

**Application to Name
Metro Government
Owned Property**



Office of Facilities and Fleet

Address:
Windsor Park—Lamborne Blvd

Additional Details:

See attached

Request By:
Parks and Recreation

Request Date:
February 26, 2025

Justification of Request:

See attached

Additional Comments:

Approved


Mark Zoeller
Director of Facilities and Fleet

Signed by:

Dana Mayton
Deputy Mayor

2-26-25
Date

3/7/2025
Date

DEPARTMENT OF LOUISVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION
LOUISVILLE, KYCRAIG GREENBERG
MAYORMICHELLE KING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: Councilman Khalil Batshon

From: Michelle King, Executive Director, Louisville Parks and Recreation

DS
SMK 2/24/2025

Subject: Nick Rodman Legacy Park

Date: February 24, 2025

In July of 2024 your office contacted Louisville Parks and Recreation (LPR) with interest in renaming the park then known as "Windsor Park," which was currently under development, to "Nick Rodman Legacy Park" in honor of Officer Nick Rodman, a Louisville Metro Police Officer killed in the line of duty in March 29, 2017. In response, I provided you with the Draft "Parks and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposal: Process for Preparing and Submitting Proposals." This process, which is a framework for LPR's role in the renaming process laid out in LMCO §39.033, and is further defined by the accompanying document, "Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals: Considerations for Parks and Recreation Support." I'd like to express my thanks to you and your office for helping us further refine this process for future use. Both of these documents are attached for reference.

Over the next 6 months, you engaged park neighbors, users, and other area residents in a conversation about the park name and provided LPR with survey results in December 2024. This effort revealed concerns that the current name, "Windsor Park," is confusing due to a number of subdivisions in the area that are similarly named. Further, the responses to the survey showed significant support for changing the park name and for the proposed "Nick Rodman Legacy Park" in particular. Very little opposition to renaming, in general or to this specific proposed name, was demonstrated. A summary of those findings is attached.

A review of the historical context for the park name was undertaken by Savannah Darr, Historic Preservation Officer, with the Louisville Metro Office of Planning. In the attached memo, Ms. Darr found the initial park name of "Windsor Park," held no historical significance and the proposed name was appropriate in terms of Officer Rodman's connection to Louisville's south end community. Lastly, letters of support that you submitted from Ashley Rodman, Officer Rodman's widow, and from the Nick Rodman Legacy Foundation, which was established to honor his life, legacy, and sacrifice, made it clear that this was a welcome honor and that they too saw the connection to this place. These letters are also attached.

In consideration of this clear community support, I am recommending the approval of the proposed renaming of "Windsor Park" to "Nick Rodman Legacy Park."



A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY



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**Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals:
Process for Preparing and Submitting Proposals**

1. Select proposed name
 - a. If multiple names are under consideration, community engagement should be undertaken to choose the most supported option. All options should be evaluated according to the criteria listed in *Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals: Considerations for Parks and Recreation Support*
2. Gather community feedback and input
 - a. The new name recommendation should be presented to any neighborhood associations, councilmembers, and major park stakeholders for review. Any proposal involving an Olmsted Park must include approval from the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.
 - b. A community survey, with signage posted in the park, should be conducted to get feedback. Minimum number of responses should correspond with the size and nature of the Park or Recreation Facility in question. See *Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals: Considerations for Parks and Recreation Support* for more information.
 - c. At least one public meeting should be held regarding the name change.
3. Approval by Parks and Recreation
 - a. The proposed name, criteria evaluation, and community engagement process documentation, outcomes, and feedback should be submitted to Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation via email to parks@louisvilleky.gov.
 - b. Proposal should address the criteria listed in *Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals: Considerations for Parks and Recreation Support*.
 - c. Staff review and determination of a complete proposal that meets minimum community engagement criteria.
 - d. Final review and approval by the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation.
4. Metro Council adoption of the new name (LMCO §39.033)

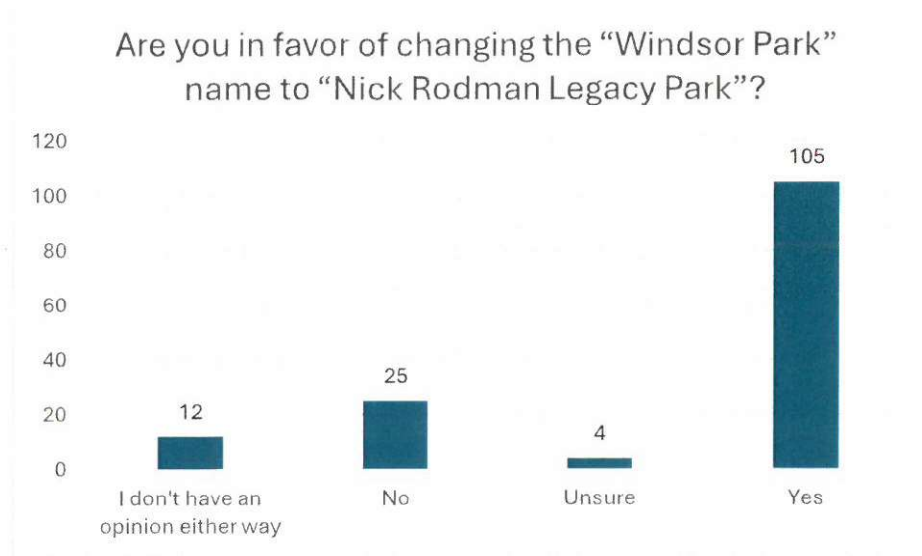
Park and Recreation Facility Renaming Proposals: Considerations for Parks and Recreation Support

- Current name
 - Historical and current context for the name
 - Longevity of the name, i.e., how long has it been in place
 - Relationship to community, e.g., geographic association, community “brand”
 - Relevance
 - Demonstrated community support
- Proposed name
 - Historical and current context for the name
 - If named for individual: Is this a historic, deceased individual with a significant beneficial impact on the community?
 - Please provide primary and/or secondary sources for the context information.
 - If the individual has surviving family members, please provide documentation that they were consulted and have no objections to the use of their relative’s name.
 - Note – It is recommended that a person be deceased for at least 30 years before considering use of their name on public assets, though this is not a requirement.
 - Relationship to community, e.g., geographic association, community “brand”
 - Relevance
 - Demonstrated community support
- Community Engagement Process Outcomes
 - Has community engagement process identified significant support for the current name? Alternatively, has this process demonstrated significant concern with the current name?
 - Has the community engagement process demonstrated significant support* for the proposed name?
 - For Olmsted Parks, was a letter of support from the Director of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy included in the proposal?

*Significant support will generally be demonstrated as follows:

- Provide at least 200 signatures/survey responses of residents living within a ½-mile service radius or 50% of the surrounding neighborhood, whichever is less, of a Neighborhood Park in support of the Park name change.
- Provide at least 600 signatures/survey responses of residents living within a 2-mile service radius or 50% of the surrounding neighborhood, whichever is less, of a Community Park in support of the Park name change.
- Provide at least 1,000 signatures/survey responses of residents from throughout Louisville Metro in support of the Major Urban Park name change.

Demonstration of Community Support - Summary



Comments from respondents that do not support include:

1. other park name suggestions (12 – including one variation on the proposed and two supporting a more general first responder memorial name)
2. support for the current park name (5)
3. comments that apply to the Windsor Forest subdivision, not the park (2)
4. are specifically against the proposed name (2 – one of which was generally opposed to naming after any person)

The comments from respondents that do not support the proposal do not indicate a strong interest among community for retaining the current name, as many suggested other names. Nor do these comments indicate strong community opposition to the proposed name specifically.

Through the number of supporting respondents fell short of the initial goal set (200), the responses show a positive community response to the proposed name, minimal attachment to the current name, and very little opposition to the proposal.

These findings support approval from The Parks and Recreation Department of this proposed park renaming to “Nick Rodman Legacy Park.”



OFFICE OF PLANNING
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

CRAIG GREENBERG
MAYOR

BRIAN DAVIS, AICP
DIRECTOR

To: Michelle King, Executive Director, Louisville Parks and Recreation

From: Savannah Darr, Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Planning

Subject: Windsor Park Naming

Date: February 19, 2025

Windsor Park appears to be named after the adjacent Windsor Forest and Windsor Place subdivisions. Windsor Forest was first developed by William L. Peterson in the early 1960s. It appears to be named for Windsor Forest, which is part of the Windsor Castle estate in England. With the success of Windsor Forest, Windsor Place subdivision to the south was platted in 1970. It's directly across Lamborne Blvd. from Windsor Park. Then came Windsor Lakes in 1977, and Windsor Trace was platted in 2004. It appears that the development of Windsor Forest in the 1960s gave this part of the community an identity that was not there before.

Naming the park something other than Windsor Park would be appropriate as it is not a historically significant name. The proposed name, Nick Rodman Legacy Park, will honor Officer Rodman and his service to Louisville Metro. As a member of the South End Community, Officer Rodman can be honored in multiple Council Districts. With the word "legacy" in the park's name, it is more than just a park in his honor but also a promise for District 25 to carry on his legacy.

February 7, 2025

Councilman Khalil Batshon,

I would first like to thank you for your continued efforts in honoring my husband, Nick Rodman, who was a Louisville Metro Police Officer killed in the line of duty on March 29th, 2017, and supporting our family through such difficult times. We are coming up on the 8th anniversary of Nick's death. While we have learned to live this new normal life without him, the grief and sadness is always there and stays heavy on our hearts every day.

The renaming of Windsor Park to Nick Rodman Legacy Park is a beautiful way to honor Nick's life and legacy as a husband, father, son, brother and friend. Nick was born and raised in the south end of Louisville, a Holy Cross High School graduate, and the biggest University of Louisville Cardinals sports fan there is. I still currently reside in the south end of Louisville, raising our children, Mason and Ellie, who attend school in the south end as well.

Nick was proud to be from the south end of Louisville and could not wait to raise his children in the city he was born and raised in himself. His life was cut short while serving his community, but since the day he was killed I made a promise that I would continue to carry out the dreams that we had made together for our sweet little family. Raising our children in the south end was one of them and it has been the best decision I have ever made.

The Louisville community, especially the south end, has gone above and beyond to show our family that Nick's sacrifice is never forgotten. The love and support from so many have truly kept our family going on even some of our hardest days. Myself and Nick's father, George Rodman, along with our family approves the decision to rename the park to Nick Rodman Legacy Park. Thank you for honoring Nick in such a special way and keeping his memory alive.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Rodman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ashley Rodman, Nick Rodman's widow

**Always in our Hearts.
Never Forgotten.**



**Officer Nick Rodman
EOW: March 29, 2017**

Councilman Batshon,

Nick Rodman Legacy Foundation board members, Ashley Rodman, Drew Fox, Brad Miller and Russell Lassiter voted unanimously in favor of the renaming of Windsor Park to Nick Rodman Legacy Park on Thursday September 19th, 2024.

Our mission of the foundation is to honor the life, legacy and sacrifice of Nick Rodman. A Louisville Metro Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty, a devoted husband, loving father, son, brother and friend to everyone who knew him. Nick's life and sacrifice impacted the Louisville community, and his loss was felt across the city. Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, hosting fundraising events and donation drives, Nick Rodman Legacy Foundation can provide support to individuals and families in the Louisville community in honor of Nick.

Over the last three years, we have donated \$45,000 to 93.9 The Ville and ESPN Louisville's Cram the Van, an event that raises money for Wayside Christian Mission, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and Wesley House at Christmas time. In 2022, NRLF donated \$60,000 to the Louisville Metro Police Foundation to support the Officer in Distress Fund and sponsor the Nick Rodman Multipurpose Room at The Summit Wellness Center. Each year, we provide \$8,000 to students who qualify for financial aid at Holy Cross High School through our Nick Rodman Legacy Scholarships. We have a partnership with Louisville Metro Police Department's Victims Service Unit to help support families who have been affected by violent crimes in the Louisville community. We have previously partnered with nonprofit organizations who support our houseless population in the south end of Louisville during extreme cold winter months.

Renaming the park to Nick Rodman Legacy Park is an honor and a special tribute to a man who gave his life protecting the city where he was born and raised, a city he was proud to call home. Thank you for supporting us in our mission to honor Nick Rodman's life, legacy and sacrifice.



Ashley Rodman
Nick Rodman Legacy Foundation
Executive Director
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