



Date: August 9, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*
Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Naming of new park at Plymouth Street and Elm Avenue

The North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area Committee has recommended that the new park at Plymouth Street and Elm Avenue be named Grace Park.

Grace Park recognizes the historical significance of the site in two respects. The property was the site of a church for 70 years, from 1930 until 2000.

It is also near the former home of Grace Wiley, a nationally known herpetologist. Grace Wiley was born in Kansas in 1883. She became an expert in the study of reptiles in the 1920s, when there were very few women working in the field.

She moved to Long Beach in 1937 and lived in the area until her death in 1948. Attached is some additional biographical information on Ms. Wiley.

I support the recommendation of the Project Area Committee.

Suggested Action:

I respectfully request that the name, Grace Park, be referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration and a recommendation.