

## **Artesian Court – Draft Concept Plan**

Project Description- 5/23/13

### **Project Purpose and Vision**

The recent work by the City's Artesian Court design team is an extension of the planning effort for this space initiated during the fall, 2011 *Project for Public Spaces* exercise. This project will transform the currently under-used parking lot into a multi-purpose, urban outdoor courtyard offering a variety of activities designed and managed to promote positive behaviors. The intent is to create a vibrant, dynamic daytime space that is clean, safe and welcoming to all. Circulation and parking improvements will improve access to the artesian well-head. In the future, the artesian interpretive area will provide a space to explain artesian geology and celebrate the artesian phenomenon. The food court will serve as a gathering place for people who live and work downtown- including areas for socializing and dining.

### **Artesian Court Design Theme**

The proposed design expands upon the existing artesian well plaza and repeats several of its design elements. The "faux-creek" integrated into the courtyard surfacing emphasizes the significance of the artesian well and reflects the value that Olympians place on "free-flowing water."

**Courtyard Entrances-** The northern and southern boundaries of the Artesian Court space will be delineated by a continuous row of low, rectangular, colored-concrete planters containing low-growing perennial plantings. A single 14' wide entrance will be provided at the center of these rows of planters. Columns supporting hanging baskets (like those already at the artesian well) will flank each side of the entrances. A steel, arch-shaped framework containing the words "Artesian Court" will be installed between these columns over each entrance. Users will walk under these archways as they enter the courtyard from both the north and south.

**Entrance Bollards-** a single, removable, lockable bollard will be installed at the courtyard's northern and southern entrances. The bollards will be installed at the mid-point of the archways to limit vehicular access to food vendor and emergency/maintenance vehicles only.

**Canopy-Covered Performance Stage-** A raised, 6" high, concrete performance stage will be located along the western edge of the courtyard. 110-volt electrical service will be provided to the stage. An 11' wide, 12' high (at the peak), by 40' long, canvass retractable canopy will provide users protection from the rain. The canopy will be retracted and locked in place at night. A functioning, old-style city lamp post will be installed at each of the front corners of the stage.

**Bike Racks-** Simple loop-style bike racks will be provided near the northern and southern entrances to the Artesian Court.

### **Refuse & Recycling Stations**

Refuse/recycling stations will be provided near the northern and southern entrances to the Artesian Court.

**Moveable Tables and Chairs-** Colorful metal folding tables and chairs will be provided for users to move as they wish around the courtyard area. Several of the larger tables will be equipped with umbrellas. The tables & chairs will be secured each night.

**Courtyard Walking Surface-** The existing asphalt surfacing will be retained. To visually and spatially “break-up” the long, linear courtyard, it will be divided graphically into two use areas. This will be accomplished via the application of borders of thermoplastic tile. This is the same material used for the cross-walk lines in Olympia; however instead of white lines, the tiles will create lines in a red brick “running pattern”.

**“Artesian Creek”-** A decorative “faux creek” with a “faux-bridge” will also be painted on the existing asphalt courtyard surface. The “creek” will begin at the artesian well drain and will wind serpentine-fashion through the Artesian Court to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance archway and across the sidewalk, ending at the street curb. The “creek” will be created using paint specially formulated to adhere to asphalt.

**Wall Mural-** In the future, the eastern wall of the adjoining “Bike Stand” building could be painted with a mural depicting a historic Olympia street scene reminiscent of the railroad station formerly in the building.

**Tree Planters & “Sitting Rocks”** - Two 48” diameter colored-concrete tree planters will be placed along the central axis of the courtyard. Each planter will contain a tree and colorful annual flowers. Rocks selected specifically for their “sitting qualities” will be grouped around these planters along the “creek” edge.

**Mobile Food Vending-** A dedicated parking area 12’ wide by 70’ long on the east side of the courtyard will be provided for three mobile food vending units. Pedestal-mounted 110-volt electrical service will be provided for the vendors. All other utilities are self-contained within the mobile vending units.

### **Public Restroom**

To meet Thurston County Health Department regulations, an ADA-accessible porta-potty will be located in the extreme northwest corner of the food court. This is to provide a facility for food court users, and will be open only during food court hours of operation.

**Artesian Outfall Modifications-** The city will experiment with installing a double (rather than a single) outfall pipe on the existing artesian well outfall. The city will also experiment with orienting the new outfall pipes to the south, rather than the north. This orientation, if feasible, would be more convenient to the parking spaces dedicated to artesian well users.

**Irrigation Water-** A city water service will be extended from the existing city water meter vault on Jefferson Street into the site to one or two central locations to provide water for irrigating the planters located throughout the site.

**Dog Water Fountain-** A combination people/dog-water fountain will be installed at the southern entrance to the food court area. This fountain will be connected to the city water service.

**Existing Information Kiosk-** The existing public information kiosk will be unbolted from its footings and removed from the site. The footings will be retained and new, horizontal, concrete, low table-like surface will be installed on top of them. This will serve as a place to temporarily stage filled water containers.

**Security Lighting-** Permanent, dusk-to-dawn security lighting focused on the courtyard area has already been installed on east wall of the “Bike Stand” building.

**Parking Lot Modifications-** Eight extra-wide parking spaces will be located adjacent to the existing fountain plaza and designated for artesian well users only. A new curb cut will be constructed to provide a second vehicular access to this parking lot from Jefferson Street. A 4’ high vinyl-coated chain-link fence will be installed along the property’s western boundary to discourage people from parking in the adjacent parking lot to access the Artesian Court. To improve security for City fleet vehicles, the existing City fleet parking area will be enclosed in a 6’ high, black vinyl-coated chain-link fence.

**Dumpster Enclosure-** A dumpster enclosure will be constructed along the east property boundary at the intersection of the two main parking isles. This location provides easy access for garbage and recycling trucks and is as close as possible to the area where the refuse will be generated and collected. A small, attached, secure storage locker will be constructed against the north wall of the enclosure. This locker will be used for storage of maintenance tools and supplies.

**Way-finding Signage-** “Artesian Well” will be added to the existing way-finding signs located on Capitol Blvd. and elsewhere. New “Artesian Well” way-finding signs will be installed at the existing entrance to the artesian well parking lot from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and at the new entrance to this parking lot from Jefferson Street.

**Banners-** As another way-finding measure, a colorful “Artesian Court” banner will be attached to the existing city street light pole near the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to the Artesian Court.

**Artesian Interpretative Area-** An area west of and adjacent to the existing artesian well plaza is being designated for interpretive exhibits about the artesian phenomena. The themes, messages and format of this interpretive area will be determined in the future as a separate project, via a separate design process.

