

# METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (MPRAB) PARK NAMING POLICY

The 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 February 6, 2024.

## **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 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](#).

NOTE: Parks currently named after a person should not be considered for a change in name except in compelling circumstances supported by overwhelming public support.

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 by the MPRAB, the applicant will receive a standard application form with information about the required letters of support and documentation that must accompany the completed and returned form. 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.

**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 requesting the names of affected neighborhood association(s);
2. APPLICANT shall send the affected neighborhood association(s) a copy of the initial request letter and the completed application;
3. The PARKS DEPARTMENT shall send a notice of the proposed park name change to a daily newspaper, requesting publication of the time and date of the Board meeting where discussion of the proposed naming will be considered;
4. The PARKS DEPARTMENT shall provide sign(s) to be posted at the park under consideration at least 15 days prior to the Board meeting at which the name change will be discussed. The PARKS DEPARTMENT shall be responsible for posting said sign(s) in clearly visible locations at the park.
5. The MPRAB will take into consideration all comments and suggestions from individuals, neighborhood associations, groups and organizations, the Parks Department staff, and other entities. These may be delivered to the MPRAB via in-person delivery to the PRD or via email or USPS mail at least FIVE (5) DAYS prior to the designated meeting, or during the public comment period at the meeting;
6. 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 February 6, 2024, by unanimous vote.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

MPRAB c/o CABQ Parks and Recreation Department  
1801 4th St NW, Albuquerque NM 87102-1425  
(505) 768-5353  
dennisvasquez@cabq.gov