



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: March 4, 2026

Report Number: SRPBS.26.010

Department: Planning and Building Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: **SRPBS.26.010 - Park Naming Report (Millstone Park and Meadowlark Park)**

Purpose:

To propose names for two new park sites within the City's park and natural heritage system.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the proposed name "Millstone Park" be approved in principle for the site described in staff report SRPBS.26.010.
- b) That the proposed name "Meadowlark Park" be approved in principle for the site described in staff report SRPBS.26.010.
- c) That the proposed names "Millstone Park" and "Meadowlark 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
- d) That staff report back to Council regarding public comments on the proposed "Millstone Park" and "Meadowlark Park" names and with a final recommendation for naming the sites.

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

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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.

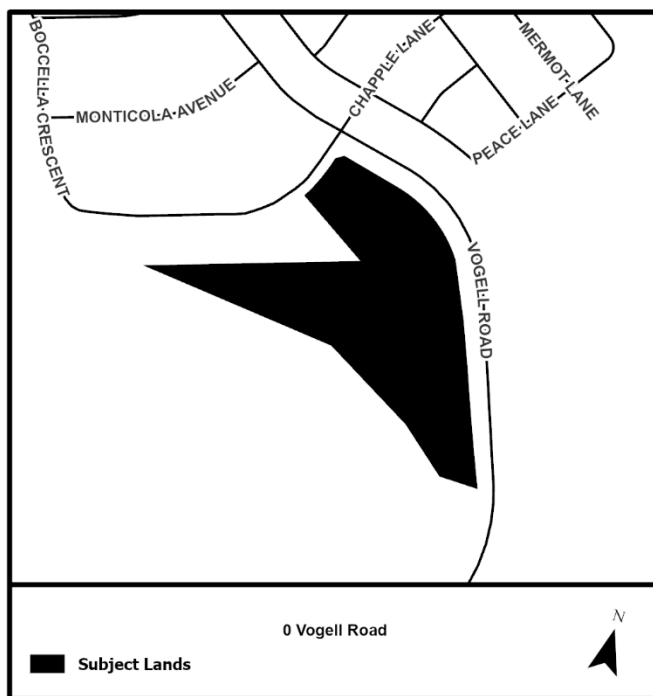
Background:

The report proposes park names that are consistent with the City's Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities (see Appendix A), for sites within the City's Park and Natural Heritage system as follows:

Millstone Park (Park Class: Community Park)

Location: Ward 3, Vogell Road, see Map 1

Map 1. Location of Millstone Park

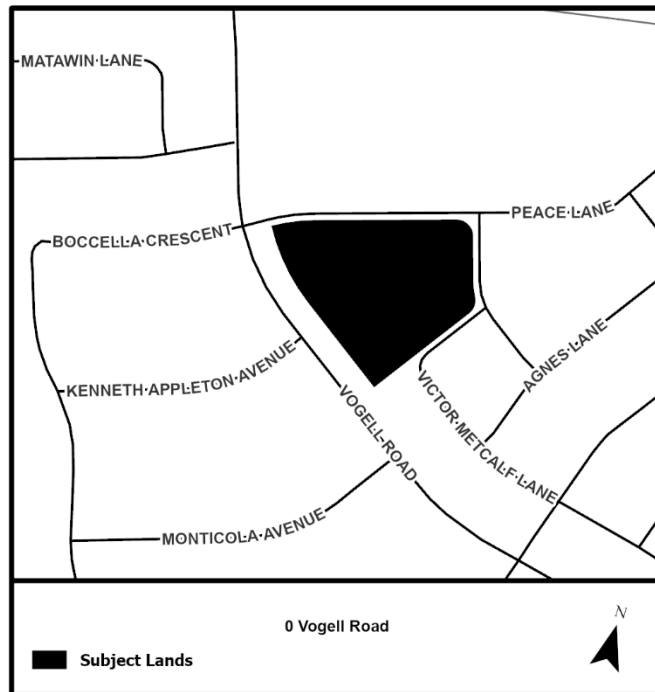


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Meadowlark Park (Park Class: Local Park)

Location: Ward 3, Vogell Road, see Map 2

Map 2. Location of Meadowlark Park



Discussion:

The name “Millstone Park” references the stones, called millstones, used in gristmills or flour mills for crushing or grinding wheat and other grains. The Headford Grist and Woolen Mill operated along the Rouge River near this site from approximately 1832. John Cleaver Burr purchased the land at the southeast corner of Leslie Street and Major Mackenzie Drive East with the intention of building a grist mill. The mill was powered by water and produced barrels of flour. A woolen mill was added later enabling the production of flannel cloth. These industries played a key role in the rural development of the area.

Ownership of the Headford Mill changed several times over the years. Later in its operation, in the early 20th century, it was converted into a chopping mill and continued to operate on waterpower until 1912. It then ran on gasoline power for a few more years until its demolition in 1916. The name “Millstone” provides recognition to the important historical context of the mill and its associated industries in the early establishment of Richmond Hill.

The name “Meadowlark Park” references the Eastern Meadowlark, which is a threatened species found in the nearby valley lands. The Eastern Meadowlark is

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characterized by its bright yellow throat and black “V” on its chest. In Ontario, these birds are found primarily south of the Canadian Shield breeding in moderately tall grasslands, weedy borders of croplands, orchards, or other open areas. An example of a Meadowlark site in Richmond Hill includes the Rouge River valley, located just southwest of the proposed Meadowlark Park, where these birds have been observed.

Birds play an essential role in maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems in our communities. Birds like the Eastern Meadowlark remind the public of the importance of continuing to protect a connected Greenway System throughout Richmond Hill. This species and its habitat are protected under the *Endangered Species Act* and the proposed park name will provide tribute to this important issue. Additionally, it will provide recognition to the naming of Richmond Hill as a ‘Bird Friendly City’.

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 names received during the 30-day commenting period and make a recommendation regarding final approval of the names.

Financial Implications:

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

Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:

These parks help to support the 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Pillar 1, Growing a Livable 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 parks enable this priority 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

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPBS.26.010 - Park Naming Report (Millstone Park and Meadowlark Park).docx
Attachments:	- 2019 Park Naming Policy - AODA.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 9, 2026

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

Maria Flores - Feb 9, 2026 - 8:52 AM

Gus Galanis - Feb 9, 2026 - 1:04 PM

Darlene Joslin - Feb 9, 2026 - 3:32 PM