

Stream in ravine named Walhalla Creek

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In the end, obvious won out.

The tributary that winds through Walhalla Ravine officially will be known as Walhalla Creek, if local residents have their way. The Walhalla Ravine Association, which banded about several possibilities for the tributary, selected the name after months of deliberation.

It is the first step to getting the waterway, which empties into the Olentangy River, officially recognized by the National Board of Geographic Names, which is part of the United States Geological Survey.

Jeff Frontz, a member of the association, said the group considered several options that would have had more historical significance. Walhalla in Norse mythology means "The Great Hall of Dead Warriors." Mathias Armbruster, an immigrant from Bavaria and the first owner of the ravine, gave Walhalla its name, according to local archives. And some local street names — such as Mimir, Brynhild and Midgard — have mythological roots.

"I think this is mythological, too, because the name is Walhalla, so it's the same as the street name," said resident Carolyn Schiefer, who supported the more traditional approach.

Other ravines in the area have been recognized by the USGS. Adena Brook is the official name for the stream in the Overbrook Ravine, and Bill Moose Run is the name that was given to the ravine on the northern end of Clintonville. And Glen Echo Run has been picked for the creek in the Glen Echo Ravine.

There are a few other phases in the naming of Walhalla Creeks. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will endorse the name before forwarding the recommen-

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ation to Columbus City Council, which likely will accept the name, said Andrea Gorzitze, senior education coordinator with the greenways program at MORPC.

"It's an awareness thing," Gorzitze said. "This way, with signs up, people actually realize there's a little stream there and not just a dry ravine. And hopefully people will realize it is part of the Olentangy watershed."

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