

Naming New Park at 95 St. Patrick Street – Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park

Date: June 16, 2026

To: Toronto East York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks and Recreation

Wards: 10 – Spadina-Fort York

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 application to name the new park located at 95 St. Patrick Street (St. Patrick Street, south of Dundas Street), in Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York, contributes to Indigenous placekeeping in Toronto's downtown core through the proposed bilingual name "Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park".

The park was previously referred to as new park at 234 Simcoe Street, because it is associated with the development project at 234 Simcoe Street. However, the new park now has an official address on St. Patrick Street.

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. Toronto and East York Community Council adopt the naming of "Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park" for the new park at 95 St. Patrick Street.

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. As such, 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 have delegated authority to decide property naming matters that comply with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy.

An application has been submitted to Strategic Partnerships to name the park “Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park”, a Anishinaabemowin and English bilingual name. The proposed name was circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Parks and Recreation consulted with Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development and Culture to review this proposal. Staff have confirmed that the proposed naming aligns with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy and the Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

The application to name the new park located at 95 St. Patrick Street in Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York, contributes to Indigenous placekeeping in Toronto’s downtown core through the proposed bilingual name, “Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park”. The application outlines the broader planning process for the Relic Linear Park System that runs between its southern gateway at Queen Street and Simcoe Street to the northern gateway at Dundas Street West and McCaul Street. Additionally, the application includes letters of support from numerous community organizations, including from Anishnaabe artist Michael Belmore, and signed petitions in support of the name.

As outlined in the application, the Relic Linear Park system was developed in alignment with the [Grange Green Plan](#), prepared in 2018 by the Grange Community Association (GCA) in collaboration with then Ward 20 Councillor Joe Cressy. The Grange Green Plan was adopted by the Toronto and East York Community Council in 2018 ([TE34.177](#)).

Early consultations with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation highlighted the colonial framework that informed the architectural relics from early Toronto buildings that were to be used throughout Relic Linear Park. Acknowledging this, Parks and Recreation issued a Call for Expressions of Interest in June 2022 for Indigenous artists and/or designers to join in the planning and design of the park. For the park at 95 St. Patrick Street, Anishinaabe artist Michael Belmore was commissioned by City of Toronto to create an art installation in conversation with the colonial architectural relics displayed in the same place.

The application describes how the proposed bilingual name reflects the Indigenous and colonial carved stones that decorate the park. Belmore's work, *Mishibizhiig: The Underwater Panther*, is a long horizontal block of black granite with hand carved depictions of mishibizhiig. These underwater spirit panthers have lynx-like bodies, metallic scales, horns, and the tail of a serpent. Mishibizhiig rule liminal spaces wherein land, water, and sky meet, as well as caves and deep crevices in the earth.

The applicants conferred with Belmore to ensure the name respected his work. In his letter of support, Belmore states, "The name Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park expresses the intent of my work in stone. The name also acknowledges the spirit residing in the park's other carved stones, produced by anonymous artists for the city's buildings many years ago."

The applicants sent detailed information packages to nearby institutions and organizations seeking letters of support for the naming of the new park. This resulted in ten letters of support from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, community organizations, nearby condominium corporations, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and OCAD University. The applicant also gathered feedback from the community in July and August 2024, resulting in 85 signatures from residents of Toronto, southern Ontario, across Canada, and internationally.

The proposed name aligns with the City of Toronto's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#). The park design was guided by Indigenous ways of knowing and being and thus supports Section 15 of the plan, which calls for Indigenous Placekeeping in parks. The bilingual park name also fulfills Section 17.1 of the Reconciliation Action Plan, which prioritizes the use of Indigenous languages.

Recommended Park

The new park is located at 95 St. Patrick Street (St. Patrick Street, south of Dundas Street).

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Terry Ricketts
General Manager, Parks and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Figure 1: Draft Design for the New Park
Attachment 2 - Figure 2: Preliminary Sculpture Design by Michael Belmore

Attachment 1 - Figure 1: Draft Design for the New Park



Attachment 2 - Figure 2: Preliminary Sculpture Design by Michael Belmore

