



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Chrisine Taylor

DATE: May 4, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action regarding the naming applications for parks submitted by Denton Parks and Recreation.

BACKGROUND

City Policy and Previous Naming Effort

The current naming effort represents the most recent phase of a process that began in October 2020 with the updating of the City of Denton naming policy guidelines for city buildings, facilities, land, parks, trails, or any portion thereof. The naming policy was recently updated in March 2026 to codify Council's direction that the Park Board should continue to serve as the committee to consider future naming applications and provide recommendations regarding those applications to City Council.

The current naming policy discourages *renaming* parks, parks properties, and parks facilities that already have established, recognized names. Additionally, the naming policy includes guidelines and standards for naming, including the following:

- To name a park after an individual that person must have been a resident of Denton in good standing and must have made an exceptional contribution to society at the local, state, national or global level.
- City properties may be named after individuals who died in honorable service to the City, State, or Nation, or who were known for profound contributions to humanitarian causes.
- City properties (or portions thereof) may also be named after foundations or organizations that have either made a lasting and exceptional positive impact on life at the local, state, national, or international level.
- City properties (or portions thereof) may also be named after organizations who have provided a unique and extraordinary contribution in support of developing all or a portion of a particular City building, facility, parcel of land, or other City property.

Internal Naming Applications

Presently, staff are asking Park Board to consider approving two, internal naming applications for the following parks:

- **Congress Street Park** (700 block of Congress Street and 500 block of Mounts Ave.): The application seeks to name two separate parcels of land that are in very close proximity, but not adjacent, as a singular park. These parcels correspond to the sites of the former Calhoun Middle School running track and tennis courts and total 3.433 acres. Denton ISD and the City of Denton agreed to a land swap that was approved by the City Council November 18, 2025. Under the terms of this swap the City of Denton exchanged 9.4 acres of land at South Lakes Park where the McMath Middle School track and field are currently located for the Calhoun parcels.

- **Hercules Park** (501 Hercules Lane): This application seeks to name a parcel of land located off Hercules Lane in North Denton that totals 2.151 acres. The purchase of this land was finalized by City Council in August 2024 and future plans call for a master plan to realize a fully functional parks space that might include a loop trail, playground, and water fountain.

External Naming Applications

Parks staff also received two external naming applications from members of the public. These two applications both ask for naming consideration that lies outside of the provisions of the current naming policy; therefore, staff have administratively removed these from consideration.

- **Rugby Field at G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex**: Andrew Marshall with the North Texas Rugby Club has requested that the rugby pitch at the G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex (3801 N. Elm) be named after Art Anderson, founder of the UNT Rugby Club and a long time mentor to players of the sport.
- **Softball Field at Fred Moore Park**: Cynthia Cochran submitted an application requesting the softball field at Fred Moore Park be named after Luther Varner, a longtime coach of women's softball in Southeast Denton. Varner was a resident of Pilot Point and passed away in 1994.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

In accordance with the naming policy, Parks and Recreation staff will convey park board's recommendations regarding the internal and external naming applications to City Council who will make the final determination to approve or deny each application.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board review the current naming policy and applications in order to be prepared to provide feedback and make a recommendation.

Staff recommend approving internal applications for Congress Street Park and Hercules Park.

Parks staff additionally recommend that Park Board support the denial of the two external applications that staff determined were asking for naming consideration that is outside of the scope of the current policy.

FISCAL INFORMATION

If a facility or park requires new signage as a consequence of naming, this will be a new unanticipated expense. Staff cannot guarantee that a sign will be constructed soon or even placed on the list of short-term park priorities, unless a funding source for these features is determined.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Ordinance

Exhibit 3- Blank Naming Application

Exhibit 4- Presentation

Exhibit 5- Applications Received for Naming 2026

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison Wing, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

Prepared by:

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