



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: November 20, 2024

Report Number: SRPBS.24.092

Department: Planning and Building Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: SRPBS.24.092 – Park Naming Report (Heron View Park)

Purpose:

To propose a name for a new park within the City's park and natural heritage system.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the proposed name "Heron View Park" be approved in principle for the site described in staff report SRPBS.24.092.
- b) That the proposed name "Heron View Park" be advertised on the City's website with request for public comments in accordance with the City's Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities; and
- c) That staff report back to Council regarding public comments on the proposed "Heron View Park" name and with a final recommendation for naming the site.

Contact Person(s):

- Taylor Posey, Planner II – Parks, extension 6573
- Michelle Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning, extension 2467
- Maria Flores, Director, Policy Planning, extension 5438
- Gus Galanis, Commissioner, Planning and Building Services, extension 2465

Report Approval:

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the report's approval are attached.

Page 2

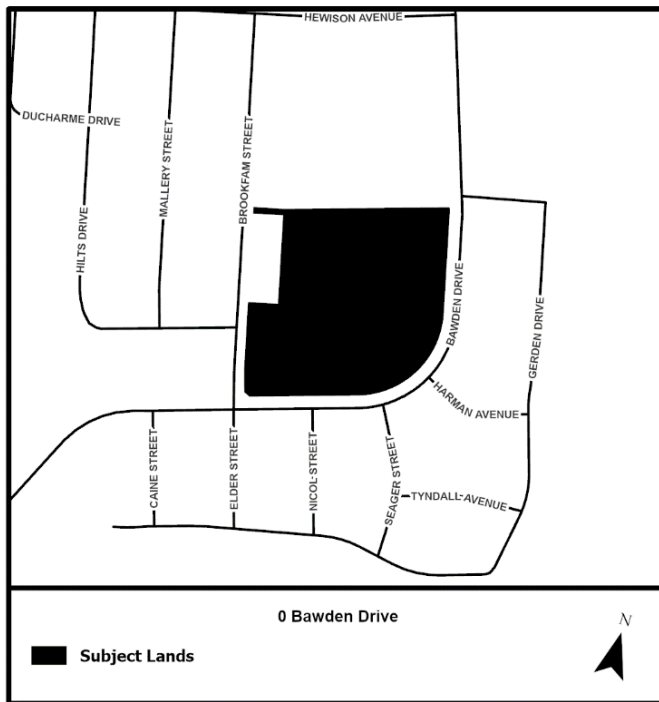
Background:

The report proposes a park name that is consistent with the City’s Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities (see Appendix A), for a site within the City’s Park and Natural Heritage system as follows:

Heron View Park (Park Class: Community Park)

Location: Ward 3, Bawden Drive, see Map 1

Map 1. Location of Heron View Park



Discussion:

The name “Heron View Park” references the Great Blue Heron, which was recently named Richmond Hill’s ‘Bird Friendly City’ bird. The proposed park name will provide further recognition and tribute to this City symbol and the nearby Heron rookery. Birds play an essential role in maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems in our communities, and birds like the Great Blue Heron remind the public of the importance of continuing to protect a connected Greenway System throughout Richmond Hill.

The Great Blue Heron is characterized by its “S” shaped neck, long legs, and greyish-blue upper body. These herons can be found across all of southern Canada. They can be seen standing perfectly still or slowly wading into wetlands and ponds in places like Newberry Park, Richmond Green and Rumble Pond to name just a few. They breed in

Page 3

large congregations called 'rookeries', one of which is located in Richmond Hill just to the north of the proposed Heron View Park.

The City's Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities indicates that proposed names be advertised with a request for public comments. Staff will advertise on the City 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 name received during the 30-day commenting period and make a recommendation regarding final approval of the name.

Financial Implications:

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

Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:

This park helps to support the 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Pillar 1, Growing a Liveable and Sustainable Community, by managing growth in a way that enables choice and connection for the city and its residents now and in the future. The park enables this by planning for and building infrastructure to support quality of life, community connection and resiliency.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. All attachments have been reviewed and made accessible. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment A – Park Naming Procedure

Page 4

Report Approval Details

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|----------------------|--|
| Document Title: | SRPBS.24.092 Park Naming Report (Heron View Park).docx |
| Attachments: | - 2019 Park Naming Policy - AODA.pdf |
| Final Approval Date: | Oct 29, 2024 |

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

Maria Flores - Oct 28, 2024 - 5:25 PM

Gus Galanis - Oct 28, 2024 - 5:38 PM

Darlene Joslin - Oct 29, 2024 - 1:17 PM