

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

PARK RE-NAMING POLICY

The Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (MPRAB) is tasked with hearing requests and making recommendations related to the renaming of parks within the City of Albuquerque. This document sets out policies related to this duty and was adopted unanimously by the MPRAB on May 6, 2025 by unanimous vote.

General Board Name Change Philosophy:

Consideration shall be given to names which reflect *geographical locations, natural or geological features, flora, fauna, or names in common usage*, which will align the park with a particular neighborhood or location within the City and/or honor the natural habitat that gives the park its distinct features.

Consideration shall be given to names of persons who have made significant contributions to the Albuquerque community whether in the past or present. Even so, there are a limited number of parks in our city and many, many individuals who have made important contributions. To memorialize an individual by naming or renaming a park after this individual will not be the standard practice of the Board except in compelling circumstances supported by overwhelming public support.

Creating a memorial to a person, whether in a park or elsewhere, is more appropriate and may include commemorative statues or other works of art, naming of gardens or other special features in parks or other public places, donations of money or land, or other contributions to the community in the name of an individual. In these cases, requests and/or applications for memorials should be directed to the relevant City department.

Undeveloped parks may be named by the Parks Department during the land acquisition process. Such names may be changed through the process described in this policy.

Requests for Park Name Change:

Requests for a name change which reflects a geographical location, natural or geological features, flora, fauna, or names in common usage may be directed to the MPRAB Board via letter (in person to PRD or via email or USPS mail). A park name change will be considered only if the current name does not have geographical, geological, natural, common use, or other significance and/or if there is demonstrated public support for the change.

Requests for a name change which honors a *person* may be made in two ways: 1) via letter (delivered in-person or sent via email or USPS mail) addressed to the MPRAB explaining the request; or 2) via the [ABQ Stories of Us initiative](#). ABQ Stories of Us is a “tribute to extraordinary people, past and present, who have left a significant mark on Albuquerque’s landscape.” Learn more about this initiative, including application information, [here](#).

Before a request to rename a park is considered by the MPRAB, the PARKS DEPARTMENT staff shall research the history of the current name and provide that information to Board Members at least two (2) weeks before the meeting at which the name change will be considered and discussed.

Application Process:

Once a park-naming request is received via the online form available through the ABQ Stories of Us initiative or the MPRAB (Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) webpage, the applicant will collaborate with PRD on the public notification process outlined below. The applicant is responsible for providing full and complete information on said application. Incomplete or inaccurate information shall be grounds for denial or deferral of a request.

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Public Process:

Any name change proposed for a park shall be given PUBLIC NOTICE as follows:

1. APPLICANT shall contact the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) requesting the names of affected neighborhood association(s) and coalition(s), and forward the resulting email (which acknowledges the request and information provided by ONC), at least 90 calendar days prior to the MPRAB meeting at which the name change will be considered;
2. APPLICANT shall send a copy of the completed application and a letter fully describing the background of the request to the email addresses of affected neighborhood association(s) and coalition(s) in the district on file with the ONC. APPLICANT shall also send a copy of the completed application and a letter fully describing the background of the request to PRD. Both of these should be sent at least 75 calendar days prior to the MPRAB meeting at which the name change will be considered,
3. APPLICANT shall send to PRD evidence of significant neighborhood support (e.g., petitions, neighborhood association and/or coalition approval(s), letters of support) for the park name change at least 60 calendar days prior to the MPRAB meeting at which the name change will be considered;
4. PRD staff shall post public meeting sign(s) in clearly visible locations at the park under consideration at least 30 calendar days prior to the MPRAB meeting at which the name change will be considered;
5. PRD staff shall send a notice of the proposed park name change to a daily newspaper at least 15 calendar days prior to the MPRAB meeting at which the name change will be considered.
6. PRD staff shall research the history of the current name and provide that information to the MPRAB members at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting at which the name change will be considered;
7. Written comments from individuals, neighborhood associations, groups and organizations and other entities may be delivered to the MPRAB via in-person, email, and/or USPS delivery to PRD at least five (5) calendar days prior to the designated meeting. Commenters should include their current zip code as well as their connection to the park. All written comments will be forwarded to MPRAB;
8. At the scheduled public meeting, MPRAB will take verbal public comments, and will consider all comments and suggestions from individuals, neighborhood associations, groups and organizations, PRD staff, and other entities, and make a recommendation to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department;
9. Failure to complete the above steps shall be grounds for deferral of the request until the public notice process has been properly completed.

ADOPTED by MPRAB on May 6, 2025 by unanimous vote.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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