



We're proposing that the name of the park called Iris Park be changed to Union Park.

Why?

Iris Park used to be called Union Park in the late 1880s through at least 1905.

And, in spring of 2008, the name Union Park was chosen for our planning council, now known as the Union Park District Council.

The City of St. Paul promotes park naming that is based on...

History: *based on prominent events associated with the site, reflecting the city's traditions, to educate the public about the site's history.* The original Union Park was an amusement park in the area around Lake Iris. This name was selected for the District Council based on its historic connection.

Geography: *including "community name."* The Union Park District Council represents the community encompassing many neighborhoods, including the Merriam Park, Lexington-Hamline, Snelling-Hamline, Desnoyer Park, Shadow Falls, and Iris Park neighborhoods.

Function: *to enable the public to identify a service or program associated with the site.* It is important for the Union Park District Council to have strong name recognition, so the breadth of its residents are able to access its programs and services. For this reason, the District Council's ten-year Community Plan includes a commitment to "identify an existing or new park space to carry the name Union Park."

From the Minneapolis Journal, April 29, 1905:

always will be. Merriam Park of today is composed of what used to be known as Merriam Park, Union Park and Howard Park. Union Park is located on the University side of the district, and at the Minneapolis end. In summer it is a beauty spot. In a natural depression of the ground has been made a small lake, from the center of which during the summer months continually sprays a fountain. Around its banks and leading to it from University avenue, is a park with attractive trees and flowering sweet-scented shrubbery. As one passes it on the street car on University, large letters made of foliage plants set in the bright green sod of the banks of the lake read, "LAKE IRIS." Surrounding the lake are many handsome homes.

What about Iris?

It is our understanding that a railroad official chose the name Iris in the early 1900s. We intend to continue using "Iris Park" as the name of the neighborhood, and will continue to call the lake in the park "Lake Iris."

What do you think?

Please join us for a conversation on this proposal on **Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm** in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes. If you can't attend, share your views by contacting us at 651-645-6887 or julie@unionparkdc.org.

