



CITY OF POMONA

Parks and Recreation Commission

September 18, 2025

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

Subject: Review of Nominated Park Names for Phillips Ranch Greenbelt, Civic Center Plaza Playground, and Meadow View Demonstration Garden and Recommendation to City Council

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission review the community-submitted park name nominations for three new parks and recommend one preferred name for each park to the City Council for final consideration and approval, in accordance with the Policy for Naming of Park and Recreation Facilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Policy for Naming Park and Recreation Facilities (Attachment No. 1), the naming of new parks must first be considered at a publicly noticed meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, with final authority resting with the City Council. The naming process for three new parks was formally initiated at the June 17, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Following that meeting, community outreach was conducted to solicit nominations for park names. Outreach efforts included social media posts, email notification to all City commissioners, and in-person engagement through community pop-up events held at each of the three new park sites. This report presents the names submitted by the public and requests the Commission review the nominations and recommend preferred park names to the City Council for final consideration.

DISCUSSION

This report presents the next step in the park naming process for three new City parks:

- 1) Phillips Ranch Greenbelt (converted to a City Park effective July 1, 2025)
- 2) Civic Center Plaza Playground (opening anticipated Early 2026)
- 3) Meadow View Demonstration Garden (Grand Opening July 16, 2025)

The naming process was formally initiated at the June 17, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, in accordance with the City's Policy for Naming of Park and Recreation Facilities (Attachment No. 1). Community members were informed that recommendations or nominations must be completed and submitted by mail, in-person, or e-mail by August 31, 2025. Final recommendations of park names would be referred to the Park and Recreation Commission and be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting of September 18, 2025. Final naming authority rests with the City Council.

Following initiation, staff conducted a community outreach campaign to solicit park name nominations from residents and stakeholders. Outreach efforts included:

- Posts on the City's official social media platforms (Instagram and Facebook)
- An email announcement to all City commissioners
- Announcements in the City Manager's Weekly Report
- Community pop-up events hosted at each of the three park locations to engage residents in person.

Staff hosted a series of well-attended community pop-up events in July 2025, engaging residents and promoting City initiatives.

- On July 9, 2025, staff held a pop-up event at Civic Center Plaza at 4:00 PM in conjunction with the Library's Fun and Games event and connected with over 20 community members.
- On July 16, 2025, a second pop-up was held at the Meadow View Demonstration Garden, coinciding with the Garden's Grand Opening celebration. The event was attended by approximately 30 community members.
- Later that same day, staff hosted a third pop-up at the Greenbelt, beginning at 6:00 PM, where they connected with over a dozen community members.

Community members were invited to submit written nominations using the Park Name Nomination Form (Attachment No. 2). Nominations could be submitted by individuals, groups, or City staff, with all submissions given equal consideration regardless of source.

Social media outreach played a key role in promoting the community pop-up events and extending engagement beyond in-person interactions. Leading up to and following each event, staff shared details, reminders, and highlights on the City's official Instagram and Facebook accounts. These were posted as stories and posts between June 17 and August 31, 2025, reaching nearly 143,000 total accounts. After the events, social media and City Manager Weekly Reports continued inviting community members to submit name nominations through August 31. Posts generated positive engagement, including likes, shares, and comments from community members:

Outreach Participation Metrics:

- Social Media Engagement via Instagram and Facebook
 - Instagram Data
 - Total Views: 141,580
 - Total Accounts Reached: 94,383
 - Facebook Data
 - Total Views: 72,098
 - Total Accounts Reached: 48,524
 - Combined Data Count
 - Total Views: 213,678
 - Total Accounts Reached: 142,907

Number of Nominations Received:

- Phillips Ranch Greenbelt: 18
- Civic Center Plaza Playground: 8
- Meadow View Demonstration Garden: 7
- Non-specific Location: 5

The nominated names by park are listed below and included in Attachment No. 3. Where submitted names did not include the word “Park,” it has generally been added in parentheses for clarity. Exceptions were made when terms like “Trail” or “Vista” were included, as these imply a different naming convention. Staff recommends that, if selected, each name include “Park” in the official naming unless an alternative term is more appropriate to the site’s character. Staff evaluated each nominated name against the selection criteria outlined in the naming policy and noted which criteria were met, as well as where nominations did not meet the established criteria:

<u>Phillips Ranch Greenbelt</u>		
Nominated Name	Count of Nominations Received	Policy Selection Criteria Met
Greenbelt Park	1	#1 – Geographic Location
John and Gail Cook’s Memorial Park	7	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution
Riparian Reserve at Phillips Ranch	1	#1 – Geographic Location
Louie Park	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
Sparky Park	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
Run Ranch Park	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
Genesis Renee (Park)	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
Village Ranch Park	2	#1 – Geographic Location
Village Loop Park	2	#1 – Geographic Location
Louie V Park	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
<u>Civic Center Plaza Playground</u>		
Nominated Name	Count of Nominations Received	Policy Selection Criteria Met
Mundo de Niños de Pomona (Children’s World Pomona)	1	#1 – Geographic Location/ Link to City development
Rec and Read Park	1	#1 – Geographic Location/ Link to City development
Governor Gavin Newsom Park	1	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution
We’aashar (Park)	1	#1 – Geographic Location/ National Heritage
Fatima (Park)	1	Does not meet criteria per Staff review
C.P. Park/Peraza Plaza	1	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution
Dream Park	1	#1 – Geographic Location/ Link to City development
Dr. Mary Montes (Park)	1	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution

Meadow View Demonstration Garden*

Nominated Name	Count of Nominations Received	Policy Selection Criteria Met
Meadow View Demonstration Garden	1	#1 – Geographic Location
Meadow View Trail	1	#1 – Geographic Location
Mt. Baldy View Park	2	#1 – Geographic Location
Meadow Views (Park)	1	#1 – Geographic Location
Meadow View Vista	1	#1 – Geographic Location
Moving Views Garden	1	#1 – Geographic Location

*For Meadow View Demonstration Garden, the overwhelming response from residents in the community was in favor of including “Meadow View” as part of the park’s name in memorial of the homes lost on Meadow View Drive.

Non-specific Location

Nominated Name	Count of Nominations Received	Policy Selection Criteria Met
Freedom Park	1	#1 – National Heritage
David Roy McElwain Memorial Park	1	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution
Tongva (Park)	1	#1 – National Heritage
Agape (Park)	1	#1 – National Heritage
Dr. R. Rachel Madrigal (Park)	1	#2 – Individual with Significant Contribution

All submitted names will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission in accordance with the criteria outlined in the naming policy. The Commission may choose to recommend one name per park to the City Council, which holds final naming authority.

Per the naming policy, each proposed name must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. The name of an identifiable geographic location or a name that provides a link to City, county, state, or national heritage or development shall be used whenever possible (e.g., Civic Center Park, Palomares Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, John F. Kennedy Park, Veterans Park).
2. The name of an individual may be used, living or dead, providing that individual has contributed significantly to the quality of life for Pomona residents with 20 years or more of community service. The individual must be identified as a Pomona resident, a member of a Pomona service organization, or employed within the city during his/her public service.
3. The name of an individual or business may be used if that individual or representatives of that individual or business contribute substantially towards the cost of providing a City park, facility, or amenity.
4. The name of an organization may be used if the organization provides a substantial donation toward the ongoing maintenance of a park, facility, or amenity (e.g., Soroptimist Redwood Grove, Kiwanis Park).
 - a. The City of Pomona shall not name any facility in honor of an individual or organization which promotes, supports, or produces products which may be detrimental to the public health, safety or well-being, or which are not intended for consumption or use by minors.

5. The name of a City employee may be used, regardless of length of City service, if performance of City service causes or significantly contributes to death, serious illness, or disability of said employee; or if said employee performs pioneering, break-through, or lifesaving measures on behalf of the City.
6. The Pomona City Council shall exercise final authority in naming all public parks, facilities, and amenities within the City of Pomona.

Staff recommends that the Commission evaluate the community submissions against these criteria and recommend one preferred name per park for City Council consideration.

Submitted by:

Lindsay McElwain, Senior Management Analyst

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1 – Policy for Naming of Park and Recreation Facilities

Attachment No. 2 – Nomination Form for Naming of Park and Recreation Facilities

Attachment No. 3 – Submitted Nomination Forms

Attachment No. 4 – Presentation