mendenhall Park	My uncle Bob Mendenhall was a much loved music teacher in Robbinsdale. He was named Mr. Music and there was an event at the park to honor him.	
Mendenhall Park	Robert Mendenhall was the Music Superintendent for District 281, a beloved Band teacher, City Band Director, Whiz Bang Day Grand Marshall & much more. His family attended RHS & they all have given much to the Robbinsdale Community.	
Mendenhall park	Robert Mendenhall was a pillar of the community and loved by all.	
Mike Holtz Park	One of the longest serving mayors in Robbinsdale history (16 years from 1996-2012) Mayor Holtz was a huge advocate for our parks and park and rec programs. He was the mayor and led the way for many of the updates to our parks including Sanborn (2003)LVT (2010) and others. This would be a tremendous tribute to a longtime public servant (he was a councilman prior to becoming mayor)	
Mni thanks makoche waste	It means beautiful land by the water in dakota language. This is originally dakota land and should have a indigenous name for the people of this land	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Mní Wíchóni Park Park	"Mní Wíchóni" (pronounced M'nee Wee-choh-nee) means "Water is Life" in the Dakota language. This name honors the Indigenous Dakota people, the original stewards of the land and waters in what is now Robbinsdale. It also highlights the importance of water in sustaining life and community. Because the park is located next to Crystal Lake, this name connects directly to its natural setting while promoting inclusiveness, respect for local history, and unity around shared values of environmental care and community well-being.	
Monarch Park	To support butterflies. We could add a butterfly garden to support the name and help sustain the Monarch butterfly population. It would be better than naming after people. Great step for saving the planet	
Nash Park	I would prefer the name Sandborn Park be kept since I grew up on Crystal Lake and participated in many activities at Sandborn Park. But, if a name change is desired, I support Nash Park. The Nash family contributed much to Robbinsdale, particularly the Crystal Baths. They were civic minded and worthy of a park named after them.	
North Crystal Lake Park	Naming after a geographical feature just makes sense!	
Oak Ridge Park	The higher elevation areas ringing the Park, especially along the Drew Ave side, were once fully covered with open grown mature oak trees based on a 1937 aerial photo and the original vegetation map & land surveys of Minnesota. A number of these still remain overlooking the park. Proposed name reflects a still-visible natural aspect of the area, and there are no other nearby municipal parks in the Metro Area with this name. Robbinsdale originally had many areas of oak savanna growing amongst ridges and along areas that bordered wetlands & marshes, which includes the oval-shaped depression that would eventually be filled in and become Sanborn Park.	
Overlook Park	It overlooks Crystal Lake	
Palpable Park, Pontificate Park, or Pontianak Park	My convictions are my own	
Peace Park	Having lived near this park for 32 years, it has always been a peaceful lovely place to play, watch baseball games and walk our dog. In light of the recent shootings at the large wild gathering there, I feel we should re-state for the public, that this is a park of peace. Our world and the people in it need peace.	
Peace Park	In a country that is very divided, we need more reminders about peace. Peaceful living builds communities.	
Peace Park	I respectfully propose that the area designated as Peace Park be named in honor of all those affected by gun violence, with particular recognition of the citizens of Robbinsdale who have been impacted.	
Philando Castile		
Philando Castile Park		
Philando Castile Park	Philando was killed by a Falcon Heights cop in a traffic stop - in front of his partner and their toddler daughter - while doing nothing illegal. Philando lived for a time in Robbinsdale. As you know, the park is named after a major red-lining racist family I grew up a few blocks away at 4438 Shoreline Drive. My brothers and I played at the park. It would be very fitting to name this park for the young man who was killed despite doing nothing wrong. Robbinsdale has always been a very white community, long-dedicated to keeping non-white people from buying houses. This name change would indicate that the community is trying to leave racism behind.	
Philando Castile Park / Castile Park	<p>Philando Castile is one of the most notable and relevant people to have lived in Robbinsdale. His contributions to our metro area as a public school employee who paid for children's lunches, volunteer, mentor, and symbol inspired groundbreaking reforms including free school lunches for school children statewide and a policy reducing non- public-safety (pretextual) traffic stops. Annual celebrations of his life occur each August, and this year was the ninth year.</p> <p>Nearly a third of Robbinsdale residents are people of color, but all of our parks named after people honor white people, and that sends the wrong message. It is long past time that our parks reflect the diversity of our community. Renaming this particular park to honor a person of color who lived here -- along with an educational plaque highlighting (1) Philando's legacy, (2) the old park name, and (3) why the park was renamed -- would be a wonderful symbol. Please use this opportunity to note that we understand the gravity of the harmful actions taken in the past on that land, we disagree with those actions, and we are choosing to not just rename the park to something milquetoast or vague but to aim higher.</p> <p>Renaming to Castile Park would show the intention to be restorative, inclusive, and thoughtful by naming a park many children use after someone who helped numerous children. That is a beautiful way to honor the legacy of Philando Castile (2026 will be the tenth year of his passing), for us as a city taking a step towards equity, and for us to have a name for that park that we can be proud of.</p>	
Philando Park	Philando Castile was a citizen of Robbinsdale when we was unjustly gunned down. He was a person dedicated to education and the wellness for youth ashe worked for St Paul Public Schools as a nutritional specialist. Seems like a great person to name a park after.	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Poplar Park	Named for the many beautiful and large cottonwood/poplar trees that still stand at the park and around Crystal Lake	
Rambo Park	Named after the greatest Robbinsdale Resident of our lifetime, Luis Agulair, server at the former El Toro.	
Ravishing Park	After the Robbinsdale's great pro wrestling legend Ravishing Rick Rude	
Resource Park	To bring awareness for wasted time and resources, as there are no other concerns worth looking this far deep into.	
Robbins Lakeside Community Park	Honoring Mr. Andrew Robbins; the park is by the lake; and it is for the entire community	
Robbins Nest	Again, just a neutral term that calls to our town name in Robbinsdale or Birdtown	
Robbins Park	Andrew Robbins was the driving force behind the development of Robbinsdale. He had the streetcar line built when Minneapolis refused to extend the existing line. This gave residents of both cities the ability to more easily access other businesses to shop or work. Robbinsdale was a farming community that has become a vital suburb of Minneapolis with innumerable amenities. Lakes, trails, parks and a thriving business community all through one man's vision.	
Robbins Rest	Another nod to our city's founder Andrew B. Robbins. A little alliteration goes a long way.	
Robert H Mendenhall	He is my grandfather and was the musician of Robbinsdale for many years.	
ROBERT MENDENHALL	RHS's band master for many, many years. He was beloved by all who knew him!	
Robert Mendenhall Memorial park		
Robert Mendenhall Park	For many years, he was the leader of the Robbinsville high school band and years after that he was the leader of the Robbinsdale community band.	
Robin Park	It's history neutral, a prolific songbird species, a symbol of the town	
Robin Park		
Robin Park	It matches the Robbinsdale theme and should be not be controversial as not named after a person. It also shows one find the environment important. There could be some environmental panels related to how we can make the environment safe for bird and other wildlife.	
Rosa Park(s) or Rosa Parks	Rosa Parks is a well-known civil rights hero and icon. The name itself will bring much notoriety to this park.	
Sanborn	Because renaming it is performative nonsense, as well as a waste of time and money. For the cost of new sign, you could have helped remove a covenant. How do I know? I removed one.	
Sanborn	Leave the name alone	
Sanborn	This is a park rich in tradition and history. My family was raised in Robbinsdale near this park. We spent tons of time enjoying it. Changing the name will tarnish those memories. Leave it be please!	
Sanborn	Leave it be!	
Sanborn	Keep the name as is. I grew up in this neighborhood & the name means & has meant a lot to the neighborhood. Many family activities & memories remain at Sanborn Park. I do not want it to be renamed.	
Sanborn		
Sanborn	Changing the name with a trace indicates that you as a city are not taking historical responsibility for the alleged racism that occurred in the past. As a historian, I find it much more impactful for you to instead make a plaque describing what happened and that you're recognizing it was the wrong way to treat people.	
Sanborn	A name change isn't required.	
Sanborn		
Sanborn Park	There is no reason to change the name - the daughter of the former mayor pushed her agenda on a park she had nothing to do with. Its all performative and pandering.	
Sanborn Park	It should remain Sanborn Park - there is zero reason to waste money on something that no one complained about for decades until someone wanted to feel special and interject themselves, because their dad was in power.	
Sanborn Park	There's no reason for any "equity/inclusion", its a public park, its already as inclusive as itll ever be... whats the need for anything indian related, Robbinsdale literally had no Indians there? This whole exercise is just so tiresome and its clear theres only one desired intent of it.. Leave the park alone, youre just wasting everyone's time and money.	
Sanborn Park	Don't erase history!	
Sanborn Park	Leave the park name as is. You can't change history.	
Sanborn Park	History, renaming things because we think the past was bad is folly.	
Sanborn Park	No need to change it.	
Sanborn Park		

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Sanborn Park	If it MUST be renamed then I vote Marjorie Johnson	
Sanborn Park	How absolutely ridiculous to consider changing this long standing parks name! Racially restrictive covenants were removed in Minnesota in 1953!!!! Robbinsdale remains a wonderful diverse community. Remove the discussion and get to work on more important issues in our communities.	
Sanborn Park	Renaming everything you have a problem with doesn't make it go away.	
Sanborn Park	No reason to change it. Made up reason to go after the park and change the name. No proof any of it was enforced.	
Sanborn Park	Please leave the park name as is, Sanborn Park. There is no good reason to change it, it is part of the City of Robbinsdale's history.	
Sanborn Park	My property taxes went up 13.2% and now I find out my tax dollars are going towards this unimportant policy that impacted nobody in the city whatsoever. How much salaried worker time is being spent on coming up with these policies through meetings and whatever is needed to push this unimportant name change through?	
Sanborn Park	No reason to change it.	
Sanborn Park	I am leaving the park name alone because the people who live in Robbinsdale do not condone blaming the present for the sins of the past. We can be leaders in our world by allowing people the grace to learn from their mistakes and become better people. If we do want to go down this path, I would counter that we are erasing Women's history in Robbinsdale. Sarah Josephine Gates Sanborn, a woman, founded and led the Sanborn Holding Company and her daughter, Charlotte Sanborn Hellberg, was the Secretary for 20 years. I believe that if those women were alive today, they would agree that those clauses were absolutely wrong. Ergo, changing the name is sexist. Do you see how fast this behavior becomes a run-away train of ridiculousness? If you do not want to be held accountable for the sins of your own grandparents/great-grandparents, then you will oppose changing the name of the park.	
SANBORN PARK	I believe that renaming the park diminishes historical context and robs future generations of the opportunity to learn about the past.	
Sanborn Park	I grew up at 4246 Beard, about one block from Sanborn Park, and spent many many hours of my childhood there. The reasons given for the renaming process failed to include proper perspective. Although we can all agree the anti-racial policies would never fly today, how common were they in other communities at that time back then? Will we also embark on a commission project to research the origins of Abbott, beard, and Ewing? Maybe those should be renamed as well if we find that any of those men might have done something improper at some point in their lives. This is a waste of city council time and money. Move on!	
Sanborn Park		
Sanborn Park	<p>People know it as Sanborn Park, it is accessible, welcoming and available for all to use and has been for decades.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in the past, the women in the Sanborn family, along with the land developer, approved its unjust, discriminatory platting policies (early 1900's). This was a common practice in the United States at that time. Fortunately, this practice was done away with since approx. 1950. https://www.historynet.com/shelley-v-kraemer-ruling-closing-down-covenants/</p> <p>If the Sanborn family name is to be removed, Shoreline Drive Park could be an acceptable alternative. It is also a geographical reference.</p>	
Sanborn Park		
Sanborn Park		
Sanborn Park	Changing the name of the park is an attempt to erase the past history, pretending that racial covenants ever existed. We as a society and community have acknowledged and learned from the past. Changing the name loses the history that we have learned from.	
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Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Sanborn Park	I vote to keep the name Sanborn Park. Changing the name erases history and what we have learned from our past. We no longer abide by racial covenants. Keeping the name Sanborn Park should be considered among the park names being considered and residents should be allowed to vote on it. Ward 2 residents should have a say in naming the park that we live next to. Thank you for your consideration.	
Sanborn Park	I entered Sanborn Park as a default name. If not Sanborn Park, at least name the park after a neutral characteristic, like a street surrounding the park or the lake it is next to.	
Sanborn Park (see reasoning below)	If Sanborn did not donate the land, we simply would not even have a park there today at all. I am not a fan of re-writing history, but am a fan of learning the lessons from it. Obviously the park is readily open, accessible, & welcoming to people of all races today. You could also view the present day diversity of Robbinsdale and the park users as vindication for battle vs redlining, and a triumph. I believe this story & lesson speaks louder than changing the name to some generic name that appeases citizens of every opinion, but will allow the triumph of outlawing redlining to fade away over time. I think a better solution would be for the city to coordinate an annual celebration of diversity event, right in the middle of Sanborn Park.	
Sanbofn		
Sandborn	By adding one letter to Sanborn it changes the meaning. Many people have been spelling it that way anyway and knew nothing about what Sanborn was about.	
Sandborn	Leave the park name as it is .	
Sandborn	Please leave it as is.	
Sandborn park	If you choose to get rid of history. You will make it happen again.	
Sandborn Park	Renaming is stupid, we called it Sandborn as kids anyway. Win win for a stupid political pick me moment and not actually changing what it is called.	
SandBorn park	leave as is . it will never be a good park just leave it	
Sandborn.	It's what the park is. Get your own park call it what you want.	
Sandlot Park	This is the park where my childhood friends and I grew up learning to play baseball. Using this name still holds onto half of the original Sandborn.	
Scanlon Park	I know there's a statue dedicated to him at the police department, but further honoring the sacrifice of Officer John Scanlon seems a fitting tribute to a fallen officer.	
Schaper Park	This would honor the long Schaper Toys company legacy, which was created by William Herbert Schaper of Robbinsdale. The company was responsible for several games that are still being made, including Cootie, Ants in the Pants, Don't Break the Ice, and Don't Spill the Beans. The Schaper company also created Stompers in the 1980s which, along with Cootie, were included in the Toy Industry Association's "Toys of the Century" list in 2003. As the park is a place to play, it feels fitting that a creator of generation-spanning toys be honored. Even if Golden Valley already has a Schaper Park, he began in Robbinsdale.	
Schulz Park	My parents are Edwin and Dolores Schulz. They are 92 and 87 years old. They have lived across the street from the park for over 57 years. Also, my father grew up in Robbinsdale on regent Ave. They are long time, proud Robbinsdale residents. The most kind and generous people. It would mean the world for them to have the park named after them. As children, my sister and I played at that park daily, from sun up to sun down. Thank you for reading my entry. Gail M Schulz-Olshack.	
Shoreline		
Shoreline Commons	"Shoreline" references one of the boundary streets, and "Commons" evokes a sense of shared space and community.	
Shoreline Drive Park	The park is located on a shoreline. And Shoreline Drive is right next to it. This would also (hopefully) keep the park from being renamed in the next few decades.	
Shoreline Drive Park	Shoreline Drive Park is a great name that represents the area the park is located.	
Shoreline park	Simple and appropriate	
Shoreline Park		
Shoreline Park	Rename to reflect our wonderful lake and to align with Robbinsdale's mission to be a green city... any name that encompasses nature!!	
Shoreline Park	Naming a public park after any individual can often lead to controversy - as demonstrated by the current situation prompting this renaming. Parks are meant to be peaceful, inclusive spaces for the whole community, free from political or personal overtones.	
Shoreline Park	It's on Shoreline Drive and has a beautiful view of the lake and dock on the shore.	
Shoreline Park	location of park is always helpful to know the park's location.	
Shoreline Park		
Shoreline Park	Parks are meant to be peaceful, inclusive spaces for the whole community.	

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Shoreline Park	It coincides with Shoreline Drive. Naming after a person is not relevant to the location,	
Shoreline Park	The park is next to Shoreline drive, and is on the shoreline of Crystal lake. It connects to current geography and can help people easily know where it's located by name alone	
Shoreline Park	1. It helps to highlight its location. 2-It's honoring all of Robbinsdale's residents without emphasizing past errors or grievances.	
Shoreline Park	It is on Shoreline Drive so it seems logical for the name to reflect the location, it also reflects it is on/near the water. PLEASE DO NOT NAME AFTER A PERSON, people have skeletons in their closets, nobody is perfect and I wouldn't want to see it renamed in years to come.	
Shoreline Park	The name of the closest street to the park. That should be non-controversial.	
Shoreline Park	Because it is on beautiful Shoreline Drive	
Shoreline Park	Name meets criteria of #2 and is tied to the name of the street the runs along the front of the park that faces the shoreline of Crystal Lake. It's consistent with and in theme with the names of the other parks around Crystal Lake: Sunrise Park and Lakeland Park.	
Shoreline Park		
Shoreline Park	I would prefer it simply be left as Sanborn Park, but if a name change is inevitable, it should not be named after an individual. Shoreline Park makes sense, as it is bounded by Shoreline Drive, and the lake is visible from the park.	
Shoreline Park	Natural fit with the name of the street next to it.	
Shoreline Park	We feel that the park should not be named after a person because this same issue will come up again in the future. No matter what you rename it we will still call it Sanborn Park. We have lived here 40 years and were raised in North Minneapolis. We frequented Sanborn Park even as kids.	
Shoreline Park if you must change	Please do NOT rename Sandborn park. Every place that has been named after a person carries their package so we would have to go back and rename 90% of those names. It is part of our history that we learn from but not necessary to have to change. Thank you for your consideration	
Shoreline Spark	Please keep politics out of our park. It's for our children and adults to rekindle their youth and enthusiasm. To PLAY with youthful minds. To escape from hardships of the world. Youthful thinking is not just about feeling young; it is about adopting an outlook that fosters engagement, curiosity and positivity, regardless of age. A park for all to Spark enthusiasm, positive energy and community.	
Sky Blue Park	Neutral happy name, kid friendly, and have a tie to the our city namesake the Robin and the color of Robin eggs.	
Songbird Park	Neutral happy name, kid friendly, and have a tie to the our city namesake the Robin.	
Sunrise Park	I don't want the park named after a person. Keep it neutral. My family hs been here since 1948 and we will have a hard time with a new name, of a park called Sanborn, but agree with the past issues a name change is needed. I just don't want a person's name. Thank you	
Sunset Park	Sunsets are pretty when walking around the lake	
Surfin' Bird Park	The name bridges the past (The Trashmen song written in Robbinsdale) with the present day practice of calling our little city Birdtown.	
The Bird Nest	Robbinsdale feels much like a bird nest community. Everyone brings something completely different in to build this nest. The sense of community we have in Birdtown is unmatched and I feel should reflect that. It's not political, it's just a beautiful image of the play we call home.	
The Gary Bjorlin Memorial Gardens. Or simply Bjorlin Park	In the late 70s local folk hero Gary Bjorlin infamously climbed the Throbbinsdale water tower to protest police brutality. The news paper article can be found in the Robbinsdale Historical Society's website.	
The Park	Meets most all criteria	
Trailside Park	Many paths lead to or around the Park making it an ideal place for all people to walk, stay and play.	
True Confessions Park	Robbinsdale celebrates the history of Fawcett publishing with Whiz-Bang days every year. The first issue of True Confessions magazine came out in 1922 when Fawcett Publishing was still located in downtown Robbinsdale on West Broadway. The magazine was out selling Whiz Bang a few years later and it is still available on newsstands today. It's a fun name. Imagine what goes on in True Confessions Park!	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Unity Park	<p>I propose the name Unity Park to reflect and celebrate the diverse and inclusive spirit of the Robbinsdale community. This name embodies the values of togetherness, respect, and collaboration across all backgrounds, cultures, and generations.</p> <p>Given the park's history and the city's commitment to equity and social justice, Unity Park serves as a powerful symbol of healing and forward momentum and bringing people together in a shared space that welcomes everyone and promotes a sense of belonging.</p> <p>It is a simple yet profound name that encourages community connection and inspires future generations to continue building a neighborhood founded on unity, inclusiveness, and mutual respect.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>The name "Unity Park" will invite and welcome residents of all ages, races, religions, nationalities, and other distinctions to visit the park in a spirit of togetherness and inclusiveness. If a person's name is chosen for the park, on the other hand, that name will someday inevitably lose its relevance and value for future generations --as was the case with Sanborn Park. The name "Unity," however, will always remind the people of Robbinsdale of a vital and timeless community value that they should both aspire to, and also embrace.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>I support this name because it seems to have broad appeal, and stands for something opposite to the racial divisiveness represented by the current name.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>As a public space, this park should be a place where all members of our community feel welcome, safe, and represented. However, the current name carries a painful history that does not reflect the values of inclusivity, respect, and equity that our city strives to uphold. Retaining a name rooted in racism sends an implicit message that such legacies are acceptable in our shared spaces. Renaming the park to Unity Park would serve several important policy goals: Equity and Inclusion – A new name will create a public space that welcomes all residents and aligns with the City's broader equity and anti-discrimination initiatives. Community Trust – Demonstrating responsiveness to resident concerns about harmful symbols will strengthen trust between the Council and the community. Precedent and Best Practices – Numerous municipalities across the nation have successfully renamed parks, schools, and public facilities to eliminate racist references, showing this is a feasible and widely accepted step in responsible governance. Future Legacy – Naming the park "Unity" establishes a forward-looking identity that celebrates cohesion and shared values, rather than memorializing past injustices. Renaming the park to Unity Park would send a powerful message of healing and progress. "Unity" represents togetherness, resilience, and the celebration of diversity—qualities that define our city and that we should proudly reflect in our public landmarks. This new name would honor the contributions of all residents and provide future generations with a space that reflects our shared commitment to justice and community.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>The word unity is a derivative of the motto of the United States, the Latin phrase e pluribus unum; "Out of many, one." Unity, as a park name, is simultaneously both descriptive of and aspirational for Robbinsdale. It reflects the rich and varied tapestry of its residents, as well as the desire to work together - with Unity - in common cause for the betterment of our community.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>We all need more unity right now. We have so much division. Unity is a healing term that connotes support and togetherness, for the community.</p>	
Unity Park	<p>My desire is to live in a unified community. I think a park named Unity would demonstrate to the residents and visitors that Robbinsdale strives to be a unified community.</p>	
Unity Park LP	<p>The word unity is a derivative of the motto of the United States, the Latin phrase e pluribus unum; "Out of many, one." Unity, as a park name, is simultaneously both descriptive of and aspirational for Robbinsdale. It reflects the rich and varied tapestry of its residents, as well as the desire to work together - with Unity - in common cause for the betterment of our community.</p>	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Verne Gagne Park	<p>Verne Gagne was a famous professional wrestler who grew up on a farm in Robbinsdale, wrestled for Robbinsdale High School, and went on to be one of the most influential professional wrestlers of the 20th Century. While wrestling for Robbinsdale High, he won the state championship in 1942 and 1943. He was recruited to the University of Minnesota football team and played football and wrestled for the University, winning several wrestling titles including several big ten conferences and NCAA championships. He was an alternate member of the 1948 US Olympics Team. Gagne went on to create the American Wrestling Association, one of the most successful wrestling associations in North America. Gagne has many titles to his name, including winning the AWA World Heavyweight Championship ten times. He was admitted to the World Championship Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1993 and the WWE Hall of Fame in 2006. He was also a father and a veteran, serving in the US Marines. Professional wrestling is a performance art that is incredibly popular throughout the world, from luchadores in Mexico, to puroresus in Japan, to the many famous professional wrestlers in the United States. Robbinsdale is proud to be the hometown of many professional wrestlers including Gagne, his son Greg Gagne, Curt Hennig, Nikita Koloff, Rick Rude, Brady Boone, and Tom Zenk. "Mean" Gene Okerlund, one of the most famous professional wrestling announcers of all time, also attend Robbinsdale High School for a while. Naming this park after Gagne celebrates Gagne as an honored community leader. Gagne is an inspiring figure that celebrates the positive values of professional wrestling including courage, discipline, perseverance, mental toughness, humility and plain old fun. It also demonstrates the excellence of a public education and the strength of a public school's community. It celebrates the Robbinsdale School District which inspired and trained so many excellent professional wrestling figures.</p>	
Veterans Park	If the name has to be changed from Sanborn, I think honoring our veterans would be a great thing.	
Veterans Park	Honoring all veterans, and ties in to the parkway nearby.	
Victory	<p>As a child, I lived at 4255 York Av. I spent many happy days at the park, skating, watching Babe Ruth baseball, playing on the playground and enjoying the Robbinsdale City Band in the summer. It is a beautiful park.</p>	
Whiz Bang Days Park or Whiz Bang Park	It is a 70+ community celebration for the city of Robbinsdale and we should be proud of such an accomplishment for having a community celebration last so long. I also feel that moves away from an one person in the community and the focus on the whole community.	
whiz bang park/ joy robb park / crystal lake park		
Wisdom	Stop naming parks after people. That can only lead to problems.	
Wodakota Haven→ open and natural, robins thrive in meadows	<p>"Wodakota": • A language services director from a Dakota community explained that in her opinion, the best Dakota equivalent for concepts like "peace," "community," "wellness of our people," and unity is "Wodakota". She described it as embodying well-being, community harmony, a way of life, and a shared philosophy—not just the abstract idea of "peace." "Heaven" - A safe space and welcoming like nesting ground</p>	
Woškate Park	<p>Woškate is a Dakota word that roughly translates to "game", "frolic", "fun", "sport", "recreation" or "play", which are all apt descriptions pertaining to a large community park. Since the Dakota were the people living here when Europeans arrived, it would be noble to honor them by selecting an appropriate word from their long-suppressed language. Woškate does not carry any kind of controversy such as a name of someone with a potential dark history, is more interesting than a basic reference to the current landscape, and with some practice it should be easy enough to remember since it's a single word rather than a phrase. With several other places in the Metro Area being renamed with appropriate Dakota words, why not take this opportunity here? My source of information came from the English-Dakota dictionary found below https://dictionary.swodli.com/</p>	

Please enter your park name submission:	If desired, please share the reasoning behind your park name submission:	Meets Criteria?
Wright Park	<p>The earliest black people to live in Robbinsdale were the John & Fannie Wright family. They bought a truck farm in Rdale in 1916 and suffered decades of harassment and physical abuse. MN's largest KKK chapter paraded openly in Rdale in the early 20s. Then-Mayor Wallace noted the Klan parade down W Broadway included many Rdale residents. They burnt a cross near North Memorial. Sanborn Holding Company—created in '21—put "whites only" restrictions on all deeds in Sanborn Terrace and Victory View subdivisions (both sides of Sanborn Park). By 1923, MN had 51 KKK chapters, 30k+ members, and the newspaper 'Voice of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan'. Just after the Brown V Board of Ed decision in '54, John Samuel Wright (3rd generation of Wrights in Rdale) attended elementary school in Rdale for the 1st time. During recess, kids screamed the N word at John and physically attacked him. The school blamed John. White residents harassed POC. A mob burnt a 30' cross (KKK symbol) into the Wright's yard in the late 50s. We've made progress, but progress isn't linear. It takes intentional effort by those with power. Institutionalized racism lingers, so individuals don't have to be racist for structural racism to thrive. Fight for those with less privilege. Humphrey park was named after Hubert Humphrey—lead author of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—and Sochacki Park after Walter Sochacki—union pres who fought for equal pay for women and had Olympian Jesse Owens stay at his house when many thought it wrong for a black person stay at a white person's house in Rdale. Those steps moved our city & country forward. Let's keep making steps. Renaming Sanborn to Wright Park would be a restorative step that honors a black family who lived here when the Sanborns implemented racial segregation. Because they were banned from living in Sanborn developments, renaming to Wright Park is a powerful statement that we rebuke the evil actions of the past & we welcome people of all races/ethnicities.</p>	



TO: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission
PREPARED BY:
DATE: October 28, 2025
RE: New Ward 2 Commissioner

Background:

Ward 2 Commissioner, Erin Sparks and At Large Commissioner from Ward 2 Mark Laverty, both resigned. Ward 2 Councilperson, Jason Greenberg has nominated Jana Rasmussen, to fill the vacancy.

Analysis:

Jana was unable to make it to the meeting on the 28th, but she will be approved by City Council at the November 4th City Council meeting.

Recommendation:

Read Jana's letter of interest and welcome her when she joins us in November.

Attachments:

1. Jana Rasmussen PRFC Letter of Interest

Jana Rasmussen

3806 43rd Avenue North

Robbinsdale, Minnesota

jana.rass@hotmail.com

Phone: 612.812.4082

To: Matt Bazyk-Recreation Services Manager

Jason Greenberg-Ward 2 City Council Member

Re: City of Robbinsdale Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Letter of Interest

I am interested in being considered to serve on the City of Robbinsdale Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission. I have been a resident of Robbinsdale for 18 years and my husband and I decided pretty much immediately after we purchased our home that we would stay and raise our family here. We were drawn to this community because of the parks, the lakes and the amount of large, old trees in our neighborhood. We both grew up in northern Minnesota and Robbinsdale feels like our small town up north.

I regularly visit the parks in our community. I enjoy walking on the many paths, ice skating, playing pickleball, and attending the numerous events planned by our community. Our children have also participated in summer camps and recreational sports hosted at our city parks.

I think it is important to make parks and other facilities accessible to all residents and foster community connections in a welcoming and safe space. Being outdoors, active and connecting with nature-exercising, fishing, playing games with friends and family is so important and I hope that I can bring a voice to this group to ensure that all are able to enjoy what our community has to offer. It would be an honor to serve and I look forward to the opportunity.

Thank you,

Jana Rasmussen

TO: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

PREPARED BY:

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Manor Park Playground

Background:

PRFC worked with the community to pick a new playground for Manor Park. Installation of the new playground began last week!

Analysis:

Installation of the structure should be completed soon. Installation of the pour-in-place rubberized surfacing will more than likely need to be installed in the spring due to the cold temperatures.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

None

TO: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

PREPARED BY:

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Sanborn Park Remodel

Background:

Sanborn Park has multiple projects happening and more that are scheduled for 2026 and 2027. The cost of these projects are proving difficult to fund. City Council is in the process of learning about and approving the budget. Budget approval happens in December.

Analysis:

Projects in Sanborn could be pushed for a year or more depending on budget and other pending project timelines.

Recommendation:

We should consider smaller alternative projects in other parks for 2026 if we can't continue with Sanborn as planned.

Attachments:

None

TO: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission
PREPARED BY: Matthew Bazyk, Recreation Services Manager
DATE: October 28, 2025
RE: Sanborn Parks Renaming

Background:

Sanborn Park is undergoing a name change at the request of City Council. At this point, City Council requested names from community members, renaming suggestions have been submitted, the Parks and Recreation Commission vetted the names using the renaming guidelines approved by the City Council, those results were returned to the City Council who selected six names for consideration and have requested the PRFC nominate an additional name from the current submissions that reference the Dakota people. City Council would like for the PRFC to give feedback on the names they have selected in order to help them select a name in early 2026.

Analysis:

During the November meeting, we will discuss pros and cons for each name and return those comments to City Council.

Recommendation:

Think on and discuss the naming options with people in your Wards before the November meeting and bring that feedback back to the PRFC meeting.

Names in consideration: Birdtown Park, Shoreline Park, Unity Park, Blue Ribbon Park, Koda Park, an additional Dakota language name that has been submitted those are:

- **Seven Virtues Park**
- Šišóka Park - Robin Park in Dakota.
- Hau Kola - Potentially Lakota for Hello Friend. Also, greetings in D/Lakota are gendered, and I think this is the male/neutral form? So Khodá Park might be a better choice, but the advisors should definitely weigh in.
- Khodá Park - Friend Park.
- Mní Wičhóni Park - Water Is Life Park. This is a meaningful phrase in Dakota culture.
- Mní Thanks (I think this is a play on words, like "Many Thanks," but I think the literal translation is "Thanks Water") Makhóche Wašte (maybe Good Land or Sweet Land).
- Wódakhota Haven - Peacetime Haven
- Wóskate Park - Game Park or Festivities Park

Attachments:

None



TO: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission
PREPARED BY: Matthew Bazyk, Recreation Services Manager
DATE: October 28, 2025
RE: Parks Update

Background:

Scott Welle has provided these updates from the Parks Department.

Analysis:

Community Gardens: connected water supply at Lake Drive site in 2026. Pergolas at both sites were installed this fall. Picnic tables are to come in the spring of 2026.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

None