

Naming a Park at 40 Grenoble Drive in Honour of Vanessa Rose

Date: June 18, 2026

To: North York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks and Recreation

Wards: 16 - Don Valley East

SUMMARY

City Council adopted the Commemorative Framework at its July 2022 meeting. The Framework provides guidance to the public, Elected Officials, and City staff regarding the commemorative naming and renaming of streets and City properties, and the consideration of proposals for new and existing commemorative monuments.

The subject naming proposal was submitted by Ward 16 (Don Valley East) City Councillor Jon Burnside. The proposal seeks to name a new park located at 40 Grenoble Drive as “Vanessa Rose Park.” This proposal has garnered significant support from long-time residents and community members who either collaborated directly with Vanessa Rose or recognize her substantial impact on the communities of Don Valley West, Thorncliffe Park, and Flemingdon Park.

Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Economic Development and Culture Division, and Strategic Partnerships reviewed the application. The review concluded that the naming proposal satisfies the criteria of the Property Naming Policy and aligns with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks and Recreation recommends that:

1. North York Community Council adopt the naming of a park at 40 Grenoble Drive as “Vanessa Rose Park”.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the costs associated with the production and installation of the new signage is accounted for in the construction budget of the park. Parks and Recreation's Operating and Capital Budget will not be impacted.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2022, adopted the following:

1. City Council adopt the City of Toronto Commemorative Framework, consisting of:
 - a. the Guiding Principles for Commemoration in Attachment 1 to the report (June 27, 2022) from the City Manager, as amended by Part 2 below:
 - b. the revised City of Toronto Street Naming Policy in Attachment 2 to the report (June 27, 2022) from the City Manager;
 - c. the revised City of Toronto Property Naming Policy in Attachment 3 to the report (June 27, 2022) from the City Manager; and
 - d. the revised City of Toronto Public Art and Monument Donations Policy in Attachment 4 to the report (June 27, 2022) from the City Manager.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.6>

COMMENTS

Community Councils possess delegated authority to decide property naming matters that comply with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy.

Parks and Recreation consulted with Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development and Culture to ensure the naming met the criteria of the Property Naming Policy and aligned with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration. Given that City staff advised that the naming meets all the criteria, staff recommend that Community Council name the park located at 40 Grenoble Drive as "Vanessa Rose Park."

The proposed name was circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

The following summarizes EDC's research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

The application to name the new park at 40 Grenoble Drive in the Flemington neighbourhood as "Vanessa Rose Park" presents substantive evidence of Vanessa

Rose's compassion and dedication to improving the communities of Don Valley West, Thorncliffe Park, and Flemingdon Park, particularly her behind-the-scenes support of community-oriented initiatives and advocacy work.

The naming proposal was submitted by Ward 16 (Don Valley East) City Councillor Jon Burnside. The application included a biography, evidence of community engagement, and letters of support from colleagues, residents, and local community organizations.

As outlined by the applicant and verified through staff research, Vanessa Rose has served the communities of Don Valley West, Thorncliffe Park, and Flemingdon Park since 2004. Her experience includes working as a civil servant for multiple municipal Councillors in the area now known as Ward 15 and as a community development organizer with The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), which delivers equity-based programs that empower participants to strengthen communities. She also volunteered extensively with organizations such as the Don Valley Community Legal Services (DVCLS) and Flemingdon Community Support Services (FCSS), including serving in several roles on the DVCLS Board of Directors. Rose currently serves as the Traffic Liaison for the Leaside Business Park Association.

The application emphasizes that Rose brings extensive knowledge of legal and governmental processes through her work in legal clinics and public service, with a focus on tenants' rights and community-based development planning. Her mentorship and support have strengthened local advocacy efforts, and she is recognized as a reliable and trusted figure across the Flemingdon, Thorncliffe, and Leaside communities. Rose has demonstrated a particular commitment to supporting women entrepreneurs in these communities.

The application lists several honours and recognitions that Rose received for her contributions and volunteer work. In 2024, Rose was awarded the 'Friends of Jinnah' Award by the Canadian Association of Pakistani Origin for her dedication to the community.

The application provides evidence of community engagement through letters of support from residents and leadership of organizations with which Rose has volunteered. Councillor Jon Burnside received no objections following notice of the proposed naming in his Ward newsletter.

In summary, as outlined in the application and confirmed through City staff research, Vanessa Rose has made sustained and meaningful contributions across multiple Toronto communities for many years through her work in community, and is widely regarded as a respected community leader.

Recommended Park

The new 1,115 m² park is located at 40 Grenoble Drive. The new park is the result of a residential development project at 25 St. Dennis Drive in the Flemingdon Park neighbourhood. Construction of the new park is anticipated for completion in Fall 2027.

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SIGNATURE

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