

**Subject: Community Identification Committee Recommendations -
Parks and Dry Ponds in Parsons Creek****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Parks and Dry Ponds in Parsons Creek as shown in attachments 1 to 5 be named *Niska Park*, *Sisip Connection*, *Amisk Plaza*, *Maskwa Greens*, and *Mahkesis Park*.

Summary:

The Community Identification Committee recommended that the names proposed for parks and dry ponds in Parsons Creek be forwarded to Council for approval.

In accordance with the Community Identification System (Council Policy No. PRL-040-2006), Council approval is required for the naming of parks and municipal facilities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Background:

The Community Identification Committee in its meeting on August 22, 2019, considered names for various parks and dry ponds in the Parsons Creek area. Since Parsons Creek follows a theme of historic names, the Committee was inclined to use names that have local and historical relevance. Acknowledging the importance of indigenous languages in the region, the Committee chose to use Cree language words for these names. The Committee moved that the following names be presented to Council for approval.

1. ***Niska (Pronounced Nis-Ka) Park:*** The word Niska means 'Goose' in English. This name is proposed for the Natural Waterfront West, which is a passive park with trails and has an area for a waterfront lookout. The location of this park is shown in Attachment 1.
2. ***Sisip (Pronounced See-Seep) Connection:*** The word Sisip means 'Duck' in English. The Committee recommended this name for the Wet Pond Connection

that is a hardscape area with waterfalls. The location of this connection is shown in Attachment 2.

3. ***Amisk (Pronounced A-Misk) Plaza:*** The word Amisk means ‘Beaver’ in English. This name is recommended to be used for the East Urban Waterfront, which is a waterfront walkway with stairs to a pond and a central plaza/amphitheater. The location of this area is shown in Attachment 3.
4. ***Maskwa (Pronounced Mas-Kwa) Greens:*** The word Maskwa means ‘Bear’ in English. The Committee proposed this name for the dry ponds in Phase 1. This is a large landscaped area for active and passive recreation with a playground, trails and a parking lot. The location of this park is shown in Attachment 4.
5. ***Mahkesis (Pronounced Mac Ka Sees) Park:*** The word Mahkesis means ‘Fox’ in English. This name is proposed for the park currently known as the East Central Park or the Skate Park in Parsons Creek. This area has a skate park, a spray park, a playground and an active park. The location of this park is shown in Attachment 5.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The animals used for naming parks and dry ponds are important and local to this region. By using Cree words, the Municipality recognizes the historical significance of, and provides recognition to, the local indigenous language.

The recommended names are unique and distinct from addresses currently in use elsewhere in the Municipality, and are in accordance with the Community Identification System.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

1. **Map Showing Location of Niska Park**
2. **Map Showing Location of Sisip Connection**
3. **Map Showing Location of Amisk Plaza**
4. **Map Showing Location of Maskwa Greens**
5. **Map Showing Location of Mahkesis Park**