



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Naming of Two New City of Toronto Parks in the West Don Lands

Date:	May 28, 2013
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 28, Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE25-061813-AFS#17794

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report responds to the direction of Toronto and East York Community Council, at its April 9th, 2013 meeting (TE23.86, Recs. #1 and 2), authorizing a public competition to select a name for the new park in the West Don Lands neighbourhood, located between Bayview Avenue and the GO/CN railroad lines, from King Street to the rail corridor in the south. The public park naming competition has concluded and the new name chosen is “Corktown Common.”

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division is recommending that the park name selected by Toronto residents, “Corktown Common,” be officially adopted as the name of the new park.

In addition, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation is also recommending that the park bound by Lawren Harris Square and Bayview Avenue be officially named "Lawren Harris Square", as per Toronto and East York Community Council's direction of April 9, 2013 (TE23.86, Rec. #3). This naming proposal met all the criteria of the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. approve the park name “Corktown Common” selected by Toronto residents in the public naming competition for the new park in the West Don Lands neighbourhood, located between Bayview Avenue and the GO/CN railroad lines, from King Street to the rail corridor in the south.
2. officially name the park bound by Lawren Harris Square and Bayview Avenue “Lawren Harris Square” in honour of Lawren Harris, Canadian painter and member of the Group of Seven.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of April 9, 2013, Toronto and East York Community Council directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to report on the naming of two new City of Toronto parks located in the West Don Lands.

Toronto and East York Community Council Decision Document - Item TE23.86:
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.TE23.86>

COMMENTS

Corktown Common

The West Don Lands are currently being transformed from former industrial land into a thriving, mixed-use neighbourhood. At the cornerstone of this redevelopment is a massive new park currently known as Don River Park. It will boast 18 acres of green space, a community kitchen, barbecue, an outdoor fireplace, slides, swings, a splash pad, a soccer pitch, an off-leash dog park, an environmentally friendly closed-loop stormwater management system and solar panels, plus a mix of forest, marsh, prairie, and paths.

The “Help Name the Newest Waterfront Park” contest, which included three voting phases was launched on April 11th, by Waterfront Toronto and The Grid. Members of the public were encouraged to submit a new name for the park and to vote for their favourite online from the selection panel short list. On May 22nd, “Corktown Common” the park name with the most number of votes, was declared the winner.

During the six week online *Name That Park* contest, almost 450 suggestions were submitted and nearly 1,500 people voted for their favourite name during the voting round. Corktown Common, submitted by Mr. Tedd Konya, received the most number of votes. Mr. Konya explained in his submission that the name was to “...honour the

neighborhood that was broken up with the highway ramps and is now coming back to life thanks to redevelopment projects like the park.”

The name "Corktown Common" incorporates the past and present neighbourhood demographics. "Corktown" honours the Irish workers who settled there after their country's famine, and "Common" reflects the belonging of this park to all residents in the newly-developed neighbourhood.

Lawren Harris Square

The second parcel of parkland in this area has been referred to as Lawren Harris Square since inception. Lawren Harris was a Canadian painter who was not only a member of the Group of Seven, but credited for the formation of this group of artists who pioneered a distinctly Canadian painting style in the early twentieth century.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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