Winnipeg | Indigenous Relations
Relations avec les Autochtones

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION
LES CHEMINS DE LA RÉCONCILIATION

WELCOMING WINNIPEG – Request Summary

NOTE: Request summaries are compiled by Indigenous Relations employees to ensure that identifiable, or potentially identifiable, third-party personal information or information of a sensitive nature is excluded from what is made publicly available. Indigenous Relations permits viewing of the full original submission by appointment through 311.

Request ID: 2024-001

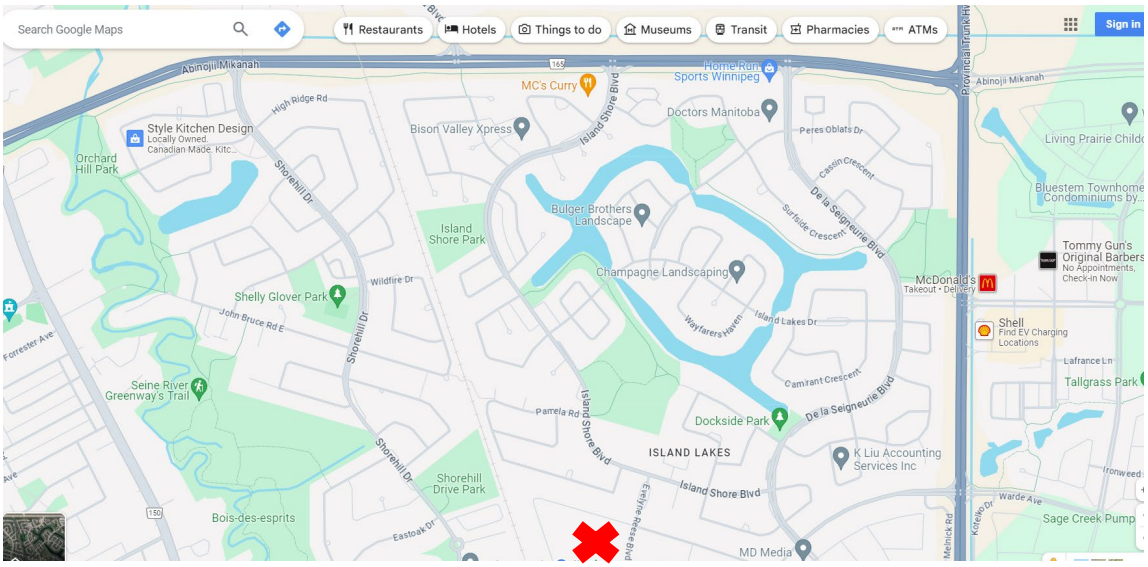
Name of Request: Renaming Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park

Address: 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard

Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: No.
- Letters of support provided: 1 letter of support provided.

Project Details:



It is acknowledged that this park is currently named after the street, Bonaventure Drive, which runs along the west side of the park.

The motion refers to the greenspace at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard as Bonaventure Park, although there is no existing park signage.

How does this renaming contribute to a 'Welcoming Winnipeg', as defined in the policy and what kind of evidence/research can be provided to support this state

This renaming request supports the spirit of Welcoming Winnipeg principles:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land:
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language:
- Offers an educational opportunity
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg

2022-2032 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; this proposed renaming supports this proclamation, as well as City Council's February 16, 2022, adoption of the following motion:

> That to be consistent with the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/74/135) which proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw global attention on the critical situation of many indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization and promotion, that the City of Winnipeg declare the decade as International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Renaming a park in Inuktitut acknowledges the Inuit population in Winnipeg, some of whom reside here permanently and others that come and go as necessary for a variety of reasons, such as: medical appointments, educational opportunities, and other services that are not accessible in their home communities.

In the Inuktitut language, Tunngasugit means "Welcome". This word used gives people the feeling of being welcomed into a park using an Indigenous language.

The urban Inuit population is often under-served, and this renaming is an acknowledgement of their distinct identity and place in Winnipeg.

Does this site have historical significance to the Indigenous community? Research Support:

This park is located in Treaty One Territory, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

The park sits just to the east of the Seine River, which has historical significance as a site for historic pulp mills, the most notable owned by the father of Louis Riel, Jean-Louis. Water access has always been important to First Nations, Metis and Inuit for trading routes as well as for its significance to physical and spiritual health.

On a map dated 1875 (Plan of the River Lots in the Parishes of St. John, St. James and St. Boniface), it appears that the land east of the Seine River was noted as the property of the Roman Catholic Church. More research would be required to understand what those implications were and how that came to be.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/manitobamaps/2079199096

If this application is not supported, what would the negative impact on the community be? (If applicable)

Not applicable.

Any additional information the applicant would like the CCM to consider in making their recommendation.

On January 26, 2024, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Tunngasugit Inc., a non-profit organization, has been consulted in regards to suggestions for the naming/renaming of a park to Inuktitut, a body of language used by the Inuit;

AND WHEREAS Tunngasugit Inc. helps Inuit with any situation they are facing to promote and enhance the quality of life for Inuit within Winnipeg through the provision of culturally sensitive programs and services in English and Inuktitut;

AND WHEREAS Tunngasugit means “Welcome”, and is a word which gives people the feeling of being welcomed in to a park using an Indigenous language from a culture that is often forgotten about;

AND WHEREAS Genstar, the Developer of the Bonavista community are supportive of renaming the existing Bonaventure Park.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to refer the following to the Welcoming Winnipeg process:

1. The renaming of “Bonaventure Park”, located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard in the Bonavista Community, to “Tunngasugit Park”.

On February 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee laid the matter over to its meeting on March 12, 2024.

On March 12, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee and referred the following to the Welcoming Winnipeg process:

1. The renaming of “Bonaventure Park”, located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard in the Bonavista Community, to “Tunngasugit Park”.