



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Public Naming Commission Submittal Requirements

The Public Naming Commission was established to implement the Municipality of Anchorage's standards for public naming, as outlined in Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 1.80 – Naming of Public Places.

Commission Vision Statement: We envision a Municipality of Anchorage where the names of public places reflect the full story of our community – the land's history, Indigenous place names, and the cultural, natural, and civic identities of our city. By recognizing stories and landscapes that shape our community, we aim to foster a sense of shared identity and belonging. Our work includes the careful consideration and recommendation of names for Municipal sites, objects, trails, landscapes, and buildings. The Public Naming Commission uses a culturally aware naming process with active community input.

To initiate the naming, renaming, or honorary naming of a Municipal asset (building, park, street, elements within parks and buildings, or another Municipal asset) requires a completed submission form (a blank form is attached to this document). Initial naming of streets and roads is governed by Title 21; renaming of streets and roads is governed by A.M.C. 21.03.185, and public safety considerations. A complete, detailed submission form will assist the Commission in their review of the request.

It is important that the narrative statement on the form contains as much detail and information as possible (additional pages may be used). The narrative statement should explain the rationale for the proposed naming, renaming, or honorary naming.

Key elements of a good narrative statement include:

- **Events** – Any events, contemporary or historical that are relevant to the proposed naming.

- **Cultural Significance** – Any cultural significance to a group or groups of persons, relevant to the proposed naming. It is recommended to have the definition of the indigenous word if it is being requested for naming purposes.
- **Indigenous Significance** - Any historical or cultural relevance to the Dena'ina Athabascan people, or other Indigenous Alaska peoples.
- **Natural Features** – A description of natural features of the asset proposed for naming, including, but not limited to, geographical, geological, and anthropological features.
- **Other Considerations** - Any other cultural, historical, or geographical relevance.
- **Honorary Naming** - If naming for an individual or group, include their positive impacts on the local community and their relationship to the asset proposed for naming. Posthumous naming is limited to no earlier than 36 months posthumously.
- **Documents:** Maps or photos that include the location and boundaries of the asset being proposed for naming, and any letters of support for the naming.

Submission forms are accepted year-round, and the Commission reviews submission on a quarterly basis (February, May, August, and November).

Submit Completed Forms and Additional Documents To:

Mail to: Municipality of Anchorage
Clerk's Office
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

Email to: wwmasmc@anchorageak.gov

For questions regarding the Public Naming Commission Submission Form please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at wwmasmc@anchorageak.gov.

For additional information regarding the Public Naming Commission, please visit the Commission's website at www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Pages/Public-Naming-Commission

Consistent with local and state public records laws, completed submission forms and supporting documents are public records and are subject to public records requests.

Public Naming Commission Submission Form

Municipality of Anchorage
Clerk's Office
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650
wwmasmc@anchorageak.gov

☐ Naming

☐ Renaming

☐ Honorary Naming

Submitting Individual or Agency (Required)

Name of Individual or Agency:

Contact Person (if submitting on behalf of an agency):

Mailing Address:

Contact Phone – Day:

Evening:

Email (required):

Public Place Proposed for Naming or Renaming (Required)

Current Name (if applicable):

Proposed Name:

Location Address or Description of Public Space:

Narrative Statement (Required)

Provide a narrative explaining the rationale for the proposed naming or renaming. If known, include historical context, significance of the proposed name, community support, and any cultural, historical, or geographical considerations, including indigenous historical or cultural relevance. If recommending naming for an individual or group, include their positive impacts on the local community and their relationship to the facility or space proposed for naming. Posthumous naming is limited to no earlier than 36 months posthumously. (Use additional pages if necessary):

Exhibit (Optional)

A map or photo showing the location and boundaries of the public space being proposed for naming or renaming is encouraged.

Attached Map or Photo: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Submission Instructions

Mail to:

Municipality of Anchorage
Clerk's Office
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

Email to:

wwmasmc@anchorageak.gov

Vision Statement: We envision a Municipality of Anchorage where the names of public places reflect the full story of our community – the land's history, Indigenous place names, and the cultural, natural, and civic identities of our city. By recognizing stories and landscapes that shape our community, we aim to foster a sense of shared identity and belonging. Our work includes the careful consideration and recommendation of names for Municipal sites, objects, trails, landscapes, and buildings. The Public Naming Commission uses a culturally aware naming process with active community input.

NAME PROPOSAL: “Karen Bronga Northeast Connector Trail”

Request to Honor Karen Bronga Through the Naming of the Northeast Connector Trail in Far North Bicentennial Park to: The Karen Bronga Northeast Connector Trail

On Friday, July 24, Anchorage lost former Assembly Member and beloved community advocate Karen Bronga. Karen’s legacy will be remembered through her lifelong dedication to making our city a better place for everyone, especially the residents of East Anchorage. In recognition of her extraordinary contributions to our community, the Parks and Recreation Department respectfully requests that the Municipality of Anchorage consider renaming the Northeast Connector Trail in Far North Bicentennial Park as the Karen Bronga Northeast Connector Trail.

Karen spent nearly ten years on the Scenic Foothills Community Council, serving as secretary, vice president, and eventually president. After two decades of teaching in the Anchorage School District, she brought that same dedication to public service by representing the area on the Anchorage Assembly from 2023 to 2025. Throughout her career, Karen consistently championed education, public safety, neighborhood improvements, and expanded access to parks and trails. As a retired elementary school teacher, she carried her commitment to Anchorage’s families beyond the classroom, advocating for safer communities, improved trail access, and safe routes for children. She also helped secure funding for the Nunaka Valley Playground and obtained grants benefiting Scenic Park and Kasuun Elementary School. Karen viewed parks and trails as more than recreational spaces—they were places where neighbors connect, families gather, children explore, and residents can safely walk and bike through their community.

The Northeast Connector Trail was not just another trail to Karen. It was an extension of her backyard and a gateway to Far North Bicentennial Park, where she and her family spent countless hours exploring. She volunteered her time throughout the project, participating in walkthroughs with project teams, advocating for routes that would best serve current and future trail users, supporting funding efforts, securing grants, and celebrating the trail’s completion.

Notably, in 2016, Karen and Tom Bronga secured a Community Challenge Grant and worked with the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program to bring Phase One of the trail to life, creating a lasting community asset for all to enjoy. Following the project’s success, Karen and Tom invited the entire YEP crew to their home for a “thank you” barbecue, expressing their appreciation to the youth whose hard work helped build the trail and strengthen connections throughout the community. Today, the Northeast Connector Trail continues to be a favorite of many in the Anchorage Community.

Karen was known as someone who showed up for her neighbors, her community, and the causes she believed in. Her Assembly successor, Yarrow Silvers, captured this commitment simply: Karen never stopped showing up for our East Anchorage community. She was also known for her willingness to speak honestly, never hesitating to share her perspective or advocate for what she believed was right. Former Assembly Chair Christopher Constant remembered Karen as someone who was not afraid to hold an independent view and speak her mind, a quality he described as laudable.

Renaming the Northeast Connector Trail in Karen Bronga's honor would create a lasting tribute that reflects her lifelong commitment to service, education, stewardship, and East Anchorage. Few memorials could better represent her dedication to community, stewardship, and public access than a trail she helped shape and bring to life. Every person who walks, runs, bikes, or enjoys this trail would be reminded of Karen's belief in building stronger, healthier, and more connected communities, ensuring that future generations recognize the extraordinary contributions she made to our city and the neighborhoods she loved.

The Parks and Recreation Department respectfully asks the Municipality of Anchorage to consider this request and establish a permanent tribute to Karen Bronga in the landscape she worked so diligently to improve, protect, and make accessible for all residents.





From: [World Wide Web Municipal Clerk](#)
To: [IMAS Assembly Members](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Fw: Karen Bronga
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:18:23 PM

Hello, Assembly Members,

Please see forwarded email from a member of the public.

Best,

Angel D. Gonzales
Municipal Clerk's Office

From: Catherine Mannix <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 5:56 PM
To: World Wide Web Municipal Clerk <WWMASMC@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Karen Bronga

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I totally support renaming the connector trail in honor of Karen Bronga. She touched so many people and was such a strong advocate for individuals and issues in our community. Her death is such a tragedy and a great loss for Anchorage. It is fitting and appropriate to name the connector trail in her honor, for her family and our community.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mannix

From: [World Wide Web Municipal Clerk](#)
To: [!MAS Assembly Members](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Fw: Karen Bronga
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 2:54:30 PM

Hello Assembly Members,

Please see forwarded email from a member of the public.

Best,

Angel D. Gonzales
Municipal Clerk's Office

From: Lisa <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 9:57 AM
To: World Wide Web Municipal Clerk <WWMASMC@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Karen Bronga

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Sent from my iPhone

I'm in favor in naming the connector trail in memory of Karen Bronga

From: [World Wide Web Municipal Clerk](#)
To: [Acres, Jasmine M.](#)
Subject: Fw: Renaming Public Hearing for Karen Bronga Renaming on Sept. 9
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 3:43:22 PM

Here is one for you!

Best,

Angel D. Gonzales
Municipal Clerk's Office

From: Kerry Reardon [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:11 PM
To: World Wide Web Municipal Clerk <WWMASMC@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Renaming Public Hearing for Karen Bronga Renaming on Sept. 9

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To: Jamie Heinz, Municipal Clerk and Members of the Public Naming Commission

I am writing in enthusiastic support for the proposal to rename the current Northeast Connector Trail to the Karen Bronga Connector Trail. I live in the Chugach Foothills where this trail connects our neighborhood to the Botanical Gardens and access to Campbell Airstrip. It also connects walkers and cyclists to the Tudor Road bike trails avoiding the dangerous Tudor curve. This neighborhood connector was Karen Bronga's "brainchild" and has benefited our neighborhood in numerous ways. I only regret that this renaming is taking place after Karen's tragic death. We should have honored her advocacy and forward thinking when the trail was first initiated.

I also want to request that the beautiful bridge that makes crossing the Muldoon Bog possible on this Connector Trail has a memorial plaque made with her name : Karen Bronga Legacy Bridge

I appreciate the time the Public Naming Commission takes for this hearing and reviewing the public testimony. Karen Bronga went to school here and also taught school, she raised her family here and she loved Anchorage. She skied, biked, and ran all over the city. We will miss her.

It is important that her name is posted on the Connector Trail so her life and memory are recognized..

Thank You for Your Time,
Kerry Reardon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: [World Wide Web Municipal Clerk](#)
To: [Acres, Jasmine M.](#)
Subject: Fw: Request to name Trail in honor of Karen Bronga
Date: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:33:03 PM

Here one more!

Best,

Angel D. Gonzales
Municipal Clerk's Office

From: G Nelson [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:24 PM
To: World Wide Web Municipal Clerk <WWMASMC@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Request to name Trail in honor of Karen Bronga

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good day,

I respectfully request that you strongly consider naming the Northeast Connector Trail of Centennial Park ... "Karen Bronga Northeast Connector Trail". The commission's vision states that names of public places reflect the full story of our community, including "civic identities of our city".

Karen Bronga grew up in East Anchorage and has been contributing to our community in a multitude of ways since she was a young student. By participating in high school & community sports, youth organizations, working as an Anchorage School District educator and recently as a neighborhood advocate and assembly member; Karen has shaped our community and championed causes that needed a strong voice. And a strong voice and intention for good were a hallmark of Karen's character.

Please honor her memory with this gesture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gretchen Nelson
[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK