



University City  
Parks, Recreation and Forestry

<b>PARK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	
<b>Naming of Trails</b>	<b>Number: 028</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>
	<b>Page 1 of 3</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

University City strives to identify names for regional and local access trails that best reflect the significance of a feature and the community it serves, while also ensuring a worthy and enduring legacy for the City’s parks and recreation system.

The act of naming is significant and meaningful. A name can invoke powerful emotions, create images and help to recall history. The naming of a regional or local access trail is intended to be a permanent act, and therefore should be approached in a thoughtful manner. The name of a regional or local access trail should take into consideration the past, present, and future history of the land, its use, and our relationship to it.

This policy provides the City of University City a systematic and consistent approach to naming our assets. This policy addresses unnamed regional and local access trails.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Regional Trails Regional trails that connect University City to adjacent communities or to regionally significant natural features such as rivers and streams.
- B. Local Access Trails trails/paths in parks or contained within a natural area are considered local access trails, not regional trails. The definition is based on length and purpose, rather than on width or material.
- C. Major Donations: a donation of property, goods, or cash generally with no expectation of return. If the gift is contingent upon a special request, it is made subject to a “condition.”

**III. REVISION HISTORY**

## **IV. REFERENCES**

## **V. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### Historic Events, People, and Places

History plays an important role in the naming of a regional or local access trail. Historical context can inform a name by honoring the city, its founders, Native American heritage, local landmarks, prominent geographical locations, and natural and geological features.

### Outstanding Individuals

The City has benefited, through its evolution, from the contributions made by many outstanding individuals. Honoring these individuals through naming can remind the public of our past, inspire great actions and motivate us to become better stewards. Individuals honored through naming should have contributed significantly to the betterment of the environment, humanity and/or the City of University City.

### Major Gifts

The City of University City sometimes benefit from the significant generosity of residents, businesses, and foundations. On occasion, the significance of such donations may warrant the acknowledgement of such a gift by naming.

## **VI. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

### Naming for Historic Events, People, and Places

When a regional or local access trail is associated with or located near events, people, and places of historic, cultural, or social significance, consideration will be given to naming that regional or local access trail after such events, people, and places. In considering such proposals, the relationship of the event, person, or place to the regional or local access trail must be demonstrated through research and documentation.

### Naming for Outstanding Individuals

Naming a regional or local access trail for an outstanding individual is encouraged posthumously and where that person's significance and good reputation have been accepted in the City's, State's and/or Nation's history.

When considering the naming of a regional or local access trail after a person, consideration will be given when:

- The person was exceptionally dedicated or demonstrated excellence in service in ways that made a significant contribution to the land, community, the City, State of Missouri, or the

United States.

- The person volunteered and gave extraordinary help or care to individuals, families, or groups, or support to the community.
- The person risked his or her life to save or protect others.

### Naming for Major Donations

A significant donation made to the City that adds considerable value to the City may be recognized through naming.

The threshold for considering the naming of a regional or local access trail will include one or more of the following:

- Land for the majority of the site was deeded to the city.
- Contribution of a significant portion of the capital construction costs associated with developing the regional or local access trail.
- Creation of or contribution to an endowment for the continued maintenance and/or programming of the regional or local access trail. The contribution will provide resources to support the effort for a minimum of 20 years.

### Other Considerations

- The City reserves the right to determine which amenities fall under this policy-regional or local access trail: names should be consistent with our data management systems.
- Trail segments will be labeled by staff with approval, in a manner that supports the ability of users to navigate safely through the trail system.
- Names that are currently in use will not be considered.
- Names that are discriminatory or derogatory will not be considered.
- We discourage the renaming of an existing asset.
- All graphical representations within our parks system are subject to our design standards.
- The City reserves the right to rename a regional or local access trail if the name is later determined to be inappropriate, incorrect, or offensive.
- Naming regional or local access trails with a company name is not permitted, corporate logos, insignias, brands, or direct advertising text shall not be used.

Requests should contain the following minimum information:

- Name of applicant.
- Proposed name for asset.
- Background/support for proposed name.
- Demonstrated community support for the proposed name.
- Identify interested/impacted stakeholders (who will care about the name?).
- Description/map showing location.
- Include a description/map showing the location of the regional or local access trail.
- If proposing to name a regional or local access trail after an outstanding person, include documentation of that person's contribution to the City's, State's, or Nation's history.

Once the Parks Commission has identified a name, the recommendation will be presented to the City Manager in writing by the supporting staff person. A recommendation from the Commission must have either the full consensus of the Commission or have a 2/3 majority vote in support of the name. The City Manager may solicit feedback from the Parks Commission and/or the public to gain additional information prior to making a recommendation to City Council.

### Research

It is essential that any name, especially names referencing individuals and/or families be thoroughly researched. Some suggestions for learning more about the history of a name include:

- Historic Plat Maps and Sanborn Maps.
- Missouri Archives.
- Google Search for online documents or references.
- Library Search for documents or references (ask a research librarian for assistance).
- US Census Archives.
- National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/index.html>