



MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR MIKE JOHNSTON, DENVER CITY COUNCILMEMBERS
FROM: JOLON CLARK
SUBJECT: NAMING OF UNNAMED PARK AT KITTREDGE ST. AND E. BOLLING DR., BOUNDED BY KITTREDGE ST. TO THE EAST, JASPER ST. TO THE WEST, E. BOLLING DR. TO THE SOUTH, AND E. ELK PL. TO THE NORTH, AS "AMACHE PROWERS MEMORIAL PARK".
DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
CC: JOHN MARTINEZ

I am pleased to advance this ordinance that proposes that the unnamed park located approximately at the intersection of Kittredge St. and E. Bolling Dr., Denver CO 80239, be named "Amache Prowers Memorial Park". This name would serve to honor the advocacy and life of the indigenous activist Amache Prowers. A member of the Southern Cheyenne, Amache Prowers is said to have been born in the southeastern plains of Colorado in the mid-19th century. She was a mediator between Colorado settlers, Mexicans and Native American communities during the 1860s and 1870s. Her father negotiated a treaty with the United States government to keep Cheyenne and Arapaho safe at the camp along Sand Creek. This treaty was tragically broken by the U.S. government, who attacked unsuspecting families in the winter of 1864. Amache avoided being murdered, as she had been kidnapped to prevent her from alerting the encampment. Amache's father was one of over 200 who were killed in what is now known as the Sand Creek Massacre. The history is one that Coloradans should not forget. This will be the first Denver urban park that will carry an Indigenous or American Indian name and is monumental to present this ordinance to City Council close to Indigenous Peoples' Day 2025. The name will honor the legacy of Amache Prowers in Colorado and the strength and resilience of Denver's Native American community, past, present and future.

The approximately 10-acre parcel in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood is currently under construction. As part of the agreement with the owner, Avion Metropolitan District (f/k/a Denver Connection West Metropolitan District), will turn over the parcel to the City and County of Denver, which will be maintained as a public park by Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR). The park was designed through a community engagement by Norris Design with support from DPR. Norris Design has designed other parks within Denver and is familiar with park standards and specifications. Once constructed, this new park will help close the gap on one of DPR's Game Plan goals that all residents have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk or roll.

The name "Amache Prowers" is the result of a community naming effort conducted for another nearby park at 47th and Telluride. The effort was led by a committee made up of two representatives from the neighborhood (Jesus Padilla, Juan Carlos Irizarry), a representative from Human Rights and Community Partnerships (Trennie Burch), two Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) representatives (Chris Urias, Pam Jiner), two City Council District 11 representatives (Stella Nash, Danika Davis). DPR supported the effort by helping with logistics, hosting the surveys



and ensuring that committee members understood the department's naming policy. In this process, the committee created the public surveys; the first to solicit name ideas, and the second to select a final name. Amache Prowers came in a close second on the community survey. After much deliberation from the naming committee, they instead selected the name that was rated highest. Knowing it had community support already, DPR approached Avion Metropolitan District with the name "Amache Prowers Memorial Park". Due to significant capital funding by the district in constructing the park, they had the option to propose a name. They chose the name that was suggested and submitted to DPR for consideration.

The proposal for the name was presented at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting on September 10, 2025, by a representative of Avion Metropolitan District, Suzanne Meintzer. There were six speakers in the public hearing, which included the current Councilmember from District 11, Stacie Gilmore, and all spoke in favor of the proposed park name. Following the public hearing, PRAB unanimously approved that the unnamed park be named "Amache Prowers Memorial Park". While this process of naming a park before it is constructed is part of a pilot process for DPR, we believe it was successful and will ensure the park can have meaningful roots for the community and an overdue acknowledgment of Colorado's history, when completed.