

City Council Memorandum
21-12

January 27, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

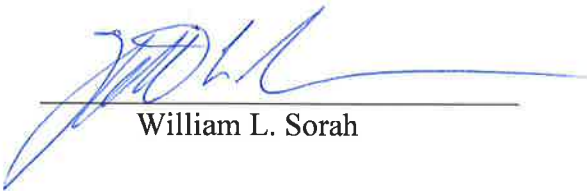
FROM: William L. Sorah, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution 21-19
Naming of Herbarium in the Nature Center at Steele Creek Park

An item on the agenda for consideration is Resolution 21-19 naming the herbarium in the Nature Center at Steele Creek Park.

Currently, there are over 1,100 plant specimens in the herbarium located in the downstairs of the original building of the Nature Center. Ruth Clark, a member of the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park, established the collection in 2008. Ms. Clark, her daughter, and other volunteers spent countless hours to increase the herbarium collection to its present size with Mrs. Clark being personally responsible for 393 specimens. This extensive collection of local plants provide examples of the diverse ecosystem found in the park and have become the basis of a Master of Science thesis at ETSU.

Ms. Clark passed away in February 2020. At the request of the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park, a recommendation to name the herbarium in honor and memory of Ms. Clark was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on January 7th and received unanimous approval. If the attached resolution is approved, the many contributions made by Ms. Clark to the Nature Center, Steele Creek Park, and the community will be honored and remembered by the naming of the Ruth Clark Herbarium.



William L. Sorah

Resolution No. 21-19

**A Resolution Naming the Ruth Clark Herbarium at the
Nature Center at Steele Creek Park**

WHEREAS, the newly renovated Nature Center at Steele Creek Park will house an herbarium containing over 1,100 plant specimens, a collection that showcases the diverse ecosystem of Steele Creek Park and provides a resource for scientific research; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Clark, a member of the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park, established the herbarium in 2008, and personally contributed 393 specimens to the collection prior to passing away in February, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park have asked that the herbarium be formally named in honor of Ruth Clark, in order to recognize her love for botany and her tireless efforts on behalf of the Nature Center and the herbarium project; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission met on January 7, 2021 considered this request, and voted in favor of recommending that the City Council act to rename the herbarium the "Ruth Clark Herbarium at the Nature Center at Steele Creek"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with this recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Bristol, Tennessee that the herbarium to be located in the Nature Center at Steele Creek Park shall be named the "Ruth Clark Herbarium at the Nature Center at Steele Creek" in honor of Ruth Clark and her many contributions to Steele Creek Park and the City of Bristol, Tennessee.

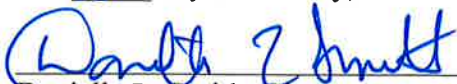
WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the Resolution adopted, affixed a signature and the date thereto, and directed that the same be recorded.

Mahlon Luttrell, Mayor

Date: _____

Tara E. Musick, City Recorder

Approved as to Form and Legality
this 28th day of January, 2021



Danielle L. Smith, City Attorney

Parks and Recreation Memorandum

21-01

January 11, 2021

To: William L. Sorah, City Manager

From: Terry Napier, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: City Council Agenda Item
Proposed Naming Rights for the Nature Center Herbarium

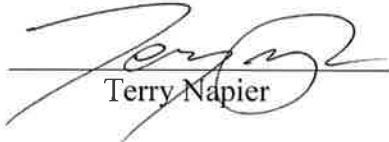
As you are aware the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park have worked with staff to complete the Nature Center addition and provide funding to complete the exhibits. Currently staff is completing the renovations of the downstairs of the original Nature Center Building. This area, when complete, will house the library, staff work room, collections storage and a work space for the Friends Group.

This space will be the home of the Nature Center Herbarium. Currently the Herbarium contains over 1,100 plant specimens. The Herbarium collection was originally established by Friend's Member Ruth Clark in 2008. Ruth along with her daughter, and other volunteers worked tirelessly to establish and grow the Herbarium to its currently total. Mrs. Clark was personally responsible for 393 of those specimens. This gives the Park prestige as our collection is local and intensive and provides examples of our diverse ecosystem. These specimens have formed the basis of a Master of Science thesis at ETSU.

Ruth Clark had a love for nature and a passion for the Herbarium Project and her words attest to that: "All people involved with the hands on project will learn more about botany that can just be found in books. The kingdom of plants will astonish and inspire the all thorough their lives. Working on a Herbarium, collecting, drying, identifying, and mounting plants is a great learning process." Ruth Clark

Mrs. Clark passed away in February of 2020. Staff along with the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park wish to name the herbarium in her honor and memory, the Ruth Clark Herbarium at the Nature Center at Steele Creek Park.

This request was presented to the Park Commission at their January 7, 2020 meeting and was unanimously approved. I would request this item be sent to City Council for formal approval to recognize the love of nature and learning and exceptional work of Mrs. Ruth Clark in establishing, and maintaining the Herbarium at the Nature Center.



Terry Napier