



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 4, 2018

Report Number: SRPRS.18.176

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: SRPRS.18.176 – Naming of Parks

Purpose:

To propose names for three park sites within the Town's Park and Natural Heritage System.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the proposed names "Bill Bell Park", "Flood Farmstead Park" and "Jefferson Salamander Park" be approved in principle for the sites described in SRPRS.18.176;
- b) That the proposed names be advertised in *The Liberal* newspaper and on the Town's website with a request for public comments in accordance with the Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*; and
- c) That staff report back to Council regarding public comments on the proposed names and with final recommendations for naming the sites.

Contact Person:

Daniel Harrietha, Parks Planning Technician, phone number 905-771-2474 and/ or Michelle Dobbie, Manager Park and Natural Heritage Planning, phone number 905-771-2467

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, Chief Administrative Officer

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and Chief Administrative Officer. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Page 2

Background:

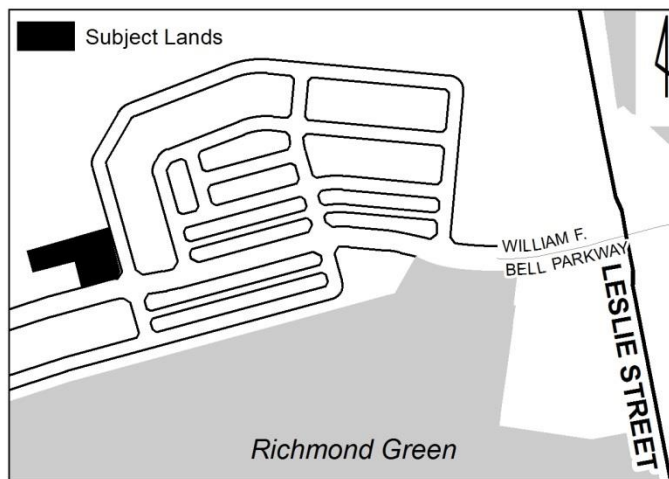
This report proposes names, which are consistent with the Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* (see Appendix A), for three sites within the Town's Park and Natural Heritage system as follows:

Bill Bell Park (Local Park)

Location: Ward 3, William F. Bell Parkway, see Map 1

William Fraser Bell was the longest serving mayor in Richmond Hill's history. For 25 years he served the Town of Richmond Hill, first being elected in 1980 as the Councillor for Ward 3, a position he held for 8 years before becoming Mayor in 1988, a position he held for six terms until November 2006. He also acted as a member of several charitable foundations, including, but not limited to: S'port for Kids Foundation, Patrons of the Carefirst Foundation and the Mon Sheong Foundation. The naming of the park after Mr. Bell enables the Town to recognize his legacy of helping Richmond Hill become the caring and prosperous community it now is.

Map 1. Location of Bill Bell Park



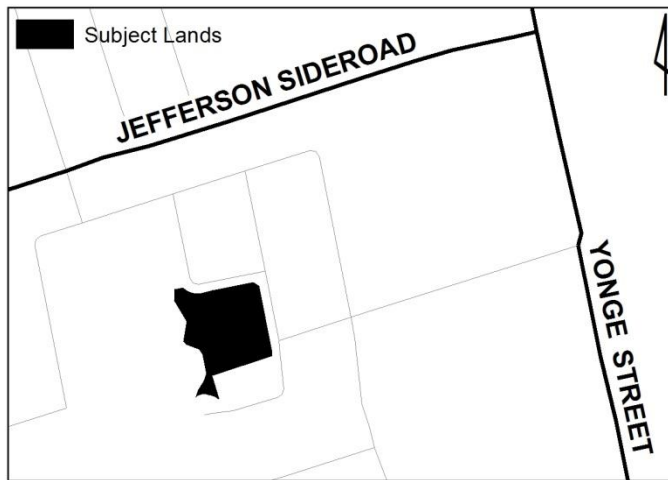
Flood Farmstead Park (Local Park)

Location: Ward 4, Yuan Drive, see Map 2

This Local Park is proposed to be named after the Flood Family who owned and farmed the property for 90 years. The Flood family's farming history with the property stretches back to 1921 when Jack Flood purchased the first two acres of the farm and continued up until 2011 when the property was sold to the developers of the current subdivision. Neighbouring lots were purchased until the farm was 26.5 acres large, where the Flood's grew grain, market vegetables, poultry, cattle and hogs. Jack Flood was also responsible for constructing several streets of residential homes throughout Richmond Hill.

Page 3

Map 2. Location of Flood Farmstead Park

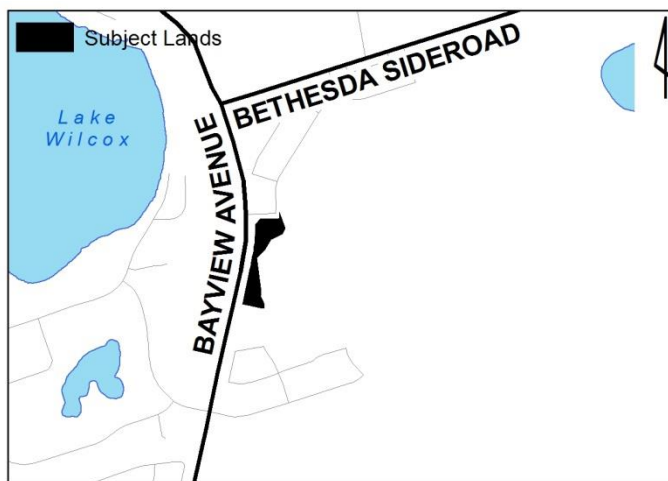


Jefferson Salamander Park (Local Park)

Location: Ward 1, Anchusa Drive, see Map 3

The Jefferson Salamander is an endangered species that can be found in forests and wetlands throughout Richmond Hill. The park design was inspired by the life-cycle of the salamander: from egg to embryo to aquatic larva and finally to terrestrial adult. The habitat of the Jefferson Salamander has been severely impacted by urbanization, the removal of native forests and the draining of wetlands. Playground elements, site furnishings, sand play areas and landscape elements will further reinforce the theme of the salamander's life-cycle.

Map 3. Location of Jefferson Salamander Park



The Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* indicates that proposed names should be advertised with a request for public

Page 4

comments. Staff will also advertise concurrently on the Town of Richmond Hill's website seeking input from the public. In accordance with the policy, staff will report back to Council regarding any input on the proposed park names received during the 30 day commenting period and make a recommendation regarding final approval of the names.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial, staffing or other implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

Promoting the Town's cultural and natural heritage through park, open space and recreation facility names fosters a sense of identity and place that contributes to a more vibrant Richmond Hill. Additionally, the naming process provides an opportunity for residents to become involved with their community.

Conclusion:

The proposed names are consistent with the guidelines for naming set out in the Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*.

Pursuant to the naming process established in the policy, it is recommended that the names be approved in principle and advertised in *The Liberal* newspaper and on the Town's website to solicit public comment. Staff will report back to Council regarding a final recommendation on the proposed names following the required 30 day public notification period.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A, Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities

Page 5

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.18.176 - Naming of Parks.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.18.176 Appendix A.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 17, 2018

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Michelle Dobbie - Aug 16, 2018 - 4:11 PM

Patrick Lee - Aug 16, 2018 - 4:36 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Aug 17, 2018 - 7:18 AM

Neil Garbe - Aug 17, 2018 - 12:57 PM