



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: October 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Report regarding naming of the new Canal Street Riverfront Park.

Recommendation:

Accept this report.

Background:

The Canal Street Riverfront Park, located at 11 Canal Street in Penacook, was first conceived as part of the 1986 Penacook Village “Sense of Place” Master Plan.

In 2002, the City initiated efforts to redevelop the former Allied Leather Tannery / Penacook Mill complex located at 33-35 Canal Street and 4 Crescent Street. In 2012, this effort was expanded to include cleanup and redevelopment of the former Amazon Realty / Penacook Electric Light site located at 5-11 Canal Street.

In 2004, the City completed the Penacook Mill and Tannery Visioning Charrette. In 2015, the City completed the Penacook Village Master Plan. Both confirmed and carried forward the recommendations of the 1986 Sense of Place plan to develop a riverfront park at portions of the former Allied Leather Tannery and Amazon Realty properties directly adjacent to the Contoocook River.

Discussion:

Construction of the new park commenced in Spring 2024. The Park is on schedule to be completed in Spring 2025. The park represents the final installment of the former Allied Leather Tannery Brownfields Redevelopment Project initiated by the City in 2002.

With completion of the park approaching, the City must establish the official name of this new community facility. The new park has unofficially been called the “Canal Street Riverfront Park” throughout the design and construction process. This unofficial designation has been employed to differentiate the new park from the existing nearby park on Tanner Street, which has been known for decades as the “Penacook Riverfront Park”.

City Staff seeks approval to officially name the new park “The Canal Street Riverfront Park” in order to have the sign manufactured over the winter for installation in the spring. Additionally, staff recommends that the public parking lot which is separate from, but adjacent to the Park, shall continue to be known as “The Canal Street Public Parking Lot”.