

Name Suggestions Received for Artesian Well Site

ARTESIAN COMMONS

ARTESIAN COURT

ARTESIAN COURT

ARTESIAN COURTYARD

ARTESIAN MOST OLY

COURT OF THE ARTESIAN VAGRANTS

DOWNTOWN ARTESIAN WELL

FRIENDS OF ARTESIANS PLAZA (FOA PLAZA)

LEGG-ROBINSON ARTESIAN PLAZA

OLYMPIA ARTESIAN APPRECIATIVE CENTER

OLYMPIA ARTESIAN PARK

OLYMPIA ARTESIAN WATER PARK

OLYWA

OLYWELL

PEOPLES PARK

RAINBOW BRIGHTS PARK

SERPENTINE CREEK

SMITHFIELD WATER

THE ARTESIAN WELL

THE ARTESIAN WELL PARK

THE HOMELESS WATER FOUNTAIN

THE RACHEL CORRIE MEMORIAL ARTESIAN WELL

UNION PACIFIC DEPOT PARK

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Received August 6 - 26, 2013

OLYMPIA ARTESIAN WATER PARK

Please consider my idea for the name for the Artesian Well Site. I've drunk water there, and consider it to be among the most fulfilling water I've tasted. I lean toward a simple, clear, minimalist name: Water Pipe Park. The first time I came and drank water from the artesian well, I noted the water pipe. I hope my suggestion for naming the park Water Pipe Park will be heard. Please consider the name that I hope to see.

Why this is the best name for the park: It's a minimalist description of the artesian well, and it describes it so well! Artesian water, clear and delicious.

THE RACHEL CORRIE MEMORIAL ARTESIAN WELL

Rachel Corrie was an American peace activist and native Olympian, raised in this city and influenced by its character growing up, as well as having been a graduate of both Capital High School and The Evergreen State College. Rachel worked as a volunteer in the Washington State Conservation Corp, and she exemplifies the spirit of Olympia both during her life and even today, 10 years after her untimely death. Rachel stood up and fought for many causes, but she is most remembered for the effort that led to her death; helping protect a water well that served thousands of people. I believe it is time the City of Olympia recognize Rachel's work as a peace activist, and that we as a community, honor her memory as well as the memories of all of the world's fallen peace makers by naming this park for her. Forget the politics. Rachel promoted peace for all people. Naming the park in Rachel's honor may also serve to encourage the community to become good stewards of the park, keeping in mind what the well, and the waters of peace flowing from this earth stand for. Here is an excerpt from a news article:

Water well human shielding efforts: According to a January 2003 article by Gordon Murray, in the last month of her life Corrie "spent a lot of time at the Canada Well helping protect Rafah municipal workers" who were trying to repair damage to the well done by Israeli bulldozers. Canada Well was built in 1999 with CIDA funding. It, along with El Iskan Well, had supplied more than 50% of Rafah's water before the damage. The city had been under "strict rationing (only a few hours of running water on alternate days)" since. Murray writes that ISM activists were maintaining a presence there since "Israeli snipers and tanks routinely shot at civilian workers trying to repair the wells." In one of her reports, Corrie wrote that despite her group's having received permission from the Israeli District Command Office and the fact that they were carrying "banners and megaphones the activists and workers were fired upon several times over a period of about one hour. One of the bullets came within two metres of three internationals and a municipal water worker close enough to spray bits of debris in their faces as it landed at their feet." According to Murray, the Canadian government refused to "officially protest or denounce the Israeli army actions", yet "quietly agreed to help fund the estimated \$450,000 repair costs".

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LEGG-ROBINSON ARTESIAN PLAZA

Attached is our submission for naming the Artesian Well park site. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information. We are thankful the city and community have come together to make the vision of an Artesian Well park – a place of gathering and good will - a reality.

“These are my gifts to Olympia” – Herb Legg speaking about his and John Robinson’s efforts to save Watershed Park from development and Sylvester Park from becoming a parking lot. Herb, a “liberal’s liberal”, and John, a moderate republican, collaborated over the course of thirty years to protect and preserve Olympia’s natural environment. As lawyers, writers, community activists and friends their service to the community is well known and in some circles legendary. What is less well known is their involvement in the efforts to make a pocket park around the artesian well in the parking lot on 4th Ave.

In December 1991, Herb and John met with Joel Greene and Jim Ingersoll over a bowl of oatmeal at the Spar where they set in motion a twenty year effort to first, protect the artesian well and then, develop it as a park. Herb and John worked behind the scenes to get an article published in the Olympian on February 24, 1992 calling for community support of the well. Jim Ingersoll was flooded with phone calls offering time, talent, resources and money following the publication. Herb and friends sponsored a public meeting at the Library where more than 50 people each donated \$50. And a single \$3000 donation followed the next day. In the twenty years since, more than \$20,000 in donations and countless hours of volunteer time and resources kept the vision of the park alive. Herb and John literally paved the way for the Friends of Artesians and H2Olympia and the development of the park as it is today. It is fitting that this parking lot turned park be named for the two friends who saved Watershed and Sylvester parks from being paved over.

OLYWA

I think the reasons Olywa is the best name for the park are:

- It's obvious - Olympia + Water = Olywa
- It's short and easy to spell - 5 letters no spaces = cheaper signs
- It's located in the heart of Oly, WA (I bet the post office would know where to deliver the Park's mail)
- It rolls off the tongue in a pleasant, easy way
- It appeals, like music, to the ears and hearts of Olympians

I eagerly await your favorable decision.

PEOPLES PARK

I say we name it PEOPLES PARK because that is truly what it is, all peoples park.

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RAINBOW BRIGHTS PARK

Why rainbow bright park is because you have such beautiful colors as in a rainbow, we have colorful people that visit our parks each year so the color would mean to be towards everyone, bright because everything is so bright and wonderful, again colorful hence rainbow brights.

ARTESIAN MOST OLY

Why the best name? Making all this happen has been a miracle!

OLYMPIA ARTESIAN APPRECIATIVE CENTER

I have lived in Olympia since 1976 and since then the Artesian well has not only been a convenient spot to grab a swig of refreshing water to cool you down on a hot afternoon, but, a way of life since the housing development I grew up in had a contaminated well system so the well was our water source for drinking and cooking. Jug after jug we would have to rinse and gill each one and haul a car load home once a week and we had the best water available.

I know that we weren't the only family who has had to "lean" on the Artesian well when the time came. I have spent much of my professional life downtown since I am in management at Olympia Fireplace & Spa which is located darn near across the street from the Artesian well and through the years I have seen all walks of life utilize the refreshing natural spring. People are attracted to it for drinking water, for its cooling effects and for just a place to hang out and discuss the day with friends. It has help hydrate pets and to help cool pets down. I have even seen a person on horseback stop there so they could wipe the animal down to help cool. Local businesses have used it as a way to offer guests the best drinking water available. The well will help things that don't have heartbeats too, like the multiple automobiles that have failing radiators in them that I have seen pull up and allow the natural wonder to help cool them off so that the family inside can have that piece of mind that they can make it another block or two until they are able to pull it into the shop for repairs.

I have watched the well go from just an old, odd shaped stack of bricks with a simple pipe which would dispense water that was once lauded as the "Best drinking water in the country" to what it is now, a gathering place with the opportunity for artwork, street fairs and a great way to join the whole downtown Olympia core together, The nicer we make it downtown for people to visit, the more lucrative Olympia will become to not only the local businesses but to the city as well. The well has already made me more successful since I can honestly say that I have made a sale to a customer who was "just across the street getting water". So I for one owe a lifetime of thanks to the Artesian well downtown and I know that I am not the only one who appreciates everything that this gift of ours does for all of our lifestyles. I know that I appreciate it, as do local businesses, visitors from out of town, pets, people of all walks of life, Arts Walk participants, even bicycles do and I bet the well appreciates being available to all of us. You can even look at it as a whole zen thing since the appreciation goes full circle.

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Anyways, there you have it. Whether you choose my entry or not, this was fun to reminisce and I do thank you again for the opportunity to be involved. Have a great day!

DOWNTOWN ARTESIAN WELL

My suggestion has always been to leave it alone but since that doesn't seem to be the option or is one that the city listens to, I would suggest a simple name "Downtown Artesian Well" – what a novel idea! Sorry for the sarcasm but this whole idea is so far out in left field it is now just humorous and shameful at the same time. I won't be at the public meeting – doesn't appear that there would be anything productive in my attendance. Thanks for asking.

THE HOMELESS WATER FOUNTAIN

Thank you for your request for suggestions naming the "Artesian Court", even though previous suggestions for keeping the accessibility to the public fountain open have been ignored. Most of us who pay City of Olympia taxes do not want access to the fountain blocked by a stage, no parking availability, ping pong tables and other games. Gaming activities can be maintained at the Olympia Community Center/Senior Center. Therefore, my suggested name for the public water fountain would be "The homeless water fountain".

SERPENTINE CREEK

The creek is serpentine in nature, to the point the middle appears to be a tilted "S".

SMITHFIELD WATER

How about "Smithfield Water"? Keeping it simple and reflecting some folks desire for the park not to have too many amenities. And remembering the first owner of the land Olympia is situated on and first name of our city.

THE ARTESIAN WELL PARK

ARTESIAN COURT

It's about the water and the park itself, which is paved, and therefore a "court." It's simple and descriptive, and almost intuitive. Any other name would have no relationship to the park.

ARTESIAN COURTYARD or ARTESIAN COMMONS

Both proposed names include the word "Artesian" to recognize the feature that the site was purchased to protect. Being enclosed on two sides by adjacent building walls creates a "courtyard" atmosphere. The public space and the artesian are owned in "common."

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COURT OF THE ARTESIAN VAGRANTS

Every time I go by there, it's full of young people with backpacks and lots of trash! Who do you anticipate will visit this "park?"

I'm not going to check out the concept plan and project description. I've expressed my thinking on several proposed projects (after discussing them with my n'bors) but my opinions were rejected. One is the proposed bike path between NE Miller and NE Jasper on Puget. I rarely see bikers in this area so it seems like a foolish way to spend money and it could be better spent elsewhere. The proposed community garden on that same block - think that's on hold for the time being. I heard they're going to get water from the Touchstone home on Miller - so guess that'll eventually come out of the taxpayers' pockets. Mission Creek is less than a block away from this proposed garden and is loaded with deer (who munch away nightly in the n'bors' gardens) so think if that one goes through the deer will take care of the garden. Touchstone...another sore point for the entire n'borhood!!!! Beyond ALL the n'bors objections, that was approved. So there doesn't seem to be much point in voicing one's opinion, especially objections, as it all seems to fall on deaf ears. If someone with some authority gets a burr under their saddle about a project (ie. Peter Guttchen), it'll go through despite the objections of the people it directly affects.

So good luck with the Artesian Court park...I'm sure the young vagrants will appreciate it! Too bad too. I used to get water from the artesian well all the time but no more. Too intimidating to be older and faced with getting the wonderful water or potentially putting one's self at risk to get it. Ask "your" grandmother if she'd go there alone to get water.

UNION PACIFIC DEPOT PARK

The park should be named "Union Pacific Depot Park" since the artesian well was used for the trains at the adjacent depot which was built in 1916.

FRIENDS OF ARTESIANS PLAZA (FOA PLAZA)

Hi, thank you for asking for public input on the question of naming the new park! My suggestion: "Friends of Artesians Plaza," (FOA Plaza)

- because of the rich history of artesian water in Oly
- as a gesture of acknowledgement of the community activists who kept the question of public access to artesian water a matter of public discussion for years (they would probably love to have the park named this way)
- and as a nod to all the new "Friends" of artesian water that no doubt will emerge as people come to know the story of Olympia's artesian wells once the park is developed!

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OLYMPIA ARTESIAN PARK

I like keeping 'artesian' in the name. "court" isn't my favorite though.

ARTESIAN COURT

If it's not broke don't fix it. With that said, why not what it was referred to during the planning stage "Artesian Court"?

THE ARTESIAN WELL

I think it should be called "The Artesian Well" because that is the local reference. It would be strange to name a pipe full of water after some pioneer. Let's just keep it simple.

OLYWELL

Olympia artesian well is what it is and I like how OlyWell sounds and looks. Thanks for the opportunity!