

**From:** [ldils](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** Park renaming  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:03:31 PM

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Hello,

I am in full support of renaming Priest Point Park and support the choice of Squaxin Park.

Thank you.

Laurie Dils

1107 Olympia Avenue NE

Olympia 98506

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [KATHY Baros Friedt](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Big announcement--Excellent!  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 11:07:28 AM

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Hi Kathy,

Yes, there will be an upcoming opportunity to register to attend virtually and you can speak at the Public Hearing if you'd like. It is always good when the staff and advisory committee hear from the public. The link will be posted on the City's calendar for public meetings <https://olympia.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Thank you for reaching out and have a wonderful weekend.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** *(she/her)*

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

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**From:** KATHY Baros Friedt <[kbfriedt@comcast.net](mailto:kbfriedt@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Big announcement--Excellent!

I'm following up on the question of renaming Priest Point Park...it's on the City's hearing calendar...March 17....hurray! You were listed as the contact.

In today's Olympian. Classified section (I never look at but my spouse does)...Notice of (Virtual) Public Hearing, City of Olympia, Proposed Park Renaming...Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. Coming from Parks and Rec Advisory Committee.

GREAT NEWS!! It has an excellent paragraph re. the history. I knew this was being considered but wasn't sure which committee was guiding it or when it would come up. I am on the Program Council of Interfaith Works, who will want be on hand to provide a presence in support for this about-time action being considered by the city! I will look forward to when the webinar link comes up. Thank you.

Kathy Baros Friedt

**From:** [hwbranch@aol.com](mailto:hwbranch@aol.com)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** a better name than Squaxin Island  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 7:24:08 PM

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I believe there are names that would better honor true history.

The Deschutes, was named Steh-chass River. The Steh-chass people lived in three large cedar plank homes, up to eight families in each. This would likely be about 100 people. Another village, Bus-chut-hwud, "frequented by black bears", was located near what is today Percival Landing in downtown Olympia. In what is today East Bay, a long estuary lead to another village and namesake stream, the Pe'tzlb. The name extended to the cove or inlet east of the business section of Olympias.

Today this inlet is called East Bay. The stream divides upstream into Moxlie Creek which is flled by a spring a mile and a hold upstream and Indian Creek which meanders farther to the East. The origin of the name Indian Creek is unknown. A safe assumption might be that a sizable Indian population resettled along the creek for some time after white settlement.

Olympia had several earlier names. Indians of the area referred to the site as Schict-woot or Cheet-woot which meant "place of the bear." Other Indian names for the area are Stu-chus-and, Stitchas and Stechass with various meanings of "bear's place." (Meany, Origin of Washington Geographic Names, page 197.) Smither, Smithfield, and Marshville were all names given to the community by early settlers.

Native American Name: "Old village site, in the present city of Olympia, Bls-tcE'txud, 'frequented by black bears.' The old site was in what is now the western part of the city proper, below the viaduct spanning the inlet."

"Dus-chut-wit, a word given by Costello, which he says is the name for the Deschutes River. This term seems to be intended for Tuxu stcE'txud, 'black bear place.' This of course would be another name for this spot we are describing."

"The name the Indians use for the present town, the State capital is StEtc'as. This name has however grown up since the white occupations. It seems to be connected with astEtc!, 'splicing two things together.' I fancy that this refers to the causeway which has been built across."

"The cove or inlet east of the business section of Olympias. PE'tzlb." (Waterman, Puget Sound Geography, Mss.)

<https://www.olyblog.net/newWP/thurston-county-place-names/>

Cheet Woot Section 11, T18N, R2W, W.M. An earlier native name for the bay on the southeast side of Budd Inlet. It was called Cheet woot, or bear, for when "... the tide was up, the bare land somewhat resembled the silhouette of a bear ..." (Newell, Rogues, page 13.) Alternate spelling: Schictwoot.

There was a village site in the estuary of Schneider Creek. (interview with Ron Seclist).

There were also villages in the estuaries of Percival, Schneider and Ellis Creeks. Cecelia Svinth Carpenter in her book Fort Nisqually states that villages of 80 to 100 people were located in the estuaries of each stream in South Sound, her's being the Sequatchew. People recognized the importance of stream estuaries. We don't even recognize their existence.

There were 13 Nisqually villages along the river and five additional groups of villages: South Bay, Budd's Inlet, Oyster Bay,, Shelton Inlet and Mud Bay. Those from the western portion of South Sound went to the Squaxin Island Reservation, those from the Eastern portion. People from a total of 18 villages went to the Nisqually Reservation. Indian

The Treaty of Medicine Creek exchanged the ancestral lands that the Indians had for centuries wandered freely to smaller parcels of land, here after known as the reservations. Squaxin Island, in Southwest Washington, was one of the smaller parcels that the Indians were expected to live on. 1 The Island had not had inhabitants in the memory of anyone of the time. To the knowledge of the whites negotiating the treaty, the Island also had no water. Unbeknownst to them, however, the Island had artesian wells and could sustain life. On this rocky little Island, five villages would be conglomerated. The villages of: Squawksin, Seth-Chass, T'Peeksin, Squi-aitl, and the Sa-Heh-Wamish were to be combined in one location. The people in these villages had lived in the same general area for generations. They would now to be forever known as the Squaxin Island

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu>

Harry Branch

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Notice of Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re-Naming  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 2:13:22 PM

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More public comment...

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**From:** Mike Vandeman <mjvande@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2022 1:35 PM  
**To:** City of Olympia <news@olympiawa.gov>; Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re-Naming

At 11:39 AM 3/7/2022, you wrote:

Virtual public hearing on Thursday, March 17, 2022 regarding the proposed re-naming of Priest Point Park

## Notice of Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re-Naming

The Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will conduct a virtual public hearing at or after **6:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022**, to receive public comments prior to making a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed re-naming of [Priest Point Park](#), located at 2600 East Bay Drive NE, Olympia, to Squaxin Park.

Renaming Priest Point Park with a placename chosen by the [Squaxin Island Tribe](#) will be a reminder that this land was home to the [Steh-Chass people](#) long before it served as a mission or became a park. A Native name for the park will reflect its deeper history and enduring cultural significance, and appropriately acknowledge the Tribe's continued and valued presence in our community.

In October of 2021, the City of Olympia permanently raised the Squaxin Island Tribal Flag above City Hall and signed a renewed [Accord](#) between the Squaxin Island Tribe and the City of Olympia. The Accord demonstrates the commitment the two government bodies have made to working together toward common goals with honor and respect for each other's cultures. The renaming of Priest Point Park aligns with the Accord and the City's commitment to honor the Squaxin Island Tribe. The renaming to Squaxin Park will recognize the area as a place of importance to the past, present and future of the Tribe.

But before humans arrived, it was wildlife habitat. Are humans more important than the wildlife? Naming it after the wildlife that live there would be fair to everyone.

**Register for the Virtual Hearing (Zoom webinar):**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FvzZ18ErSCOHTLEYnRkB-w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FvzZ18ErSCOHTLEYnRkB-w)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Contact**

Sylvana Niehuser, Director of Parks Planning & Maintenance  
City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation  
360.753.8068

[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)

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Machine-Free Trails Association

I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help? (I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.)

Wildlife must be given top priority, because they can't protect themselves from us.

Please don't put a cell phone next to any part of your body that you are fond of!

Stop obeying dictators and incompetent leaders from this time forward! Please share this message as widely as possible!

<https://mjvande.info>



**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 8:46:16 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: CityCouncil <citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2022 8:45 AM  
To: John Gear <gearjm@gmail.com>  
Cc: Councilmembers <Councilmembers@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Jay Burney <jburney@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Keith Stahley <kstahley@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Debbie Sullivan <dsulliva@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Kellie Braseth <kbraseth@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Paul Simmons <psimmons@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
Subject: RE: Supporting renaming of Priest Point Park

Thank you for your comments. I will forward them on to all Councilmembers and appropriate staff.

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager City of Olympia |P.O. Box 1967 | Olympia WA 98507  
360-753-8244 sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us

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-----Original Message-----

From: John Gear <gearjm@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2022 8:04 PM  
To: CityCouncil <citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
Subject: Supporting renaming of Priest Point Park

Olympia City Council:

I strongly support renaming Priest Point Park to some other name that memorializes the first peoples.

John Gear (he/him/his)  
Let's live on the planet as if we intend to stay

Elliot-Burbank neighborhood  
Olympia, WA

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:06:14 AM

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**From:** Miles McEvoy <smileybirdmiles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2022 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Renaming Priest Point Park

Thanks for the notification about the possible renaming of Priest Point Park. We live adjacent to the park. It is a magnificent place. We support renaming the park.

Please rename the park as the Squaxin Island Tribe decides is most appropriate.

Miles McEvoy  
2705 Gull Harbor Rd NE, Olympia, WA 98506

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Danielle Koenig](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback on renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 4:22:48 PM

---

Hi Danielle,

Thank you for your comments. I will forward them to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and staff liaison for the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** *(she/her)*

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

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**From:** Danielle Koenig <danielleranee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2022 4:19 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Feedback on renaming of Priest Point Park

Hello, I'm unable to attend the public meeting about renaming Priest Point Park and couldn't find an online form to submit public comment so I hope your email is the right place! I'd appreciate if you can forward if not.

I think the plan to decolonize the name is great. I would love to see it hold a name of significance to the area and to the original stewards of the land. However, I think Squaxin Park is not creative or descriptive at all. Squaxin territory was large so the name doesn't give you a clue where the park is or what its significance is or was, and it just feels super generic. I'd love to see the park carry the name of something unique to it: an activity that was done there, something the area was known for, or something in that vein. Something more unique and meaningful than Squaxin, which could be any park anywhere.

Thank you for accepting public feedback on this important step to acknowledge the tribes!

Danielle Koenig

Gull Harbor area, Olympia (I live about 2 miles from Priest Point, and visit the park weekly)

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Squaxin Park  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:44:26 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Don Freas <d.freas@comcast.net>  
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 11:37 AM  
To: Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
Subject: Squaxin Park

Hi Sylvana Niehuser,

I'm very pleased to hear of this renaming process, and of the City's renewed accord with the Squaxin tribe.

I am a neighbor of the park and walk in there 2-3 times a week, primarily in the NW corner of the park.

One thing I note in considering the new name is that the old name was the name of a prominent landscape feature, that defines the location from the water side: the jutting high point of land that anchors the north side of the mouth of Ellis Creek. I wondered if the name of that point would be changed as well? Considering the long history of the inlet and the peoples who have been here for thousands of years, the point itself has been an essential marker for navigation and placement.

I've always liked it that the name of the park included a defining feature of the landscape, of the ground on which the park is located. Made me wonder if Squaxin Woods Park might be a more complete name. Or if the point were to be renamed as well, what about Squaxin Point Park?

Just a few thoughts that have surfaced since I heard of this process a few days ago. Thank you for listening, and for shepherding this process.

Be well,

Don Freas  
d.freas@comcast.net  
360-357-2850

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Josey](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Re proposed name change for Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:51:45 PM

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Good afternoon,

Thank you for your comments. To answer your question, we have not developed the scope of work for the renaming, so the costs have not been determined. I anticipate that if Council approves the proposed name, we will work together with the Squaxin Island Tribe to collaboratively develop a plan.

I will forward your comments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and staff liaison for consideration.

Thank you,

Sylvana Niehuser (she/her)  
Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance|Parks, Arts and Recreation  
City of Olympia | [olympiawa.gov/parks](http://olympiawa.gov/parks)  
360.753.8068 | [sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Josey <[joseynoly@hotmail.com](mailto:joseynoly@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:44 PM  
To: Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
Subject: Re proposed name change for Priest Point Park

I am unable to attend the public hearing on Zoom this evening, but wish to ask:

How much would it cost to change the park's name, and couldn't that money be better spent elsewhere?

There is already a nice plaque within the park regarding native history there, and the current name reflects a more recent part of the park's history.

Josey Young  
Olympia

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Amanda S.](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Priest Point Park possible renaming  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:54:31 PM

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Hi Amanda,

Thank you for sharing your input and we'll be sure to share your written comments with our Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. I also appreciate your input about historical markers and will take this into consideration as we move forward.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** *(she/her)*

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

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**From:** Amanda S. <ladyepanda@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Priest Point Park possible renaming

Hello Sylvana,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing in regards to the possible name change of Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. I was married in the Rose Garden and have special ties to this park.

I would be okay with the name change, as the Squaxin Tribe has a longer history in the area, however, I would hope that there were historical markers placed that explain the significance of the Tribe, and also the history behind the mission and why it was originally named Priest Point Park and the purpose for returning the name back to the tribe.

I cannot attend the public forum, but wanted to express my opinion, as I know a lot of folks

will be very vocal on the opposing side.

Thank you,  
Amanda Stevens  
Thurston County Resident



**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [NANCY WINTERS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on Renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Friday, March 11, 2022 1:05:26 PM

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Hi Nancy,

Thank you for your comments. I will forward them to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and staff liaison for consideration.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** *(she/her)*

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

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**From:** NANCY WINTERS <[wintersnl@comcast.net](mailto:wintersnl@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Comments on Renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sylvana,

As you know, Olympia is conducting a public hearing on March 17th at 6 pm concerning the renaming of Priest Point Park. I cannot attend that meeting due to another Zoom meeting and I would like to submit the following comment about the renaming of the park. I did not see a separate place in the announcement to submit comments and am therefore sending these to you. If there is a different place to send comments, please inform me prior to the meeting.

Thank you.  
Nancy Winters

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

My name is Nancy Winters. I have lived in Thurston County at 5537 Libby Rd NE for 35 years. My husband and I walk in the park two or three times a week. Less than a year ago, I learned of the mission that was located on what is now park land in the late 1850s, and the school for the Squaxin youth also located there. I was shocked that there had been not signage about this important part of history.

We need to better honor the Squaxin people by providing more education about how this area has been their ancestral home since time in memorial, I am strongly in favor of the renaming, and that the new name should be given by the Squaxin Tribe.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Nancy Winters

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:21:17 AM

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**From:** J S <cheroke3@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Renaming of Priest Point Park

Why is this important when crime is at an all time high in Olympia? There are far more things to focus on other than the renaming of a park! Such as: crime, thievery, stolen cars, destroyed woodlands, parks, contaminated waterways as in our creeks, tons of trash alongside the main roads and freeway entrances, needles found on downtown streets and in our parks, stolen grocery carts littered all over the place by the hundreds, virtually no law enforcement and accountability for criminals, ineffective mayor and city council, and homelessness confused when the main issue is drug addiction! Let's get priorities in the correct order and forget about renaming a park for God's sake! Far too many other issues that need immediate attention!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [PAM FOLSOM](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** Renaming of Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 11:55:31 AM

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Hi there,

I am submitting written testimony to the P&R Advisory Committee about the renaming of Priest Point Park. I will not be able to attend the public hearing.

I am in favor of Olympia working with the Squaxin Tribe to pick a Native name that reflects a deeper history. I have lived in Olympia since 1975 and attended Olympia Schools.

Pam Folsom  
1834 Centerwood Dr. SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360.790.3878

[pamfolsom@comcast.net](mailto:pamfolsom@comcast.net)

**From:** [Dave Nicandri](#)  
**To:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Keehan](#); [Cheryl Selby](#)  
**Subject:** Renaming Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:10:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [In Defense of Priest Point.docx](#)

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Since, as I understand, testimony on this subject will be limited to 2 minutes, I thought I might share the larger extent of my thinking on the matter for the benefit of the city's parks advisory committee.

Sincerely,

Dave Nicandri

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 4:01:52 PM

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I'm forwarding this because her reply may be considered public comment. I wasn't sure.

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**From:** Sue Foulon <[suefoulon@hotmail.com](mailto:suefoulon@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Priest Point Park

Thank you for replying so quickly. I understand and support the new name.

---

**From:** Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:43 AM  
**To:** [suefoulon@hotmail.com](mailto:suefoulon@hotmail.com) <[suefoulon@hotmail.com](mailto:suefoulon@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Priest Point Park

Good morning,

Thank you for your email and questions. I encourage you to attend the public hearing on Thursday evening to see the presentation. I'll try to answer your questions as best I can via email.

1. Why does the park need a name change? The current name is reflective of a brief period of time (1848-1860) when the Mission was in the area of Priest Point Park. During this time the Steh-Chass people (of the Squaxin Island Tribe) were oppressed and removed from the Olympia area (1854 – 530 Native Americans were moved to Squaxin Island). The Squaxin Island Tribe has inhabited the area where the park is for thousands of years. The name change would honor the Steh-Chass people and their history. Attached is a bit more information.
2. The Squaxin Island Tribal Council has proposed the name "Squaxin Park" and that is what is being brought to the public hearing. The City has committed to honoring the indigenous people that were and are here in Olympia. As part of the City's commitment to respect and honor the Squaxin Tribe, this is an important step forward. Attached is the renewed Accord that speaks to the commitment to work with the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Again, I encourage you to [register](#) and attend the public meeting.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** (*she/her*)

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

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**From:** Sue Foulon <[suefoulon@hotmail.com](mailto:suefoulon@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:05 PM  
**To:** Olympia Parks <[olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Priest Point Park

Why does this park need a name change? What is the story behind the proposal?

Sue Foulon

[suefoulon@hotmail.com](mailto:suefoulon@hotmail.com)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Priest Point Park Re-naming  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:43:32 AM

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**From:** Christina Morse <hosta2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:51 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Priest Point Park Re-naming

Hello Ms. Niehuse,

I will not be present for the hearing and wanted to express my support for the re-naming of the Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. I feel that the Squaxin Tribal heritage has been ignored by our dominant, Caucasian culture, and politics over the last century in Thurston County.

I am delighted to learn that the City of Olympia has signed an Accord (October 2021) with the Squaxin Tribe to honor and respect the diversity of cultures within our community. Renaming Priest Point Park would be a positive step towards achieving the Accord goals.

In west Olympia, I live on original Squaxin Tribal land and hope that my action in writing you takes a small step to honor the first people of our Olympia home.

Sincerely,

*Christina Duchesne Morse*

360-584-8620

*1515 Lakemoor Loop SW*

*Olympia, WA 98512*



**From:** [Joceile Moore](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Cc:** [ronnie hacken](#)  
**Subject:** Priest Point Park Renaming  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:50:02 AM

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To: Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
c/o Laura Keehan, Staff Liaison

Dear Ms. Keehan:

I read with excitement that Olympia is considering renaming Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. I am unable to attend the public hearing but wanted to put my opinion on the public record for consideration. I very much want to recognize the people of this land who lived long, long before my people came here as I have benefited from its richness and beauty.

My great, great grandparents lived in this area along with subsequent generations of my family. I say this only because this does not give me a greater stake in the naming than those of native peoples. I say this in remembrance of childhood memories enjoying the park with friends and family long gone. I say this because recognition is important and has significance far beyond merely my childhood memories.

My wife and I are blessed to be long time Olympia residents. We wish to be a part of upholding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Please share these thoughts with the advisory commission.

In Appreciation.

Joceile Moore and Ronnie Hacken

5628 Pattison Lake Drive SE

Olympia, Washington 98513

**From:** [kathy Friedt](#)  
**To:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re.docx  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:38:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Comments for Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re.docx](#)

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Im looking forward to tomorrow's hearing. I hope to make brief comments and have attached those FYI, in case you don't get to me on public testimony.  
Thank you for moving forward on this referral for name change.

Kathy Baros Friedt  
2510 Morse Cr SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

## **Notice of Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re-Naming**

3/17/22 Comments to the Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

My name is Kathy Baros Friedt. I am a resident of Olympia. I am here to make a statement of support in the renaming of Priest Point Park to be hereafter named Squaxin Park.

The words we use are important

What we name things are important and frequently symbolic of more than the literal word.

Our children are frequently named after beloved ancestors. It is a way to honor and carry forward what the emotions and memories of them elicit in us.

Truth is important. In the renaming of this park we acknowledge that there is a truth to be lifted up.

A name connects us to identity. Of who or what we want to remember.

The who or what that name MEANS has its own history. This region's history tells us this land our city of Olympia sits on, has its own truth. A history which goes further than the priests who came and established a mission in 1848. .

Renaming ACTS on the truth that the indigenous people, the Squaxin Island and other Salish people were here for centuries and centuries before Olympia, before explorers, before logging and shipping, before priests.

It should bear the name of these local indigenous peoples.

Renaming isn't reparation by a long shot, for land taken, but is a commitment to truth telling.

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [kathy Friedt](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re.docx  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 5:21:46 PM

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Thank you for your comments. We will be sure to forward those to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and welcome your public testimony.

Best,

**Sylvana Niehuser** *(she/her)*

Director of Parks Planning and Maintenance | Parks, Arts and Recreation

**City of Olympia** | [olympiawa.gov/parks](http://olympiawa.gov/parks)

360.753.8068 | [sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)



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*All messages to/ from this address are subject to public records requests*

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**From:** kathy Friedt <[kbfriedt@comcast.net](mailto:kbfriedt@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <[sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Laura Keehan <[lkeehan@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:lkeehan@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Comments for Public Hearing for Priest Point Park Re.docx

Im looking forward to tomorrow's hearing. I hope to make brief comments and have attached those FYI, in case you don't get to me on public testimony.

Thank you for moving forward on this referral for name change.

Kathy Baros Friedt  
2510 Morse Cr SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Priest Point Park hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:32:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter PPP.docx](#)

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Public comment for tomorrow's hearing.

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**From:** Bill Lindstrom <bill.lindstrom114@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:17 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Priest Point Park hearing

Hello, Sylvana.

My name is Sandra Crowell, co-editor and author of *Water, Woods & Prairies*. I am out of town and unable to participate in the hearing tomorrow for renaming Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. I'm attaching a letter of testimony in support of the name change.

Thank you for including it in the testimonials for the hearing.

--

"A room without a book is like a body without a soul." -Cicero

Attention: Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Re: Renaming Priest Point Park

The time has come to acknowledge the eons Native people have lived on what we know as Thurston County—by renaming Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. When Euro-Americans arrived as explorers and settlers, they bestowed names from their culture, unaware of those used by the first inhabitants. In the early days of Washington Territory, French priests claimed a place on the point near Olympia for their mission and mission school. Their presence lasted less than a decade.

Today Washington State has 29 Native tribes, three of whom—the Nisqually, Squaxin, and Chehalis—still live in the local area. Collectively the tribes here employ several thousand people, making them among the largest block of employers outside of state government. Yet very few names reflect their significant presence and heritage.

As a writer and educator, I have been involved with tribal history on several levels. I strongly support names that reflect the Native American legacy such as Squaxin Park. At the same time, early settlement history and the years of familiarity with Priest Point Park should also be remembered through signage or interpretive kiosks, as well as the presence of other tribes who moved through the area.

Sandra Crowell

Co-editor and author *Water, Woods & Prairies*

**From:** [Desdra Dawning](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** Name Change for Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 10:33:54 PM

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Greetings, I signed up on Zoom to give a comment on the name change for Priest Point Park. I can't attend, but wanted to send in my comment.

I am very much in favor of removing the current name, and honoring those people who lived in this place in antiquity. I understand that the Squaxin tribe claims that honor. As long as this is historically correct, I am in favor of the change they are requesting. As I understand it, they are asking for a change to Squaxin Point Park.

Thank you for taking public comment.

Desdra Dawning  
434 Cushing St NW  
Olympia WA 98502  
928-707-1738

“We are here—to be a gift to the world,  
in reciprocity for the gift of life that we've received.”

~Charles Eisenstein~

“In a time of destruction, create something: a  
poem, a parade, a community, a school, a vow, a  
moral principle; one peaceful moment.”

~MAXINE HONG KINGSTON~





**From:** [Tim Martin](#)  
**To:** [Barbara Benson](#); [Brent Barnes](#); [Brock Milliern](#); [Kim Murillo](#); [Maria Ruth](#); [Spence Cearns](#); [Tiffany Sandy](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Keehan](#); [Marygrace Goddu](#); [Stephanie Johnson](#); [Andrea SIGO](#); [Kim Martin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Priest Point Park Renaming  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 8:03:23 AM

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My family and I live along the waterfront on land historically regarded as the general site of Rev. Pascal Ricard's short-lived mission buildings and orchards - four houses to the south of Mission Creek. For the reasons indicated below in 2020 correspondence with city officials and Olympia neighborhood association leadership, my family and I passionately support transition from the name "Priest Point Park" to "Squaxin Park."

As an aside, to celebrate renaming and in the spirit of the October 2021 Accord between the Squaxin Tribe and the City of Olympia, specifically provisions of the Accord in support of "art, education and community service that will promote a healthy exchange of cultures", my family is working in early stages with artist and carver Andrea Wilbur-Sigo (<https://www.arts.wa.gov/artist-collection/?request=record:id=4838:type=701>) on a "welcome pole" to be placed on our property facing toward Budd Bay and visible from watercraft and along the beach at "Squaxin Park." Andrea is the first known Native American woman carver of many generations of carvers. We are thankful that the Accord has brought us together with Andrea and her husband Steve. We look forward to sharing more as this effort progresses.

Tim Martin  
360-549-6590

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Martintimothy <martintimothy@aol.com>  
**Date:** July 3, 2020 at 2:09:53 PM PDT  
**To:** Kellyjgreen09@gmail.com, Klynnbrown24@gmail.com, ldils@comcast.net, blaforge@gmail.com, Bhna.506.pres@gmail.com, nwsurveqc@cs.com, northbeachcomm@cs.com, Dpantelis27@gmail.com, Hwheatley22@comcast.net, Michellepeterson.rn@gmail.com, Doric68@gmail.com, CNAPresident@yahoo.com, Will.stadler@gmail.com, larryofnottingham@gmail.com, richardderosset@mac.com, Ws\_harris@gmail.com, kenslakeseretary@gmail.com, Joyadams22@gmail.com, Bfuller4@yahoo.com, pguttchen@hotmail.com, badgert@earthlink.net, brucecoulter@msn.com, Cathyv63@gmail.com, ldjeza@gmail.com, Alewing49@gmail.com, info@downtownolympia.org, josh@tasolympia.com, Greg.sinnett@comcast.net, kerinllll@yahoo.com, davisrzjj@gmail.com, sthalhamer@hotmail.com, Dawn8152@msn.com, Wtaylor749@yahoo.com, Cmliaison99@gmail.com, Lornabea66@hotmail.com, olympiadna@gmail.com, Ashleynykole1998@gmail.com, Jwolf1946@aol.com, olydlaw@comcast.net, sherrychilcutt@aol.com, jimnpeggy@gmail.com, evergreenpointehoa@outlook.com, Herrington\_bonnie@yahoo.com, alfonsosatgoldcrest@gmail.com, bethdubey@msn.com, presidentgsna@gmail.com, Kabbey48@gmail.com, franfrazier@msn.com, Melanie.golob@gmail.com, Rhett.brown@gmail.com,

indiancreekna@gmail.com, jasonmartinelli@gmail.com, Mctoy6@hotmail.com, ryanjhollander@gmail.com, Alltuckerout777@comcast.net, bnmaben@comcast.net, Kevin\_n\_ann@comcast.net, Hrrpg51@hotmail.com, sarah@smythlanding.com, philharlan@philharlan.com, darrahbaileyjohnson@gmail.com, Leahkdavis13@gmail.com, Weha2501@gmail.com, crschaffner@msn.com

**Subject: Fwd: Priest Point Park Renaming**

Good afternoon - and Happy 4th!

My name is Tim Martin and I live in the East Bay Neighborhood.

Please see attached letter to the City of Olympia in support of renaming Priest Point Park. I wanted to ask for your support, as neighborhood association and community leaders, in drawing attention and encouraging dialogue on this topic. My understanding from city manager Jay Burney is that there have been recent conversations around renaming.

According to the City of Olympia park description, the 314 acres of land on which the park now sits was used for generations by the Indigenous people of our region, including the Squaxin, Nisqually, Quinault, Puyallup, Chehalis, Suquamish and Duwamish. The park is currently named for Fr. Pascal Ricard and a small group of Catholic missionaries, the Oblate Fathers, who came to the area in 1848. Ricard filed a land claim in 1948 in the vicinity where the park is today and, for a very brief time, kept gardens, a school and mission house in a small area to the south of the current park. Ricard and the missionaries were gone just a few years later, by 1860, returned to France and elsewhere; they were preceded in their departure by Indigenous peoples forced from the shores of Budd Inlet and surrounding areas to be relocated to internment camps and reservations.

History recounts loathsome contemporary commentary written by Ricard about the Indigenous peoples of this area during the twelve years or less years he was here, revealing the kind of mindset common to that era which made persecution and massacre of Indigenous peoples not only acceptable, but also encouraged.

The City of Olympia is filled with streets, neighborhoods, buildings, parks and memorials named for post-1850 white civic leaders (most, unlike Ricard, who made Olympia their permanent home.) Renaming "Priest Point Park" - a prized gem among city parks - to honor the Indigenous people who called this place home long before our ancestors laid claim helps, maybe, in restoring some small balance to our historic narrative.

I am not suggesting any particular new name; that would be presumptuous, but did want to note (because I think it's interesting) it appears the area called "Priest Point" today was once known by Lushootseed speakers of the day as Tsu'lyad (according to 1920s publication by anthropologist TT Waterman.)

Happy to discuss further - and welcome your support.

Tim Martin  
[360-549-6590](tel:360-549-6590)  
[518 Howard Ave NE](mailto:518HowardAveNE@ci.olympia.wa.us)  
[Olympia, WA 98506](mailto:518HowardAveNE@ci.olympia.wa.us)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Martintimothya <martintimothya@aol.com>  
**Date:** July 1, 2020 at 2:48:28 PM PDT  
**To:** cselby@ci.olympia.wa.us, jburney@ci.olympia.wa.us,  
olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, lkeehan@ci.olympia.wa.us,  
mgoddu@ci.olympia.wa.us  
**Subject: Priest Point Park Renaming**

Pursuant to OMC Chapter 12.52, I would like to suggest that the City of Olympia consider working with the community and interested stakeholders, including Steh-Chass descendants, in renaming Priest Point Park, relegating the name "Priest Point Park" to historical status.

A more fitting name for the park would be one that honors the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land represented by the park for centuries - until their removal after the Treaty of Medicine Creek.

In comparison, Rev. Pascal Ricard, for whom the park is currently named, was here less than a dozen years. His writings reflect an absolutely horrifying regard for the humanity of those here before him - words as colorfully vile as the imagination would allow; words I choose not to repeat here but that are reprinted in various publications.

Renaming the park, while likely a difficult and contentious task, would be in the spirit of reconciliation and truth-telling consistent with core values of our community and region. It would be a powerful means for us to collectively show respect and progress toward correcting stories and practices intended to erase Indigenous people's history and culture. Renaming the park would not erase the past, but the process will, hopefully, lead to dialogue, action and repaired relationships - making us and future generations all richer.

To be honest, I don't know who might join in this request. Some time ago a friend whose opinion I greatly respect highlighted the irony of the current name in casual conversation. I've contemplated that irony on many a walk through the park and felt this an issue I should put forward for consideration. It may be you are or already have considered a name change. If so, please add my name as fully

in support.

Respectfully,

Tim Martin  
360-549-6590

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: support Squaxin Point Park  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 9:54:46 AM

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**From:** ELIZABETH RODRICK <erodrick@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:29 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** support Squaxin Point Park

Hello, I whole-heartedly support the renaming of Priest Pt Park to Squaxin Point Park or whatever name the Squaxin Island Tribe chooses.

The current name reminds me of the travesty of Indian boarding schools which were run by several religious organizations. We need to reconcile this tragedy and this renaming is a small step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Rodrick, member

Learning Right Relations with Coast Salish Peoples

**From:** [Sylvana Niehuser](#)  
**To:** [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming Priest Point Park  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 9:55:43 AM

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**From:** Roberta Adams <rlawa@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:51 PM  
**To:** Sylvana Niehuser <sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Renaming Priest Point Park

Dear Director Niehuser,

I am writing to show my support for the renaming of Priest Point Park to that name which is chosen by the Squaxin tribe.

It is totally appropriate for the Park to be named for the people upon whose traditional lands it sits -- and well past time to do so!

Thank you very much.

Roberta Adams

**From:** [CityCouncil](#)  
**To:** [Jack Needham](#)  
**Cc:** [Councilmembers](#); [Jay Burney](#); [Keith Stahley](#); [Debbie Sullivan](#); [Kellie Braseth](#); [Paul Simmons](#); [Laura Keehan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Helm Highway Community Park  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 4:58:25 PM

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Thank you for your comments. I will forward them on to all Councilmembers and appropriate staff.

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager  
City of Olympia | P.O. Box 1967 | Olympia WA 98507  
360-753-8244 [sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us)

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Please note all correspondence is subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jack Needham <[needhamjs@yahoo.com](mailto:needhamjs@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 3:47 PM  
To: CityCouncil <[citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us)>  
Subject: Helm Highway Community Park

Please read the title of this subject. This is a community park, not another site for a school. I find it extremely objectionable that the school district, with its massive budget and resources, feels compelled to ruin this idea with their proposed school on this site. The Olympia High School (OHS) just completed a major addition to its existing buildings. And yet they still need more space. This is just unbelievable greed or lousy planning. OHS has numerous assistant principals, social workers, psychologists, and counselors on site. They still grasp for more. A high school at this site will dangerously impact traffic. Offers like access to a basketball court can easily be withdrawn down the line based on insurance concerns. Also, why not offer the current basketball court to public access? Besides, the YMCA just down the road has a basketball court that works great. Finally, let the school district build up not out. The old brick and mortar schools had multiple stories. People actually had to use the stairs. Elevators are available for the handicapped of course. All I can do is express my displeasure and trust you, as representatives, will listen. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad