

APPROVED
OCT 06 2022
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-255

DATE October 06, 2022

C.D. 10

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: JIM GILLIAM RECREATION CENTER – NAMING OF THE PLAYGROUND – NAMING OF THE SPLASH PAD – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(5) [INSTALLATION OF A SIGN LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ M. Rudnick _____
H. Fujita _____ *fu* C. Santo Domingo *DF*
B. Jackson _____ N. Williams _____

General Manager

Approved X **With Corrections** Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Take the following actions regarding the playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center;
 - A. Approve the naming of the playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center as “Julius Philips Playground” as more fully set forth in this Report;
 - B. Authorize the installation of **standard RAP wooden park signage**;

2. Take the following actions regarding the splash pad at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center;
 - A. Approve the naming of the splash pad at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center as “Gregory Horn Splash Pad” as more fully set forth in this Report;
 - B. Authorize the installation of **standard RAP wooden park signage**;

3. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation of a sign located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article

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19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a NOE; and
5. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Jim Gilliam Recreation Center is located at 4000 South La Brea Ave in the Baldwin Hills community of the City. Jim Gilliam Recreation Center is a 17.63 acre park that features a recreation center, child care center, basketball and tennis courts, baseball diamond, multipurpose field, children's play area, fitness trails, walking paths, and picnic tables. Approximately 11,589 residents live within a one-half (1/2) mile walking distance of Jim Gilliam Recreation Center. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Jim Gilliam Recreation Center meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

On May 16, 2018, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved the Jim Gilliam Recreation Center - New Play Area and Splash Pad (PRJ21098) (PRJ21188) Project (Project), which include the replacement of the children's play area and the construction of a new splash pad (Report No. 18-084). The playground replacement portion of the Project was completed in 2019. The new splash pad was completed in October 2022.

Naming Request

On June 18, 2018, the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council Board voted unanimously to recommend that the playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center be named in honor of Julius Philips and the splash pad at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center be named in honor of Gregory Horn.

On October 10, 2018, the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion requesting that the playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center be named in honor of Julius Philips and the splash pad at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center be named in honor of Gregory Horn (C.F.# 18-0823).

The proposed renaming of the playground was presented to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force on October 17, 2018, and the Task Force expressed support for the naming of the playground.

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The proposed namings were presented by RAP staff to the Jim Gilliam Park Advisory Board (PAB) on April 7, 2022 and September 13, 2022. The community members that participated in public comment, including members of Gregory Horn's family, were supportive of both proposed names. The PAB voted unanimously to support both proposed names on September 13, 2022.

The Office of Council District 10 continues to advocate and support the naming of the playground and splash pad as proposed in this Report.

Background on Julius Philips

Julius Phillips (1938-2017) was an active member of the Baldwin Hills community for many years. Contributions to the community included involvement with the Los Angeles Police Department, the City of Los Angeles, and Jim Gilliam Recreation Center. Mr. Phillips served two terms as President of the Jim Gilliam Senior Citizen Club and was a tireless advocate for the youth in the community and at Jim Gilliam. Frequently viewed as an instrumental role model in the community Mr. Philips touched many lives at the local level.

Background on Gregory Horn

Gregory Scott Horn was born December 9, 1985 in Los Angeles. He was the youngest son to Cheryl Smith and Lawrence Horn. He attended Hillcrest Elementary school followed by Audubon Jr. High and later graduated from Dorsey High School in 2003. After high school, Gregory attended Los Angeles Trade Tech and Burbank City College. He really enjoyed attending college, he enjoyed the atmosphere and being surrounded by people of all walks of life. He loved that they were all striving for more. Gregory was a competitive athlete. He was passionate at an early age in various sports, he truly fell in love with basketball. He played throughout his life. Gregory started working for the City of Los Angeles at the age of 14. He was a mentor, youth basketball coach and referee. He also worked for Community Build, a non-profit organization providing services to low income families, and participated in the Safe Passage program, assisting kids in getting to and from Dorsey High School. Gregory loved working with those in the community. Gregory was also known as Greg, G-Smoove because he had a very calm demeanor, and Dragon Fly because he was so swift on the court. Greg was a loving son, a driven father, a responsible brother, and loyal friend. A Baldwin village resident and active community member, Gregory was shot and killed in 2011 at the age of 25. Gregory lost his life helping a fellow community member while trying to stop an altercation.

BOARD NAMING POLICY

On June 5, 2013, RAP adopted a Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities (Policy) for the naming of parks, recreation facilities, park amenities, landmarks and other park assets (Report No. 13-161). This Policy enumerates the criteria and guidelines for use when evaluating proposed park names (Attachment 5). Several of the adopted guidelines applicable to this application are as follows:

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- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.

RAP staff has determined that the criteria and guidelines of the Policy have been met.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons stated in this Report, RAP staff recommends the approval of the naming of the playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center to the "Julius Philips Playground" and the naming of the splash pad to "Gregory Horn Splash Pad" and installing appropriate signage.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed Project consists of installation of a sign located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved September 20, 2020, this area does not reside in a liquefaction zone. This site is not within a coastal, methane, or historic zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of September 20, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, staff recommends that the Board determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of this Report will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The cost to purchase and install the new signage will be paid for by the Jim Gilliam Recreation Center - New Play Area and Splash Pad (PRJ21098) (PRJ21188) Project, which is funded by Park Fees and AB1290 Funds.

This report was prepared by Meghan Luera, Senior Management Analyst I, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

- 1) Attachment 1 – Naming Motion Approved by Los Angeles City Council (C.F.# 18-0823)
- 2) Attachment 2 – Letter of Support from the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council Board
- 3) Attachment 3 – Naming Presentation for September 13, 2022 PAB Meeting
- 4) Attachment 4 – PAB Meeting Flyer
- 5) Attachment 5 – RAP Naming Policy and Guidelines

MOTION

At its meeting of June 28, 2018, the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council Board unanimously voted to name the soon-to-be constructed playground at the Jim Gilliam Recreation Center after Julius Phillips. In addition, the Board unanimously voted to name the soon-to-be-constructed splash pad at the Recreation Center after Gregory Horn. Naming these areas within the Recreation Center will be a fitting tribute to the lives of these two men, who have so greatly inspired the Baldwin Hills community.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to name the new playground located within the Jim Gilliam Recreation Center at 4000 South La Brea Avenue as the "Julius Phillips Playground."

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to name the new splash pad located within the Recreation Center as the "Gregory Horn Splash Pad."

PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

cc


AUG 28 2018

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Carl Morgan, Chair
Denise Stansell, Co-Chair
A. Kouture, Rec Secretary
Mary Jones-Darks, Area 1 Rep
W. Wilson, Area 1 Rep
Matthew Jewett, Area 2 Rep
Jackie Ryan, Area 2 Rep
Patrice Anderson, Area 3 Rep
Jamal Jones, Area 3 Rep

**Find dates and locations of
community meetings at:**
www.ecwandc.org

*A Certified City Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council since
March 23, 2002*



All Meetings are Open to the Public

office@ecwandc.org
(323) 325-1821

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Edmond Warren, Treasurer
Kathy Guyton, Corr. Secretary
Jason Lombard, At Large
Johnnie Raines, III, At Large
Kim Williams, At Large
Misty Wilks, Member At Large

Serving the communities of:
Arlington Park, Bedford Communities,
Baldwin Hills Estates, Baldwin Village,
Baldwin Hills Village Garden Homes,
Baldwin Vista, Cameo Plaza, Crenshaw
Manor, Leimert Park & Village Green

June 20, 2018

Recreation and Parks Commission
City of Los Angeles
221 North Figueroa Street
Suite No. 350
Los Angeles CA 90012

RE: NAMING OF THE PLAYGROUND AND SPLASH PAD (TO BE CONSTRUCTED) AT JIM GILLIAM RECREATION CENTER

Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the naming of the playgrounds at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center soon to be constructed. At our regularly scheduled meeting on June 18, 2018, the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council (ECWANDC) Board unanimously voted to recommend the soon to be constructed playground after Mr. Julius Phillips. In addition, the Board unanimously voted to name the soon to be constructed splash pad after Mr. Gregory Horn. We feel that naming the areas within the Recreation Center will be an honorable tribute to the lives of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Horn

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the matter. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact our office

Sincerely,

Carl Morgan
Chair, ECWANC

CC: Honorable Herb Wesson, Jr., Council President

Jim Gilliam Recreation Center Playground and Splash Pad Naming Presentation

Department of Recreation and Parks

September 13, 2022



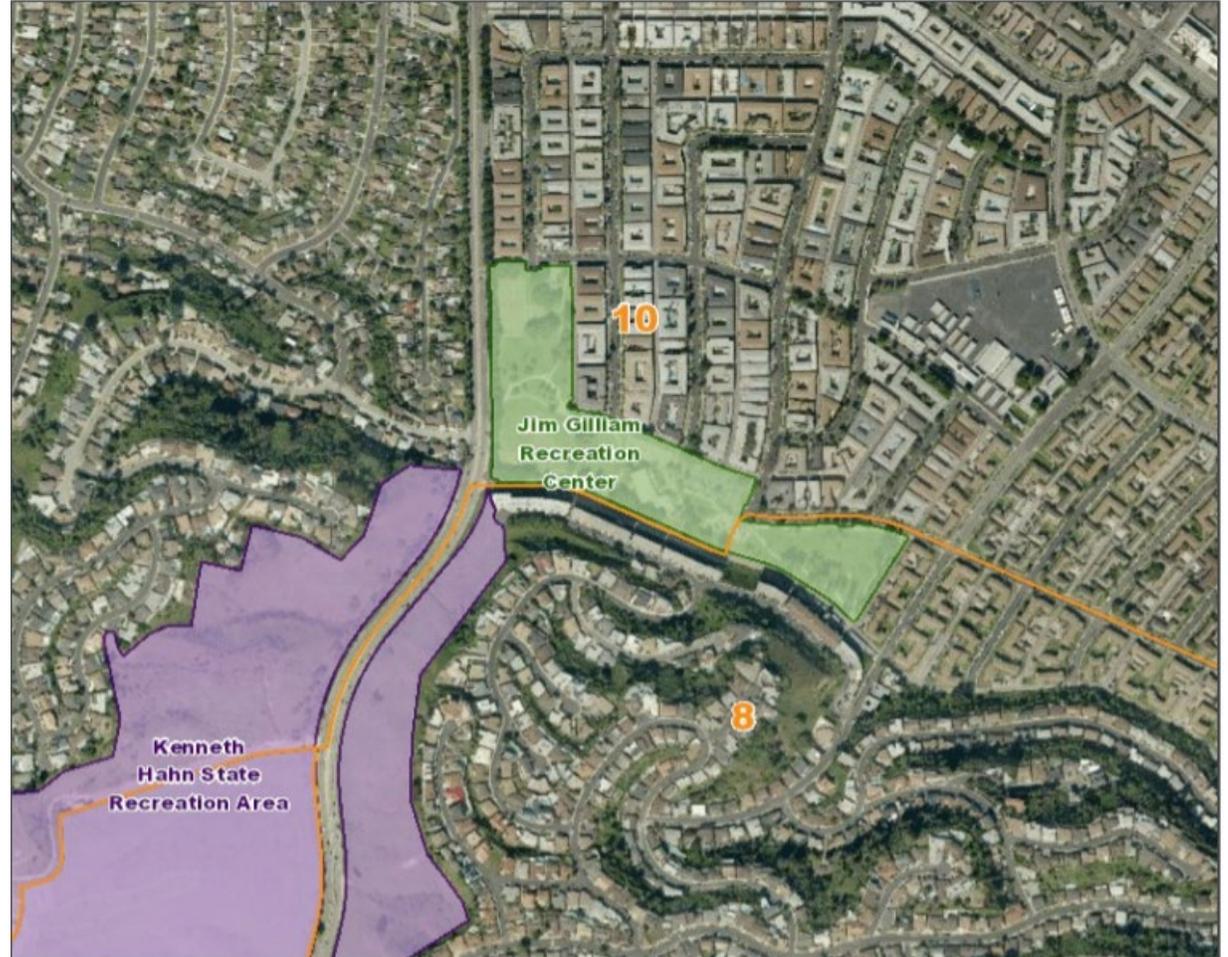
PARK PROUD LA

Agenda

- About Jim Gilliam Recreation Center
- Surrounding Parks in Baldwin Hills
- RAP Naming Policy
- Jim Gilliam Recreation Center Name
- Proposed Names
- Naming Process Next Steps

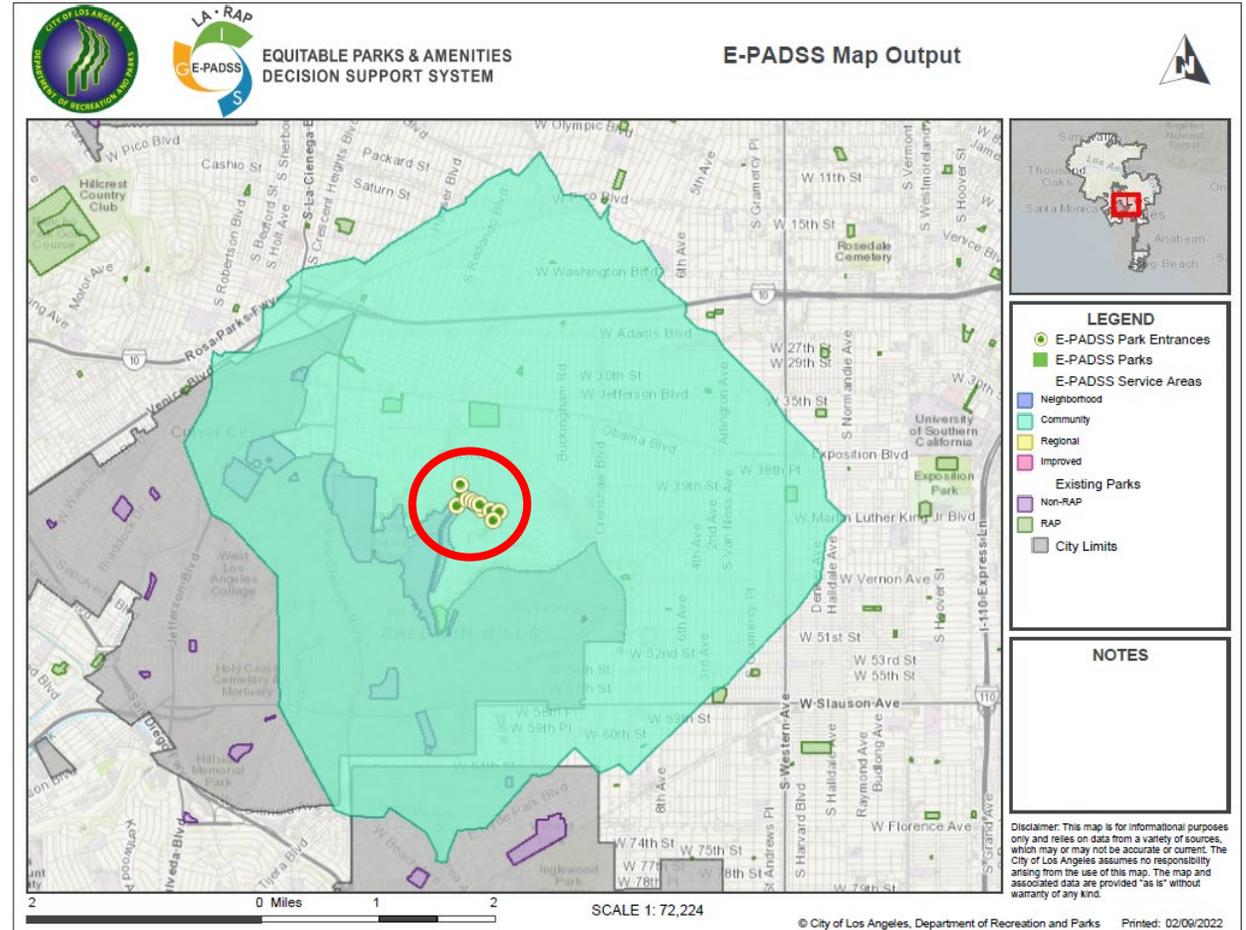
About Jim Gilliam Recreation Center

- Located at 4000 South La Brea Avenue in Baldwin Hills
- Classified as a Community Park
- Current features of Jim Gilliam Recreation Center:
 - Recreation center
 - Child care center
 - Basketball courts
 - Tennis courts
 - Baseball diamond
 - Multipurpose field
 - Fitness trails and walking paths
 - Picnic areas



Surrounding Parks in Baldwin Hills

- Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
- Rancho Cienega Sports Center
- Baldwin Hills Recreation Center
- Vineyard Recreation Center
- Westside Neighborhood Park
- Syd Kronenthal Park
- Culver City Park
- Blair Hills Park
- Leimert Plaza
- Norman O. Houston Park

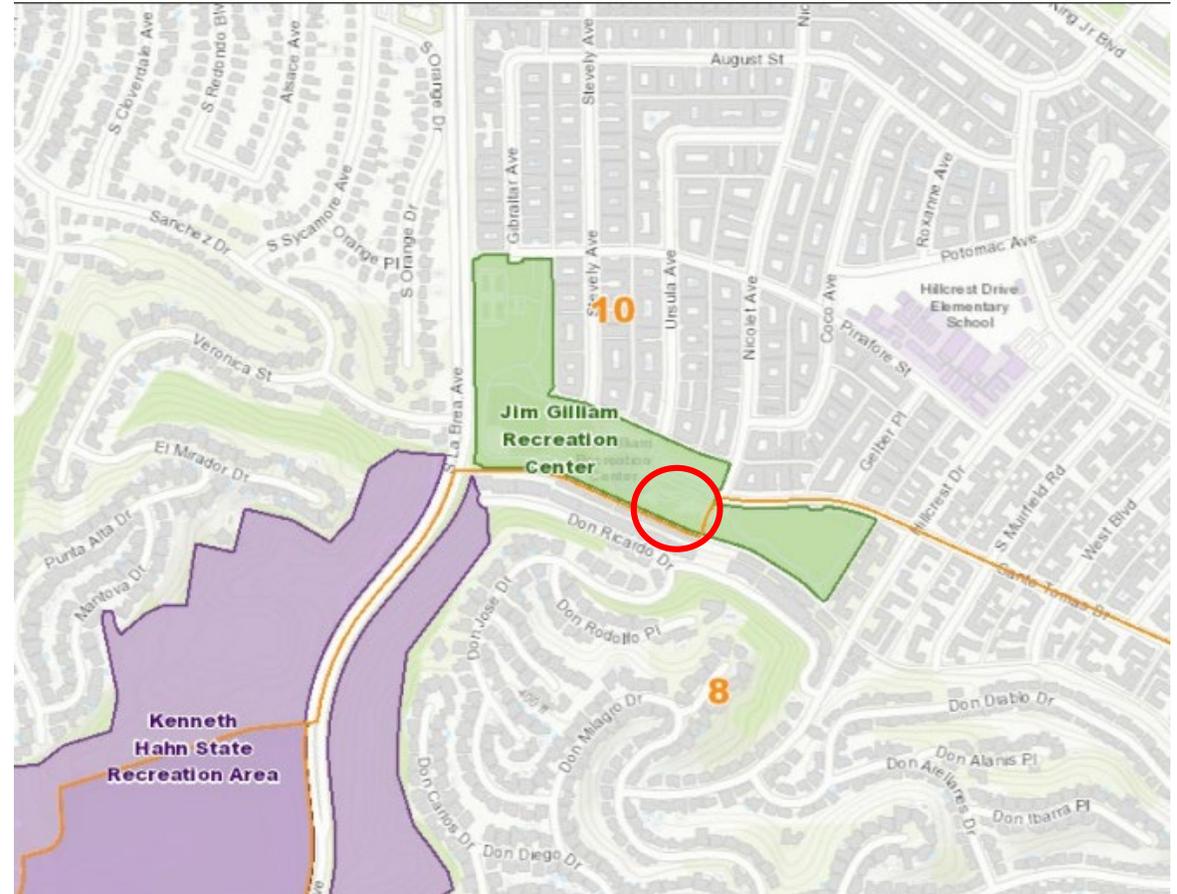


RAP Naming Policy

- The RAP Board adopted a Naming Policy in June 2013 (Report No. 13-161)
- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- Parks shall only be named after living persons under circumstances requiring such naming as a condition precedent of a grant deed or covenant.
- The Naming of a park after a major historic event must be based on a direct connection between the park and such event.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- Initial Park Names shall be administratively assigned by RAP staff based on geographic features such as street and community names or prominent features

Jim Gilliam Recreation Center Name

- Official name of the park is Jim Gilliam Recreation Center (Report No. 609-81)
 - James William "Junior" Gilliam was an American second baseman, third baseman, and coach in Negro league and Major League Baseball who spent his entire major league career with the Brooklyn / Los Angeles Dodgers.
- “Jim Gilliam Recreation Center” shall remain the name of the park site until renamed by the RAP Board
- The playground and splash pad areas at the park are currently unnamed



Proposed Names for Playground at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center

RAP has received the following naming proposal for the playground area:

- Julius Philips Playground

Please note: this discussion is not limited to these previously submitted names. Additional naming proposals may be submitted to RAP staff for consideration at rap.commissioners@lacity.org



Image: laparks.org

Proposed Names for Future Splash Pad at Jim Gilliam Recreation Center

RAP has received the following naming proposal for the splash pad area:

- Gregory Horn Splash Pad

Please note: this discussion is not limited to these previously submitted names. Additional naming proposals may be submitted to RAP staff for consideration at rap.commissioners@lacity.org



Image from mid-August 2022. Provided by RAP Project Manager

Playground Name - Julius Philips

- Julius Phillips (1938-2017) was an active member of the Baldwin Hills community for many years. Contributions to the community included involvement with the Los Angeles Police Department, the City of Los Angeles, and Jim Gilliam Recreation Center. Mr. Phillips served two terms as President of the Jim Gilliam Senior Citizen Club and was a tireless advocate for the youth in the community and at Jim Gilliam. Frequently viewed as an instrumental role model in the community Mr. Philips touched many lives at the local level.

Splash Pad Name - Gregory Horn

- Gregory Scott Horn was born December 9, 1985 in Los Angeles. He was the youngest son to Cheryl Smith and Lawrence Horn. He attended Hillcrest Elementary school followed by Audubon Jr. High and later graduated from Dorsey High school in 2003. After High School Gregory attended Los Angeles Trade Tech and Burbank City College. He really enjoyed attending college, he enjoyed the atmosphere and being surrounded by people of all walks of life. He loved that they were all striving for more. Gregory was a competitive athlete. He was passionate at an early age in various sports, he truly fell in love with basketball. Gregory started working for the City of Los Angeles at the age of 14 he was a mentor, youth basketball coach and referee and later worked for Community Build and as a member of Safe Passage. Greg was a loving son, a driven father, a responsible brother, and loyal friend. He was a resident of Baldwin Village and killed in 2011 at the age of 25.

Actions Taken Thus Far...

- On June 18, 2018, the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council Board voted unanimously recommend the playground be named in honor of Julius Philips and the splash pad in honor of Gregory Horn
- On October 10, 2018, the City Council passed a motion for the proposed naming of the playground and splash pad (C.F. #18-0823)
- RAP staff has reviewed the proposed names and determined that they are within the RAP Naming Policy
- RAP has conducted research into the park's historical deed documents to verify any restrictions or clauses related to the park's name
- On October 17, 2018, RAP staff presented the proposed "Julius Philips Playground" to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force
- On April 7, 2022, RAP staff presented the proposed namings to the Park Advisory Board for consideration. Note: no action was taken at that time.

Next Steps...

- Determine if there is a consensus in the Community on new names for the Jim Gilliam Recreation Center Playground and Splash Pad areas.
- If/Once a consensus name is identified, staff will prepare a report to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force for conceptual approval for the splash pad renaming
- If approved by the Task Force, a report will be presented to the RAP Board of Commissioners recommending approval of the namings.



Jim Gilliam Rec Center & PAB Community Meeting

Naming of Jim Gilliam Rec Center Playground and Splash Pad

Tuesday, September 13th | 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Held Virtually on Google Meets

Link: meet.google.com/gkg-jwyd-fhq

Phone: (413)-276-6763 | PIN: 295070235



City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for
Parks and Recreational Facilities

The mission of the Department of Recreation and Parks (“RAP”) is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreational facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.

One of RAP’s objectives under the Mission is to enhance and expand recreational programs, services, and significant financial support and contributions through public and private collaborations.

Policy:

RAP recognizes that parks and recreational facilities are an essential and integral part of the communities they serve, and that the names of parks and recreational facilities, and park amenities within them, play a significant role in fostering identities in the surrounding communities. This Naming Policy (“Policy”) establishes the criteria and requirements, and sets forth the guidelines and procedures, for the naming and renaming (collectively, “Naming”) of parks, recreational facilities, landmarks and any other assets determined appropriate by RAP (collectively referred to herein as “Park Assets”), which are owned, managed or controlled by RAP.

Pursuant to this Policy, the initial name of a new park or recreational facility, which may be temporary for purposes of administration and accounting, shall be administratively assigned by RAP staff in the traditional manner utilized prior to the establishment of this Policy, based on geographic features such as street and community names or prominent features. In addition, the Naming of existing Park Assets, pursuant to a RAP recommendation relevant to a Naming proposal received from a private or public entity, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (“Board”), as described herein. In accordance with this Policy and pursuant to RAP recommendations, the Board shall consider the following two types of Naming proposals. The first type encompasses situations in which RAP receives or is offered a donation, gift, sponsorship, and/or other contribution from an outside entity that presents a decisive benefit and shows a direct connection to a Park Asset and serves the interests of the City and its residents. This type of Naming proposal would require a Naming Agreement to summarize the terms and conditions necessary to effectuate the financial or other benefits connected to the Naming proposal with a term (time period) recommended by the GM and approved by the Board, depending on the scope or nature of the agreement, and value, visibility, and lifespan of the donation, gift, sponsorship and or other contribution. The second type comprises Naming proposals to use a major historic event and/or unique significance of a specific place or person, as the basis for the proposed Name; again with the requirement that there be compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served or impacted. The key in both types of Naming proposals is the importance of demonstrating direct connections to the Park Asset and clear community benefits as a foundation for considering any Naming proposal.

For purposes of this Policy, and with the exception of the temporary Naming of new Park Assets, the authority to approve the Naming of existing Park Assets shall be solely with the Board. Any exceptions to this Policy shall be subject to the prior approval of the Board.

Criteria and Guidelines for Evaluating Park Asset Naming Proposals:

For purposes of this Policy, the following shall be considered when evaluating the appropriateness, feasibility, and implementation of Naming proposals:

- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- Parks shall only be named after living persons under circumstances requiring such naming as a condition precedent of a grant deed or covenant.
- The Naming of a park after a major historic event must be based on a direct connection between the park and such event.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- Park Assets that are held by RAP through a lease or use agreement may be considered for Naming under this Policy, subject to any requirements or restrictions contained in such document.
- RAP reserves the right to limit the duration of time a Name will be in place and/or in effect.
- No specialized signage or advertisement containing a commercial message to purchase a good or service shall be authorized for use on park property.
- All forms of signage placed on or within a Park Asset shall meet RAP's graphic and sign standards.
- There shall be no religious symbols included on Naming signage.
- Park Assets not under the operation of RAP (shared or exclusive), although under the ownership or jurisdiction of RAP, shall not be subject to this Policy; such as for example, the Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park.
- Parks should not be subdivided for purposes of Naming, unless there are readily-identifiable physical divisions in the park (major roads, waterways, hillsides, etc.) which facilitate or warrant a subdivision; or there exist other compelling reasons for having more than one name connected to a park. This should not prevent independently Naming a recreational facility or amenity located within a park, as long as the selected name will not cause confusion for park patrons.
- RAP shall seek to inform the public with regard to the Naming of a park in their community.
- Any exception to the above shall be subject to the Naming criteria contained herein, and the Board's prior approval.

Procedures:

The Board retains the authority to name or rename Park Assets situated on park property. The following shall be the protocol for evaluating, considering and denying or approving Naming proposals:

1. A written proposal for the Naming of a Park Asset must be initially submitted to the RAP Board Office, to the attention of the Board Secretary. In accordance with this Policy, the Board Office shall forward the proposal to the RAP General Manager (“GM”) for consideration.
2. Prior to any form of Naming Policy being implemented, sponsorship proposals shall be evaluated by RAP staff, with recommendations to the GM for possible consideration.