

Naming of Parks, Reserves and Park Facilities Policy

Local Government Act 2009

1. Policy Statement

This policy provides a process for the naming of parks, reserves and park facilities which are managed by Townsville City Council (Council).

2. Principles

The formal naming of parks, reserves and park facilities provides a reference for navigation and supports the community with wayfinding, place identity, emergency response and site management. Formal naming of a place imposes costs on the community for signs, maps and data management and should only be permitted when a name is required for identity and navigation purposes.

Council must ensure that:

- names for public places are appropriate and relevant;
- naming proposals are considered in the context of historical or geographical association and/or significance of a person's or organisation's past contribution to the community; and,
- names provide long-term benefits to the community that outweigh any private or corporate interests, short-term effects or impacts on the community.

3. Scope

This policy applies to the naming of parks, reserves and parks facilities which are managed by the Council.

4. Responsibility

The Director of Infrastructure & Operations and the General Manager Engineering & Asset Infrastructure Planning are responsible for ensuring that this policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant workers.

5. Definitions

Homographic names - names that are spelt the same but not necessarily pronounced the same.

Homophonic names - names that sound the same but are not necessarily spelt the same.

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Manager - an individual responsible for overseeing and coordinating specific functions, departments, teams or projects within Townsville City Council.

Park Facility - means any structure or feature located within a park or reserve such as gazebos, playgrounds, lookouts, individual ovals, playing fields or courts.

Parks and Reserves - means any parcel of land under the control of or managed by Council as open space, regardless of tenure. The definition only applies to dedicated road reserves if those roads are closed to vehicular traffic for longer than six months.

Service Club - means an organised group of local people whose work aims to improve their community (e.g. Rotary International, Lions Clubs International, etc.).

Workers - includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

6. Policy

6.1. General Guidelines

All Council managed parks are provided with a name for identification and management. Park facilities usually do not require a name, as navigation is already supported by the existing park or reserve name or the street name (e.g. the playground at Corcoran Park, on Marks Street).

Naming signs are not installed at every park, reserve or park facility, and the absence of a naming sign does not mean there is no existing name for the place.

Parks, reserves and park facilities will not be named after living persons except in exceptional circumstances, or where major sponsorship arrangements exist.

If named after a person or organisation, the person or organisation must have a connection to the place which is of cultural or historical significance or must have made a significant voluntary contribution to the community. In the case of a service club, the club must have made a significant financial or in-kind contribution to the development of the park, reserve or park facility.

6.2. Process

6.2.1 Naming a New Park

New parks are usually built by land developers as part of a new residential area. Land developers who have specific proposals to name new parks, reserves or park facilities which are being built as part of their development are required to make a written application to Council's Planning & Development section. This should occur at the operational works stage, to enable approval of the name and so that naming signs are incorporated into the development plans.

New parks that are built by Council or which are handed over to Council from land developers without an approved name, will be named by Council's Infrastructure & Operations division during the asset acquisition process. In the interest of navigation, the new park will be named after the street that coincides with the park's property address (e.g. Shutehaven Park on 2 Shutehaven Circuit). If the property address is too generic or the park access point falls on another street, the

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name of a bordering street may be used as a more appropriate option (e.g. Belmont Park on 209 Kern Brothers Drive, which is bordered by Belmont Park Avenue).

Where none of the bordering streets are appropriate to use for the park name (e.g. due to name duplication), another relevant feature will be considered for the naming. This may include a creek, river or beach name which has association with the place (e.g. Saunders Beach Park) or the suburb or subdivision name (e.g. Heatley Park).

In the instance where there are no clear naming options for the park, Council's Infrastructure & Operations division will consider alternative options which may include a historical or cultural name or a park naming competition. Such alternative options will be presented to Ordinary Council for resolution.

6.2.2 Renaming an Existing Park, Reserve or Park Facility

Names are intended to be permanent for the life of that place. Changing a name may disrupt the identity of a place and involve cost to the community through required updates to signs, maps and data registries. Renaming an existing place will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and where there are compelling reasons for the change.

Reasons for a change to an existing name include:

- the name has been misspelt;
- the name is not unique within the Local Government Area and is causing navigation confusion, including homographic or homophonic names;
- the name is no longer appropriate or acceptable and there are long-term social or cultural benefits to the community in making the change;
- the place has undergone significant change and the existing name no longer has relevance in identifying the place; or,
- the place has a pre-existing indigenous name which remains relevant to the site and holds significant cultural value to traditional owners and elders, whereby recognition of the original name will contribute to reconciliation.

Proposals to rename an existing park, reserve or park facility for the above reasons, must be submitted to Council in writing and include a reason for the change and details of the new proposed name, with supporting information.

Proposals which involve renaming a place in commemoration of a person must also include a summarised biography detailing the significance of that person to the Townsville community.

Proposals will be forwarded to Infrastructure & Operations for processing in accordance with this policy. Internal and external expertise will be approached where appropriate to provide advice about proposals received from the community.

The acceptance of a name change for any reason other than a misspelling, will be confirmed by Full Council resolution at an Ordinary Council meeting.

Corrections to misspelt names are an administrative process and may be actioned by Council's Infrastructure & Operations division within their delegated authority as the asset custodians. Where a correction to a misspelt name is likely to involve significant cost or impact to the community, a recommendation will be presented to Full Council for resolution at an Ordinary Council meeting.

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The new name is to be recorded in Council's Asset Register and updated on existing signs and maps as soon as practicable.

7. Legal Parameters

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Place Names Act 1994

8. Associated Documents

Memorials and Commemorative Items Policy

Principles for the Consistent Use of Place Names (published by the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping)

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