



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Land Information Office

1010 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140
(262) 653-2622
Fax (262) 653-2624

September 14, 2022

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Names Council
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

To Whom It May Concern,

Enclosed please find a Geographic Name Proposal Form 2200-124 for a stream found in the Town of Paris and Village of Bristol in Kenosha County. We believe this stream might be misnamed on the Surface Water Data Viewer, and if confirmed, would like it changed to Center Creek. This issue was originally found by county staff on Google Maps and after further consideration, we have determined it would be best to start this process with the Geographic Names Council.

If you have any questions or concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact me at (262)-653-2620.

Thanks,

Scott Schutze
Director, Division of Land Information/Land Information Officer

Cc: Andy Buehler, Director, Division of Planning Operations

Notice: Pursuant to s. 23.25, Wis. Stats., complete and submit this form to the address in the upper left hand corner with requested geographic name proposal. See page 2 for naming guidelines. Personal information collected will be used for administrative purposes and may be made available to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Open Records law (ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stats.).

Geographic Feature Information

Description of Feature - Include size (acres), length (miles) or population etc. Recommended Name of Feature
 Root River (Center Creek) ~ 7.5 mile length Center Creek


Other Names or Spellings in Use: By Whom: (Name and Address)
 Root River (possibly in error) Wisconsin DNR SDWV

Reason for this Proposal - Identify Problem and Need (Attach supplementary sheet if necessary)
 See attached

Origin and Significance of Recommended Name - Attach Supporting Documents (resolution, historical data, etc.)
 Locally referenced, also referred to as Center Creek on FIS Report & FEMA FIRM maps

Feature Location	DNR Use Only	
County Kenosha	Lat _____ ' _____ " _____	Long _____ ' _____ " _____
Stream Heads: Sec. <u>10</u> , T <u>02</u> N, R <u>21</u> <input checked="" type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> W	Lat _____ ' _____ " _____	Long _____ ' _____ " _____
Ends: Sec. <u>12</u> , T <u>01</u> N, R <u>21</u> <input checked="" type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> W	Lat _____ ' _____ " _____	Long _____ ' _____ " _____
Lake, Village, etc. Secs. _____ , T _____ N, R _____ <input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> W	Lat _____ ' _____ " _____	Long _____ ' _____ " _____
Secs. _____ , T _____ N, R _____ <input type="radio"/> E <input type="radio"/> W (or locate by landmarks and attach map)	USGS Quad. Name	Index Number

Applicant Information

Name Scott Schutze	Agency Kenosha County Land Info	Telephone Number (include area code) (262) 653-2622	
Address 1010 56th Street	City Kenosha	State WI	ZIP Code 53140
Signature of Applicant 	Applicant Email scott.schutze@kenoshacounty.org	Date Signed 9/14/22	

DNR Use Only - Map Search and Field Investigation

Name of Map or Other Reference	Date of Ref.	Name Given Feature

Person Contacted	Address	Occupation

Special Concerns

Findings and Recommendations

Signature of Investigator	Date Signed

History

The duties and functions of the State Geographic Board were transferred by Section 25(1)(A) of Chapter 75, Laws of 1967, to the Natural Resources Board. Subsequently the Natural Resources Board assigned the duties and functions to the Division of Resource Management and retained the State Chief Engineer, the State Geologist, the State Cartographer and a designee from the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, as advisors as a Geographic Names Council

Statutory Authority - Section 23.25, Wis. Stats.: Geographic Powers and Duties

- (1) The department shall:
 - (a) Determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state, and the spelling thereof;
 - (b) Pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state for which no single generally accepted name has been in use;
 - (c) In cooperation with county boards and with their approval, to change the names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features, with the end in view of eliminating, as far as possible, duplication of names within the state;
 - (d) Prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic names and to publish the same, either as a completed whole or in parts when ready;
 - (e) Serve as the state representative of the U.S. geographic board and cooperate with the said board to the end that there shall be no conflicts between the state and federal designations of geographic features in the state.
- (2) Whenever the department has given a name to any lake, stream, place or other geographic feature within the state, or determined the correct spelling of any such name, it shall be used in all maps, reports and other publications thereafter issued by the state or any of its political subdivisions, and shall be deemed the official name of such geographic feature.
- (3) No person shall in any advertisement or publication attempt to modify local usage or name unnamed geographic features without first obtaining the approval of the department. In case of a violation of this subsection, the department may promptly announce its disapproval and thereafter adopt an official name for such feature.

Policy of the State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council

It is the policy of the State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council:

- (A) Not to name a geographic feature after any living person.
- (B) Names having a scientific derivation are not as a rule acceptable.
- (C) Names with historical significance or with Indian or French origin are usually appropriate, but care should be exercised that the Indian names are from tribes native to Wisconsin. They should not be too long nor difficult of pronunciation.
- (D) That newly acquired proper names for geographic features shall not be designated with " 's" or "s", indicating possession, following the name. For example: Mott Lake, rather than Mott's Lake or Motts Lake.
- (E) That only lakes 10 acres or more in size shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council. For example: significant public use.
- (F) That only streams 5 miles or more in length shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council. For example: trout stream.

The U.S. Board on geographic names has indicated the following guidelines with reference to the naming of geographic features:

- (A) That the intended honoree(s) of a commemorative name must be deceased at least five years before consideration.
- (B) That local usage be followed whenever possible.
- (C) That the specific name precede the generic name. For example: preference is given to Alice Lake rather than Lake Alice.
- (D) That whenever practicable the recommended names include single names only followed by the generic name. For example: preference is given to Meyer Lake rather than John Meyer Lake.
- (E) That hyphens be omitted in newly established names.
- (F) That descriptive words such as "Big", "Little", etc., be eliminated unless they are necessary for proper identification of the feature.

Root River Name Change to Center Creek

In using the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer, Kenosha County has noticed a tributary to the Des Plaines River is labeled as the Root River. We believe this may be in error. This particular stretch of stream in the Town of Paris and Village of Bristol is locally known as Center Creek and flows southward to the Des Plaines River. Both Kenosha County and SEWRPC use the Center Creek name, and it is also referenced on the Flood Insurance Studies, as well as upon FEMA FIRM maps. We believe the headwaters to the actual Root River, which flows northward into Racine County, is very close to the headwaters of Center Creek and the naming confusion might be due to the relative proximity of each. We are inquiring on the possibility of changing this stretch of stream to Center Creek.