



RESOLUTION #25-07

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL TO RENAME BRUCE VENTO NATURE SANCTUARY AND INDIAN MOUNDS REGIONAL PARK TO REFLECT DAKOTA CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul (“City”) completed and adopted a Cultural Landscape Study and Messaging Plan in 2020 with recommendations for centering Indigenous voices in decision making for sacred land; and

WHEREAS, Indian Mounds Regional Park and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary are two places with great significance to the Dakota both historically and today; and

WHEREAS, the park known as Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary was named in 2005 and the park known as Indian Mounds Regional Park was established in 1892; and

WHEREAS, there was Tribal direction in 2020 to rename both Indian Mounds Regional Park and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary to reflect the significance and sacredness of the sites to the Dakota both historically, today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tribal Councils for Lower Sioux Indian Community, Prairie Island Indian Community, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Upper Sioux Community, directed decision-making for renaming to their Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 and 2025 City staff worked with [Wą̄ąą̄ Típi](#) Awanyą̄kapi to facilitate a series of Dakota Tribal consultation meetings with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for the purpose of reviewing alternatives, community process and informing selection of a name; and

WHEREAS additional community engagement took place in 2024 to provide information on the renaming process and to get feedback on possible names; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Tribal representatives determined that the most appropriate names are Imnížaska for the cultural landscape containing both sites, Wą̄ąą̄ Típi (dwelling place of the sacred, Dakota) to replace the name for the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and Wičahapi (cemetery, Dakota) to replace the name for Indian Mounds Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission Policy #7, Naming Parks and Recreation Sites, 2012 Update, provides criteria for naming of parks, and this recommendation complies with the spirit of the policy; therefore, now be it

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Saint Paul City Council approve the renaming such that the cultural landscape that encompasses the sites currently known as Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Indian Mounds Regional Park be renamed Imnížaska, and the individual sites be renamed Wą̄ąą̄ Típi and Wičahapi, respectively.



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JAZMIN GLASER-KELLY, CHAIR

City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651-266-6400

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on May 8, 2025:

Approved:	Yeas	8
	Nays	0
	Absent	1

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Attested to by:

Elizabeth Lee McDonald
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission