



**TROY CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
100 S. Market Street, Troy, OH**

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021, 6:00 PM

Recreation & Parks Committee

(Schilling [Chm.], Phillips, Terwilliger)

1. Provide a recommendation to Council regarding the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners to name the prairie reserve at Duke Park the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park".

Other Committees/Items may be added.

6-11-2021

cc: Mayor
Mr. Titterington
Mr. Kerber
Mr. Frigge, Departments, Media

R & P COMMITTEE

R # P

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Lutz, President of Council

FROM: Patrick E. J. Titterington

DATE: June 7, 2021

SUBJECT: NAMING – ROBINSON RESERVE AT DUKE PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the recommendation of the Board of Park Commission to name a newly created prairie reserve on the north parcels of Duke Park the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park".

BACKGROUND:

Attached is a copy of a memorandum provided to the Board of Park Commissioners that discusses:

1. Approving the creation of a prairie reserve on the north parcels of Duke Park (formerly known as the Huelskamp Farm); and
2. Recommending to Troy City Council that the prairie reserve be formally named the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park"

As noted in the Memo, the naming would be in keeping with the guidelines including in Council's policy regarding the Naming of City Facilities.

This was reviewed at the June 3 meeting of the Board, with the Board voting unanimously to create the prairie reserve and to recommend to Troy City Council that the prairie reserve be formally named the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park."

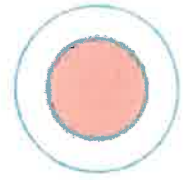
REQUESTED ACTION:

It would be appreciated if you would assign to a Committee of Council consideration of the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners to name the prairie reserve at Duke Park the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park."

encl.



Make it yours.



TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Patrick E. J. Titterington, Director of Public Service & Safety

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED PRAIRIE RESERVE AT DUKE PARK

Discussion: In conjunction with the completion of the Miami County Park District (MCPD) wetlands project along the Great Miami River, the MCPD, City, Duke Foundation and Robinson Foundation have designed a project to create a prairie, forestation and walking path area in Duke Park North (aka Huelskamp Farm). The project would create a 'Reserve', which means the land would remain as prairie until future recreational amenities can be installed. Note that it would be anticipated that the Reserve area would remain in the long term, particularly on the north portion of Duke Park where no recreational amenities have been contemplated.

Per Attachment I, the Reserve would include approximately 8 acres of new trees and 32 acres of various species of prairie grasses, sedges, milkweeds, etc. Additionally, looping gravel walking path approximately 1.5 miles in length would connect to the paved parking lot adjacent to the existing ballfields and loop to the northern edges of Duke Park's Huelskamp Farm area. It would also connect to two overlook platforms that the MCPD will construct.

Budget: The estimated budget, with contingency, would be \$58,000. Those costs would be funded by the City's General Fund and through a generous grant by The Duke Foundation of up to \$30,000 or 50% of the actual costs, whichever is less. Additionally, a future endowment is being considered by The Robinson Fund to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of the area.

Naming Consideration: On May 13, 1995 Paul G. Duke Park (named after Patricia Duke Robinson's father) was dedicated. That park was made possible through significant funding support by The Troy Foundation, as well as several Duke and Robinson family contributions, including from Thom and Pat Robinson. In 2016, the City purchased the Huelskamp Farm with the support of The Robinson Fund, which added 74.051 acres to Duke Park. Added to The Duke Foundation's prairie reserve grant and a possible future operating endowment by The Robinson Fund, the legacy being left by the Robinsons is unprecedented. In that light, it would seem only appropriate that the new area be called the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park."

A positive recommendation by the Board of Park Commissioners to the Troy City Council would be in keeping with the general guidelines included in the "Naming of City Facilities," motion passed in 2011. Specifically:

1. The area is a "Facility" per the definition included in the policy;
2. It is not a street name, thus not confusing addresses or creating a secondary or supplemental naming option;
3. It would be named for two non-public office holding individuals who have volunteered their resources for well over the 12 year minimum, without any other permanent City-recognized honor or award, with Troy receiving significant and tangible benefit;
4. The Robinsons have given permission to have the area so named;
5. There is an obvious relationship between the facility and their namesake;
6. "Memorial" is not included in the requested name;
7. An interpretive sign would be installed, per Attachment II;
8. The Robinsons have not requested this naming;
9. It is anticipated the Reserve will remain for as long as 30 years; and,
10. The Board of Park Commissioners would recommend and the City Council would formally approve said naming.

Staff Requests: It is requested that the Board of Park Commissioners take two actions related to a prairie and forestation project at Duke Park:

1. Approve the creation of a prairie reserve on the north parcels of Duke Park (formerly known as the Huelskamp Farm); and,
2. Recommend to Troy City Council that it be formally named the "Robinson Reserve at Duke Park"

It should be noted that Park Superintendent Jeremy Drake was significantly involved in the design of this area and is prepared to maintain that property. Both he and I are available for any questions or concerns.

cc:
Mayor Robin Oda
Jeremy Drake, Park Superintendent



ATTACHMENT I: ROBINSON RESERVE AT DUKE PARK



Project Objective: To create a passive reserve space with trees, prairie, seating, and future capital improvements on 40 acres of the 74-acre North Duke Park property (aka Huelskamp Farm) thanks to a generous Duke Foundation endowment that honors Pat and Thom Robinson's legacy of commitment to the Troy community.



Estimated Budget

Forestation (8 acres)	\$ 6,000
Prairie (32 acres)	\$ 16,000
Gravel Path (1.5 miles)	\$ 17,250
Benches (5)	\$ 10,000
Entrance Sign (1)	\$ 1,660
Interpretive Sign(1)	\$ 1,300
Directional Sign (5)	\$ 1,250
Contingency (10%)	<u>\$ 5,350</u>
Grand Total	\$ 58,810

ATTACHMENT II: ROBINSON RESERVE AT DUKE PARK

A project funded through the generous support of the Paul G. Duke Foundation and City of Troy Board of Park Commissioners.



Thom and Pat Robinson

Thom and Pat Robinson are life-long Trojans, whose charitable contributions have supported many worthy projects, programs and initiatives benefitting Troy and Miami County. Patricia (Pat) Duke Robinson continued the philanthropic legacy of her father, Paul G. Duke and Troy has been greatly enriched by their generosity through the years.



The Robinson Reserve at Duke Park consists of many varieties of trees, grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants surrounding a 1.5 mile walking path. It connects to the scenic Great Miami River overlook platforms and was created to provide a natural and relaxing setting for all Troy and Miami County area visitors to enjoy.

The Paul G. Duke Foundation was established in 1983. The Foundation carries forward the charitable tradition started by Paul G. Duke, a Miami County businessman and philanthropist, who grew his local Duke Garden Centers into a national lawn and garden service, Chemlawn. Mr. Duke generously supported a wide variety of community projects and charitable programs before his death in 1991.

The City of Troy Board of Park Commissioners are responsible for the maintenance control and responsibility over 28 parks representing 325 acres of active and passive greenspace, as well as Hobart Arena, Troy Aquatic Park, and Miami Shores Golf Club.

