



Story County Conservation Board - McFarland Park 56461 180th St. - Ames, Iowa 50010-9451
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www.storycountyconservation.org

Memorandum

To: Story County Conservation Board

From: Michael D. Cox, Director

Date: September 13, 2021

Re: Consideration of Naming the McFarland Park Touch-A-Life Trail Bridges and Fishing Dock after Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg.

Conservation staff is asking for your consideration for naming the Touch-A-Life trail bridges and dock the Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg Memorial Bridges and Fishing Dock. Phyllis and Paul have been avid supporters of the Touch-A-Life trail. Please see the attached request and supplemental information.

Staff urges your approval.

Approval


Disapproval

Date

Date

APPLICATION FOR NAMING CONSERVATION AREAS AND PLACING MEMORIALS

Respectfully Submitted by Leo Timms Ames Town and Country Kiwanis 9/8/2021


Leo Timms

It is the policy of the Story County Conservation Board to ensure the best interests of the county and the community while naming conservation areas and placing memorials in conservation areas.

Conservation facilities shall be named in a manner that will enable the public to easily recognize, locate and remember them. Names for parks and facilities shall be selected in the following order of priority:

1. Places and features, including streets, schools and natural features
2. Historic sites or events
3. Descriptive names
4. Persons or organizations

The preferred types of park memorials and plaques are:

1. Tree plantings
2. Park amenities including benches, tables, receptacles, fountains and shelters
3. Landscaping and improvements
4. Large monuments and shelters are discouraged

The director of conservation shall review the application and prepare a report and recommendation for consideration of approval by the Story County Conservation Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

NAMING CONSERVATION AREAS

Concise description of the physical location of the park or facility **McFarland Park: bridges (3) and fishing dock trail and area (long bridge just east of Greve Overlook and Picnic area and 2 shorter bridges on short south loop from long bridge; and the trail leading to the dock and the dock itself)**

The proposed name for the park area or facility **Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg: Memorial Bridges & Fishing Dock (could use McFarland instead of Memorial depending on SCC preference)**

Specific justification for the proposed name, including:

Suitability: The area that encompasses the 3 bridges as well as the fishing dock and path to it would be fitting for recognizing Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg's passion and long term commitment for McFarland Park and their commitment and accomplishments in community service in Story County.

History or biography of the group or individual to be honored: Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg are long time residents of Ames and Story County, including excellent examples of volunteering and community service to McFarland Park and other city and county parks, facilities, and outside areas. Paul has been a member of our Ames Town and Country Kiwanis (ATAACK) group since 1978 and has been involved with the most aspects of the McFarland "Touch of Life Trail". Paul has been a "lead by example" hard worker and the project's leader and SCC liaison for the past 20+ years, through completion of the trail. Paul also has been involved as a leader in the building and rebuilding of the 3 proposed bridges, including recent work in cleaning and sealing these bridges. Paul has been involved and a leader in the dock and dock path with renovations, modifications and repairs to both. Paul was also leader on the Pergola Swing project. Paul has also been engaged in many other park projects and buildings including Ames City parks (Brookside, Emma McCarthy Lee, Inis Grove), Ada Hayden, State 4-H camp, and Tedesco Environmental Learning Center (where he has now taken over leadership). Paul was also instrumental in our "2 mile Highway Adoption" in North Ames (2nd adoption in the state) where he has provided leadership for both upkeep and trash removal, as well as the native prairie plantings and areas along the 2 mile stretch. Paul was also an outstanding teacher and educator at ISU Department of Animal Science for 35 + years. As important, Paul was a significant advisor and mentor to many students and was very involved in the internship program and opportunities. He was also involved early with mentoring and welcoming international students. While internship opportunities and international students are many today, Paul was an early pioneer and leader in these arenas. Paul has been the recipient of numerous awards for his teaching, advising, and international work. Phyllis, while not specifically working on the concrete at McFarland or physical work of many projects, has been a supporter of Paul and all our projects (often financially) and a co-leader with Paul in cheerleading and praising! Phyllis was an outstanding faculty member, teacher, and advisor in the Textile and Clothing Dept in the Family and Consumer Science College at ISU for 30 years. She has been involved with design and fashion from babies to adults, including writing textbooks designing fashions, and training students and future leaders. She has won numerous awards for teaching and advising at all levels, including nationally. She was also a leader in many other University committees, service areas,

and professional societies. But her main work involved the nurturing and raising of their 3 children and their families. Yet through all this, Phyllis was always there supporting Paul and our projects. Her great career and life were cut short as Phyllis developed Alzheimers in 1998 and succumbed to its complications in 2010.

Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg were a team. And that is how we would love to see them be recognized for their service, and no greater place than McFarland Park.

Rationale for the name (such as a significant monetary contribution for the acquisition or development of the park, a substantial donation of labor or materials, or a sustained, high level of voluntary public service in the area of conservation): **(SEE ABOVE) Paul (especially) and occasionally Phyllis, as well as our Ames Town and Country Kiwanis group, have made substantial donations of time, labor, occasionally materials (including funding the initial Touch of Life Trail), and even financial support to many projects at McFarland Park and throughout Story County, including our most recent adoption of Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. In the area we are proposing adopting and naming, we have been involved in the building (and rebuilding) of the 3 bridges, including the recent power washing and staining/ sealing of all 3 bridges. Our club has also been involved in both the initial build as well as subsequent renovations to the dock, as well as installed the original concrete dock path and subsequent modifications and repairs to that path with Paul Brackelsberg being the major leader and SCC liaison in most of these projects. We as a club are also committed to future projects and upgrades specific to this area as well as any other maintenance and needs at McFarland Park.**

Please address the person's character, reputation, standing within the community or level of contribution to conservation or the community as a whole. If the individual is deceased, the application shall address that person's singularly unique and significant contribution to the community or a substantial donation to the acquisition or development of the park.

SEE ABOVE DISCUSSION! The excellent character and contributions of Phyllis and Paul Brackelsburg are explained above. Paul has made major community contributions. Phyllis was slightly involved but her major duties were work and raising a family. Yet she always was involved and showed continual support and their marriage and work was always a partnership! We believe this is the unique and great opportunity to recognize their contributions. Paul resides at Green Hills. Phyllis passed away in 2010 after a 12 year bout with Alzheimer's in which Paul was her main stalwart.

MEMORIALS AND PLAQUES

Type of memorial (tree plantings, park amenities, landscaping) We would like to propose a small plaque (funded by our club) to be attached on the horizontal 2X4 piece just below the top rail at the east end of the long bridge that crosses to the trail and dock path going north, or at a spot designated by SCC to name and honor Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg

Proposed park/placement location within the park: The memorial would encompass the 3 bridges ((long bridge that leads to trail and dock path and 2 short bridges that loop on the south trail from the long bridge) and the dock path and dock area. (see attached map and picture)

Detailed description/drawing of proposed memorial or plaque, including size, shape, color, and wording of any inscriptions (may be attached):

We envision a bronze / brown plaque (similar to the Engstrom Pergola and Greve Overlook plaques) 1.5 – 2” wide and 8-12” long (depending on lettering size and what is approved or acceptable) with 2 lines:

Line 1: **Phyllis and Paul Brackelsberg** Line 2: **Memorial Bridges & Fishing Dock**
(could use McFarland instead of Memorial depending on SCC preference)

Lines would be on top of each other and centered on the plaque.

Specific justification for the memorial, including:

Suitability: **SEE NAMING DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS!**

History or biography of the group or individual to be honored **SEE NAMING DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS!**

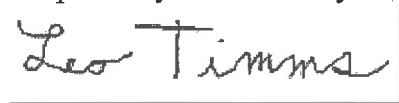
Rationale for honoring the individual, organization or act (such as a significant monetary contribution for the acquisition, development and placement of the plaque or memorial, a sustained, high level of voluntary public service in the area of conservation):

SEE NAMING DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS!

Please address the person’s character, reputation, standing within the community or level of contribution to conservation or the community as a whole.

SEE NAMING DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS!

Respectfully Submitted by Leo Timms Ames Town and Country Kiwanis 9/8/2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo Timms". The signature is enclosed in a simple rectangular box.

SEE PICTURE ON NEXT PAGE

