



Sunnyside Park Naming

What We Heard Report

November 2025



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Project overview

The City of Calgary has received an application to name park SSD120 located at 748 5 ST in the northwest community of Sunnyside. The proposed name is “**Violet King Park.**”

Naming public assets in Calgary is guided by the [Naming of City Assets Policy](#). Applications that demonstrate initial community support and meet policy requirements move forward to broader public engagement under The City’s [Engage Policy](#). Such engagement aims to create an inclusive and transparent conversation about the proposal.

Engagement approach

This engagement seeks input from residents of Sunnyside and neighbouring communities on the proposal to name the park “**Violet King Park**” in recognition of Violet King, Calgarian and the first Black woman lawyer in Canada.



In alignment with The City’s Public Engagement Requirements for asset naming, community engagement strategy was implemented to gather input on the proposed naming of the park site. This approach included the creation of a dedicated Engage page: <https://engage.calgary.ca/sunnysideparknaming>, complemented by on-site signage to ensure visibility and accessibility for local residents. Both the engagement channels remained active for three weeks to allow sufficient time for community participation.

From October 23 to November 13, the Engage page featured an online open-ended question intended to capture community feedback regarding the proposed park name. In addition, the page provided an overview of the project, outlined the purpose of the engagement, and shared information on how the naming process works.

How participant feedback will be used

Community input collected through this engagement will help inform The City’s decision. Should significant concerns or opposition be identified through the feedback, the naming process may be paused or discontinued in accordance with the [Naming of City Assets Policy](#).

Communication and Marketing Activities Overview

Marketing efforts for this engagement were scheduled appropriately to ensure proper exposure at the park location. On-site signage served as a key tool to raise awareness among local residents.

Key Activities:

1. Email outreach

Targeted emails were sent to interested parties, including the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association, inviting them to share information within their networks.

2. On-site signage

Signs promoted online engagement and directed residents to the Engage portal. These were installed at 748 5 ST NW in the community of Sunnyside.

3. Engagement portal activity

- Visitors¹ to the Engage portal: 176
- Contributions² to the engagement question: 73



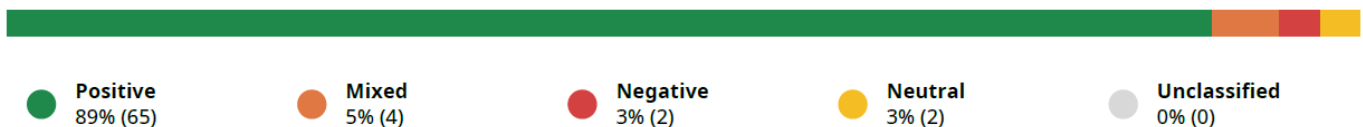
What we asked/what we heard

The question intended to gather community perspectives on the proposed naming of Sunnyside Park in recognition of Violet King:

What are your thoughts on this park naming proposal? We welcome your feedback, please share anything you appreciate or have concerns about, and why.

Long Text | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 73 (100%)

Sentiment



The feedback on this park naming proposal was overwhelmingly positive, with most respondents strongly supporting naming the park after Violet King. While the overall sentiment is favourable, the responses reflect a variety of perspectives, which have been organized into the following key themes along with sample comments: (for full verbatim comments [click here](#))

Strong Support for Honouring Violet King: Many respondents expressed enthusiastic support for naming the park after Violet King, citing her historical significance and achievements.

Sample Comments:

¹ Visitors: the number of unique users that have entered the site. A single visitor may make more than one visit over the course of the same day or several days but are only counted once.

² Contributions: the total number of responses collected through participation activities.

- *"I fully support this park naming proposal. Violet King was an incredible woman-becoming the first Black woman lawyer and fighting racism."*
- *"This is a wonderful idea. Recognizing Ms. King in this way is important to our history as Calgarians and for the history of Black Calgarians."*
- *"I strongly support this proposal. Violet King was a trailblazer in her field and deserves to be honoured as a figure whose life represents inclusion, resilience, and leadership."*

Connection to Local History and Community: Respondents emphasized the importance of preserving Sunnyside's heritage and linking the park to Violet King's former home.

Sample Comments:

- *"I live kitty-corner to this park and would welcome the naming of the bus loop park to 'Violet King Park.' She is a notable figure in Canadian history and deserves the recognition in the community where her family lived."*
- *"I am writing as a resident of Sunnyside and the current homeowner of [personal information removed], the former home of Violet King Henry, to express my full support for the naming of Violet King Park."*
- *"As one of the few heritage communities in Calgary, which is rapidly disappearing, it is essential to remind us of the importance of this area and to celebrate its rich and significant history."*

Representation, Diversity, and Inspiration: Several comments highlighted the importance of representation for marginalized communities and inspiring future generations.

Sample Comments:

- *"I love the idea of naming a park after a local Black lawyer. We need more representation of racialised folks in our city's history after all."*
- *"Knowing the history of others who have gone before us may help inspire the young in our community today to believe that they too can achieve their dreams."*
- *"My daughter will come to learn about Violet King as she grows up as a young woman of color in this same neighbourhood."*

Suggestions for Enhancements: Some respondents suggested adding plaques, signage, or educational elements to complement the naming.

Sample Comments:

- *"I hope that in the future we can have a plaque or some other sort of monument installed in the park too."*
- *"A plaque that ties in with the one across the street would be a nice touch for those interested in learning more about the inspiration behind the park's name."*
- *"If it's not already part of the plans, it would be nice to have some tasteful permanent signage installed to provide visitors with information about Violet King."*

Alternative Naming Suggestions: A few comments proposed different names or other individuals.

Sample Comments:

- *"Great idea but I'd prefer it to be called 'Violet's Space For All' as it has more meaning about who she was and what she accomplished."*
- *"No we need Harry Singh Purba park. Please we need to represent Indian culture."*
- *"Suggesting that it would be named the Violet King Bus Loop", uniting the useful nature of the loop and the historical significance of one of Sunnyside's most famous residents."*

Concerns and Criticism: A small number of comments were negative, mentioning potential costs, concerns about politicization, and questions regarding the basis for recognition.

Sample Comments:

- *“How much taxpayer money was wasted on this process? People feel unsafe and many struggling day to day, and we have a host of [removed] taking taxpayer money to accomplish nothing of value.”*
- *“Why does the city need to make everything so political? Focus on now, those of us living, and treat EVERYONE as important.”*
- *“I don't think the colour of someone's skin or their gender has a bearing on if they deserve to have infrastructure named for them.”*

Next Steps

The feedback collected from this City-led engagement will help inform recommendations about this park naming.