



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager
From: Jennifer Schroder, Director
Date: December 16, 2009
Subject: Cotton Hill Park

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council consider the Park Board recommendation to officially name the park site at N.E. 100th & 110 Avenue N.E. as Cotton Hill Park.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

On November 18th, Karen Story, Cotton Hill Park Steward and resident of the Highland Neighborhood emailed to the Park Board requesting to adopt the name Cotton Hill Park for the park site at NE 100th & 110th Avenue NE.

The park site at NE 100th & 110th Avenue NE has been referred to as Cotton Hill Park for several years, however, there is no known documentation of when and why, this park site was most commonly referred to as Cotton Hill Park, or that the city had officially adopted the name.

The park site is an open space that over the last 3 years has been in restoration thanks to the Green Kirkland program and the support from the Highland Neighborhood Association, volunteers and the University of Washington REN program. The majority of the parks 2.16 acres were first acquired in 1967 and a second acquisition was completed in 2008. The park has been identified in the cities park facility maps and the Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan as Cotton Hill Park since 2001.

Generally, the selection of a name for a park site is based upon the relationship of a site to one of the following criteria:

1. Neighborhood or geographical identification (i.e. Houghton, Bridle Trails, Rose Hill, etc.);
2. A natural or geological feature (i.e. Forbes Creek);
3. Historical or cultural significance;
4. An individual (living or deceased) who has given outstanding civic service to the Kirkland park system, or has donated substantial funds or land to the Kirkland park system, or has been otherwise instrumental in the acquisition or development of critical park acreage (i.e. Marsh Park). Parks or facilities shall not ordinarily be named for a living person, unless that person has made a significant and outstanding contribution of land, money, or civic service. A waiting period of at least one year should expire before naming a park or facility under the policy of this subparagraph;

From: karen@tinyisland.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 1:29 PM
To: ParkBoard@ci.kirkland.wa.us; citycouncil@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Cc: Michael Cogle; Jason Filan; Kari Page
Subject: Request to officially name Cotton Hill Park

Dear Parks Board, Parks Staff, and Council Members,

It has come to my attention that Cotton Hill Park may not be officially named. Now that the park is being actively restored and used, I think it needs an official name. In addition, without an official name, we can't install a sign at the entrance to the park. An identifying sign is important because of the increased use of the park.

I am writing to ask that the name Cotton Hill Park be officially adopted.

Adopting a different name would be disruptive. A Google search on "cotton hill park kirkland" yields 35,600 hits. The name Cotton Hill Park is used by the city on their website and in official documents (such as the recent Shelton land purchase), the Green Kirkland Partnership (including EarthCorps and Cascade Land Conservancy), the UW Restoration Ecology program, United Way's MLK Day of Service, local news media, neighborhood correspondence, and other organizations. All of these entities would have to be notified if the name changed, and a name change would create confusion and discontinuity for anyone researching the history of park activities.

For all of these reasons, I urge the Parks Board to officially adopt the name Cotton Hill Park.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,
Karen Story
Cotton Hill Park Steward