

Draft proposal, as approved by the Geographic Features Subcommittee for submission to the Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names. Public comment can be submitted to reconciliation_committee@nps.gov or (202) 354-2220.

We recommend that the term "coon," which has long been used as a derogatory term toward African Americans, be declared derogatory by the Secretary and replaced on the landscape with the word "raccoon," except in instances where a geographic feature can be clearly traced to someone with that surname. In those cases, an individual's first name should be included in order to avoid perpetuating the stigma associated with this term.

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