

The Feasibility of Renaming "Caledonia Park" to "Santo Domingo Park"

Date: November 28, 2019

To: North York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 8 - Eglinton - Lawrence

SUMMARY

On June 11, 2018, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) received a resident-initiated application to rename Caledonia Park, located at 1141 Caledonia Road to "Santo Domingo Park." Property naming and renaming are a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Division staff have reviewed the Council-approved City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, conducted a public consultation and concluded that renaming the park would be controversial. However, naming the baseball diamond within Caledonia Park would provide an opportunity to recognize Dominican baseball and be acceptable to the applicant and the Dominican community.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation does not support the renaming of Caledonia Park to Santo Domingo Park based on the lack of community support. However, the Division supports naming the baseball diamond in Caledonia Park the "Santo Domingo Baseball Diamond."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that:

1. North York Community Council not support the renaming of Caledonia Park to Santo Domingo Park.
2. North York Community Council adopts naming the baseball diamond in Caledonia Park located at 1141 Caledonia Road the Santo Domingo Baseball Diamond.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history related to this matter.

COMMENTS

Caledonia Park is an 11.5 hectare park located at Caledonia Road and Lawrence Avenue West, featuring two cricket pitches, one baseball diamond, a multipurpose sports field and volleyball courts.

In accordance with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, Parks, Forestry and Recreation conducted a public consultation from September to December 2018. Staff posted signs in the park with information about the renaming and consultation process, which consisted of an online survey and mailing address for residents to share feedback with the City.

Results of the consultation found that residents in support of the park renaming would like Caledonia Park recognized for hosting Dominican baseball. Whereas, residents in opposition to the renaming described the park as significant to the local community and known for diverse recreation and community activities.

Naming the baseball diamond would recognize the Dominican community for their positive contributions to baseball in the city.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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