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# City Council Report

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City Council Meeting: April 26, 2016  
Agenda Item: 8.B

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Karen Ginsberg, Director, Community & Cultural Services  
Subject: Naming Buffer Park and Consideration of Renaming Stewart Street Park

## **Recommended Action**

Staff recommends that the City Council consider the Recreation and Parks Commission's recommendation to select Gandara Park as the official name for Buffer Park and to not recommend any change to Stewart Street Park at this time.

## **Executive Summary**

Construction has begun on a 2.35 acre park on Exposition Boulevard between Stewart Street and Dorchester Avenue. Community outreach was conducted during the month of October 2014 to solicit formal name recommendations for this park, which has been nicknamed Buffer Park. The Recreation and Parks Commission considered survey results and public comment at its November 20, 2014 meeting and recommended two potential names for Council's consideration: Gandara Park and Heroes Park. Council considered these recommendations on January 26, 2016 and noted that public comment and input received prior to the meeting was primarily divided between two names: Gandara Park and George Ishihara Memorial Park. Council directed staff to return to the Recreation and Parks Commission to review the Commission's name recommendations for Buffer Park and to consider renaming Stewart Street Park. The Recreation and Parks Commission again reviewed name suggestions for Buffer Park and considered renaming Stewart Street Park at their March 17, 2016 meeting. Following public input and considerable discussion, the Commission approved a motion recommending that Council continue to consider Gandara Park as the official name for Buffer Park. In a separate motion the Commission recommended Heroes Park or Citizens Park as two possible alternative names for Buffer Park and did not make any recommendations for renaming Stewart Street Park at this time.

## **Background**

Council adopted a policy for naming City-owned land, buildings and facilities on July 9, 2002 (Attachment A) which established formal guidelines and a procedure for considering appropriate names (see Attachment B for a summary of these guidelines). As required by policy, Council seeks recommendations from "related advisory bodies such as the Recreation and Parks Commission, the Library Board and the Landmarks Commission." Council then makes its determination at a regularly scheduled meeting at

which staff, representatives of advisory bodies and civic organizations, and the general public may offer testimony. Since the Recreation and Parks Commission has purview over parks, it is appropriate that the Council consider the Commission's suggestions for park names.

Buffer Park is a new 2.35 acre park that is currently being built on Exposition Boulevard. Stewart Street Park is a 3.8 acre park that opened in 1975 on the site of a former landfill. The park's name is respective of its location at 1819 Stewart Street (near the intersection of Exposition Boulevard). Stewart Street predates the park by more than 50 years. An ordinance dedicating and naming Stewart Street was signed on May 16, 1921 (Attachment C). City records do not conclusively identify the origin of the street name but a probable theory is that it was named in honor of William F. Stewart, a United States Senator from Nevada. Stewart was a business partner of City founder, John P. Jones, who was also a Senator from Nevada. In 1874, the two invested in silver mines together and had hoped to build a railroad from the mines in Inyo County to Santa Monica (Attachment D). Another theory is that Stewart Street could have been named in honor of Edwin Stewart, a long-time resident and prominent businessman involved in local real estate who first arrived in Santa Monica in 1919 and later served on the City's Planning Board (Attachment E). While Stewart Street was likely named in honor of an individual, it should be noted that Stewart Street Park was not named for an individual but rather in reference to its location on Stewart Street.

## **Discussion**

### **Public Outreach**

Several community outreach strategies were employed in 2014 to generate possible names for Buffer Park. Staff met with the Pico Neighborhood Association, launched a survey and hosted a table at the Pico Farmers' Market, and sent email campaigns to those on the Buffer Park interest list.

The community submitted a total of 135 diverse park name suggestions. The most commonly suggested names are listed below (see Attachment F for a complete list of names submitted).

- Toypurina Park (16 submissions)
- Exposition Park (or similar variation; 9 submissions)
- George Ishihara Memorial Park (or similar variation; 6 submissions)
- Santa Monica Park (5 submissions)
- People's Park (4 submissions)
- Hachi Park (3 submissions)
- Nisei Park (3 submissions)
- Vida Park (3 submissions)

Subsequent to the survey closing, a few community members sent emails to the Recreation and Parks Commission recommending another name, Gandara Park. Additional information regarding each of the aforementioned suggested names is available in Attachment G.

In an effort to engage the community beyond the survey, outreach has continued throughout the naming process. Prior to each public hearing related to the naming of Buffer Park, email notifications were sent to subscribers of the park's interest list including those who completed a naming survey and provided an email address. Lastly, a public notice was sent the week of March 7, 2016 to all current residents and business and property owners within a quarter-mile of Stewart Street Park to inform them that renaming the park, along with the naming of Buffer Park, would be considered at the March 17, 2016 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting and the April 26, 2016 Council meeting.

#### Commission and Council Action

The Recreation and Parks Commission initially considered the full list of Buffer Park name recommendations at its meeting on November 20, 2014 (Attachment H). Following public comment and discussion, the Commission approved a motion to recommend to Council the consideration of two potential names for the park currently known as Buffer Park: Gandara Park and Heroes Park.

The name Gandara Park was recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission to memorialize and honor Private Joe Gandara, a Santa Monica native who was fatally wounded by enemy fire in World War II at the age of 20. Although hailed a war hero, he was passed over for awards and medals at the time of his death due to his Hispanic heritage. In March 2014, Private Joe Gandara was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama in recognition of his heroism and valor. Private Gandara's niece, Miriam Adams, has formally expressed her support for naming Buffer Park in honor of her uncle (see Attachment I). As an alternative to Gandara Park, the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended considering the name Heroes Park to honor all Santa Monica military service-members, war heroes, and veterans with the possibility of certain areas of the park being named in honor of individuals (e.g. Private Gandara and George Ishihara).

On January 26, 2016, Council considered the Recreation and Parks Commission's name recommendations for Buffer Park on January 26, 2016 (Attachment J) and noted that public comment provided at the meeting and written correspondence received prior to the meeting were primarily divided between two names: Gandara Park and George Ishihara Memorial Park. Based on the close proximity of Buffer Park to Stewart Street Park, Councilmembers discussed the possibility of naming Buffer Park in honor of George Ishihara and renaming Stewart Street Park in honor of Private Gandara. Since the renaming of Stewart Street Park was not noticed on the January 26, 2016 meeting agenda, Council deferred selecting a name for Buffer Park and directed staff to return to the Recreation and Parks Commission for a public hearing to consider the Commission's previous name recommendations for the park and to also consider renaming Stewart Street Park (Attachment K).

Per Council's direction, on March 17, 2016 the Recreation and Parks Commission considered options for naming Buffer Park and also considered renaming Stewart Street Park (Attachment L). Following public input and a thorough discussion, the Commission approved a motion to recommend Gandara Park as the official name for Buffer Park for Council consideration and to maintain the existing name of Stewart Street Park. The

Commission also recommended Heroes Park and Citizens Park as alternative names for Buffer Park for Council to consider. In adopting this motion, Commissioners expressed that these alternative names would be to honor all community heroes rather than a single person.

Alternatives

Council could select a name for Buffer Park that is different from those recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission and could decide to rename Stewart Street Park with a name selection of their choosing.

**Financial Impacts and Budget Actions**

There is no immediate financial impact or budget action necessary as a result of the recommended action.

**Prepared By:** Melissa Spagnuolo, Principal Administrative Analyst

**Approved**

**Forwarded to Council**

  
Karen Ginsberg, Director

4/13/2016

  
Rick Cole, City Manager

4/18/2016

**Attachments:**

- A. July 9, 2002 Council Staff Report (Web Link)
- B. Summary of Naming Guidelines
- C. Special Ordinance #127 (Street Series)
- D. John P. Jones Wikipedia Entry
- E. Santa Monica Blue Book Excerpt (1941)
- F. Buffer Park Naming Survey Results

- G. Additional Background on Suggested Names
- H. November 20, 2014 RPC Agenda and Staff Report ([Web Link](#))
- I. October 27, 2015 Email/Letter of Support from Miriam Adams
- J. January 26, 2016 Council Meeting Staff Report ([Web Link](#))
- K. January 26, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes ([Web Link](#))
- L. March 17, 2016 RPC Agenda and Staff Report ([Web Link](#))
- M. Written comments
- N. Powerpoint

Summary of Naming  
Guidelines Adopted July 9, 2002

In naming public land and buildings, the City Council and its advisory bodies shall consider the following:

- Incorporating “Santa Monica” in the name where it is important for civic or other reasons for a building or facility to be identified with the City;
- Recognizing geographic, topographic or historical features or events associated with Santa Monica;
- Commemorating persons who have served the City in an exceptional manner;
- Commemorating persons who have served the state, nation, or world in an exceptional manner and who have an association with the City;
- Commemorating persons who have served the state, nation, or world in an exceptional or distinguished manner where the contribution is of such major significance that a local association pales in importance;
- Commemorating individuals or organizations who have made important donations of land, funds or materials, equipment and/or facilities; and
- Avoiding recognition of those whose contribution has been appropriately recognized in other city venues or by other means.

The City Council will not name any buildings, land or facilities after current office holders.

SPECIAL ORDINANCE No. 127  
(Street Series)

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AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING AND NAMING CERTAIN  
PARCELS OF LAND AS STEWART STREET IN THE  
CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

- - - - -

May 13th 1921  
John A. Morrow  
City Engineer

The City Council of the City of Santa Monica ordains as follows:

Section 1. That that portion of the 30 foot strip of land, shown as Stewart alley on the map of the Erkenbrecher Syndicate Santa Monica Tract, recorded in Book 6 pages 26 and 27 of Maps, Los Angeles County Records, between the northwesterly line of Pico Boulevard and the northwesterly line of Virginia Avenue, formerly Irwin Avenue, produced northeasterly and that 30 foot strip of land shown as Stewart Street on the map of the Santa Monica-Sawtelle Tract being Exhibit B attached to the final decree in partition in action No.B.25296, a certified copy of which decree is recorded in Book 6387 page 1 of Deeds, Los Angeles County Records, be dedicated for street purposes and that all of the above described parcels of land shall be named Stewart Street.

Section 2. That the Commissioner of Public Safety, as ex-officio Mayor, shall sign, and the Commissioner of Finance, as ex-officio City Clerk shall attest and certify to the adoption of this ordinance, and the Commissioner of Public Works, as ex-officio Street Superintendent, shall cause this ordinance to be published once in the "Santa Monica Evening Outlook," a newspaper published and circulated in the City of Santa Monica. This ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its publication.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Santa Monica at its meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1921, by the following vote:

Ayes: Carter, Townsend, Berkeley  
Noes: None

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1921.

*S. Berkeley*

Commissioner of Public Safety, ex-  
officio Mayor of the City of Santa  
Monica, California

Attest:

*Paul J. Johnson*

Commissioner of Finance and ex-  
officio City Clerk of the City  
of Santa Monica, California

# John P. Jones

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**John Percival Jones** (January 27, 1829 – November 12, 1912) was an American politician who served for 30 years as a Republican United States Senator from Nevada. He made a fortune in silver mining and was a co-founder of the town of Santa Monica, California.

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- 6 Santa Monica
- 7 Miramar
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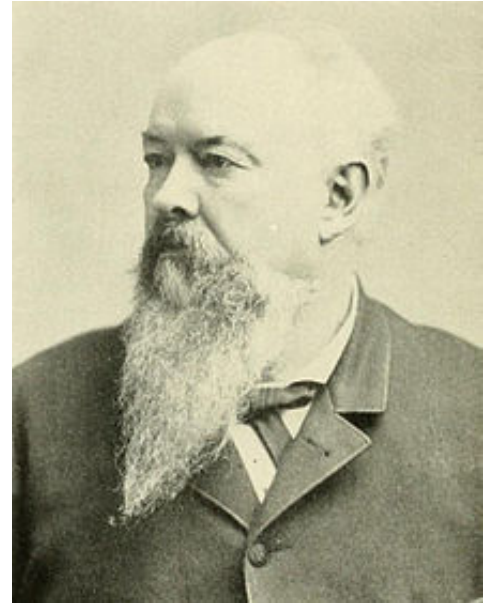
## Early life

John P. Jones, one of thirteen children of Thomas Jones (1793–1871) and Mary A. Jones, was born in Herefordshire, England. The family immigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio in 1831.

Thomas Jones purchased property, and established himself in business as a marble manufacturer.<sup>[1]</sup>

## California Gold Rush

The Honorable  
**John P. Jones**



**United States Senator  
from Nevada**

### In office

March 4, 1873 – March 3, 1903

**Preceded by** James W. Nye  
**Succeeded by** Francis G. Newlands

### Personal details

**Born** January 27, 1829  
Herefordshire, England

**Died** November 12, 1912 (aged 83)  
Los Angeles, California

**Political party** Republican, Silver (1895-1901)

**Residence** Gold Hill

**Profession** mining

In 1849 John P. Jones went to California to participate in the Gold rush. He settled in Trinity County, California where he engaged in mining and farming. He served as county sheriff, and was a member of the California state senate from 1863 to 1867. In 1867 he was the nominee of the Republican party for Lieutenant-Governor.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Comstock Lode Nevada

In 1868, Jones moved to Gold Hill, Nevada where he was superintendent of the Crown Point silver mine which was part of the Comstock Lode. When a body of silver ore was struck in 1870, Jones and Alvinza Hayward acquired shares and were able to gain control of the Crown Point mine.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

## US Senate

In 1873 he was elected by the Nevada state legislature to the United States Senate, in which he served five terms from 1873 to 1903. He served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Auditing the Contingent Expenses from 1877 to 1881 and from 1883 to 1893, and as chairman of the committee on epidemic diseases from 1893 to 1903. Jones was involved with the minting of the Twenty-cent piece silver coin. Like many Republicans from the western United States, Jones left the party in 1896 over the issue of bimetallism and joined the Silver Party.<sup>[6][7]</sup> He caucused with the Silver Republicans and later rejoined the Republican Party, but decided not to run for re-election to the Senate in 1902.

## Panamint Silver Mines

In 1874, Jones and fellow Nevada senator, William M. Stewart, invested in the Panamint silver mines near Independence, Inyo County, California.<sup>[8]</sup> Jones planned to build a railroad from the mines to the ocean at Santa Monica. By 1877, the Panamint mines were exhausted and closed.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Santa Monica

Jones visited Los Angeles in 1874 and bought a three quarter interest in Colonel Robert S. Baker's ranch in Santa Monica. In 1875, Jones and Baker laid out the town of Santa Monica. Jones built the first railroad (Los Angeles and Independence Railroad) from Los Angeles to Santa Monica. Due to financial pressures, Jones was forced to sell the railroad to Southern Pacific in 1877.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Miramar

In 1903 Jones retired to his 1889 home, Miramar, in Santa Monica where he continued to oversee his businesses. Shortly before the Senator died, Miramar was sold to King Gillette. Gillette rarely visited the house, and after a brief spell towards the end of World War I as a boys military academy, the estate was sold to hotelier Gilbert Stevenson and it became the Hotel Miramar in 1921. Since then, it has been run by various hoteliers — except for during World War II, when the Army Air Corps took over the Miramar and used it as a redistribution center for officers and enlisted men returning from overseas. The mansion was demolished in 1938, leaving as the oldest structure, the six story "Palisades" wing built in 1924. The



20OR%20subject%3A%22John%20Percival%20Jones%22%20OR%20subject%3A%22John%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20subject%3A%22J%2E%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22John%20Percival%20Jones%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22John%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22J%2E%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22J%2E%20Percival%20Jones%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22Jones%2C%20John%20Percival%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22Jones%2C%20John%20P%2E%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22Jones%2C%20J%2E%20P%2E%22%20OR%20creator%3A%22Jones%2C%20J%2E%20Percival%22%20OR%20title%3A%22John%20Percival%20Jones%22%20OR%20title%3A%22John%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20title%3A%22J%2E%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20description%3A%22John%20Percival%20Jones%22%20OR%20description%3A%22John%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20description%3A%22J%2E%20P%2E%20Jones%22%20OR%20description%3A%22Jones%2C%20John%20Percival%22%20OR%20description%3A%22Jones%2C%20John%20P%2E%22%29%20OR%20%28%221829-1912%22%20AND%20Jones%29%29%20AND%20%28-mediatype:software%29) at Internet Archive

<b>United States Senate</b>		
Preceded by <b>James W. Nye</b>	<b>U.S. Senator (Class 3) from Nevada</b> 1873–1903 Served alongside: <b>William M. Stewart, William Sharon, James G. Fair</b>	Succeeded by <b>Francis G. Newlands</b>
<b>Political offices</b>		
Preceded by <b>Matthew H. Carpenter Wisconsin</b>	<b>Chairman of the United States Senate Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate</b> 1875–1879	Succeeded by <b>Benjamin Harvey Hill Georgia</b>
Preceded by <b>Benjamin Harvey Hill Georgia</b>	<b>Chairman of the United States Senate Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate</b> 1881–1893	Succeeded by <b>Edward Douglass White Louisiana</b>
Preceded by <b>Johnson N. Camden West Virginia</b>	<b>Chairman of the United States Senate Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate</b> 1895–1903	Succeeded by <b>John Kean New Jersey</b>

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=John\_P.\_Jones&oldid=707499115"

Categories: 1829 births | 1912 deaths | People from Herefordshire | American people of English descent | California State Senators | United States Senators from Nevada | History of Santa Monica, California | British emigrants to the United States | Nevada Republicans | Silver Party United States Senators | Republican Party United States Senators | California Republicans | Nevada Silverites

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Santa Monica  
Blue Book

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979.49  
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CHARLES S. WARREN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SANTA MONICA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

(HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL)

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MAR 25 1941

ARTHUR H. CAWSTON  
Managing Editor and Publisher  
Santa Monica, California

1941

## SANTA MONICA BLUE BOOK

gomery and Mullen Company in South Pasadena. He remained in this latter connection until 1913, when he accepted his present position.

Mr. Allen is a member of the Elks Lodge in Santa Monica, and of the various lumbermen's associations. He was married in 1906 to Miss Mary Boyle. They have two sons: John, with the Patten-Blinn branch in Sawtelle; and Harrison, who is connected with the telephone company in Santa Barbara. Both boys were born in South Pasadena, and both graduated from Santa Monica High School. Harrison went on to college and is a graduate of U.C.L.A. John has two children, Gary and Margaret.

### EDWIN STEWART

One of the leading realtors of Santa Monica is Edwin Stewart, who has been identified here for over twenty years. Coming here first in 1919 on a visit from Canada, he then commenced buying and selling property in this area. After taking a trip to his native England, he returned to Santa Monica in 1922, and since that time he has been actively engaged as a real estate broker, insurance agent, and appraiser.

Mr. Stewart was born on June 3, 1881, in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, and was educated in his native country, having studied art there at the Halifax Technical College, where he passed the examinations of the City and Guild, London Institute, London, England. Until moving to Canada in 1907, he engaged in the decorating business in England. He followed the real estate and building contractor business in Winnipeg, Canada, from 1907 until 1919, having been connected with the West End Realty & Building Company in that city.

Mr. Stewart is immediate past President of the Santa Monica Bay District Realty Board, and he is a director of the California Real Estate Association. Prominent in civic affairs, he serves as a Commissioner on the Santa Monica City Planning Board, and he is also a member of the advisory board for administering the new draft law.

Fraternally, Mr. Stewart is affiliated with the Masonic order. His hobbies are art and football. He married Miss Laura May Baxby, of Halifax, England, and they have a son and a daughter: Frank G., and Mrs. Marjorie Stewart Wells, of Chicago.

### CARL H. BALLARD, M.D.

A very well known specialist of Santa Monica is Dr. Carl H. Ballard, whose practice is devoted exclusively to eye, ear, nose and throat work. By reason of his thorough early training and long years

## Survey Results

<b>Name suggestions:</b>
A la Fresco Park
Abundance Park
Arcadia Park
Arcadia Park
Back Yard, The
Barrio Park
Bergamot Park
Blossom Park
Bosque Park (2)
Branches Park
Breeze Path Park
Buffer Park (2)
Cecilito Park
Celo Park
Colibrí
Conrad Park
Cookies and Cupcake (2)
Creative Park
East Edge Park
East Park
Eco Park
Eden
Edge Park
Encounter Park
Expo Park (3)
Expo Trail Park
Exposition Park (4)
Exposition Park West
Flow Park
Freedom Park
Friends & Family Park
Friendship Park
Gardens, The
George Ishihara Memorial Park (6)
George Whitefield Park
Great Pacific Park
Green Gardens, The
Green Meadow Park
Green Path Park
Green Strip Park
Hachi Park (3)

<b>Name suggestions (cont.):</b>
Happy Park
HideAway Park
Hobo Junction East
Hope Park
Hub Park
Japanese American Memorial Park
Jay Adams
Leaf Park
Learning Gardens, The
Little Park
Menagerie Park
Nachochan Park
Nature Gardens, The
Nature Park (2)
Neighbors Park
New Life Park (2)
Nisei Park (3)
Oasis Park
Oasis, The
O'conner Park
Oscar de la Torre Park
Pacific Electric Park
Pacific Gateway Park
Parque de los Amigos
Paseo Verde
Pavilion Park
Peace Gardens, The
Peace Park
Peace Square, The
Pebble Park
People's Park (4)
Permaculture Park
Pocket Park
Quarter Mile Park (2)
Relaxation Gardens, The
Renaissance Park
Reverie Park
Santa Monica Park (5)
Serenity Park
Serra Park
Sky Park

**Attachment C**  
Survey Results (cont.)

<b>Name suggestions (cont.):</b>
So Cal Park
Stroll, The
Superior Park
Thickest
Too close to the building park
Too damn close to the sidewalk park
Toypurina Park (16)
Vida Park (3)
Walking Together Park
Vida Park (3)
Walking Together Park

*Note: Names suggested more than once are denoted with the total number of submissions in parentheses.*

## Supplemental Information for the Most Commonly Suggested Names for Buffer Park

### **Toypurina Park (16 submissions)**

Toypurina (1760-1799) was a Tongva/Gabrieliño Native American medicine woman who opposed the rule of colonization by Spanish missionaries in California, and led an unsuccessful rebellion against them. (Source: Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toypurina>)

#### Toypurina and the San Gabriel Mission, 1785

Few details survive about the life of the Gabrielino medicine woman Toypurina, but she is undoubtedly best remembered for her direct involvement in a planned revolt against Spanish colonial rule in 1785. Born into the Kumivít tribe of Southern California from the area around Mission San Gabriel, Toypurina's tribe became known as the Gabrielino (today, their descendants also refer to themselves as the Tongva people) after Spanish contact in the late eighteenth century. Franciscan missionaries at the time had founded more than twenty missions from San Diego to Sonoma between 1769 and 1823. These missions encroached on the lands of numerous tribal nations in the area, exploited the labor of their people, and proselytized for their conversion to the Roman Catholic Faith. From the perspective of the colonists, these missions were intended to act as a chain of defense around the Spanish empire in the north.

It was in this context that Mission San Gabriel was established, near the banks of the Río Hondo on the southern edge of the San Gabriel Valley in September 1771. The mission remained at its original site for half a decade, until May 1775, when it was moved several miles north to its present site, which is located on Gabrielino land. Historians estimate that in 1770, the Gabrielino numbered about five thousand, and their territory encompassed about 1,500 square miles of the Los Angeles Basin. This land included the watersheds of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Río Hondo rivers, and it extended west to the islands off present-day Los Angeles. Within that territory were more than fifty independent and competing communities, whose populations ranged from 50 to 150. By the time Toypurina became involved in the rebellion against the Mission in 1785, the missionaries at San Gabriel had baptized well over 1,200 Indians, counting approximately 843 Gabrielinos among these baptisms.

In an effort to protect the self-sufficiency of their communities, retain their tribal cultures, and uphold their religious practices and beliefs, many Native people at this time had long been actively resisting the imposed Spanish rule and attempts at acculturation. Toypurina emerged as one such individual. In October 1785, she joined a group of Gabrielino neophytes from Mission San Gabriel in their plot against the mission. Most prominent among the instigators of this rebellion was the discontented neophyte Nicolás José, who not only initiated talk of the plan among other Gabrielinos inside the Mission, but also rallied key individuals, including Toypurina, from as many as eight Indian villages in the surrounding area.

Historians have concluded that their plan was provoked in the final instance when Spanish officials forbade the practice of traditional dances. Up until this point, the Padres had shown some degree of leniency, permitting a number of Indians to maintain their roles in traditional ceremonies. José in particular is said to have been accustomed to living in ways that allowed him to equally balance commitments in both of his cultural worlds. The authoritarian decision to suddenly ban all traditional dances among the Mission Indians was thus the latest in a long string of ongoing affronts and atrocities (violence, rapes, forced religious conversions, and slave

labor) committed against the Gabrielinos since the beginning of the Spanish invasion. José and his allies therefore set out to destroy the San Gabriel Mission.

Toypurina's support of this effort is believed to have been crucial, due to her extraordinary powers as a medicine woman. It was intended that she would use her divine influence to immobilize the Catholic priests during the revolt, while her male counterparts would eliminate the Spanish soldiers. On the night of October 25th, 1785, Toypurina and the other insurgents attacked the mission as planned, but unbeknownst to them, a corporal of the guard had been informed of the revolt ahead of time, allowing the Spanish to mount an ambush. When Toypurina arrived, she and several others were arrested. Spanish officials held a trial, sentencing five people to twenty-five lashes, and another twelve to receive fifteen or twenty lashes. Rather than torture or kill the offenders behind closed doors, these floggings were carried out in public, so the entire mission population would see the consequences of the rebels' actions.

Likewise, the Spanish officials found Toypurina, José, and two other men (Temejasaquichí and Alijivit) guilty of leading the attack. As punishment, Toypurina was exiled from Mission San Gabriel after being held there as a prisoner for the duration of her trial, and in which time she was also baptized into the Catholic Faith. She was sent to live out her life further north, first at Mission San Carlos Borromeo, located near Monterey in present-day Carmel. There, she remarried, to a Spanish soldier named Manuel Montera. Between 1789 (the year of their marriage) and 1794, Toypurina and Montera had three children: Cesario, Juana de Dios Montera, and Maria Clementina. In 1799, Toypurina passed away at Mission San Juan Bautista, and was buried there.

*(Source: South El Monte Arts Posse; Tropics of Meta,*  
<http://tropicsofmeta.wordpress.com/2014/01/23/toypurina-a-legend-etched-in-the-landscape>)

### **Exposition Park (or similar variation; 10 submissions)**

Buffer Park will be constructed on Exposition Boulevard. Staff recommends against considering this suggestion as a well-known park currently exists by this name in the City of Los Angeles.

### **George Ishihara Memorial Park (or similar variation; 6 submissions)**

George Ishihara was born on February 22, 1921 and died at his home in Santa Monica on March 17, 2009. Mr. Ishihara was a Japanese-American who grew up in Washington and Northern California, and relocated to Santa Monica's Pico Neighborhood in 1958. He enlisted in the United States Army and served in World War II in the most decorated unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and also was part of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion that liberated the Jewish people from the Dachau Germany Internment Camp and other surrounding camps. During World War II, Mr. Ishihara's family was interned in two relocation camps. Given his enlistment in the US Army, he was able to negotiate his family being reunited in the Minidoka Relocation Camp. Mr. Ishihara's daughter currently lives in the Pico Neighborhood with her family.

The Japanese-American people played a significant role in the history of West Los Angeles and in Santa Monica, first as farmers and then as homeowners in the area. Many were displaced from the neighborhood when Interstate 10 was constructed.

*(Source: Christel Andersen, Pico Neighborhood resident)*

### **Santa Monica Park (5 submissions) and People's Park (4 submissions)**

These names were also suggested for what is now known as Tongva Park.

### **Hachi Park (3 submissions)**

Hachi refers to a Japanese dog known for his loyalty to his owner. In 1924, Hidesaburō Ueno, a professor in the agriculture department at the University of Tokyo, took in Hachikō, a golden brown Akita, as a pet. During his owner's life, Hachikō greeted him at the end of each day at the nearby Shibuya Station. The pair continued their daily routine until May 1925, when Professor Ueno did not return. The professor had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died, never returning to the train station where Hachikō was waiting. Each day for the next nine years Hachikō awaited Ueno's return, appearing precisely when the train was due at the station.

Hachikō attracted the attention of other commuters. Many of the people who frequented the Shibuya train station had seen Hachikō and Professor Ueno together each day. Initial reactions from the people, especially from those working at the station, were not necessarily friendly. However, after the first appearance of the article about him on October 4, 1932 in *Asahi Shimbun*, people started to bring Hachikō treats and food to nourish him during his wait.

In 1932 one of Ueno's students (who developed expertise on the Akita breed) saw the dog at the station and followed him to the Kobayashi home (the home of the former gardener of Professor Ueno—Kikuzaburo Kobayashi) where he learned the history of Hachikō's life. Shortly after this meeting, the former student published a documented census of Akitas in Japan. His research found only 30 purebred Akitas remaining, including Hachikō from Shibuya Station.

He returned frequently to visit Hachikō and over the years published several articles about the dog's remarkable loyalty. In 1932 one of these articles, published in the Tokyo *Asahi Shimbun*, placed the dog in the national spotlight. Hachikō became a national sensation. His faithfulness to his master's memory impressed the people of Japan as a spirit of family loyalty all should strive to achieve. Teachers and parents used Hachikō's vigil as an example for children to follow. A well-known Japanese artist rendered a sculpture of the dog, and throughout the country a new awareness of the Akita breed grew.

Eventually, Hachikō's legendary faithfulness became a national symbol of loyalty, particularly to the person and institution of the Emperor.

(Source: Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hachik%C5%8D>)

### **Nisei Park (3 submissions)**

"Nisei" refers to the generation of Japanese Americans that were interned during World War II, and more specifically refers to Japanese Americans whose parents were immigrants from Japan. The Pico Neighborhood has been home to people who identify as Nisei.

### **Vida Park (3 submissions)**

Vida is the Spanish term for "life."

### **Gandara Park (added by the Recreation and Parks Commission)**

Medal of Honor recipient Joe Gandara was born in Santa Monica, Calif., April 25, 1924.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in between 1942-1943.

Gandara is being recognized for his heroic actions on June 9, 1944, in Amfreville, France. His detachment came under devastating enemy fire from a strong German force, pinning the men to

the ground for a period of four hours. Gandara advanced voluntarily and alone toward the enemy position and destroyed three hostile machine-guns before he was fatally wounded.

Gandara received the Medal of Honor, March 18, 2014; Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star and Bronze Arrowhead Device, Presidential Unit Citation, French Fourragere, Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge-Basic with one Bronze Service Star.

(Source: *United States Army*,  
[http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/valor24/recipients/gandara/?=recipient\\_list](http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/valor24/recipients/gandara/?=recipient_list) )

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**From:** Miriam Adams  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 7:22 PM  
**To:** Martin Pastucha  
**Subject:** Private Joe Gandara / Buffer Park

Dear Martin,

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week and listen to my concerns regarding the upcoming 26th St. Expo station dedication.

Secondly, I would like to say that it would be an honor to have Buffer Park named after my uncle, Private Joe Gandara. Please consider this note as formal acceptance of that honor.

In closing, I want to send my heartfelt thanks once again to City officials, staff and community members who have given and continue to give their support towards Private Joe Gandara and our family. My desire is that the story of my uncle will continue to be an example of service, sacrifice and inspiration not just to the Pico neighborhood, but to the City, our State, and our nation as well.

With gratitude,

Miriam Adams, niece of Private Joe Gandara , Santa Monica native, WWII Veteran, Medal of Honor recipient.

## Anne Samartha

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**From:** Community & Cultural Services  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:31 AM  
**To:** Karen Ginsberg; Melissa Spagnuolo  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming Buffer Park Ishiwara Park

FYI...

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Bachman [mailto:bachmandenise@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:55 AM  
To: Community & Cultural Services <CCS.Mailbox@SMGOV.NET>  
Cc: Santa Monica Mirror <rory@smmirror.com>  
Subject: Renaming Buffer Park Ishiwara Park

I fully agree with all the arguments put forward supporting changing the name of Buffer Park to Ishiwara Park.

Our Japanese-American citizens were treated shamefully during the Second World War, particularly in California where they were unlawfully imprisoned in concentration camps and had their hard earned possessions stolen from them, lost their homes, and were branded with a shame they did not deserve as second-class citizens.

This type of injustice has a way of persisting down through generations. It is so very important that civic institutions do whatever they can to recognize the positive contributions made by everyday citizens like Mr. Ishiwara to the benefit of all of us who live in this community. They are what makes living here special, far beyond beaches and parks.

Let's please name Buffer Park Ishiwara Park to, in some small way, recognize the contributions made by the entire Japanese community to the betterment of all of us here, to say thank you, and make some attempt to repair the divisiveness that so often interferes with uniting us as a village in this larger world.

We have a chance here to make a small gesture to right a long endured injustice. Let's not lose this opportunity to be inclusive, to say "You are us. We are grateful for you and for your culture, that so enriches our experience. Thank you."

Denise McCann Bachman  
26th st, Santa Monica, 90405

## Vernice Hankins

---

**From:** Jack Fujimoto <fujimoto.jack@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 23, 2016 6:50 PM  
**To:** councilmtgitems  
**Cc:** Ted Winterer; Sue Himmelrich; tony.vasquez@smgov.net; Gleam Davis; Pam OConnor; Terry O'Day; Kevin McKeown Fwd  
**Subject:** Renaming Buffer Park

In your considering the renaming of Buffer Park, I support it being named "Ishihara Park."

George Ishihara served in the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team that was highly decorated with 21 Congressional Medal honorees recently. Having served in the US Army myself, I had the highest regard for George Ishihara.

I believe that the City of Santa Monica would also demonstrate its recognition of the many contributions of Japanese Americans to the Santa Monica community.

Over a hundred years ago, commercial Japanese fisherman lived and fished off of the coast in Santa Monica. Later, that group moved to what became known as Terminal Island in San Pedro. This was described in a book by George Matsumoto.

Personally, being connected to the Japanese Institute of Sawtelle in several capacities as President, Advisor and Senior Leader, I worked with the Santa Monica Nikkeijin Kai, the community of Japanese Americans living near Buffer Park. George Ishihara was one of those whom I contacted in working with the Santa Monica Japanese American community.

The Sawtelle Japantown community has appreciated the memorial day ceremony held at the perpetual monument at your Woodlawn Cemetery. We have participated in this event for at least 50 years that I can recall.

I support your effort to rename the park and further, support its renaming as "Ishihara Park."

Jack Fujimoto, Ph.D.  
Senior Advisor, Japanese Institute of Sawtelle  
Emeritus President, Los Angeles Community Colleges  
Author, Sawtelle: West Los Angeles' Japantown

## Vernice Hankins

---

**From:** Christhild Andersen <christhildandersen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2016 2:35 PM  
**To:** Ted Winterer; Terry O'Day; Pam OConnor; Gleam Davis; Kevin McKeown Fwd; Tony Vazquez; Sue Himmelrich; councilmtgitems; Clerk Mailbox; Rick Cole  
**Subject:** Fw: Adgenta Item 8 B Naming of Buffer Park

Just to remind you I am resending information on naming Buffer Park Ishihara Park. I do not mind renaming of Stewart Park to Gandara Park.

I do mind that Gandara" nieces Email is part of the staff report and all my emails fell under the table!!!

*Ms. Christel Andersen*  
*Email: Christhildandersen@yahoo.com*

On Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:40 AM, Christhild Andersen <christhildandersen@yahoo.com> wrote:

To the Recreation and Park Commissioners for Agenda Item B

*Ms. Christel Andersen*  
*Email: Christhildandersen@yahoo.com*

On Friday, January 22, 2016 11:04 AM, Christhild Andersen <christhildandersen@yahoo.com> wrote:

To the City Council in regards of naming the Buffer Park,

As you all know the park West of City Hall was named after Native American. In the survey for naming Buffer Park Toypurina Park got the highest vote and it is the name of a Native American Woman. However other Community Groups should get equal recognition. Ishihara Park got six votes, Hachi Park received three, Nisei Park got three and Japanese American Memorial Park one. With thirteen votes the intend of having a Japanese related name for Buffer Park is very strong. The highest concentration of Japanese American residents is adjoining to Buffer Park. Japanese American were interned during WWII and the heroic bravery of young Japanese men like George Ishihara to volunteer for the American Army despite of their families being interned should be honored. Japanese American while being interned often lost their livelihood, land, houses, and were looked down upon, even so they were honorable citizens. The American Government tried to do some restorations by recently apologizing. Japanese Americans contributed to the well-being of Santa Monica for over a hundred years. It is high time to give the Japanese American Community in Santa Monica some recognition. George Ishihara lived about a block away from Buffer Park. In his later years he was a gardener around Santa Monica and well regarded in the Japanese American Community and his neighborhood.

It was the residents who live adjoining to the Rail Maintenance Yard who fought for the Buffer Park to lower the impact of the 24hr. 365plus days a year operation of the Yard. There is strong support for naming the park after their former resident George Ishihara, as I collected signatures which I will present to you.

Council Members please honor the Japanese American Contributions to the city and vote for Ishihara Park as the name for Buffer Park.

Christel Andersen

*Ms. Christel Andersen*  
*Email: Christildandersen@yahoo.com*

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN  
350 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 1700  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071  
TELEPHONE (213) 617-6700

November 19, 2014

Recreation and Parks Commission  
City of Santa Monica  
Administration Division  
1685 Main Street, Room 210  
Santa Monica, California 90401

Dear Chair Phil Brock and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to name Buffer Park in the City of Santa Monica, "George H. Ishihara Park."

Mr. George Ishihara, like many Japanese American veterans of his generation, fought courageously during World War II and continues to inspire succeeding generations.

It was with great interest that I learned from Ms. Christel Andersen that Mr. Ishihara was a longtime resident of Santa Monica. The Southern California region is unique in its many historic Japantowns where Japanese immigrants lived as far back as over 100 years ago. Although most of these neighborhoods no longer retain their Japanese character, their history and legacy remains.

The heroic stories of the Japanese American veterans during the war have been one of great triumph as they made enormous contributions, not only for the United States, but also for the liberation of many Jews from camps in Europe. The Japanese American communities are also currently among the greatest supporters of the further strengthening of ties between Japan and the United States.

The naming of the current park would not only honor Mr. Ishihara but would also pay tribute to the Japanese Americans who have contributed to Santa Monica and the Southern California region in diverse ways in the course of its history.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal and ask for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Harry H. Horinouchi  
Consul General of Japan  
in Los Angeles



**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
415 Russell Ave; #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Please reply to:**  
**Wade Ishimoto**  
**5703 Barbmor Court**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310-1150**

www.javadc.org

Senator Daniel Akaka (Ret)  
The Honorable Norman Mineta  
Hershey H. Miyamura, MOH  
George Joe Sakato, MOH

**November 19, 2014**

**President Emeritus**  
**Vacant**

**Commissioner Phil Brock, Chair**  
**Recreation and Park Commission**  
**commissionerbrock@gmail.com**

**Acting President**  
Wade Ishimoto

**Dear Commissioner Brock,**

**Vice President**  
Vacant

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), a nationwide veterans organization which serves the interests of Asia Pacific American veterans, supports the proposal to name the future Buffer Park in Santa Monica the George Ishihara Park.

**Secretary**  
LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), Esq

Mr. Ishihara is a veteran of the legendary 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Nisei volunteers, many from barbed wire enclosed internment camps, who served in combat to help America win the War and to prove their loyalty to the nation that doubted them. When the War was over the US Army declared that the 442<sup>nd</sup> had the best combat performance record in the US Army. Recognition of Mr. Ishihara is a tribute to the patriotism and loyalty to America of persons of Japanese ancestry.

**Treasurer**  
LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret)

**Executive Director**  
Col Bruce Hollywood, (Ret)

Mr. Ishihara, a resident of Santa Monica since 1958, owned a house in the neighborhood next to the future Park (soon to be constructed as a buffer for the neighborhood from the Maintenance Yard and Expo light rail). Other persons of Japanese ancestry resided in the Santa Monica area contributing to its economic and community progress.

**Board of Directors**  
LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret)  
Wade Y. Ishimoto  
LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR  
LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret)  
CAPT Cynthia Macri, USN  
Terry Shima  
LTC Kay Wakatake, USA  
Reuben Yoshikawa

**Sincerely,**

**Wade Ishimoto**  
**Acting President, JAVA**



**VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.**  
12448 BRADDOCK DRIVE • LOS ANGELES, CA 90066 • (310) 822-8885

February 9, 2015

Recreation and Parks Commission  
City of Santa Monica  
Administration Division  
1685 Main Street, Room 210  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Chair Phil Brock and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Venice Japanese Community Center (VJCC), I would like to express our support for the proposal to name the soon constructed Buffer Park next to the Expo Maintenance Yard as "George Ishihara Park."

Mr. George Ishihara, a long-time resident of Santa Monica, was a Japanese American World War II veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. This team was comprised mainly of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, whose families were sent to internment camps.

The mission of the VJCC is to preserve, share and promote the Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage, and provide for the needs and interests of the Japanese American community through education and instruction. The naming of the park would both honor Mr. Ishihara and educate people on the history, dedication and loyalty of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Sincerely,

Hiro Harada  
VJCC President

## Anne Samartha

---

**From:** Christhild Andersen <christhildandersen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2016 4:59 PM  
**To:** Ted Winterer; Terry O'Day; Gleam Davis; Kevin McKeown Fwd; Tony Vazquez; Sue Himmelrich; Pam OConnor; councilmtgitems  
**Subject:** Agenda 8 B Naming of Buffer Park and possible Renaming of Stewart Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I hope you got my previous emails and are kind enough to reread them. In another previous email I told you that I collected signatures of residents living next to Buffer Park who are in favor of Ishihara Park. The copies of the 65 signatures among them 14 Japanese American resident I sent you in an email when the subject was for debate before. We are the residents who have to live with the noise of the Maintenance Yard and the level crossing on Stewart, which gets the most rail traffic as it is entrance and exit to the maintenance yard as well as the regular line traffic. The Expo has to do a last Environmental Impact Report and I requested a set up of noise monitors in front of Exposition residents to measure the noise 24 hrs. for one week to give a realistic impact. It would be good if you requested that report. I also heard a plan of Metro that they might have the train run from 4 am in the morning to 2 am the next morning and not as previously told from 5 am to 1 am. As the trains have to leave the Maintenance Yard to reach Downtown LA Station on time about 50 minutes earlier the testing of horns, bells and whistles etc. will be at 3:10 am. Which is inhumane to the residents as there is barely an hour at night when there are no horns bells or whistles from trains or the rail crossing on Stewart not to mention if the maintaining of the trains at night makes noise.. Please consider the impact if you would be living there.

I have not heard anybody objecting to renaming Stewart Park to Gandara Park. I am in favor of it.

I think I gave you more than enough reasons to name Buffer Park Ishihara Park. I also wrote letters to the Editor of Santa Monica Daily Press and the Mirror about Naming of Buffer Park and they got published (March 23rd-16 and before).

All the supporters of Ishihara Park hope that you decide in their favor. The Pico Neighborhood Association also supported Ishihara Park. Please do not disappoint us again.

Best regards,  
Christel Andersen

*Ms. Christel Andersen*  
*Email: [Christhildandersen@yahoo.com](mailto:Christhildandersen@yahoo.com)*

## Anne Samartha

---

**From:** Anne Deasey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 1:00 PM  
**To:** Vernice Hankins; Clerk Mailbox  
**Subject:** FW: Item 8B Add-Tos  
**Attachments:** Item 8B - Juan Jose Carillo.pdf; Item 8B - Samohi Japanese students article.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,  
The Chair of the Recreation & Parks Commission brought the attached articles to their recent Recreation & Parks Commission on the subject, and he would like them added to the packet for this evening.  
Thank you,  
Anne

Anne Deasey  
Community & Cultural Services  
1685 Main St., Room 210  
Santa Monica CA 90401  
310 458 8310

Search Wikipedia

# Juan José Carrillo

## Juan José Carrillo



**Mayor of Santa Monica, California**

**In office**

1890–1897

### Personal details

<b>Born</b>	September 8, 1842 Santa Barbara, Alta California, Mexico
<b>Died</b>	March 30, 1916 (aged 73) Los Angeles, California
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Francisca Roland, m. 1869 Eva Carrillo
<b>Profession</b>	Civil Service, judge, politician
<b>Religion</b>	Catholic

**Juan José Carrillo** (September 8, 1842 – March 30, 1916) was member of one of the early Spanish families, and a prominent figure in early Southern California history.

## Contents

Biography

References

## Biography

Carrillo was born in Santa Barbara, son of Pedro Carlos Antonio Carrillo (1818–1888) and Maria Josefa Bandini (1823–1896). His mother was one of three Bandini sisters; Maria Josefa, Ysidora, and Arcadia.<sup>[1]</sup> His grandfather Carlos Antonio Carrillo (1783–1852) was Governor of Alta California from 1837 to 1838. Juan's great uncle, José Antonio Carrillo, was a three time mayor of Los Angeles and a hero of the Californios during the Mexican-American war.

From 1852 to 1858, Juan and his brother were educated in Boston, returning to California in 1858. In 1864 Carrillo came to Los Angeles and worked for the grocery firm of Samuel B. Caswell, John T. Ellis, and John H. Wright. Carrillo was Los Angeles City Marshal from 1875 to 1876.

In 1881 Carrillo moved to Santa Monica. He acted for a time as agent for his aunt, Arcadia Bandini de Stearns Baker. In 1884 Arcadia Baker deeded the site of Woodlawn cemetery to him and he in turn, without compensation, deeded the same to the city. In 1888 he was elected as Santa Monica City trustee and served till 1898 - longer than any other trustee. From 1890 to 1897, he was president of the board and thus acting mayor of the city. After his retirement from the council he served two years as superintendent of streets, from 1904 to 1906, and a police judge in Santa Monica from 1905 to 1915.<sup>[2]</sup>

Carrillo married Francisca Roland (1849–1897) in 1869, and together had eleven children. His son was the actor Leo Carrillo. Carrillo had four sons and three daughters with his second wife, Eva Van Vusker Carrillo. He is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Santa Monica.<sup>[3]</sup>

## References

## <sup>1</sup> ^ The Bandini Family

2. <sup>^</sup> Luther A Ingersoll, *Ingersoll's Century History, Santa Monica Bay Cities - Prefaced with a Brief History of the State of California, a Condensed History of Los Angeles County, 1542–1908; Supplemented with an Encyclopedia of Local Biography*, ISBN 978-1-4086-2367-1, 2008

3. <sup>^</sup> "Juan José Carrillo" . Find a Grave. Retrieved October 16, 2010.

- "SFGenealogy.com: California Spanish Genealogy" . Los Angeles Times. 1916-04-01. Retrieved 2007-01-04.
- "Carrillo Family of Sonoma County, California" . www.carrillo.info. Retrieved 2007-01-04.
- "Genealogy" . J.P. Freeman. Retrieved 2007-01-04.<sup>[*dead link*]</sup>
- Carrillo Family of Sonoma County California at www.carrillo.info

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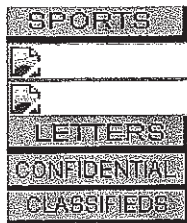
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# The LookOut news

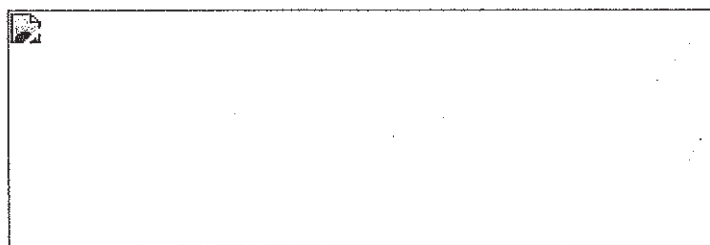


## Dusting off the Past

By Teresa Rochester

*July 22* -- The dust was everywhere. It was all 17-year-old Kazuyuki Yamamoto could see from the window of the bus as it trundled up U.S. Highway 395 through the desert of Owens Valley on an April day in 1942.

The driver pointed out the riders' destination but the veil of grit hid the hastily built wood and tar paper buildings encircled with barbed wire and watchtowers with machine guns that made up Manzanar Relocation Camp.



*Manzanar Relocation Camp (Photo by Dorothea Lange)*

One of ten camps in the country where 110,000 Japanese Americans and nationals were incarcerated following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Manzanar was nothing like the beachside city of Santa Monica where Yamamoto attended high school and where his family had lived for years.

That first night in camp, Yamamoto, his three siblings and parents were handed canvas bags and told to stuff them with straw for their mattresses. The family of six was assigned, along with a young couple, to a crude single-room apartment in Block 18 outfitted with an oil stove, a single bare light bulb and bunk beds. When the wind blew the dust pushed itself through the wooden floorboards and walls.

---

Yamamoto was a junior at Santa Monica High School when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that demanded Japanese Americans and nationals prepare for evacuation. A member of Samohi's track team, Yamamoto never got to graduate with his class. Instead he became a member of Manzanar High School's class of 1943.

Next Saturday that will change. Yamamoto and other Japanese American members of Santa Monica High School's classes of 1943 and 1944 will receive their diplomas at a luncheon hosted by the Samohi Alumni Association, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified District's Board of Education and the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

"The diploma is symbolic," said a 77-year-old Yamamoto, whose three children graduated from Samohi. "It's just nice that Santa Monica High School has decided to give us our due. I think it's a very nice thought even though it's 60 years late."

"It's something that happened years and yeas ago," said Arnold Maeda,

75, a member of the class of 1944, who was a sophomore three months shy of his 15th birthday when the evacuation happened "It's nice of them to consider me an alumni."

Plans to hold the belated graduation ceremony for the former students got underway a year ago following the discovery of a 1942 graduation list. Then-principal W.F. Barnum had written the names of Japanese American seniors on the list with the instructions that the students be included.

In an unusual move, Barnum mailed diplomas to seven incarcerated seniors in the class of 1942. The brown envelope addressed to George A. Matsumoto from his principal arrived via registered mail at Manzanar postmarked July 3, 1942.

"I know of no other high school that presented diplomas to graduating Japanese American seniors during the war," Matsumoto wrote. "Principal Barnum was the only one with the compassion and courage to bestow diplomas when the order of the day was to seek vengeance upon a hapless law abiding minority."

Barnum was ill at the time and died without sending diplomas to the Japanese American seniors in the classes of 1943 and 1944, although several Samohi teachers visited their students at Manzanar, while others read letters written by the students to their classes.

After the discovery of the 1942 graduation list, members of the Samohi Alumni Association began tracking down classmates in the other graduating classes. Some of the alumni already were active in the association; others responded to an article that ran in the group's newsletter. Word of mouth reached other classmates, and a recent article in a daily Japanese language newspaper brought more graduates forward.

"The list keeps growing," said Rena McKinzie of the alumni association. As of Friday, 13 Japanese members of the class of 1943 had been located, as had 10 living members of the class of 1944. "It's a very pleasing event, being able to do this."

The diplomas will closely replicate the school's 1943 and 1944 diplomas. Former principal Dr. A. Ewing Konold, who held the post from 1945-1958, will sign the documents. A second diploma signed by the school's current principals, the School Board president and school district superintendent also will be presented.

After receiving his invitation to the lunch, Maeda tracked down a classmate who had written to him during the incarceration and invited her to the celebration. She will attend, he said.

---

When posters bearing the executive order were lashed to all of the telephone poles in Santa Monica in February of 1942, Yamamoto was neither scared nor shocked. He and his three siblings saw it as an early break from school.

"We had no idea what a concentration camp was like," recalled Yamamoto, now 77. "We didn't think much about the future."

Months before busloads of Japanese Americans and nationals departed the area -- with only those items they could carry -- for the 220-mile trip to desolate Owens Valley, they had been ordered to turn in their short-

2016  
wave radios and cameras.

FBI agents arrived at the Maeda's leased house on 20th Street and Colorado Ave. (only those Japanese Americans born in the United States could own land) and confiscated the 14-year-old boy's Benjamin Pump bb gun but left behind his 50-pound bow and arrows.

"That didn't make sense. You could kill someone with a 50-pound bow," said Maeda, whose reaction to the Executive Order was one of confusion. "We were all confused. They had posters posted on all telephone poles. We didn't know where we were going... You're being uprooted because of being a certain nationality. Giving up the chance to be a normal teenager is a hard feeling."

An only child who attended McKinley Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools before Samohi, Maeda said that his parents suffered the most. After bouncing from job to job during the depression they had recently opened a plant nursery when they were forced to leave everything behind.

Yamamoto agreed that the emotional toll was compounded by the financial toll. As the oldest child and only driver in the family, it was Yamamoto's responsibility to turn over the keys of the family's 1938 black two-door Ford sedan to classmate John O'Brien, who bought the car.

"We were denied everything," said Yamamoto. "It was a considerable loss in dollars and cents and it deprived us of our rights."

In Manzanar, Yamamoto's father, who had been a gardener, became a rice cook. "I don't know what happened to the truck," said Yamamoto, whose mother also worked in the kitchen.

In the camp Yamamoto remained friends with the other Japanese American students from Samohi. Most of them had known each other since grade school and, after regular classes, had attended the same Japanese school on 16th Street near the cemetery.

After graduating from the camp's high school, Yamamoto went briefly to Idaho to pick potatoes. Back in the camp he volunteered as a ditch digger and helped make camouflage netting. The netting factory later burned down.

"I made a few bucks and was able to buy some clothes I needed," said Yamamoto, who went on to work as a junior cook and in the camp's relocation office. Through the office he got work in a kitchenware plant in Chicago making can openers for soldiers.

"We worked like hell and we started to make money and then they cut the piece work rate," he said. "That was dirty and we just worked harder."

Yamamoto was back in Manzanar briefly in the spring of 1945 before returning to Chicago, where he met his wife and lived for ten years before moving to the Crenshaw neighborhood of Los Angeles. Unimpressed with the neighborhood schools, Yamamoto moved his young family back to Santa Monica.

Today, he and several friends are working on a book about the experiences of Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans in West Los

Angeles.

---

At its peak, Manzanar, with a population of 10,000 became the largest city in the Owens Valley, quickly out-populating nearby Lone Pine and Independence.

Maeda and his parents were initially assigned to an apartment in Block 24. Maeda's father had fallen ill and they were forced to share the dreary one-room space with only a sheet separating them from another family.

After graduating in 1944, Maeda worked for a year and half in the Manzanar hospital, giving injections and taking blood pressure of patients in the chronically short-staffed facility. From there he traveled to Oregon to pick potatoes, fruit and onions.

In 1946, Maeda enrolled at UCLA, where the institution tried to charge him non-resident tuition. A pre-med student, Maeda also was enrolled in ROTC. When told he would have to march on the school's field in a military drill, Maeda balked and joined the Army. He had recently received his draft notice, which classified him as an enemy alien.

Maeda trained troops at the firing range until he received a medical discharge. The noise had damaged his ears. Maeda went back to UCLA, but left to learn a trade after a doctor told him he could go deaf at anytime. Maeda went into chicken breeding, becoming a member of the American Chick Sexing Association, he said.

After eight years in the breeding business, Maeda went into technical illustration for 15 years and worked in life insurance before retiring.

"I'm playing golf now," he chuckled.

*All friends, classmates and interested community members are invited to attend the Diploma Luncheon at noon on July 28, 2001 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. Reservations may be made until July 25 by sending a response to the Samohi Alumni Association, 527 - 21st Place, Santa Monica, CA 90402. Tickets are \$25 per person.*



LOOKOUT

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EMAIL

## Anne Samartha

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**From:** Anne Deasey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 1:01 PM  
**To:** Vernice Hankins; Clerk Mailbox  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming Buffer Park Ishiwara Park - Item 8B

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,  
There is another email regarding Item 8B this evening...

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Bachman [mailto:bachmandenise@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:55 AM  
To: Community & Cultural Services <CCS.Mailbox@SMGOV.NET>  
Cc: Santa Monica Mirror <rory@smmirror.com>  
Subject: Renaming Buffer Park Ishiwara Park

I fully agree with all the arguments put forward supporting changing the name of Buffer Park to Ishiwara Park.

Our Japanese-American citizens were treated shamefully during the Second World War, particularly in California where they were unlawfully imprisoned in concentration camps and had their hard earned possessions stolen from them, lost their homes, and were branded with a shame they did not deserve as second-class citizens.

This type of injustice has a way of persisting down through generations. It is so very important that civic institutions do whatever they can to recognize the positive contributions made by everyday citizens like Mr. Ishiwara to the benefit of all of us who live in this community. They are what makes living here special, far beyond beaches and parks.

Let's please name Buffer Park Ishiwara Park to, in some small way, recognize the contributions made by the entire Japanese community to the betterment of all of us here, to say thank you, and make some attempt to repair the divisiveness that so often interferes with uniting us as a village in this larger world.

We have a chance here to make a small gesture to right a long endured injustice. Let's not lose this opportunity to be inclusive, to say "You are us. We are grateful for you and for your culture, that so enriches our experience. Thank you."

Denise McCann Bachman  
26th st, Santa Monica, 90405

# Naming Buffer Park & Consideration of Renaming Stewart St. Park

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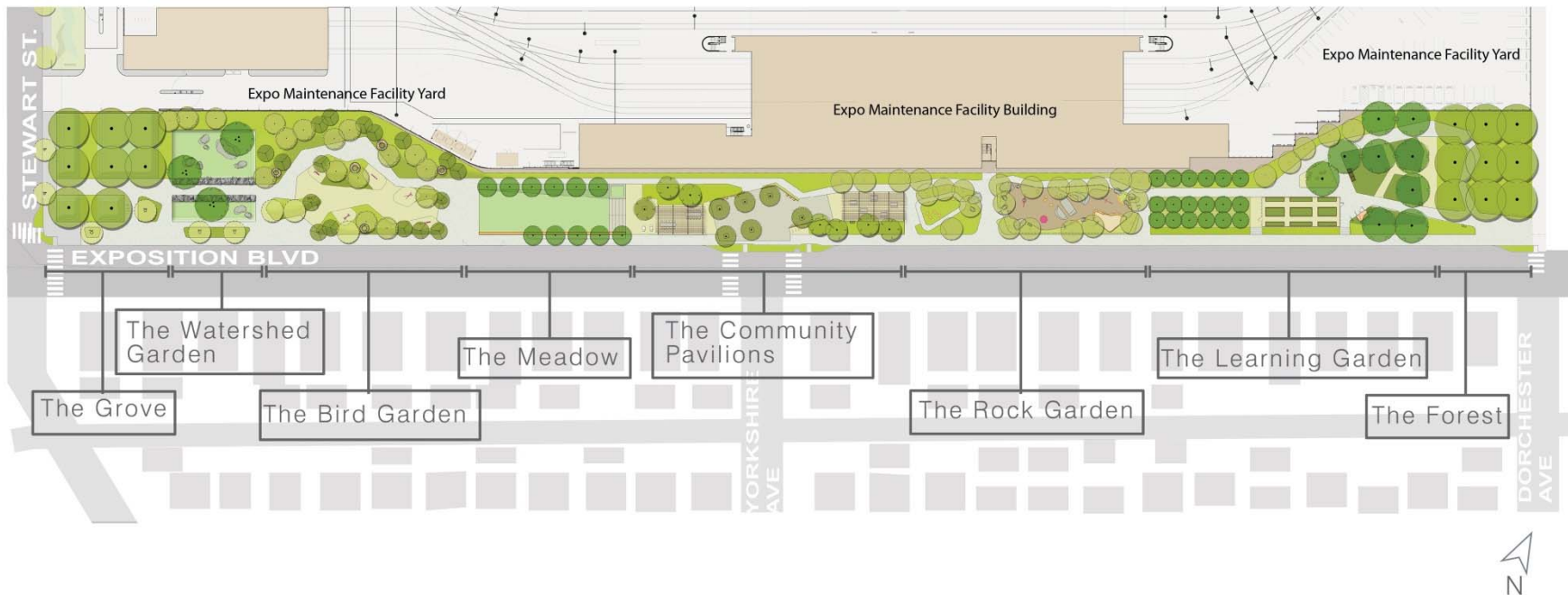
CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 26, 2016



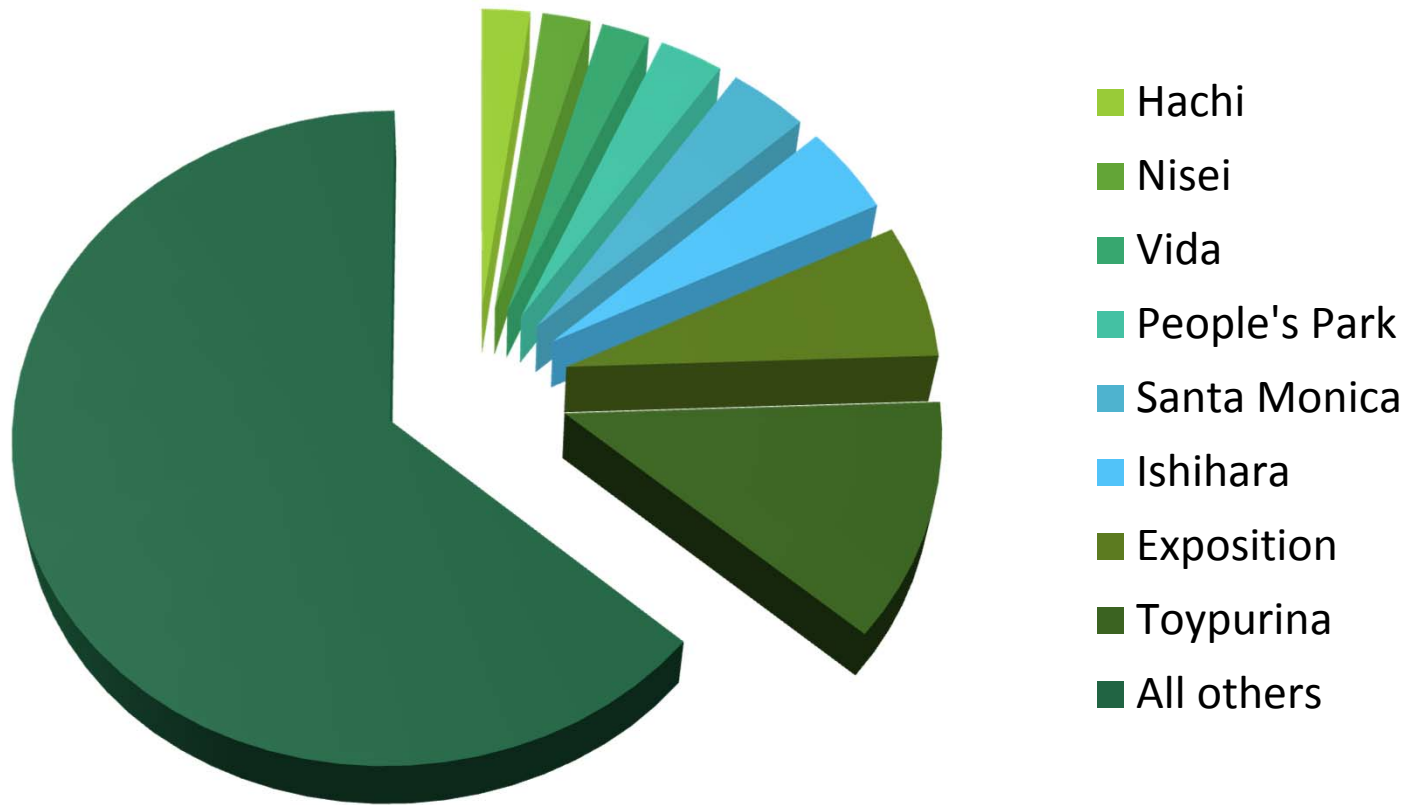
# Buffer Park

2.35 acre park to be constructed on Exposition Boulevard between Dorchester Avenue and Stewart Street.



# Outreach Results

135 total name suggestions



# Recreation & Parks Commission Action (2014)

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The Recreation & Parks Commission adopted a motion on November 20, 2014 recommending Council consider:

- **Gandara Park**
- **Heroes Park**

# Previous City Council Action

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- Considered RPC name recommendations for Buffer Park on January 26, 2016
- Noted public comment was primarily divided between two names: Gandara Park and George Ishihara Park
- Discussed the possibility of naming Buffer Park in honor of George Ishihara and renaming Stewart Street Park in honor of Private Gandara
- Deferred decision and directed staff to return to RPC for a full public review process

# Stewart Street Park

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3.8 acre park located at 1819 Stewart St.



## Recent Recreation & Parks Commission Action

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- Considered name recommendations for Buffer Park and renaming Stewart Street Park on March 17, 2016
- Adopted a motion recommending:
  - Council Consider **Gandara Park** as the official name for Buffer Park
    - Alternative Names: **Heroes Park** or **Citizens Park**
  - Maintain the existing name of Stewart Street Park

# Recommended Action

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- Select Gandara Park as the official name for Buffer Park
- Maintain the existing name of Stewart Street Park