

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Josh Landefeld, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution to Recommend Renaming Southeast Area Park as Bicentennial Park

Attached for your review and action is a resolution to recommend the approval of renaming Southeast Area Park as Bicentennial Park in honor for Ann Arbor's Bicentennial in 2024.

As part of the City's Bicentennial celebration in 2024, the renaming and reinvestment in a park as Bicentennial Park was identified as a significant component of the celebration to ensure a lasting remembrance of the event. After much deliberation about potential park candidates for renaming, Southeast Area Park was identified as the preferred option to become Bicentennial Park from a group of Park staff, other City staff, and City Council. This resulted in resolution 23-161 which directed the City Administrator to pursue all reasonable efforts to designate Southeast Area Park as Bicentennial Park. Southeast Area Park was the preferred option for several reasons, including its location along two major roadways on the southeast border of the city, its proximity to public transit, and its ability to reach traditionally underserved populations. This will allow Bicentennial Park to serve as a highly visible, welcoming, and inclusive gateway into the City of Ann Arbor.

In addition to the renaming of the park, city staff have identified several additional programmatic and infrastructure amenities that would benefit the community and transform the park into a premier recreation destination. In addition, the resolution below supports resolution 23-161 that resolves the City Council and the City Administrator pursue all reasonable efforts to fundraise private dollars to create and sustain improvements to Southeast Area Park from this point forward.

Park staff strongly support the renaming of Southeast Park as Bicentennial Park and encourage PAC to recommend approval of the renaming to City Council.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND RENAMING SOUTHEAST AREA PARK AS
BICENTENNIAL PARK

Whereas; The City of Ann Arbor is preparing for its Bicentennial in 2024;

Whereas; The renaming of a park as Bicentennial Park was identified as a significant component of the celebration;

Whereas, Parks staff, City staff and members of City Council worked together to identify Southeast Area Park as the preferred park to rename;

Whereas, City staff have identified additional programmatic and infrastructure amenities that would benefit the community to help transform the park into a premier recreation destination;

Whereas, City Council resolution 23-161 directed the City Administrator to pursue all reasonable efforts to designate Southeast Area Park as Bicentennial Park; and

Whereas, Parks staff fully support and recommend to the Parks Advisory Commission that Southeast Area Park be renamed as Bicentennial Park.

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve renaming Southeast Area Park as Bicentennial Park;

RESOLVED, That per resolution 23-161, The City Council and the City Administrator shall pursue all reasonable efforts to fundraise private dollars to create and sustain improvements to Southeast Area Park from this point forward; and

RESOLVED, That, upon completion of the park renaming, the City of Ann Arbor join with the community in convening an appropriate Park dedication ceremony.