

ITEM 4. PARK NAMING PROPOSALS - VARIOUS PARKS

FILE NO: X007323

SUMMARY

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to naming three new public open spaces currently under construction at the following sites:

- Harold Park – a new neighbourhood park currently nearing completion located within the urban development on the site formerly known as Harold Park;
- Frances Newton Reserve – a new pocket park currently under design and located at 222 Palmer Street Darlinghurst; and
- Argyle Street Playground – a new pocket park and playground under construction located at 2 Watson Road, Millers Point, in front of the Abraham Mott Hall.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the following parks and open spaces:
- (i) Harold Park, located at 91a Ross Street, Forrest Lodge;
 - (ii) Frances Newton Reserve, located at 222 Palmer St, Darlinghurst; and
 - (iii) Argyle Street Playground, located at 2 Watson Road, Millers Point;
- (B) endorse the public exhibition of the naming proposals for community comment for a period of at least 28 days; and
- (C) a further report be submitted to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Location and images of Harold Park

Attachment B: Location and conceptual images of Frances Newton Reserve

Attachment C: Location and images of Argyle Street Playground

BACKGROUND

1. New parks under construction at a number of locations require place names to facilitate recognition and wayfinding.

Harold Park

2. The City of Sydney has designed a new public park in Forest Lodge located within the Harold Park residential development. The park provides a green connection from Wigram Road and The Crescent linking to the existing Glebe Foreshore Parks (Federal Park, Bicentennial Park and Jubilee Park).
3. The new park which is nearing completion will provide a range of open spaces for recreation, play and social gatherings within a landscaped village green. Key features include a children's playground, picnic areas, shared paths for walking and cycling, biodiversity habitat, storm water harvesting and treatment.
4. It is recommended to name the new park Harold Park for the reasons set out below.
 - (a) Part of the site was within the Toxteth Park Estate and came to be used as a privately owned paceway from the late 19th century through to 2010. The site was developed in 1890 as the Lillie Bridge Recreation Ground and used for pony racing and professional athletics. The name changed several times from Lillie Bridge Recreation Ground to Forest Lodge Racing Ground (1899-1903), Epping Racecourse (1904-1929) and finally to Harold Park Paceway in March 1929.
 - (b) Harold Park Paceway was named after the American stallion "Childe Harold", a foundation sire of the early days of trotting in Australia. Harold Park Paceway was Australia's premier harness racing venue until 2007.
 - (c) The former Harold Park Paceway and the Rozelle Tram Depot were rezoned to facilitate the urban renewal of the site for residential, commercial and community use with the gazettal of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan (Harold Park) 2011.
 - (d) Council adopted the names for new streets at the site in May 2013. The report to Council with respect to that decision recommended winning horses as names of new streets, referencing the historic use of the site. The recommended park name "Harold Park" will reinforce the implemented naming strategy for street and buildings, which refer to the former use.

Frances Newton Reserve

5. A new pocket park is under construction at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst. The park will provide much needed open space for the local community. The design aims to interpret the historical use of the site as a childcare facility with outdoor nature play area. The new design consists of a nature play area, open grass areas, garden beds, paths and hardscaping, with new public entrances from Palmer Street and Berwick Lane. Provision has also been made for a community garden within the site.
6. It is recommended to name the park Frances Newton Reserve for the additional reasons set out below.

- (a) The name acknowledges Frances Newton (d.1916), an influential female leader in the NSW kindergarten movement. American teacher Frances Newton was the Principal of the Sydney Kindergarten Training College from 1902-1905. Under her leadership the number of free kindergartens in Sydney expanded and dozens of women were trained as kindergarten teachers, providing education and care for young children in the inner city. Her leadership style inspired loyalty and service in her students. Frances Newton went on to establish the kindergarten movement in Adelaide, before returning to America.
- (b) The Kindergarten Union named their free kindergarten in Darlinghurst the Frances Newton Memorial Kindergarten in 1922. This name was transferred to the new kindergarten building at 222 Palmer Street, designed and built 1926-29 by the City Architect Robert Brodrick.
- (c) In 1927, the Council proposed to name the kindergarten after John Edward Birt (1873-1925), MLA for Sydney 1920-25. This name was rebuffed by the Kindergarten Union, who fervently wished to continue to perpetuate the name of one of their most influential teachers and leaders. Birt had no direct connection with the kindergarten movement or child welfare.
- (d) The old kindergarten building is to be demolished to make way for the new playground. The recommended park name "Frances Newton Reserve" conforms to the interpretation strategy developed for the site.

Argyle Street Playground

7. A new playground is under construction in Millers Point (postal address is 2 Watson Road). The park is located on the site of the former bus layover (tram turning circle) in front of the Abraham Mott Hall, the Harry Jensen Centre, and bounded on the north by Argyle Street.
8. The playground will consist of play equipment and natural adventure-play features for young children, grass lawns, seating and park furniture.
9. It is recommended to name the playground Argyle Street Playground for the reasons set out below.
 - (a) Argyle Street was named by Governor Macquarie in 1810 after his native county. The street was in two parts until a ridge between The Rocks and Millers Point was cut through in the 1840s (the Argyle Cut).
 - (b) The playground is being formed from the tram turning circle in Argyle Street and despite its Watson Road address lies adjacent to Argyle Street. The site was a tram terminus and the area enabled the trams to complete their journey and retrace their route in the opposite direction. Trams used the turning circle to swing out and make a right turn into Argyle Place, travelling back along Argyle Place beside the reserve and then turning left into Lower Fort Street. Interpretive signage on the park signage will feature information about the local tram terminus and network.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

10. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This Report is aligned with the following *Sustainable Sydney 2030* strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - Formally naming the sites will facilitate wayfinding and recognition of the sites.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies – Formally naming the sites will raise awareness and promote visitation and use of the sites and their facilities.

Organisational Impact

11. Park signage will be installed by the City as construction is completed and signage will be funded through the current Standard Park Signage capital works budget 2016/17.

Risks

12. There are no significant risks associated with the naming proposals.

Social / Cultural / Community

13. The City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board will be notified and consulted about the proposed names and their advice will be reported back to Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. The naming proposal has no significant budget implications. New park signage will be funded from the current Standard Park Signage capital works budget

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

15. The Geographical Names Act 1966 - the recommended names, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of public places.
16. The recommended names meet the Geographical Names Board guidelines.
17. The recommended names conform to the City's Draft Naming Policy.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

18. There are no critical dates.

OPTIONS

19. Council may opt not to approve the proposed names. This option is not recommended because the draft naming proposals are in line with the naming strategy, and are subject to community consultation.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Naming Procedure

20. The process for naming public spaces generally proceeds as follows:
- (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time. Notification of the public will include a letterbox drop to residences and business premises within the respective catchment area of each park, public notices in the local press, and a public notice installed on site;
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation;
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
 - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.
21. The Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through the local press as part of their routine procedure for the naming of public places. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment if required.

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