



<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Parkland Re-naming for Jordan Hollow Park
<b>To:</b>	Committee of the Whole – Community Services & Infrastructure
<b>From:</b>	Community Services

<b>Report Number:</b>	CS-04-23
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Date to Committee:</b>	April 11, 2023
<b>Date to Council:</b>	April 17, 2023

### **Recommendation:**

Receive for information Report CS-04-23 regarding proposed parkland re-naming for Jordan Hollow Park;

Direct staff to provide a public notice regarding Council's intention to re-name Jordan Hollow Park located at 3039 King Street, Jordan, to Sho'aríshon (So-ah-ree-son) Park;

That Council consider all written submissions until Tuesday, May 9, 2023; and

That a Public Meeting regarding the intention to re-name a municipal facility be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Committee of the Whole; and

Direct staff to report back to the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, June 19, 2023 with final recommendations for Council approval.

### **Purpose:**

Working with Indigenous stakeholders and community organizations, staff are proposing the re-naming of Jordan Hollow Park, located at 3039 King Street, Jordan. The 1.19 acre open space within the Town's natural area inventory that is scheduled for redevelopment in 2024. This report outlines the proposed name for the identified parcel of parkland consistent with the "Naming of Municipal Facilities Policy" (see: Appendix A).

### **Background:**

In April 2022, Council approved a park concept design presented by the collaborative partnership duo Two Row Architects and Adesso Design Inc. The park plans were informed by consultation with stakeholders which included Indigenous organizations including the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Plenty Canada. The goal of the park is

to commemorate and recognize Indigenous connections to the land within current-day Lincoln, particularly that of the Neutral Nation. The park will provide an opportunity to highlight and reflect on this rich history and contribute to the celebration of historical and contemporary Indigenous culture.

The park will include the following:

- A native species rain garden, educational signage and monitoring well;
- Rest and comfort areas including permanent shade and table seating;
- Berms for a dynamic landscape and natural amphitheatre for performances;
- Elements to support active transportation including pathways, an enhanced Bruce Trail connection, future trail opportunities, bicycle parking and repair;
- Trees, plantings and new park signage
- Garbage and recycling receptacles;
- Architectural features inspired by cultural forms including a palisade and longhouse; and
- Interpretive storytelling signage and public art installations.

## **Report:**

The Town, in consultation with Indigenous stakeholders, has focused on the area's connection to the Neutral Nation to inform the park design. The Jordan area has particular significance to the Neutral Nation (Attawandaron), with archaeological evidence showing a multigenerational Neutral burial site dating from the early to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century less than 0.5 km away from the park.

The Neutral Nation were an Iroquoian language speaking group of settled village horticulturalists called the Attawandaron - meaning people who speak a slightly different language - by their Huron-Wendat neighbours. French missionaries gave them the name 'Neutral' because of their impartial stance in the conflict between the Huron-Wendat and the Five Nations Haudenosaunee. Between 1647-1651, the Neutral Nation was dispersed and assimilated by the Five Nations. After this time, documented Neutral Nation existence ceased.

Relatively little is known about the Neutral Nation and their language, other than what was recorded by French missionaries Joseph de la Roche Daillon in 1626-1627 and Gabriel Lalemant in 1640-41.

The descendant community of the Neutral is considered the Six Nations of the Grand River. When researching potential names for the park, consultation included research sessions with ASI archaeologist Martin Cooper and Haudenosaunee language specialist from Six Nations, Alyssa General.

Although historical information is limited, and there are only four recorded Neutral language words that are known today, there is evidence that indicates the name of an important Neutral Chief was Souharissen (Daillon) or Tsohahissen (Lalemant), with spelling varying based on gallicization (the practice of modifying foreign words, names, and phrases to make them easier to spell, pronounce, or understand in French). In

consultation with Haudenosaunee language specialist Alyssa General, the words Souharissen and Tsohahissen were researched for their connection to current-day Kanien'kéha (Mohawk). Sho'aríshon is a contemporary spelling of the word, which translates to "He is shaking a net".

The proposed re-naming of the park is a result of consultation with Kanien'kéha language specialist Alyssa General, ASI Archaeologist Martin Cooper, and Tim Johnson of Plenty Canada. In detailed discussions with this group of stakeholders, naming options were discussed for relevance, meaning, and significance. The proposed 'Sho'aríshon Park' was taken back to the larger group of Indigenous stakeholders for comment and consensus, receiving full support.

### **Acknowledging the Land**

The land on which the park is located is significant to many Indigenous nations and is a part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral. The area is governed by Treaty 3, known as Between the Lakes Purchase (1792) between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Indigenous Treaty Rights are protected under the Canadian Constitution. The area is also governed by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Agreement between the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee.

### **Financial, Legal, Staff Considerations:**

#### **Financial:**

During the 2020 capital budget process, Council approved \$83,000 towards park enhancements at Jordan Hollow Park. Throughout 2020 and 2021, staff and project partners applications to regional, provincial, and national agencies to increase the overall project budget. Staff have secured funding through the Government of Canada, Niagara Region, Greenbelt Foundation, and Niagara Community Foundation. Currently, the budget is currently \$528,000 with external funding representing 84% of the total project budget. Staff continue to review funding opportunities to support this community project. Below outlines commitments made to-date:

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Funding Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Niagara Region	Public Realm Investment Program	\$83,000
Niagara Community Foundation	Environmental Grant	\$2,500
Greenbelt Foundation	Greenbelt Resilient Fund	\$15,000
Department of Canadian Heritage	Legacy Fund: Building Communities Through Arts & Heritage	\$164,500
Government of Canada – Fed Dev for Southern Ontario	Tourism Relief Fund	\$180,000*
<b>Total External Funding:</b>		<b>\$445,000</b>

*\*In partnership with Plenty Canada to support public art installations*

**Staffing:**

A staff team comprised of the Associate Director, Recreation and Culture, Cultural Development Coordinator, Indigenous Culture and Heritage Specialist, Climate Change Coordinator, and Landscape Architect continue to move this important project forward which includes design elements, project management and stakeholders relations. Staff continue to work with project consultants Adesso Design Inc. and Two Row Architect on this park project.

**Legal:**

N/A

**Public Engagement Matters:**

Any Committee recommendation to name or rename a municipal facility must provide the appropriate public notice outlining the intent of Council to name or rename a facility. Public notice shall include a period of not less than twenty-one (21 days) for any person to submit written comment to Council on the proposed naming/renaming in accordance with Council's Procedural By-law. Following the public notice period, Council shall consider any Committee recommendation and any public comments and shall consider the matter in accordance with its procedures. In all cases, Council has the prerogative of accepting or rejecting any proposal.

Extensive public engagement with Indigenous stakeholders has defined the park development process, from concept, to design and naming. Key stakeholders involved in the project since inception include Plenty Canada, Niagara Regional Native Centre, Carolinian Coalition, Green Venture, Ontariogreen, Niagara Region, and other Indigenous stakeholders including an Elder, an Indigenous education advocate, Indigenous artists, and a Kanien'kéha language specialist. This group has been instrumental in steering the direction of the project so that it best reflects the priorities and needs from the perspectives of their own communities and organizations: Plenty Canada has provided guidance and direction in developing a project scope that reflects the Indigenous connections to the land, and specifically that of the Neutral Nation; Niagara Regional Native Centre have provided input related to future use of the site from a programming perspective, support with funding applications, ensuring that the Indigenous populations that they serve have a gathering place where they can teach and harvest traditional medicines; Ontariogreen, Carolinian Coalition and Green Venture have guided the Town on environmental issues.

**Conclusion:**

The Facility Naming Policy supports the promotion of community identity, cultural and natural heritage, contributions of citizens/organizations, and encourages public participation and involvement in community affairs. The proposed name satisfies the objectives of both the policy and aligns with the Town's community vision statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Corbeil  
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**Appendices:**

Appendix A Policy CS-2005-01 Naming of Municipal Facilities  
Appendix B Draft Public Notice

**Report Approval:**

Report has been reviewed and approved by Director of Community Services and Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.