

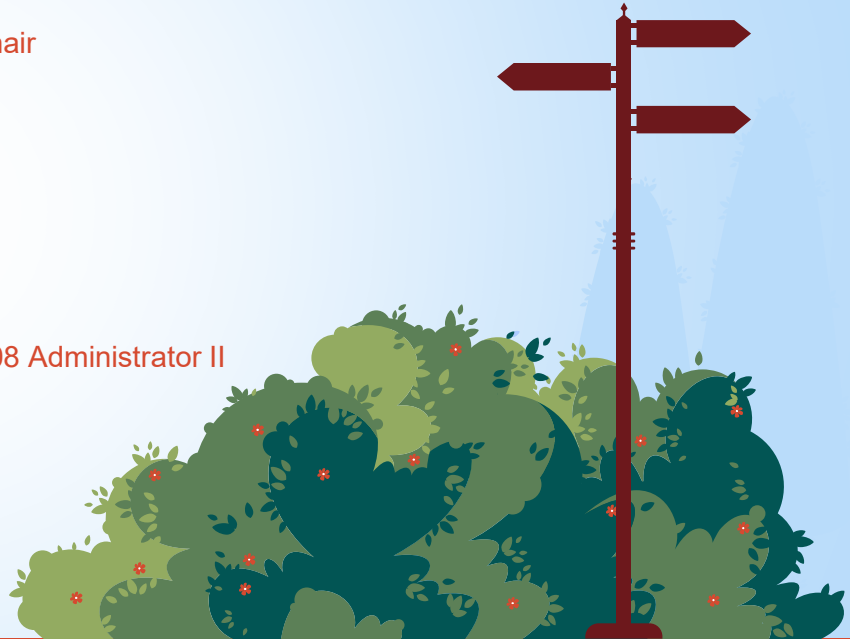
Park Naming Proposal:

Bethesda Park



# The Park Naming Committee

- 7 people representing the community, Council Office, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
  - Sheila Gargan, *District Rep and Committee Chair*
  - Russ DenBraber, *At Large Rep*
  - Falene Young, *Community Rep*
  - Brian Ricker, *Community Rep*
  - Kendra Black, *District 4: Denver City Council*
  - Patrick Walton, *HRCP Rep*
  - Frank Rowe, *PRAB Rep*
  - \*Facilitated by Laura Morales, *DPR CA2308 Administrator II*



# The Process

## Park Naming Committee Meeting 4/17/23

- Introductions and process orientation

Email survey through Kendra Black's newsletter

## Park Naming Committee Meeting 5/24/23

- Reviewed results for all submissions

## Park Naming Committee voted 6:1 to formally recommend the name Bethesda Park 6/16/23

Collected 305 valid signatures in support of proposed name  
August – September 2023

- 3 community churches
- UHNC community meeting
- Clermont Park retirement community
- South by Southeast community festival

## Park Naming Committee Meeting 5/5/23

- Devised plan for receiving community input

## Presented and collected feedback at UHNC Annual Meeting 5/11/23

## Performed due diligence on formal recommendation 6/6/23

## Park Naming Committee Meeting 7/24/23

- Strategize collection of 300 qualifying signatures

## Presented to PRAB Operations, Budget, and Finance Committee 11/15/23

# All Names Considered

1. Bethesda Park

2. U Hills North Park

3. U Hills North Community Park

4. Thomas J. Gargan Park

5. Groundcovers Park

6. Greenhouse Park

7. Cathe Tocher Park



# Park Naming Committee's Formally Proposed Name

## Bethesda Park

- Hebrew word meaning house or place of mercy
- Long association with the property at Iliff and Birch streets
- 1910 until about 1950 it was the Bethesda Tuberculosis Sanitorium
- Primarily served Dutch heritage settlers in the area
- Once TB was no longer a major health issue it reinvented itself into the Bethesda mental health hospital
- Impacted tens of thousands of lives (patients and their family members)
- Hosted an annual Dutch Festival, bringing in 20,000 people over 3 days
- Founder of University Hills Christian Hills Nursing Home which today has become Christian Living Communities, which owns and operates 6 retirement communities in Colorado including Clermont Park

Thank you!

