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Item No. 15.1.5
Halifax Regional Council
August 19, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: AN116 - HRM Asset Names

ORIGIN

HRM asset names being recommended by the Civic Addressing Coordinator and the Asset Naming Committee as of June 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains HRM asset names being recommended for approval by the Asset Naming Committee, as reviewed at their June 11, 2025 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the naming of Wowkwis Park as shown on Attachment A;
2. Approve the addition of Maroon Hill and Sierra Leone to the existing Commemorative Names list as shown on Attachment B; and
3. Approve the administrative park names as outlined in Attachment C.

BACKGROUND

HRM's Asset Naming Policy (Administrative Order 46) allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks or buildings. The Administrative Order requires applications to be submitted to the Civic Addressing Coordinator and for the Coordinator to consult, on each application, with the HRM Asset Naming Committee (Committee) which consists of:

- 1) at least one representative from each asset category (parks, streets and buildings);
- 2) the municipal archivist; and
- 3) a representative from Diversity and Inclusion.

The Committee reviews each application to assess whether the criteria for asset naming have been met. The Committee also consults with the local Councillor(s) on each application, when applicable.

In accordance with Administrative Order 46, applications for new commemorative names, as well as the placement of asset names (both administrative and commemorative) must be approved by Regional Council based on a recommendation report submitted by the Civic Addressing Coordinator.

DISCUSSION

The HRM Asset Naming Committee has reviewed the following requests and recommends that Regional Council approve all six requests as outlined below:

- a) one commemorative name placement;
- b) two names to be added to the commemorative names list for future use; and
- c) three administrative park names.

Commemorative Name Placement

The commemorative name “Wowkwis”, meaning Fox in Mi’kmaw, was approved by Regional Council on March 22, 2022¹, and made eligible for future use. It is now recommended for placement on new parkland at 520 Brookline Drive in Bedford. The name reflects the natural presence of foxes in the area and honours the Mi’kmaw language, which is central to Mi’kmaw identity, culture, and worldview. The Committee has reviewed the placement request and recommends approval, as outlined in Attachment A.

Commemorative Names List

Commemorative names may be historically significant to the development of HRM and may reflect or represent the history of HRM’s culturally diverse communities.

The Asset Naming Committee has reviewed two new commemorative naming applications for “Maroon Hill” and “Sierra Leone”. These names meet the criteria of HRM’s Asset Naming Policy. The Committee recommends approval of these two commemorative name applications as outlined in Attachment B.

Administrative Park Names

Administrative names reflect a locational reference to a community or a street and are applied to new parks and park features unless a commemorative name is recommended. Three administrative park names are recommended for approval, as outlined in Attachment C:

- a) Higgins Ave Park, Beechville;
- b) Fog Lane Park, Beechville; and
- c) Puncheon Way Park, Bedford.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

¹ See staff report online at: [AN111 – HRM Asset Names – June 1 to October 31, 2021 - Mar 22/22 Regional Council | Halifax.ca](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. Any member of the community is welcome to submit applications for commemorative names within HRM.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Regional Council could approve only some of the requested names.
- 2) Regional Council could reject all the requested names. This is not recommended as all names meet the criteria of Administrative Order 46.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c 39

323 The Council may

...
(c) by policy, name or rename any street or private road;

Administrative Order Number 46, Respecting HRM Asset Naming Policies.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Commemorative Name Placement

Attachment B: Commemorative Name Applications for Commemorative Names List

Attachment C: Administrative Park Names

Report Prepared by: Marie Aikenhead Bennett, Civic Addressing Coordinator, 902.943.3219

Attachment A: Commemorative Name Placement

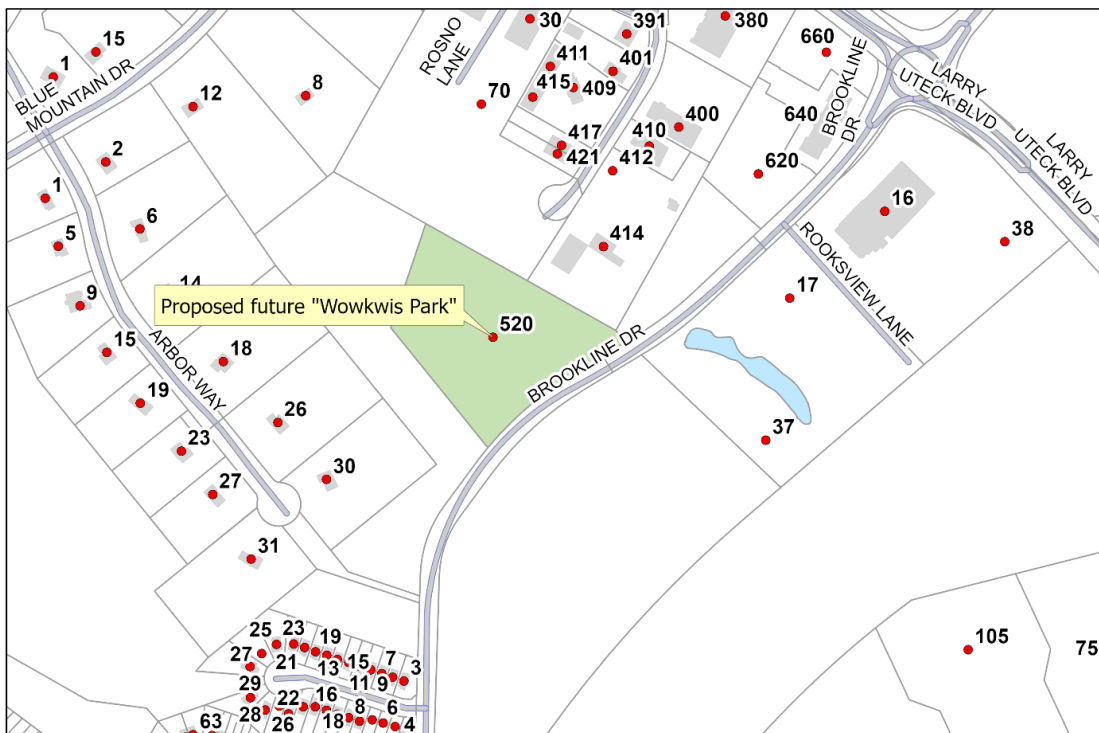
On July 21, 2020¹ Regional Council approved the following recommendation from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History:

13) That the diversity of new names for streets and other HRM assets be enhanced by working with the Mi'kmaw community to generate an expanded list of potential names.

Subsequently, on March 22, 2022², the name "Wowkwis" (meaning "Fox" in Mi'kmaw) was approved by Regional Council as a commemorative name eligible for future placement.

"Wowkwis" was chosen in collaboration with HRM's Diversity and Inclusion office for placement on new parkland at 520 Brookline Dr, Bedford. The name reflects the natural presence of foxes in the area and honours the Mi'kmaw language, which is central to Mi'kmaw identity, culture, and worldview. This naming also aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #13, which urges all levels of government to recognize and support Indigenous languages as a fundamental element of reconciliation.

The Committee is in agreement with the placement request and recommends approval.



¹ See staff report online at: [Report – Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History - July 21/20 Regional Council | Halifax.ca](#)

² See staff report online at: [AN111 – HRM Asset Names – June 1 to October 31, 2021 - Mar 22/22 Regional Council | Halifax.ca](#)

Attachment B: Commemorative Name Applications for Commemorative Names List

Requested Names: “Maroon Hill” and “Sierra Leone”

Geographic Location: If approved, these two names will be reserved for placement on two future streets proposed to be developed in Middle Sackville.

Requests to be considered under the following criteria:

- The nominated names reflect or represent the history and/or culture of HRM's culturally diverse communities; and
- The nominated name is historically significant to the development of HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and/or Canada.

Summary: “Maroon Hill” refers to an area of Middle Sackville in the vicinity of the intersection of Margeson Drive and Sackville Drive. Maroon Hill is both a Provincially recognized unincorporated area as well as a hill feature.

The name originates from a settlement of a group of Black Jamaican immigrants, the Maroons, who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1796. Most of the Nova Scotia Maroons settled in Preston, but a smaller group settled in Boydville, later known as Maroon Hill¹. While in Nova Scotia, the Maroons were faced with pressures to assimilate to local culture, but maintained their own cultural identity and pride during their time in the province.

The majority of the Maroons left Nova Scotia in 1800, settling in Sierra Leone². While they have been largely physically absent from the province for over 200 years, the Maroons mark the beginning of a continuous African Nova Scotian presence in the Middle Sackville area, a link strongly felt by many within the African Nova Scotian community today. The legacy of the Maroons continues to be reflected today in oral histories, customs and traditions of African Nova Scotians.

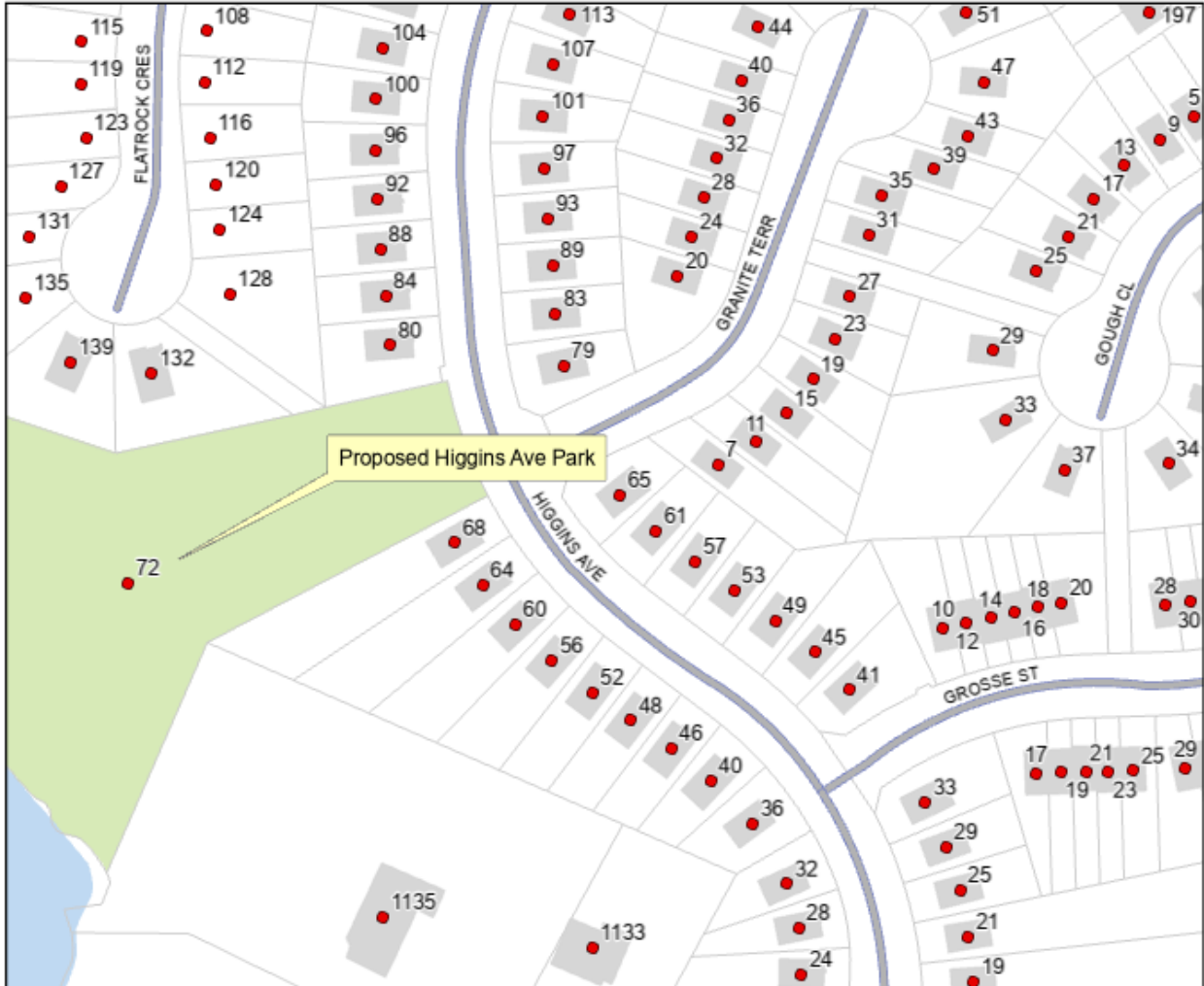
¹ Source website: [The Maroons – Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia](#)

² Source website: [The Jamaican Maroons in Nova Scotia National Historic Event](#)

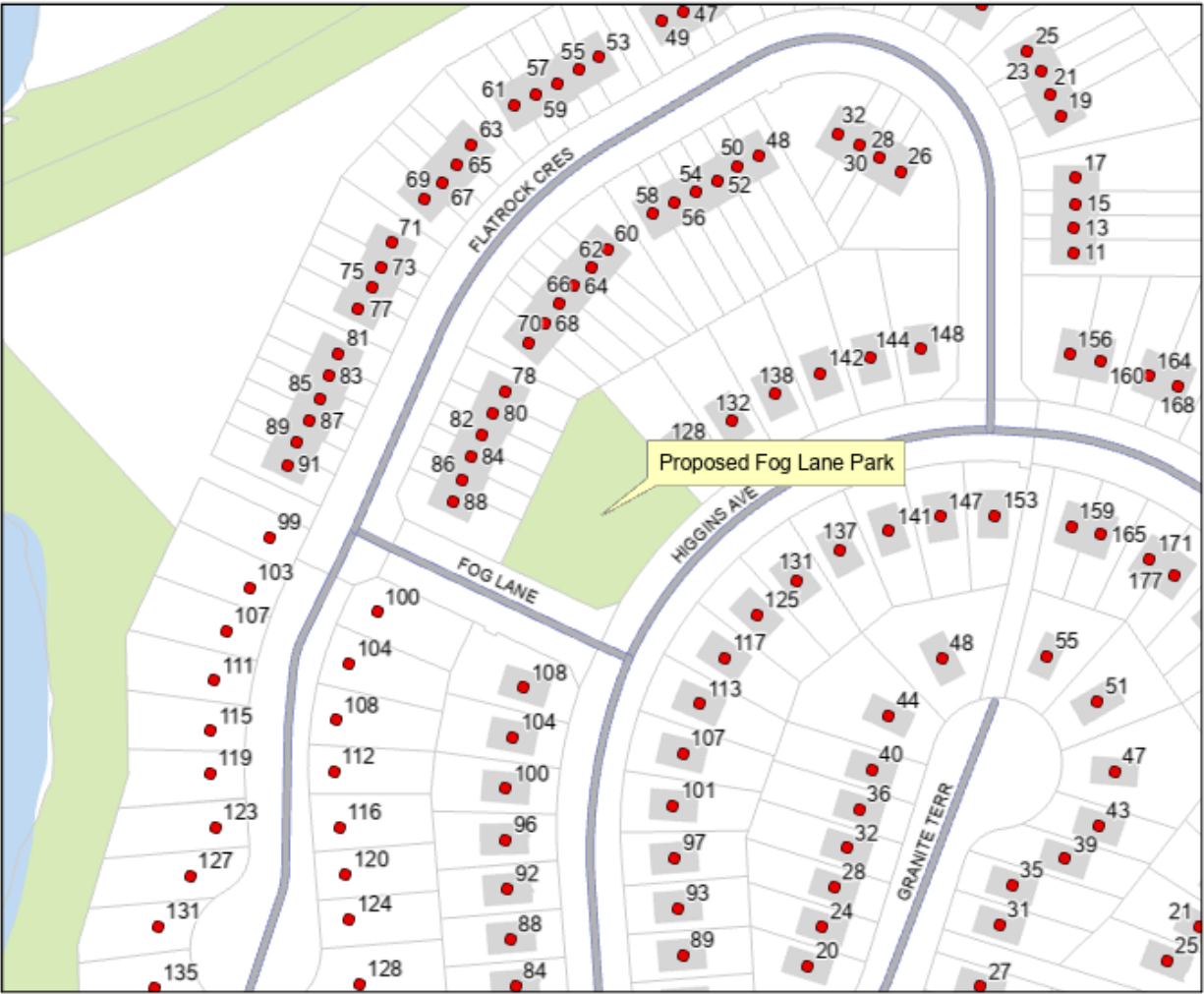
Attachment C: Administrative Park Names

Three administrative park names are recommended for approval:

- a) Higgins Ave Park, Beechville



b) Fog Lane Park, Beechville



c) Puncheon Way Park, Bedford

