



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

COMMEMERATIVE NAMING OF TWO PROTECTED AREAS ALONG THE ASSINIBOINE RIVER CORRIDOR

PRESENTER:

Lindsay Hargreaves

DEPARTMENT:

Environmental Initiatives

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

5/15/2026

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Todd Burton General Manager of Operations

Ryan Nickel General Manager

Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That city council approve the proposed indigenous names for protected area #1 Oeti, and protected area #4 Shunkawakan Onazin of the city owned protected areas along the Assiniboine River Corridor.

BACKGROUND:

On April 7th, 2025 city council supported a motion for administration's application to the Province of Manitoba for the proposed five city owned lands along the Assiniboine Corridor with floodplain designation to be included in Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas. Last fall the City of Brandon officially received communications on the success of the application.

In addition to this initiative, earlier this year staff consulted with the Indigenous Community Leader and BUAPC members as well as local elders. It was recommended to work directly with Souix Valley First Nation's Elder Group to establish names for the 2 unnamed pieces of city-owned land along the Assiniboine River (identified as #1 and #4 on the attached map)

ANALYSIS:

In January 2026, the Environmental Initiatives team presented to the Sioux Valley Elder Group to explain the Protected Areas initiative and inquire about the interest of the group to give Indigenous names for two unnamed areas. After conversation and questions, it was decided that the Elder Group would participate in the naming initiative. After some deliberation, the group named both areas in the Dakota language in May, which have cultural and historical connections to the land.

Protected Area #1 (identified as the wet side of the dike at the Canada Games Park).

The Sioux Valley Elder Group named this area *Oeti*, meaning *a place for camping* in the Dakota language, honouring the deep connection of Dakota people to this area as a place of gathering, camping and time spent together.

Protected Area #4 (locally known as Co-op Feed lots or the fat bike trail internally).

The Sioux Valley Elder Group named this area *Shunkawakan Onazin*, meaning *horse pasture* in the Dakota language. This name recognizes the use of this area as a place where horses were kept and cared for by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

Reconciliation is a priority for the City of Brandon, and the use of Indigenous names for public spaces and land is a meaningful act of reconciliation. Restoring and recognizing Indigenous place names supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action related to Indigenous languages, culture, and commemoration, particularly Calls to Action 13, 14, and 79(i). Despite Brandon's location on Treaty 2 Territory, on the ancestral lands of the Dakota people and within the homelands of the Red River Métis, Indigenous place names remain limited across the city's public spaces, parks and landmarks. Expanding their use helps better reflect the deep histories and ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples in this region, especially in significant natural areas.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

There is no official by-law for naming these lands and it is best suited under the City of Brandon's Naming Rights Guidelines (2008): "Commemorative Naming Rights" for large green spaces be approved by council.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

This initiative coincides with the Climate Change Action Plan, City Council's Strategic Plan as well as BUAPC's strategic plan

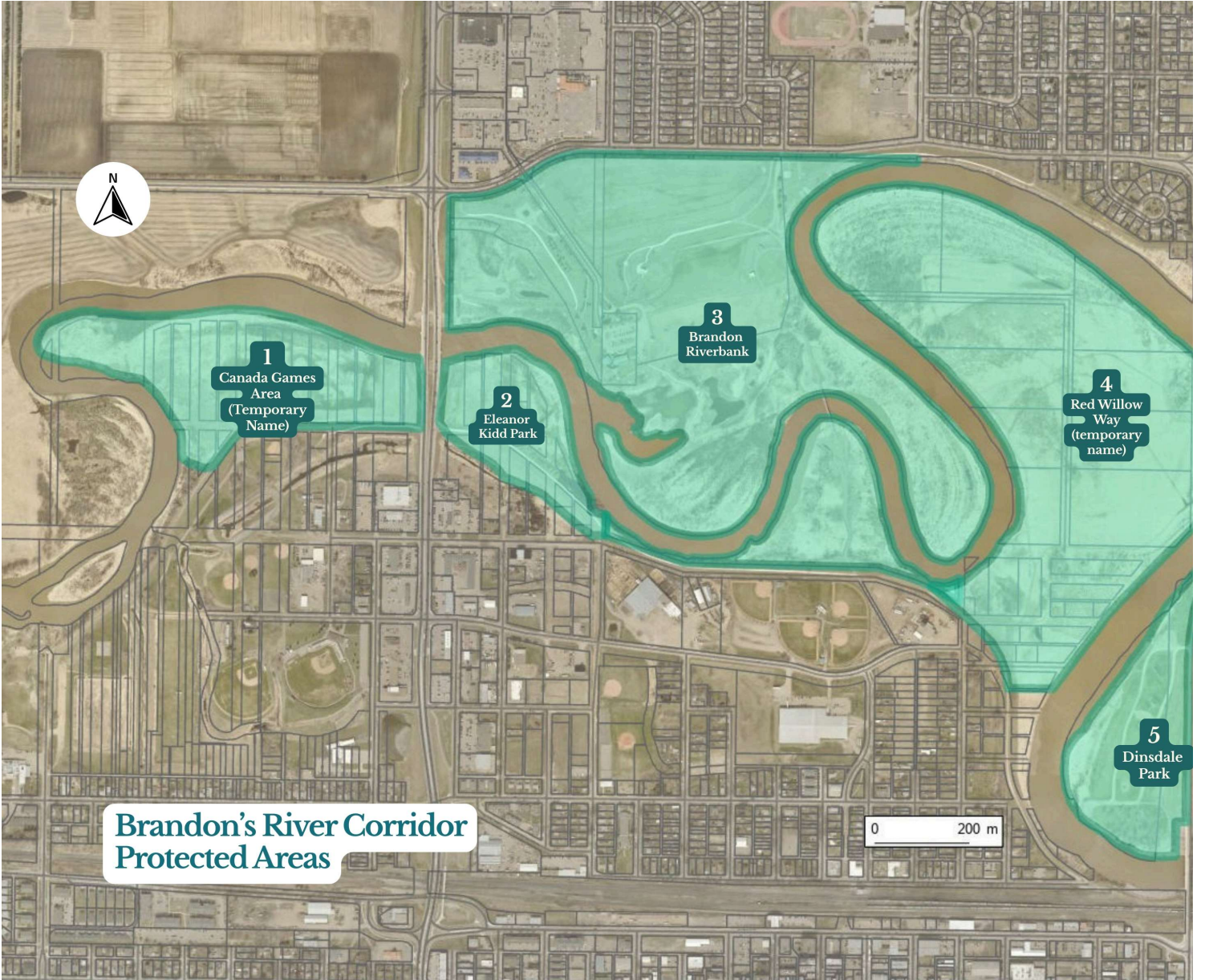
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Upon Council approval, the proposed Indigenous names for the two protected areas (Areas 1 and 4, as identified on the attached map) will be incorporated into interpretive panels installed at each site.

Both city administration and Brandon Riverbank staff are currently coordinating a social media campaign and media release in advance of the June 22 "Grand Opening," which will celebrate the inclusion of five sites along the river corridor into Manitoba's Protected Areas Network.

CONCLUSION:

Administration recommends that city council approves the proposed indigenous names for protected area #1 Oeti, and protected area #4 Shunkawakan Onazin of the city owned protected areas along the Assiniboine River Corridor. The names would take effect immediately upon approval.



**Brandon's River Corridor
Protected Areas**

1
Canada Games
Area
(Temporary
Name)

2
Eleanor
Kidd Park

3
Brandon
Riverbank

4
Red Willow
Way
(temporary
name)

5
Dinsdale
Park

0 200 m