



Parks and Recreation Naming Applications

Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board

May 4, 2026



Background

- On October 20, 2020, City Council approved a set of updates to the Naming Policy Guidelines and Application Process.
- This process is mainly for new parks properties and trails. The naming policy discourages renaming existing properties.
- April 2021 City Council recommended Park Board serve as the ad hoc committee to review naming applications.
- In early 2026, Council passed a revised naming policy that formalized the role of the Park Board as the committee responsible for reviewing applications and making recommendations to Council.

Naming Resources

- Naming Policy-
<https://tinyurl.com/namingpol>
- Naming Application-
<https://tinyurl.com/nameappPDF>

Current applications

- Internal applications
 - Congress Street Park
 - Hercules Park
- External Applications
 - Rugby Field at Vela Complex
 - Softball field at Fred Moore Park

Process

- May 4, 2026
 - Park Board Consideration
- June 2, 2026
 - City Council Consideration

Naming Policy Highlights

(Res. 21-2706)

General

- The policy discourages renaming parks, facilities, and other City properties that already have established names.

Naming after an Individual

Naming a park, facility, city property, or a portion of these after a person requires that:

- The person must have been a resident of the City of Denton
- The individual should be/have been a member of the community in good standing
- The individual should be noted for making an exceptional positive contribution to society at the local, state, national, or global level

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Internal Application - Congress Street



- Internal application to name two parcels of land that will form one park space.
- The parcels were formerly part of Old Calhoun Middle School's track and field and tennis courts.
- The land was provided to the City as part of a property exchange that provided to Denton ISD the site of the McMath Middle School which was formerly part of South Lakes Park.
- Named after the street the park is located on, in line with naming policy guidelines.

Internal Application - Hercules Park



- Located at 501 Hercules Lane off N. Locust Street. Consists of 2.151 acres of land.
- The purchase of this land was finalized by City Council in August 2024.
- Named after the street the park is located on, in line with naming policy guidelines.

External Application – Fred Moore Softball Field

- Application received from Cynthia Cochran
- Seeks to name Softball Field at Fred Moore Park after Luther Varner, a long-serving softball coach from Pilot Point, but who served in Denton
- Staff recommend denying this application because Mr. Varner was not a Denton resident.

External Application – Ruby Field at Vela Park

- This application received from the University of North Texas Rugby Club
- Staff recommend naming Rugby Field #1 after Art Anderson, a long-serving coach with the UNT Rugby
- Staff recommend denying application because the field is already part of the name Vela complex.
- Additionally, the individual they seek to honor is still alive, and our naming policy indicates a preference against naming facilities, or fields, after people who are still alive.

Questions?