



Proposed Renaming of Priest Point Park



Naming Process

- Naming of Parks and Park Facilities Process
- 12.62.050 Policy
- 12.62.060 Procedure
- Example: Karen Fraser Woodland Trail
- Cost



Squaxin Island Tribe

- Squaxin Island Tribe has occupied the lands and water in and around what is now known as the City of Olympia for thousands of years.
- The ancestral families who lived and thrived here named the area Steh-Chass.
- Tribe inhabited and valued the area that is now Priest Point Park for the many resources it offered.
- The Tribe's concern for stewardship of the park's natural and cultural resources continues today and in the future.



The Mission

- In 1848 French Catholic missionaries of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate established St. Joseph d'Olympia mission
- Led by Father Pascal Ricard with 3 other priests.
- Ricard filed a Donation Land Claim for 324 acres that encompassed the mission site and the current park lands.
- Built a school, dwelling, dining hall and a garden.
- Pascal left in 1857 – Mission closed in 1860.



The Park

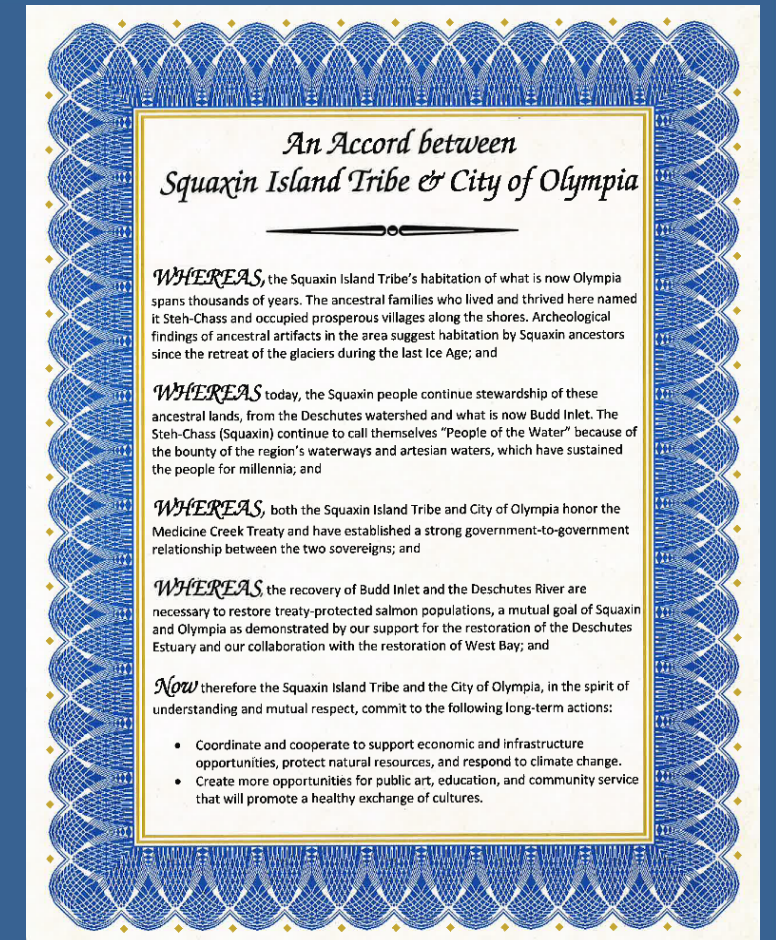
- Became a Park in 1905 for \$1,200
- In 1907 the State deeded the tidelands to the City.
- Current name is reflective of a brief period (12 years)
- Indigenous people were oppressed and forcefully removed from the area.
- *In 1854 approximately 530 Native Americans were moved to Squaxin Island.

*<https://squaxiniland.org/government/historical-timeline/>



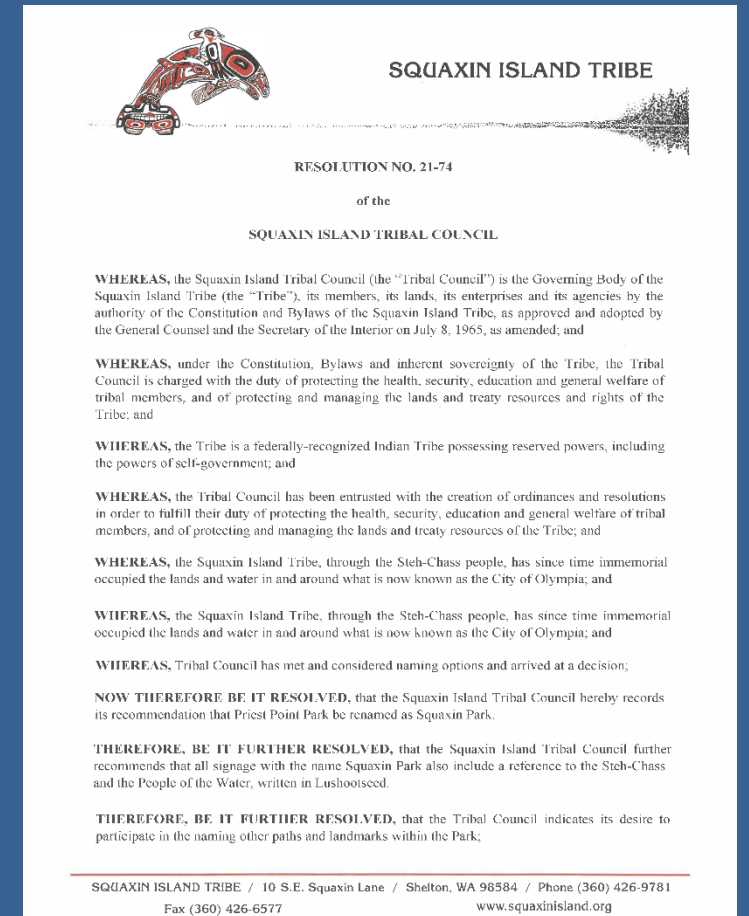
Importance of a Name

- The park's central role has been as a place of community and gathering, rich with natural resources.
- The park's significance goes well beyond the early Europeans
- A name chosen by the Squaxin Island Tribe honors the importance of the people and culture that have inhabited the area for thousands of years.
- Undoing historical harm



Proposed Name

- On December 9, 2021 the Squaxin Island Tribal Council adopted a resolution (6-0) to recommend that “Priest Point Park be renamed as **Squaxin Park**.”
- “Further recommends that all signage with the name Squaxin Park also include a reference to the Steh-Chass and the People of the Water, written in Lushootseed.”
- “Tribal Council has a desire to participate in the naming of other paths and landmarks within the park.”



Public Hearing

- On March 17, 2022 PRAC held a Public Hearing
- Public comments at the hearing were in favor of a name chosen by the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- Written comments were mostly in favor of renaming the park.
- PRAC voted unanimously to recommend renaming Priest Point Park as “Squaxin Park” to City Council.



Welcome

- **Charlene Krise**, Vice Chair of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council and Director of the Squaxin Island Museum, Library and Research Center
- **Rhonda Foster**, Cultural Resources Director
- **Margaret Seymour Henry**, Cultural Resources Technician II



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

RESOLUTION NO. 21-74

of the

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council (the "Tribal Council") is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe (the "Tribe"), its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Counsel and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965, as amended; and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe possessing reserved powers, including the powers of self-government; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe, through the Steh-Chass people, has since time immemorial occupied the lands and water in and around what is now known as the City of Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe, through the Steh-Chass people, has since time immemorial occupied the lands and water in and around what is now known as the City of Olympia; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Council has met and considered naming options and arrived at a decision;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council hereby records its recommendation that Priest Point Park be renamed as Squaxin Park.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council further recommends that all signage with the name Squaxin Park also include a reference to the Steh-Chass and the People of the Water, written in Lushootseed.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council indicates its desire to participate in the naming other paths and landmarks within the Park;



Thank you.