

**City of Ann Arbor
Parks and Recreation**

PAC

PRESENTATION:

PARKS RENAMING

POLICY

AD HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

JOSH LANDEFELD, PARKS MANAGER

BRITTANY PATTON, RECREATION SUPERVISOR

RUTH KRAUT, PAC COMMISSIONER

RACHEL SKYLIS, PAC COMMISSIONER

GALEN HARDY, PAC COMMISSIONER



PROCESS TAKEN

- Identified other naming policies around the country to identify criteria for:
 - Scoring
 - Who or what parks can be named after
 - Community engagement processes
- Developed a list of pros and cons of other policies to decide what pros to incorporate into the new policy
- Discussed local areas of emphasis



BACKGROUND

Purpose

The naming or renaming of parks may occur for various reasons including but not limited to: **acquisition of new park land**, **correcting problematic names or terms as updated details emerge**, and **addressing unremarkable park names**.

This policy will be used to:

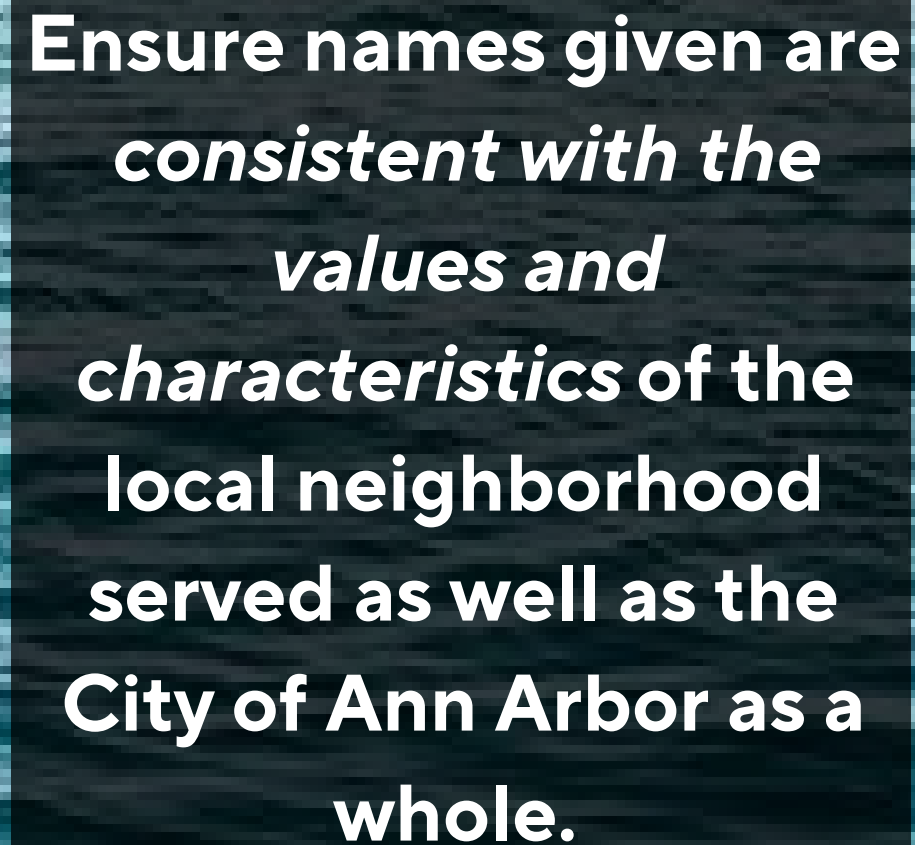
- Establish a set of standard procedures and guidelines for the naming and renaming of parks, recreational areas and facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Ann Arbor.
- Guide name recognition and establish uniform application.
- Name newly acquired parks and recreational facilities as well as existing parks when deemed appropriate or necessary.



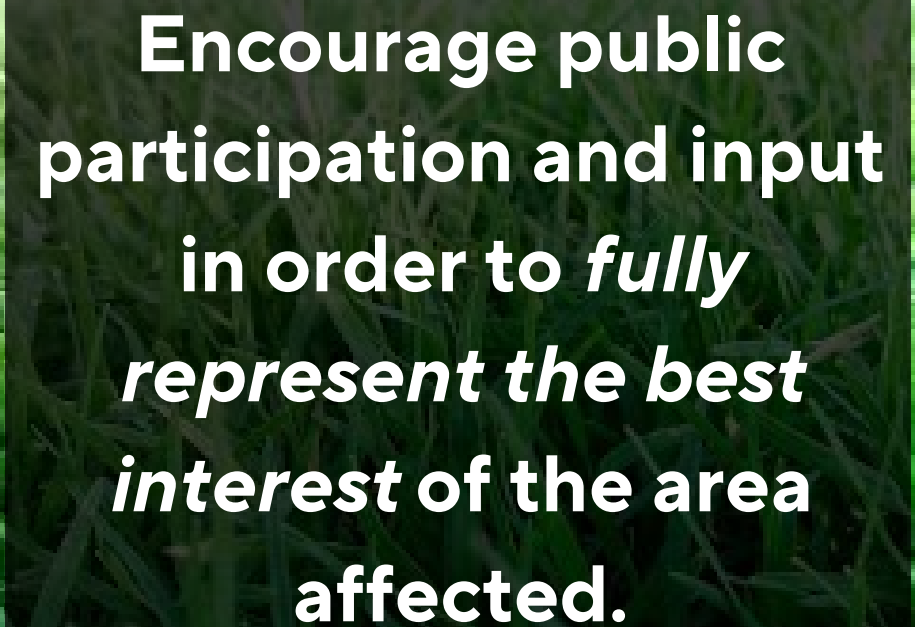
OBJECTIVES



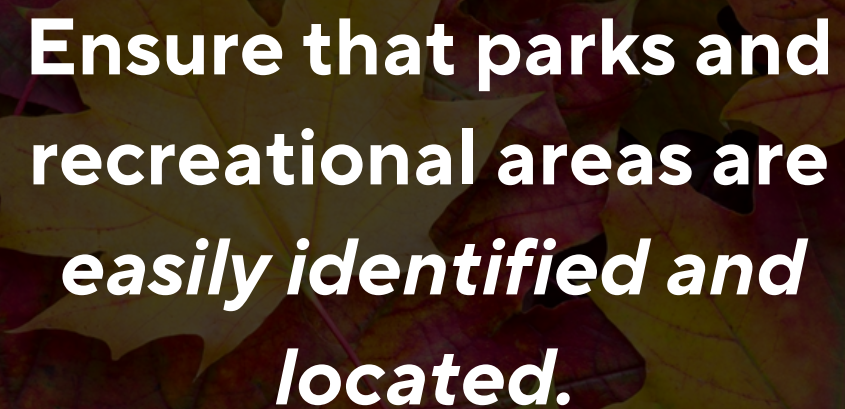
Enhances a *sense of community* within the city.



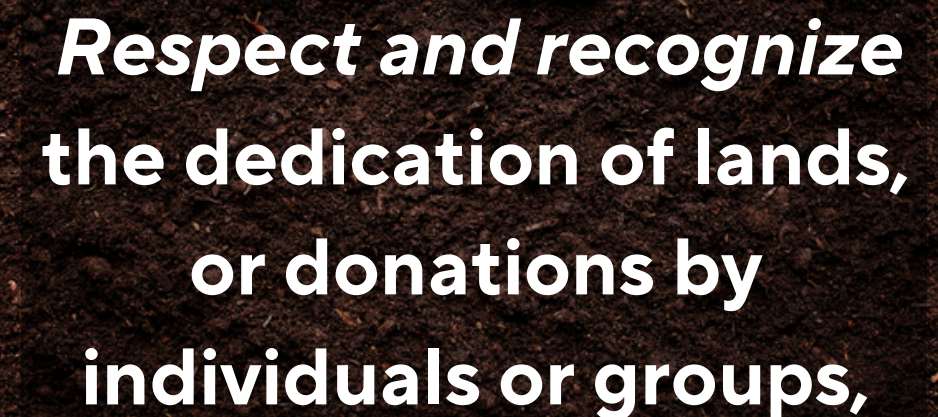
Ensure names given are *consistent with the values and characteristics* of the local neighborhood served as well as the City of Ann Arbor as a whole.



Encourage public participation and input in order to *fully represent the best interest* of the area affected.



Ensure that parks and recreational areas are *easily identified and located*.



Respect and recognize the dedication of lands, or donations by individuals or groups,

NAMING & RENAMING CRITERIA

Parks, buildings, and major features may be named or renamed in regards to:

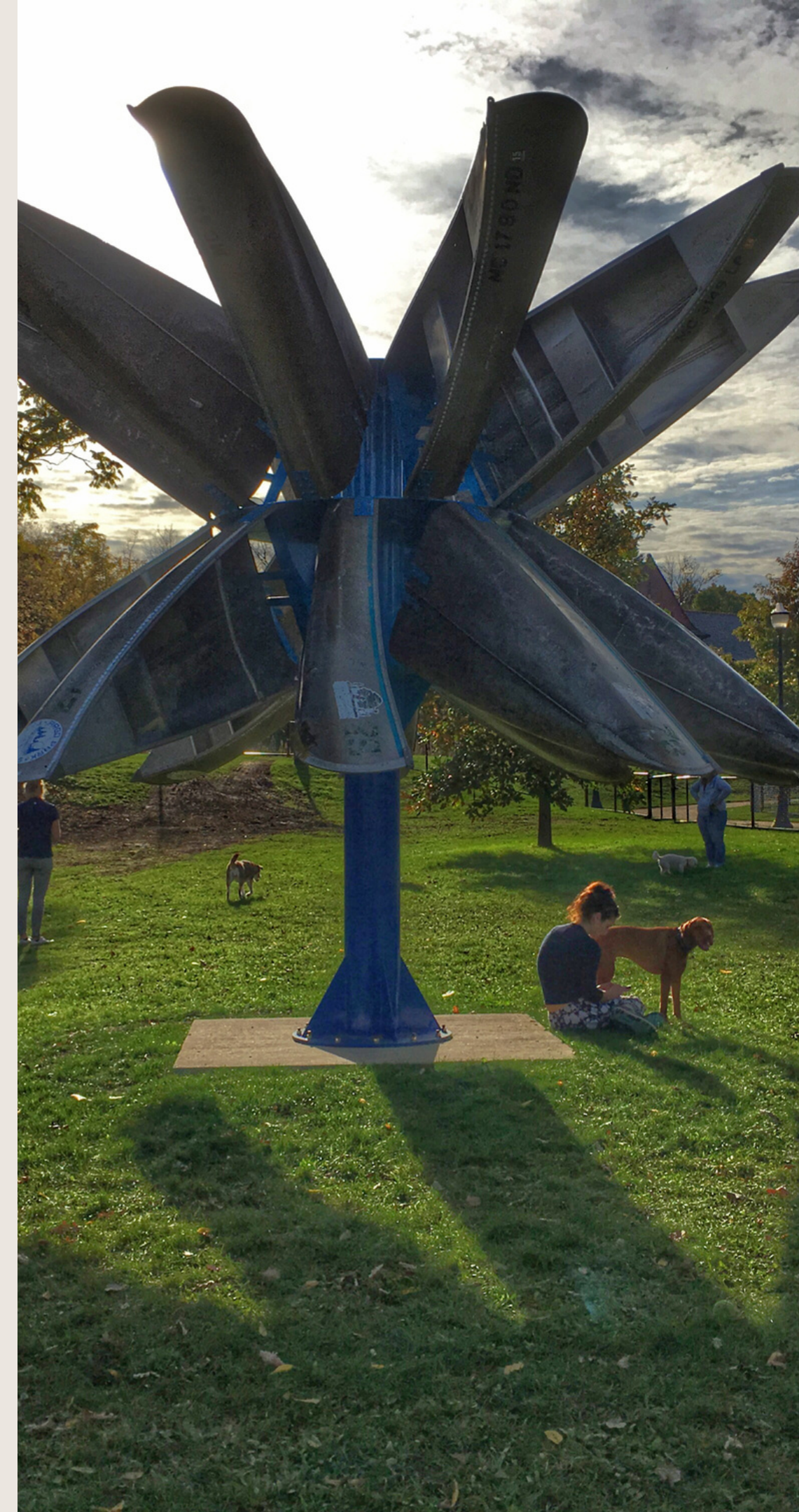
- Geographical, historical, and/or ecological features
- An individual that has made a significant contribution (criteria specified in policy)
- Historical events or places
- Gifts and/or contributions



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Should encompass:

- **Historical, cultural,** and **social significance** for generations to come
- A welcoming **positive image** for the community
- Commemoration of **people, places,** and **events** *important* to the community
- Ties of **friendship** and **mutual recognition**
- Major achievements of the **public good**
- City **values** and an emphasis on **DEI**
- Significance to the **location, facility,** or **surrounding neighborhood**





CITY LED PROCEDURE LEADING TO NAMING OR RENAMING A PARK

New Park -

Any new park or facility is referred to by the site's address until a name has been reviewed and approved through the city naming process.

City Re-Naming due to internal review -

If through internal review or management, City Staff identify that a Park name is problematic or inconsistent with City values.

RESIDENT SPONSORED PROCESS FOR RENAMING

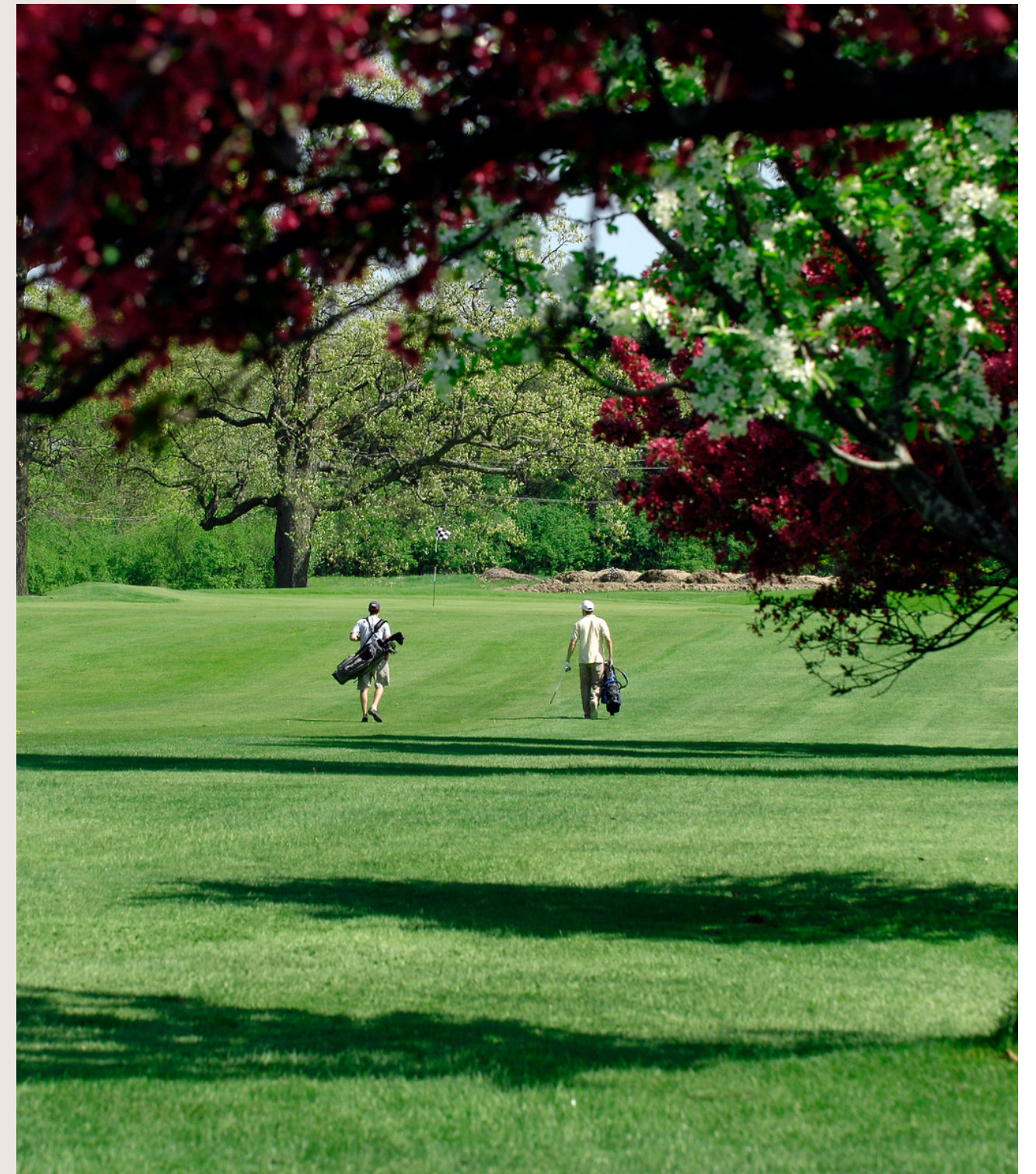
Requests must be issued or sponsored by a City of Ann Arbor resident.

Requests for a name change must be made in writing to the Parks Manager or designee.

Through Park review, if a current park name is inconsistent with City values, process will move to the City led process.

Requests must include:

- Reason for name change
- Documentation of community support based on number of signatures collected per park size and location
- Suggested donations to support improvements and maintenance to the re-named park





RESIDENT SPONSORED PROCESS FOR RENAMING

...continued

City staff will review the re-naming request and supported material in conjuncture with policy criteria.

If the petition **does not** meet policy criteria, the reason for denial will be referred back to the nominator.

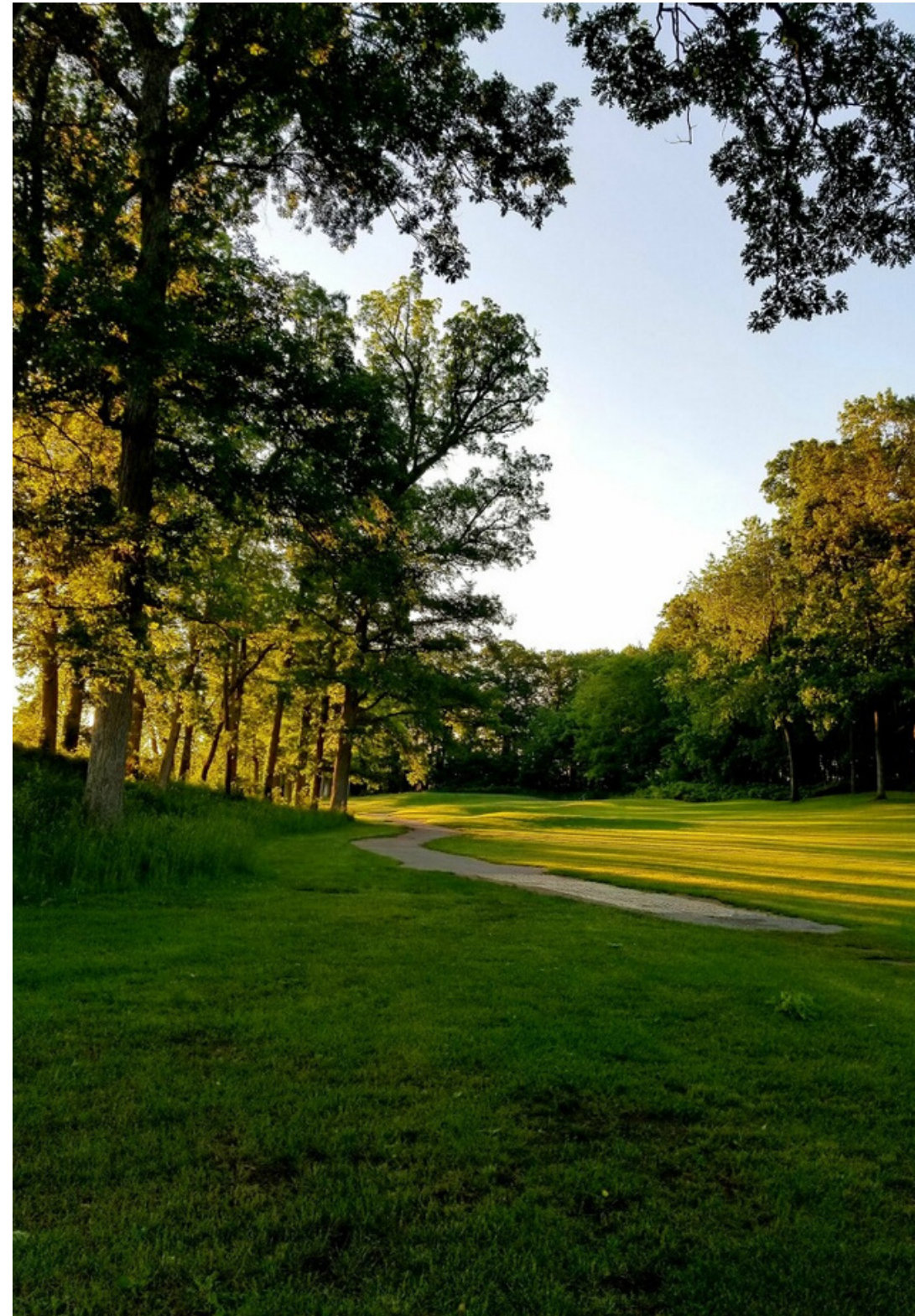
If the petition **does** meet policy criteria, City staff will begin the public process for selecting a new park name as detailed in the policy.

PUBLIC PROCESS FOR RENAMING

1. Parks and Rec will hold an open public comment period.
2. City will engage public based on the park in question.
3. Parks staff will collect public feedback during the engagement process and make a recommendation to PAC.
4. If supported, PAC will recommend approval of naming to City Council who will then make the official decision regarding the renaming.



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PARK NAMES:



Residents may suggest names of individuals, groups or events of historical significance at any time. Residents need to contact City staff in writing with proposed name along with reasoning why the name meets the policy criteria. These names will be vetted by Parks staff and included as necessary to City-led naming lists when appropriate.

QUESTIONS?

