



NEWS RELEASE

Mike McGinn, Mayor
Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

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SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION SEEKS NAMES FOR FOUR PARK SITES ALONG THORNTON CREEK AND ONE NEW PARK IN THE 12th AVE. NEIGHBORHOOD

Seattle Parks and Recreation invites the public to submit potential names for four separate areas of park land in the Thornton Creek watershed in northeast Seattle and for a new park in the 12th Ave. neighborhood.

The Thornton Creek, parks were acquired parcel by parcel over more than 30 years, but have always been referred to just as numbered portions of the Thornton Creek network or by a general "natural area" name. Parks intends to keep the "Thornton Creek" identifier in each of the new formal names.

Please submit suggestions for names to the Park Naming Committee by Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Here are descriptions of the parks to be named, as illustrated by the accompanying maps:

Park #1: This park site is adjacent to the Jackson Park Golf course to the west. It is bordered by NE 130th St. to the south and 10th Ave. NE to the west. It follows the creek northeasterly toward NE Brockman Pl. It is predominantly a wooded ravine providing rich wildlife habitat on the North Branch of Thornton Creek.

Park #2: This large assemblage of properties follows the South Branch of Thornton Creek southeasterly from approximately 15th Ave. NE and NE 105th St. to NE 98th St. west of 20th Ave. NE. There are formal access points at NE 102nd St. and 17th Ave. NE and at NE 104th and 17th Sts. NE, as well as two areas along NE 100th St. The park features viewpoints, wetlands, and an abundant wildlife habitat.

Park #6: This park consists of several contiguous parcels located near the Northgate Community Center and continues northeasterly into the Maple Leaf neighborhood. It is bordered by NE 103rd St. and NE 107th St. to the south and north and by 5th Ave. NE to the west and

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Roosevelt Way NE to the east. The park includes the South Branch of Thornton Creek, wooded areas, wetlands, and several trails. Visitors will see a wide variety of wildlife including an active beaver pond. There are several major access points located at the southerly end of the park, on NE 105th St. and at the corner of NE 106th St. and 9th Ave. NE.

Thornton Creek Natural Area: Ravenna Ave: This park is just east of Lake City Way between Fischer Pl. NE and Ravenna Ave. NE, north of NE 100th St. to approximately NE 103rd St. Access to the park is from Fischer Pl. NE, at the north side of the Shutter Shop parking lot, along the fence. This site was once a diary operated by the Blindheim family and is now a natural area that includes the confluence of Willow Creek and the South Branch of Thornton Creek. There has been a focus on restoration and stewardship of the creek and the native vegetation in this area.

12th Avenue Neighborhood Park. This 7,332 square-foot property at the southeast corner of 12th Ave. and E James Court was transferred to Parks from the Department of Neighborhoods in January 2008. Parks removed the existing building from the site and has funding from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy for development. The schematic design includes an urban plaza, native plantings, rain gardens, a performance area, seating, and an art installation. The park will open in summer 2012 and will serve as a new neighborhood park and gathering space for the Squire Park/12th Ave. communities.

The Park Naming Committee is comprised of one representative designated by the Board of Park Commissioners, one by the Chair of the City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee, and one by the Parks Superintendent. Criteria the committee considers in naming parks include: geographical location, historical or cultural significance, and natural or geological features.

For the park names in the Thornton Creek Watershed, Parks would encourage those making naming suggestions to consider the features of the park, including the wildlife habitat, flora and fauna in the area. A park can be named for a person no longer living (deceased a minimum of three years) who made a significant contribution to parks and/or recreation. The Park Naming Committee will consider all suggestions and make a recommendation to Acting Parks Superintendent Christopher Williams, who makes the final decision.

Please submit suggestions for park names **in writing by Thursday, March 3, 2011**, and include an explanation of how your suggestion matches the naming criteria. Send to Seattle Parks and Recreation, Park Naming Committee, 100 Dexter Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109, or by e-mail to paula.hoff@seattle.gov.

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