



Report to: General Committee

Date Report: April 9, 2018

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**SUBJECT:** Naming of New Parks and Greenspace  
**PREPARED BY:** David Plant, Manager Parks Operations, ext. 4893

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report "Naming of the New Parks and Greenspace be received; and
- 2) That Council approves the following park and greenspace official names:
  - a) Napier Simpson Way, 103 John Street, Ward 1 (walkway)
  - b) Wilbur Latimer Way, 220 Main Street Unionville, Ward 3, (walkway)
  - c) Veterans Square, 6031 Highway 7E, Ward 4, (park/square)
  - d) Aaniin Park, 5757 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ward 7, (park)
- 3) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to recommend official names for 2 newly established parks and 2 unnamed greenspaces based upon the naming criteria as outlined in the Facility and Park Naming Policy (Attachment A) which was approved by Council in 2012. The process for naming a park is based on Council direction. These parks are required to be named prior to their official opening early this summer.

**BACKGROUND:**

At its meeting of March 20, 2012, Council approved a Facility and Park Naming Policy and directed staff to bring forward recommended names for existing unnamed parks and facilities. At the time, given the substantial backlog of unnamed existing parks, Council approved waiving public consultation to expedite the naming process.

At present, staff are assembling the inventory of unnamed parks Citywide which are either presently open or will be opened in the next 3 years. A working group with staff from Heritage, Operations, Corporate Communications, Markham Public Library, Recreation and Urban Design, led by the Commissioner of Community and Fire Services has been formed to review and recommend names for these parks in accordance with the established criteria. The report of proposed names will be developed and ready for Council approval by the yearend.

The recommended names in this report addresses long standing requests and sites that require accelerated naming to ensure alignment with City park and facility openings and respective sign placement.

All recommended names have been reviewed with the respective Ward Councillors and the Mayor and form the basis for these recommendations.

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**OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

All parks and facility names need to be selected as per the Facility and Park Naming Policy. As outlined in the policy, preference will be given to names that:

- have a **direct relationship with the facility**;
- reflect the **location** of the facility;
- recognize the **historical and cultural significance** of the area;
- reflect **unique characteristics** of the site;
- are in keeping with a **specific theme** of the facility;
- recognize the **contributions of organizations** to a particular facility – such as, partnership with or without financial contributions;
- honour, the significant **contribution of an individual** to the community and;
- **other selection criteria** as deemed appropriate by Markham Council.

**Proposed Names for Existing Unnamed Parks and Greenspace****Ward 1 - Napier Simpson Way  
(Map #1- walkway, 103 John Street)**

In 2014, a park in Ward 7 was named after this prominent Ontario architect who was a longtime resident and business owner on Colborne Street in historic Thornhill. Mr Simpson's widow still resides in Thornhill and she has asked that a local space in Thornhill be named for her late husband. An easement that runs between John Street and Vintage Lane is in close proximity to the current home of Ms. Simpson. The walkway is currently not named and would serve to provide a suitable recognition based on the request from the family of Mr. Simpson.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The open space easement is located in the historic Thornhill area and would help honour and recognize Mr. Simpson's contributions to this part of the Markham community. This walkway is close to the home of Mrs. Simpson and would achieve her original intentions. This naming meets the criteria of the policy in more than one element of the criteria.

**Ward 3 - Wilbur Latimer Way  
(Map #2 – walkway, 220 Main Street Unionville)**

This greenspace is located just north of Carlton Road on the west side of Main Street in the historic village of Unionville, leading from Main Street to the dam at Toogood Pond. Wilbur Lorne Latimer was a lifelong resident of Unionville and later Markham, born here in 1898 to immigrant parents who left their native Ireland for Canada in 1866. Mr Latimer attended Unionville Public School which held a total of 65 students and then later the original Markham District High School which became the Masonic Lodge. Mr Latimer worked as a mechanic eventually opening Latimer Brothers Garage where they sold Chevrolet and Oldsmobile cars. Wilbur "Slats" Latimer as he was known had an excellent reputation as a skilled mechanic which extended from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. Mr. Latimer passed away in 1993.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The proposed name recognizes a lifelong resident of Markham and his contribution to the community. Mr. Latimer and his family spent a good deal of time at Toogood Pond including cutting ice from the pond to be used in cold storage spaces. This naming meets the criteria of the policy in more than one element of the criteria.

**Ward 4 - Veteran's Square  
(Map 3 - 6031 Highway 7 E - Park/Square)**

This public gathering space is located at the southeast corner of Highway 7 and Main Street Markham, adjacent to the Markham Village Library branch. When the library was built in 1982, a cenotaph was also introduced in front of the library. This cenotaph has been used as a gathering place for the public and veterans on the day Remembrance Day is recognized by the City. Also, inside the library is the original village memorial sculpture for veterans from 1967 entitled "The Fortress" by Rebecca Sisler.

The area has in the past been informally referred to as the Library Square and was the subject of a rehabilitation master plan initiated in 2014 to create a multi-functional civic square, including a new memorial space for Markham Veterans and a firefighter memorial area.

The City received a Canada 150 Grant from the Federal Government for this project which funded 50 % of the costs. The project was described in the application as Veterans Square. Regardless of the other elements within this public square the origins of the area have been for many years an area of memorials for our Veterans hence the name would reflect its historical nature and our future commitment to honour our veterans.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The proposed name recognizes importance of this park as a gathering space to honour and remember those who have served and those who have given their lives in times of war and conflict. The name has a direct relationship with the use of the property and the most prominent features on the property, and reflects the unique theme and characteristics of the gathering space.

**Ward 7 - Aaniin Park  
(Map 4 - 5757 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

The new park is immediately adjacent to the new Aaniin Community Centre and Library. In recognition of Canada having celebrated its 150th birthday in 2017, the Community Centre and Library was named Aaniin which means "hello/welcome" in Ojibway, which recognizes the Aboriginal people who first inhabited our lands. Aaniin is pronounced as "ah-nee". This Ojibway name aligns with the City's relationship with Fort Hope (Eabametoong).

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The proposed name recognizes that the community centre & library, park, piazza and public spaces forms a campus, which was designed at the same time to serve as an integrated site for indoor and outdoor leisure activities for the community. It will also be a destination for special events that would utilize the whole site. The name meets the selection criteria as per the Facility & Park Naming Policy.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Not applicable.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

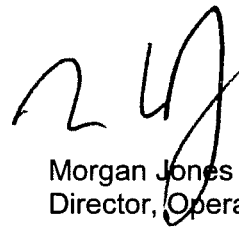
Heritage, Urban Design/ Planning, Recreation, and Markham Public Library.

**RECOMMENDED**

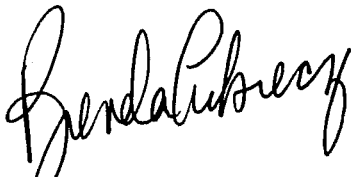
**BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Plant', with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.

David Plant  
Manager, Parks Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Morgan Jones', with a large, stylized 'M' and 'J'.

Morgan Jones  
Director, Operations

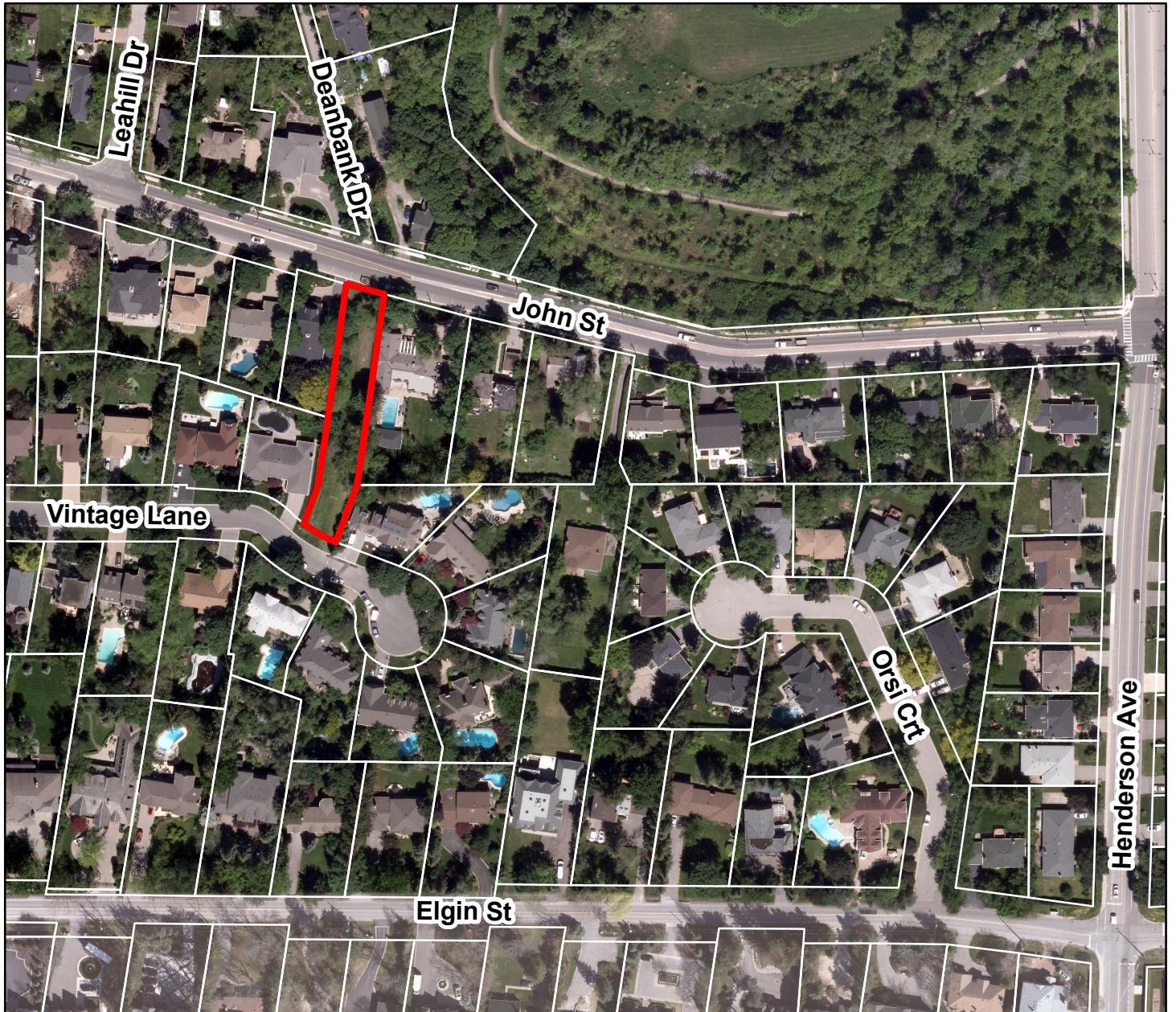
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brenda Librecz', written in a cursive style.

Brenda Librecz  
Commissioner, Community and Fire  
Services





**Ward 1 Proposed Park Name  
Napier Simpson Way  
103 John Street**







## Ward 3 Proposed Park Name

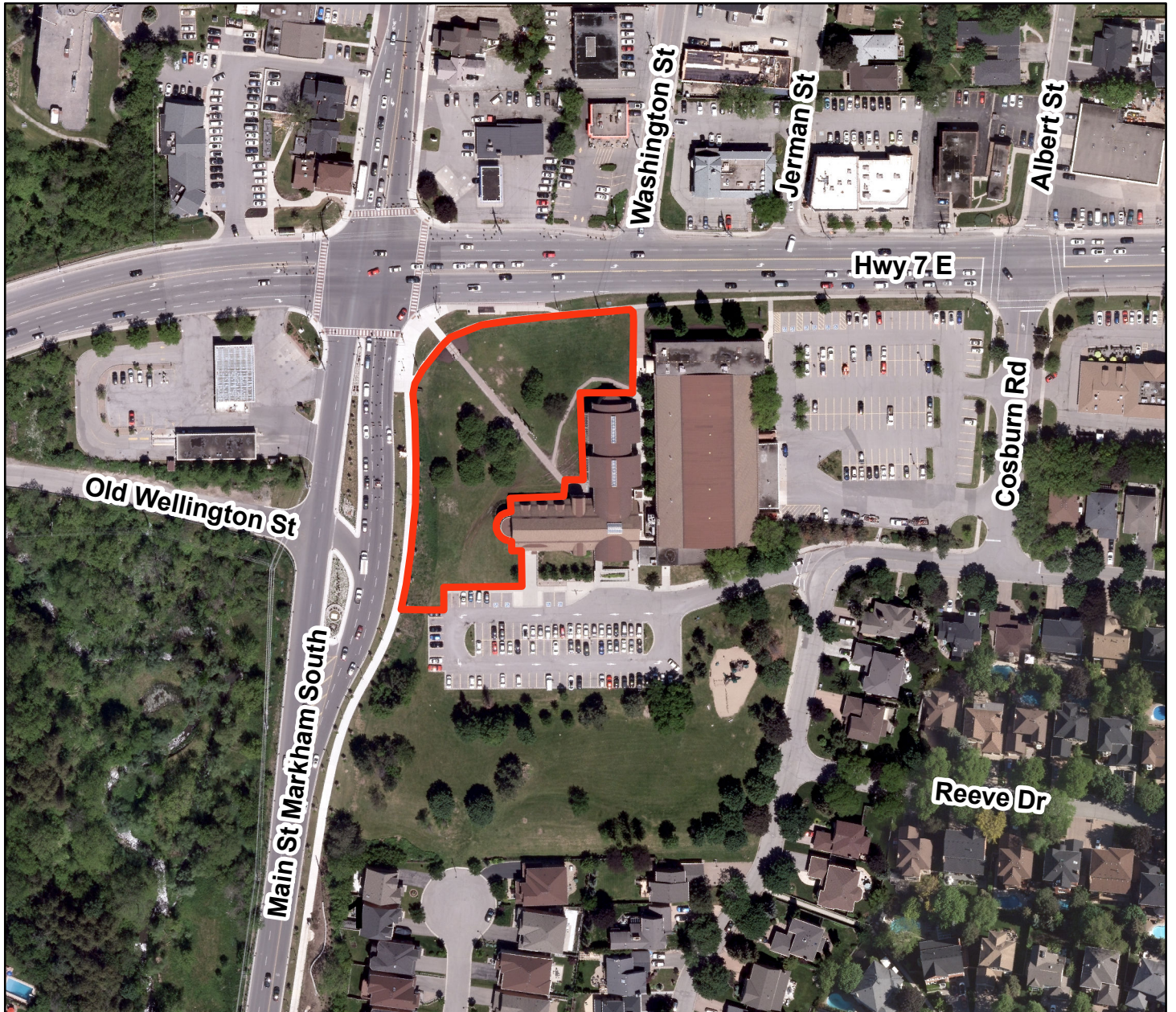
**Wilbur Latimer Way  
220 Main Street Unionville**







# Ward 4 Proposed Park Name Veterans Square 6031 Highway 7 E







# Ward 7 Proposed Park Names

## Aaniin Park

### 5757 14th Avenue

