

DATE: October 15, 2015
TO: Interested Community Members
FROM: Ron Miska, Acting Director and General Manger
SUBJECT: Marin County Parks Seeks Proposals to Rename the Gunshot Fire Road

At the request of community members, Marin County Parks will consider renaming the Gunshot Fire Road in the Loma Alta Open Space Preserve. There is a public process to change place names in lands owned and managed by Marin County Parks and the Marin County Open Space District. The process is contained in our Place Naming Policies. Ultimately, the Board of Directors of the Marin County Open Space District approves all place names in county open space preserves.

Name change proposals must be accompanied by a nomination of at least 500 words, and no less than three letters of support. Any name may be proposed in a nomination. Nominations need not be limited to renaming the road after a person, as long as the nomination and letters of support provide justification for the proposed renaming. Refer to policy PN1 for naming alternatives.

Please send nominations and letters of support to Carl Somers, Chief of Planning and Acquisition, at csomers@marincounty.org or Marin County Parks, c/o Carl Somers, 3501 Civic center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903. **Nominations must be accompanied by the letters of support, and must be received by the close of business on December 1, 2015.** Nominations not accompanied by three letters of support will not be considered. Letters of support not accompanied by a nomination will not be considered. Individuals submitting complete nominations (a nomination of at least 500 words and at least three letters of support) will be notified of the date, time, and location at which proposed names will be considered by the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission and, at a later date, by the Board of Directors of the Marin County Open Space District.

PLACE NAMING POLICIES ON PAGES 2-3

Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space

Place Naming Policies

The practice of naming of parks, open space, and trails has educational and community-building benefits. Place naming raises awareness of one's natural surroundings and facilitates way finding. It also enables a community to remember its shared history or recognize individuals or groups that have selflessly given of their time and personal resources for the benefit of others and our environment. For the purposes of this policy, "places" shall refer to parks, open space preserves, trails, fire protection roads, capital facilities, features, areas, and landmarks that are under the jurisdiction of the Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space. The naming of minor facilities such as benches, drinking fountains, and picnic tables is not covered by this policy.

PN1

Place names shall be based on any of the following:

1. Local topographic, geographical, geological, or astronomical features
2. Local wildlife, flora, or fauna
3. Local Native American history
4. Persons, families, events, or land uses from local history
5. Common names that have come to be accepted by local users and residents without dispute

PN2

The Department may acknowledge individuals or groups by naming places in their honor. Such honor may be bestowed when:

1. Such individuals or groups have provided profound and enduring benefit to current and future generations through:
 - a) Highly generous and strategically significant donations of land that enable the Department to complete its park and open space systems; or
 - b) Highly generous donations of cash or financial assets that enable the Department to purchase land, build capital facilities or provide long term maintenance and protection for land, facilities, and resources; or
 - c) A lifetime of dedication and community service in open space and parkland preservation and/or the provision and improvement of park and recreation facilities and resources at the county, regional, state, or national level.

Or

2. A community desires that such an honor befits one of its esteemed members. In this circumstance:
3.
 - a) The proposed name shall be based on the name of the person or group historically associated with the place, and
 - b) Such honor may be bestowed posthumously only.

The high standards set for the receipt of this honor are meant to indicate that very few places within the County Park and Open Space systems will be named after individuals or groups.

The process for nominating individuals or groups for this honor shall be as follows:

1. Nominations may be from any source and may be submitted at any time.
2. Nominations shall be submitted to the Department Director
3. A completed nomination shall consist of:
 - a) The name of the individual or group to be honored
 - b) The place to be named
 - c) A detailed description of the individual's or group's contributions and accomplishments in the field of parks and open space, in no less than 500 words, including a statement of how the contribution and accomplishments benefit current and future generations, and a statement describing the relationship between the person or group and the place to be named.
 - d) Letters of recommendation from at least three sources familiar with the individual or group and his/her/its contributions and accomplishments.
4. Department staff shall evaluate nominations and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission.
5. The Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission shall consider the nomination and make a recommendation to the Marin County Board of Supervisors or the Board of Directors of the Marin County Open Space District.

PN4

The Department should avoid renaming places. Proposals for renaming shall be considered on a case by case basis, and be based on improving way finding and/or discouraging trespass.

PN5

Trails and fire protection roads with multiple segments corresponding to intersections should possess a single name to facilitate way finding. The Department shall determine the termini of trails and fire protection roads with multiple segments.

PN6

Place names shall be formally designated by the Marin County Board of Supervisors or the Board of Directors of the Marin County Open Space District.