

**WHEATON PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE WHEATON PARK DISTRICT
PARKS, FACILITIES, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE NAMING POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Wheaton Park District ("Park District") is an Illinois park district and unit of local government organized under and operating pursuant to the Illinois Park District Code (70 ILCS 1205/1.1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, Section 8-1 of the Park District Code authorizes the Park "to pass all necessary ordinances, rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of the board and district" and "to manage and control all officers and property of such district" (70 ILCS 1205/8-1); and

WHEREAS, the Park District previously adopted a policy entitled "Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space Naming Policy," and has amended said policy from time to time ("Naming Policy"); and

WHEREAS, the Park District wishes to amend the Naming Policy to incorporate the changes set forth in Exhibit A, a copy of which is attached hereto and is incorporated herein by reference ("Naming Policy Amendments"); and

WHEREAS, the Park District owns and operates the Cosley Zoo, providing operating, capital improvement and revenue authority through the Zoo operating budget, the Park District capital projects budget, and other special budgets, and;

WHEREAS, the Cosley Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") is an independent 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to promote and support the Cosley Zoo and its programs, facilities and conservation efforts, and to provide private sector support, both financial and otherwise, for the Zoo's development, operation and capital improvements.

WHEREAS, the Park District and the Foundation previously entered into that certain "*Memorandum of Understanding between Cosley Zoo, Wheaton Park District and the Cosley Foundation, Inc.*" dated January 23, 2026 ("MOU"), that was designed to establish, define, and coordinate a mutually beneficial relationship between the Park District and the Foundation and their respective roles in supporting the Cosley Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the MOU and the Park District's and Foundation's respective efforts to support the Cosley Zoo, the Park District wishes to further amend the Naming Policy to specifically address naming assets located on or in Cosley Zoo; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the proposed addendum to the Naming Policy, entitled "Cosley Zoo Naming Addendum, An Addendum to the Wheaton Park District Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space Naming Policy" is attached hereto as Exhibit B and is incorporated herein by reference ("Addendum") and

WHEREAS, the Park District's Board of Park Commissioners ("Park Board") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Park District and its residents to approve the Naming Policy Amendments and the Addendum, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals to this Resolution are hereby determined to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated in and made part of this Resolution.

2. The form, terms and provisions of the proposed Naming Policy Amendments attached hereto as Exhibit A and the Addendum attached hereto as Exhibit B are hereby in all respects approved, and the President and Secretary of the Park Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Addendum in the name and on behalf of the Park District, substantially in the form as presented to this Park Board, with such modifications thereto, if any, as the President of the Park Board in consultation with the Park District's legal counsel shall approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by his or her execution thereof.

3. The President and Secretary of the Park Board, the Park District's Executive Director and the Park District's attorneys are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to take all action and execute any and all documents necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the intent and effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Resolution and the Addendum.

4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

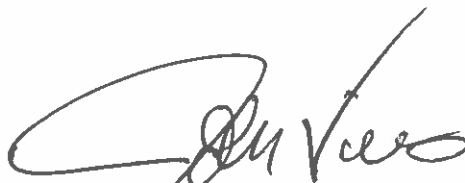
Adopted this 19th day of August, 2026 by roll call vote as follows:

AYES: *Welker, Pedrini, Mee, Kelly, Fray + Vies*

NAYS: *—*

ABSENT: *Bacrett*

ABSTAIN: *—*



President
Board of Park Commissioners
Wheaton Park District

ATTEST:



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners
Wheaton Park District

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF DUPAGE)

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, Michael J. Benard, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County, Illinois and as such, I am keeper of the records, ordinances, files and seal of said Park District; and

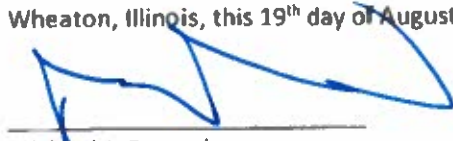
I HERBY CERTIFY that the foregoing instrument is a true and correct copy of:

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE WHEATON PARK DISTRICT
PARKS, FACILITIES, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE NAMING POLICY**

adopted at a duly called regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheaton Park District held at the City of Wheaton City Council Chambers, 303 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois at 5:00 p.m. on the 19th day of August, 2026.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Board on the adoption of said resolution were conducted openly, that the vote on the adoption of said resolution was taken openly, that said meeting was called and held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of said meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that an agenda for said meeting was posted as required by the Open Meetings Act and that said meeting was otherwise called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and with the provisions of the Park District Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and that the Board has complied with all of the provisions of said Act and said Code and with all of the procedural rules of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto affix my official signature and the seal of said Wheaton Park District in Wheaton, Illinois, this 19th day of August, 2026.



Michael J. Benard
Secretary

{SEAL}



**Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space
Naming Policy
Wheaton Park District
Amended August 2026**

The purpose of this procedure is to clearly define the process for naming Wheaton Park District parks, trails, open space areas and associated structures or facilities. It is designed in the spirit of community involvement and influence as well as to facilitate a naming process for present and future needs. The values, contributions, services and heritage of the community can be embodied and preserved by appropriate and logical naming of parks and facilities.

Parks, trails and open space areas shall be defined as any parcel of land, including ponds and lakes that are donated, dedicated or acquired for public use as a park, trail or open space. Park structures or facilities shall be defined to include but not limited to athletic fields, tennis courts, golf courses, outdoor theaters, buildings, meeting space, gymnasiums and swimming pools.

For name requests that do not meet the standards or conditions set forth in this procedure, alternatives are given at the end of this document.

1. Naming Criteria

Each of the following conditions describe an opportunity for implementing the park naming procedure:

- Any planned park, trail or park facility that is not yet built or acquired and has no official name.
- Any existing park, trail or park facility that is built and has no official name.
- Any existing park, trail or park facility that is built and has a geographic name only.

Any interested person may become involved in the naming process for the park or facility. To be considered, proposed names may be submitted from one of the following sources:

- Recommendation made by park district staff in the planning and/or development of a new park.
- Any person(s) or firm(s) who contribute significantly to the development of the park or facility. Land developers of adjoining property may be included in this group regardless of whether their contribution is voluntary or required by the park district.
- An ad hoc naming committee may be assembled under the guidance of the Wheaton Park District Board of Park Commissioners or Wheaton Park District staff.

2. Selection of a Name

Name selections should express appreciation to those who have contributed significantly to the Park District or maintain themes established for adjoining developments. Preference will be given to names having local and/or historical significance.

Names submitted should adhere to the following standards and guidelines:

- Geographic names descriptive of the location or significant natural features in or near the park or facility.
- Historic names or events relevant to the park or facility. The name submitted should be one of significance to a substantial portion of the community, and this fact shall be documented.
- Organization or person who made a significant contribution to the park or facility being named. Contribution, whether years of service or monetary donation, should be extensive and substantial.
- Person who made a significant contribution to the park district as a whole over an extended period of time. It should be someone who has contributed in a definitive and outstanding manner to the betterment of the park district and its citizens.

3. Submitting a Name Request

To submit a name to the Executive Director:

- Document the reasoning for the requested name and show community support. To *change* the name of a park or facility, valid and adequate reasons must be given in the request to the Executive Director.
- Requests commemorating a person's name shall include a biographical profile and written certification by the applicant that they have secured the necessary permissions or approvals to utilize the proposed name in the manner requested.
- At the meeting with the Executive Director or his/her designee, present the request and submit copies of the written recommendation including any historical documentation and a biographical profile.

After the presentation and submission of written materials, the Executive Director will forward all pertinent materials to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

4. Approval Process

The approval process is a determination of the appropriateness of the requested name according to the standards set forth in this document. Wheaton Park District staff has primary responsibility for completing all duties required for this determination. The approval process shall begin with an evaluation period based on the type of name request.

- a. If the name request commemorates a person or group, a 30-day evaluation period shall begin upon presentation and written submission to the Board of Commissioners.
- b. The final decision for naming parks and facilities shall always remain in control of the Wheaton Park District Board of Park Commissioners.
- c. After the name is approved by the Park Board, the Park District will provide signs where appropriate. If requested, the district may also provide additional signs displaying background information about the name. The Park District shall keep a permanent record of the naming process.

5. Alternatives

If the requested name does not meet the criteria, two alternatives exist to commemorate a person and/or a name. These include the Wheaton Park District *Memorial Tree* and *Memorial Bench* programs.

Exhibit B

Cosley Zoo Naming Addendum

An Addendum to the Wheaton Park District Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space Naming Policy

Approved by the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners:

August 2026

1. Applicability

This Cosley Zoo Naming Addendum supplements the Wheaton Park District Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space Naming Policy dated September 2007 ("District Naming Policy") as it applies to assets located at Cosley Zoo. Except as expressly supplemented herein, all provisions of the District Naming Policy shall remain in full force and effect.

The Wheaton Park District recognizes that naming recognition serves multiple public purposes by honoring exceptional philanthropy, preserving community history, strengthening community partnerships, and encouraging philanthropic investment that advances the mission and long-term sustainability of Cosley Zoo. Through thoughtful naming recognition, the contributions of donors and community leaders may be recognized in a manner consistent with the mission.

Naming opportunities supported through philanthropic gifts are intended to be developed collaboratively by the Wheaton Park District, Cosley Zoo, and the Cosley Foundation. Naming opportunities may be identified as part of campaign planning, master planning, exhibit development, or other fundraising initiatives.

The Wheaton Park District recognizes the Cosley Foundation as its principal philanthropic partner for Cosley Zoo and that the Foundation is responsible for leading the identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of philanthropic support that may result in naming recognition under this Addendum.

The Cosley Foundation shall retain independent authority regarding fundraising activities, donor cultivation, solicitation, acceptance of charitable gifts, and donor stewardship in accordance with its governing documents and policies. Nothing in this Addendum shall be construed to limit the Foundation's independent corporate governance authority or limit the independent authority of the Cosley Foundation with respect to fundraising activities, donor cultivation, gift acceptance, and administration of charitable funds under Foundation policies.

The Wheaton Park District retains sole authority over naming recognition associated with Park District-owned assets, facilities, exhibits, programs, and properties, including the right to approve or deny naming recognition for any Zoo Asset in accordance with the Wheaton Park District's Naming Policy and this Addendum. The Addendum preserves the Wheaton Park District's responsibility to steward public assets in the best interests of the community. Acceptance of a

charitable gift by the Cosley Foundation does not create any right to naming recognition of Wheaton Park District assets.

For purposes of this Addendum:

2026 District Naming Policy means the District Naming Policy as amended by this Cosley Zoo Naming Addendum.

Zoo Asset means any Cosley Zoo program, building, exhibit, habitat, animal care facility, landscape feature, structure, room, space, improvement, or other real or personal property owned or controlled by the Wheaton Park District at Cosley Zoo that the Wheaton Park District determines appropriate for naming recognition.

Charitable Gift Agreement means the written agreement documenting a donor's philanthropic gift, pledge, or intention to directly grant or to authorize a controlled entity to grant to Cosley Zoo or the Cosley Foundation.

Significant Charitable Contribution means a philanthropic contribution determined by the Wheaton Park District or their designee(s), in consultation with the Cosley Foundation, to warrant naming recognition based upon its philanthropic significance and relationship to the applicable Zoo Asset.

Naming Recognition means the public recognition granted by the Wheaton Park District or its designee(s) in acknowledgment of a Significant Charitable Contribution.

Naming Recognition Agreement means the written legal agreement establishing the terms and conditions governing Naming Recognition.

Wheaton Park District Responsibilities: Asset Ownership, Zoo operations, Naming approvals, Signage approval and public property decisions

Cosley Foundation Responsibilities: Fundraising, Campaign management, Donor cultivation, Gift acceptance, Stewardship and Endowment management

2. Supplemental Naming Criteria

In addition to the naming criteria established in the District Naming Policy, the Wheaton Park District may grant Naming Recognition for Zoo Assets to:

- a. reflect the animal species associated with the Zoo Asset; and
- b. acknowledge Significant Charitable Contributions that advance the mission, programs, facilities, or long-term sustainability of Cosley Zoo.

Naming Recognition may honor:

- a. an individual, family, corporation, foundation, or other organization recommended for recognition by the entity providing a Significant Charitable Contribution to Cosley Zoo or the Cosley Foundation;
- b. an individual whose leadership or service has substantially benefited Cosley Zoo or the Wheaton Park District; or
- c. an individual, family, corporation, foundation, or other organization designated by a qualifying donor for recognition or memory, subject to approval by the Wheaton Park District.

Naming Recognition may be initiated by:

- a. the Executive Director of the Wheaton Park District ("Executive Director");
- b. the Cosley Zoo Director;
- c. the Cosley Foundation; or
- d. an individual, family, business, foundation, or other organization proposing a Significant Charitable Contribution or their legal representative.

Naming Recognition may be considered for an existing Zoo Asset or a planned Zoo Asset, neither of which is presently subject to an active Naming Recognition Agreement.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Cosley Zoo Director and the Cosley Foundation, shall determine the suitability and availability of naming opportunities based upon campaign priorities, fundraising objectives, donor intent, the significance of the proposed Significant Charitable Contribution in relation to the significance of the named Cosley Zoo Asset, and the long-term interests of Cosley Zoo. Naming opportunities may recognize one or more Significant Charitable Contributions when determined appropriate by the Wheaton Park District or their designee(s).

Naming Recognition is a discretionary form of donor recognition granted at will by the Wheaton Park District and is not an entitlement arising from any philanthropic contribution.

The Wheaton Park District is under no obligation to offer Naming Recognition for any Zoo Asset or to approve any proposed Naming Recognition.

3. Supplemental Review and Approval Process

A request for Naming Recognition for a Zoo Asset shall be reviewed in accordance with the 2026 District Naming Policy.

The Cosley Foundation and the Cosley Zoo Director shall participate in the review of proposed philanthropic naming opportunities and may provide recommendations regarding donor recognition, philanthropic gift commitments, and stewardship considerations.

The Executive Director may invite the applicant to present the proposed Naming Recognition to representatives of the Wheaton Park District, Cosley Zoo, the Cosley Foundation, and/or the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners, as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the approvals required by the District Naming Policy, final approval of Naming Recognition of Cosley Assets shall rest with the Executive Director of the Wheaton Park District, except for the renaming of Cosley Zoo, which requires approval from the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners. The Executive Director may delegate administrative responsibilities associated with the 2026 District Naming Policy to the Zoo Director or other designated employees.

The Wheaton Park District recognizes that successful philanthropic fundraising requires timely and flexible engagement with prospective donors. Accordingly, the Cosley Foundation is authorized to develop, discuss, and negotiate prospective naming opportunities, including preliminary naming concepts and gift structures, provided that no Naming Recognition shall become effective unless approved by the Wheaton Park District or its designee(s) in accordance with this Addendum and documented in an executed Naming Recognition Agreement (defined below).

The Wheaton Park District shall consult with the Cosley Foundation when reasonably practical before denying or materially modifying a proposed philanthropic naming opportunity.

The Wheaton Park District and the Cosley Foundation may decline to participate in any proposed Naming Recognition that either determines to be inconsistent with its respective mission, values, or long-term interests.

4. Naming Recognition Agreement

All Naming Recognition shall be consistent with the provisions of the 2026 District Naming Policy and be documented through a written Naming Recognition Agreement executed by authorized representatives of the Wheaton Park District, the Cosley Foundation, and the donor or the donor's legal representative. When applicable, the Naming Recognition Agreement shall be supported by a corresponding Charitable Gift Agreement.

Approval of a Charitable Gift Agreement does not, by itself, constitute approval of Naming Recognition unless expressly granted through an executed Naming Recognition Agreement.

The Naming Recognition Agreement shall establish, as applicable:

- a. the Zoo Asset receiving Naming Recognition;
- b. the approved naming designation;
- c. the duration of the Naming Recognition;
- d. the philanthropic gift or pledge supporting the Naming Recognition;
- e. the payment schedule, if applicable;

- f. the recognition to be provided; and
- g. such additional terms and conditions as the Wheaton Park District or its designee(s) determines appropriate.

Naming discussions, proposed naming opportunities, philanthropic gift negotiations, and draft agreements shall remain confidential until approved by all required parties unless disclosure is otherwise required by law.

Naming Recognition does not create a property interest, ownership right, exclusive use, operational authority, or any other legal or equitable interest in a Zoo Asset.

Naming Recognition may not be assigned or transferred without the prior written consent of the Wheaton Park District.

In the event of any inconsistency between the 2026 District Naming Policy and an executed Naming Recognition Agreement, the terms of the Naming Recognition Agreement shall control.

5. Naming Recognition

The Wheaton Park District shall determine the nature, design, placement, installation, maintenance, modification, and removal of all Naming Recognition.

Naming Recognition may be provided through signage, donor recognition displays, publications, maps, digital media, websites, or other forms of public recognition determined appropriate by the Wheaton Park District.

The appearance, materials, size, and location of all Naming Recognition shall be determined by the Wheaton Park District in a manner consistent with the character of Cosley Zoo and the stewardship of public assets.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable Naming Recognition Agreement, Naming Recognition for a newly constructed or substantially renovated Zoo Asset shall generally be installed following completion of construction and satisfaction of the applicable requirements of the Charitable Gift Agreement and Naming Recognition Agreement.

The duration of Naming Recognition shall be established in the applicable Naming Recognition Agreement and shall reflect the nature of the philanthropic contribution, the anticipated useful life of the Zoo Asset, and the interests of Cosley Zoo. Naming Recognition may be granted for a specified term, not to exceed the useful life of the Zoo Asset.

Unless otherwise provided in the Naming Recognition Agreement, Naming Recognition shall become effective upon execution of the Naming Recognition Agreement and satisfaction of any conditions established therein.

If a Zoo Asset is renovated, expanded, relocated, repurposed, replaced, or removed, the Wheaton Park District may determine, in consultation with the Cosley Foundation, whether the Naming Recognition should be retained, transferred to a comparable Zoo Asset, modified, renewed, or discontinued.

Upon expiration of a Naming Recognition Agreement, the Wheaton Park District may renew the Naming Recognition, retire the naming designation, or make the naming opportunity available for future philanthropic support.

6. Modification or Discontinuation of Naming Recognition

The Wheaton Park District shall administer the 2026 District Naming Policy in a manner that advances the mission, programs, and facilities of Cosley Zoo, recognizes exceptional philanthropy, preserves public confidence in the stewardship of public assets, and maintains flexibility for future generations.

After consultation with the Cosley Foundation, the Wheaton Park District may modify or discontinue Naming Recognition if:

- a. the Naming Recognition Agreement expires;
- b. the donor materially fails to satisfy the obligations of the applicable Charitable Gift Agreement or Naming Recognition Agreement following any required notice and opportunity to cure;
- c. the named individual or organization engages in conduct or becomes associated with activities that, in the reasonable judgment of the Wheaton Park District, would bring discredit upon, materially damage the reputation of, or otherwise be inconsistent with the mission, values, or public trust of the Wheaton Park District or Cosley Zoo;
- d. other extraordinary circumstances arise that make continuation of the Naming Recognition inconsistent with the mission of Cosley Zoo, the public interest or the purposes of the 2026 District Naming Policy.

The death of an individual for whom Naming Recognition has been granted shall not, by itself, constitute grounds for modifying or discontinuing Naming Recognition.

Upon discontinuation of Naming Recognition, the Wheaton Park District may retire the naming designation and make the naming opportunity available for future philanthropic support.

7. Operational Authority

Nothing in the 2026 District Naming Policy, any Naming Recognition Agreement, or any Charitable Gift Agreement shall limit the authority of the Wheaton Park District to own, manage, maintain, improve, renovate, expand, relocate, repurpose, replace, or remove any Zoo Asset whenever the Wheaton Park District determines such action to be in the best interests of Cosley Zoo or the Wheaton Park District community.

Naming Recognition does not create any right to the continued existence, operation, or location of a Zoo Asset.

8. Effective Date

This Cosley Zoo Naming Addendum shall become effective upon approval by the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners and shall thereafter be incorporated into the Wheaton Park District Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space Naming Policy.

The Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners reserves the right to amend, suspend, or repeal the 2026 District Naming Policy at any time.