



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.D.

City Council Meeting
May 22, 2023



Strategic Priority 3: Shared Sense of Community

Foster equitable opportunities that help residents feel at home and connected in their community and empowered to live their best lives.



Strategic Priority 4: Quality of Life

Ensure that Westminster offers a diverse range of amenities and activities for residents, businesses and visitors that honor the city's history and support the arts, parks, recreation, open spaces, and libraries.

Subject: Renaming of Trendwood Park to TeBockhorst Park for Mr. Joe TeBockhorst, Former Teacher at Betty Adams Elementary School

Prepared By: Lance Johnson, Park, Golf, and Open Space Manager

Recommended City Council Action:

Authorize the renaming of Trendwood Park to TeBockhorst Park.

Summary Statement:

- The City owns the property at 6497 W. 96th Avenue (Attachment A), which is currently named Trendwood Park.
- A request to name the park after Joe TeBockhorst was brought to the City Manager and Staff by Mr. Jeff Richard on March 8, 2023 (Attachment B).
- Mr. TeBockhorst was a long-time teacher, student, and coach in Westminster, Colorado. He grew up in Westminster, attended elementary school at Betty Adams and later taught at Betty Adams for 15 years.
- Mr. TeBockhorst was an active member in the school, running student council, math club, running club, end of year kick ball event coordinator, spelling bee moderator, union rep, and heavily involved with the PTA.
- Mr. TeBockhorst was a long-time soccer coach, having coached three soccer teams each season for Westminster recreation and Westminster Soccer Club.

- The Westminster Site-Naming Policy was authorized by City Council in April 2021. Pursuant to the Site-Naming Policy, this proposal was presented to the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Libraries Advisory Board (PROSLAB) on April 13, 2023, and the Inclusivity Board (IB) on May 10, 2023, for consideration.
- New signage for the park will cost approximately \$10,000. A refurbishing of the current signage will cost approximately \$5,000. The condition of the current sign will be evaluated to decide the appropriate direction.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$10,000 in expenditures.

Source of Funds:

General Capital Improvement Fund: Parks Sustainability Program account

Policy Issue(s):

Does City Council approve the changing the name of Trendwood Park to TeBockhorst Park?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose to not support the formal name change of Trendwood Park to TeBockhorst Park.

Background Information:

The City owns and maintains the Trendwood Park property located at 6497 W. 96th Avenue. The park is adjacent to Betty Adams Elementary School. The park consists mainly of a multi-use turf field, a ballfield, and two basketball courts. The school has playground equipment and a parking lot adjacent to the park.

A request was received on March 8, 2023, from Mr. Joe Richard (Attachment B) to name this park in honor of a Mr. Joe TeBockhorst, who recently passed away after a short battle with cancer. As noted in the attached letter, Mr. TeBockhorst was a long-time teacher, student, and coach in Westminster. He grew up in Westminster, attended elementary school at Betty Adams, and later taught at Betty Adams for 15 years. He was an active member in the school, running student council, math club, running club, end of year kick ball event coordinator, spelling bee moderator, union rep, heavily involved with the PTA, and sat in on every interview committee. He would attend students' sports game and attended every high school graduation. Mr. T, as the students would call him, was one of those teachers that students could not wait to have and would come back and visit as they got older. He was a pillar in the Westminster community for years, both as a teacher and a long-time soccer coach having coached three soccer teams each season for Westminster recreation and Westminster Soccer Club.

The Westminster Site-Naming Policy allows for naming of a site after an individual where the person or persons have made a significant contribution to the community over an extended period of time; is a universally celebrated group, organization or individual; and/or the individual (or organization) is donating the land to be used for the site purpose.

Locations in the City that have been named for individuals include:

1. England Park: Harvey England, who served as Mayor from 1953 to 1955, was instrumental in bringing recreation to Westminster, organized a Little League baseball program, and assisted with the creation of the Westminster Recreation Association. The Association leased land for recreational, cultural, and social activities at 71st Avenue and Raleigh Street. In 1955, the City purchased 20 acres, now known as England Park, for a park and water treatment plant.
2. Mike Lansing Fields: Former Colorado Rockies baseball player who contributed financially to develop fields in the larger Denver Metro area. These fields are part of the Westminster T-Ball Complex and Park.
3. Margaret's Pond Open Space: Named after the daughter of the original owner who sold the property to the City as part of the negotiations to complete the transaction.
4. Tepper Fields: The Tepper family donated the land to the City in the late 1970's to establish the current four baseball/softball field complex that has been home to Westminster Little League since that time.
5. Maulis Park Open Space: Property sold to the City in 1996. Originally desired to have the future park to be named after the family once it was developed. It is now considered Open Space.
6. Christopher Fields: The softball complex was named for Bill Christopher in 2002 who served as Westminster City Manager for 23 years.
7. Jessica Ridgeway Memorial Park: Formerly known as Chelsea Park, this park was renamed in 2013 in honor of 10-year-old Jessica Ridgeway who died tragically in 2012. Chelsea Park was Jessica's neighborhood park.
8. Roemersberger Ballfields: Formerly known as Countryside Fields, this park was renamed in 2021 in honor of Tom Roemersberger who led the community effort to build these fields along with numerous other acts of service to the community.
9. Fred Valente Humanitarian Park: Formerly known as Rodeo Market Park, was renamed in 2022 for the contributions Mr. Valente made throughout his lifetime as a resident and business owner to the Historic Westminster community and the City of Westminster.
10. Vicky Bunsen Sculpture Garden: Formerly known as Rodeo Market Sculpture Garden, was renamed in 2022 to honor her dedication and commitment to the City's historic preservation efforts.
11. Briggs Greenhouse Center: Formerly known as the England Park Greenhouse Center, was renamed in 2022, to honor Bob Briggs and his family for his life-long commitment to the City as a resident, City Councillor, State Representative, and an advocate of the horticulture industry.
12. McFall Park: Formerly known as Westminster Center Park was approved for renaming on February 27, 2023, to honor J. Brent McFall, Westminster City Manager from 2001-2015, for his significant contributions to the Westminster community. Under his leadership, Westminster diversified its retail economy; made expansive investments in its parks, open space, libraries, and public safety; and introduced to the City organization the SPIRIT value statement (Service, Pride, Integrity, Responsibility, Innovation and Teamwork). The official renaming dedication will be held on July 14,

2023.

Both the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Libraries Advisory Board (PROSLAB) and the Inclusivity Board (IB) reviewed the proposal to rename Trendwood Park. Both boards recommended a moratorium on renaming City parks or open space to allow a review and update of the current renaming policy. Staff will be working with both boards over the summer to conduct a review and consider updates to the current policy to provide better clarity and parameters for renaming parks or open space; any recommended changes will be brought before City Council for consideration.

This recommendation to rename Trendwood Park, the City property owned at 6497 W. 96th Avenue, to TeBockhorst Park supports the City's Strategic Plan goals of a Shared Sense of Community and Quality of Life by working with community members to update and enhance City amenities to recognize a community member's impact.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A Freitag

Mark A. Freitag
City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment A - Trendwood Park Map
Attachment B - Trendwood Park Re-Naming Request Letter