

Dewdney and Maple Leaf Pools Renaming

Date	March 3, 2021
To	Executive Committee
From	City Planning & Community Development
Service Area	Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Item No.	E21-11

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the renaming of Dewdney Pool to Buffalo Meadows Pool.
2. Direct Administration to begin discussions with the Heritage Community Association regarding the renaming of Maple Leaf Pool.
3. Approve these recommendations at its meeting on March 10, 2021.

ISSUE

Dewdney Pool is named after Edgar Dewdney, a historical figure who was directly responsible for the development and administration of harmful policies towards Indigenous peoples, including establishing and providing oversight for residential schools. In July of 2020 a petition was submitted to the City requesting the name be changed to Buffalo Meadows Pool. At the same time, the petition requested that Dewdney Park, where the pool is located, be renamed as Buffalo Meadows Park. The renaming of the park is being considered through a separate report to Regina Planning Commission, per the City's Civic Naming Committee Guideline.

Simultaneously, construction is being finalized on Maple Leaf Pool, which is scheduled to open in 2021. This facility renewal provides an opportunity to revisit the name of the facility, through a community engagement process that would be developed to identify a new Indigenous name for the pool and park.

IMPACTS

Policy Impacts

The recommendation to rename the pools supports the Regina Cultural Plan objective of “Conserve Cultural Heritage Resources” by ensuring that the naming of streets, parks and other civic assets celebrates Regina’s unique history and cultural diversity, and that it tells the whole story of Regina.

The renaming also supports the City's efforts towards Reconciliation.

Financial Impacts

A change to the current pool sign is estimated at \$1,000, which can be absorbed by Land, Real Estate & Facilities Department through the current budget to maintain the Pool.

There are no financial impacts to change the Maple Leaf Pool Name, as signage has been included as part of the project budget.

There are no sustainability, accessibility or environmental impacts associated with this report.

OTHER OPTIONS

Council has the option of not approving the renaming of Dewdney Pool. However, this option is not recommended because it is not aligned with our work towards Reconciliation, nor is it aligned with the Regina Cultural Plan. The proposed name was brought forth by the community and is currently supported by all stakeholders engaged in the process.

Council also has the option of not approving the exploration of a new Indigenous name for Maple Leaf Pool. However, like Dewdney Pool, this is not recommended as a new Indigenous name supports our work toward Reconciliation and is also aligned with the Cultural Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

Renaming of Dewdney Pool

In the renaming of Dewdney Pool, the North Central Community Association and the Central Zone Board were consulted. They were both supportive of moving forward with the name Buffalo Meadows Pool. Administration will work with the Community Association, Zone Board, Regina Treaty Status Indian Services (RTSIS) and a local Elder to ensure a ceremony is planned for the reopening of the pool in 2021.

Renaming of Maple Leaf Pool

If the potential renaming of Maple Leaf Pool with an Indigenous name is approved, Administration will work with the Heritage Community Association, Central Zone Board, RTSIS and others to develop a collaborative approach with local Elders for the naming of the pool and, if desired, the adjacent Park.

Administration will develop a communications strategy to ensure that the public is informed of the new names.

DISCUSSION

Renaming of Dewdney Pool

In July 2020, due to the harmful legacy that Edgar Dewdney represents for Indigenous people across Canada, *Decolonizing Relations* submitted a petition to have Dewdney Avenue, Dewdney Pool and Dewdney Park renamed. While Administration is developing a legacy review process to address the request for Dewdney Avenue, there are currently processes in place to address the renaming of the Pool and Park. Although the pool renaming would typically be forwarded to the Citizen Experience Department to consider naming and sponsorship opportunities, it has been determined that as an important neighbourhood facility that has meaning to this local community, naming rights would not be considered in this case. This renaming does not prevent us from exploring future sponsorship opportunities at the pool.

The first step in the renaming process is for the Civic Naming Committee to review the name for compliance with the internal Civic naming policy and health and safety concerns. Buffalo Meadows was reviewed and approved by the committee on October 5, 2020. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department was then notified that the Department was able to proceed by contacting the North Central Community Association and the Central Zone Board to determine if they were supportive of the name change, which is the next step in the process.

The proposed name Buffalo Meadows Pool was shared with the Community Association and Zone Board in November 2020 for comments. The Zone Board informed Administration that they were supportive; however, as the affected neighbourhood, they would defer to the North Central Community Association. On December 9, the City received a letter of support (Appendix A) from the North Central Community Association expressing support to move forward with the renaming.

As the community organization representing residents of the North Central Neighbourhood is supportive of the renaming of the pool, Administration recommends moving forward and replacing the pool signage.

Renaming of Maple Leaf Pool

Like Dewdney Pool, Maple Leaf Pool is also a neighbourhood-level facility that is not being pursued for potential naming rights. For this reason, Administration reached out to the

Heritage Community Association to determine if they would be supportive of exploring a potential name change for Maple Leaf Pool to an Indigenous name. They were supportive of this and felt that most community members would support a new Indigenous name as part of the refresh to the facility. For this reason, Administration is also seeking approval to work with the Heritage Community Association to develop a collaborative process with themselves, community organizations such as RTSIS and Elders to consider a new name for Maple Leaf Pool and possibly the adjacent park, which is identified with the same name. Once this process is complete, another report will be brought forward to Committee and Council to consider the proposed name change.

As park naming falls within the authority of the Regina Planning Commission (RPC), this report provides recommendations specific to the pools. A report on the renaming of Dewdney Pool Park, which is adjacent to the pool will be shared with RPC for consideration in April 2021.

DECISION HISTORY

On November 26, 2018, City Council approved the Civic Naming Committee Guidelines (CR18-116). City Council is responsible for adjudicating street or park name changes submitted under section 4.11.1.3 of these guidelines. Section 6 of the guidelines outline the specific guidelines for naming parks.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurie Shalley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Respectfully Submitted,



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