



Artesian Commons | 2016 Programs & Events

This year we were able to build on the success of 2015 and provide more events and programming than ever before. In 2015 our Partners, Programs and Events Action Team (PPEAT) provided 56 hours of special events and 184 hours of "Rec. Time". In 2015 PPEAT and the Artesian Leadership Committee (ALC) strongly recommended providing onsite staff at the park for 2016. The events and programs were largely successful but relied heavily on volunteers to staff the park for the programs and events. In order to provide the consistent supervision the park needed, it was unanimously believed having onsite staffing was the best route. Paid staff could help establish park rules, assist with event promotion and set up, while also welcoming people to the park and acting as a resource to the public.

The majority of problems at the park occur when there is no programing, and when no staff or volunteers are present. In order to increase programing/events at the park as well as provide more consistent staffing/supervision more resources are needed. Increasing funding to the Artesian Commons urban park is the most critical way to ensure that the park builds and maintains a safe, vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

2015 Program & Events Report – How Can We Improve

With 2015 year-end funds, the Olympia City Council appropriated the resources for two full-time seasonal positions to work onsite at the park. In addition, the Nisqually Tribe granted Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation a significant sum to contribute to the resources needed. With these funds we were able to create the Well Host & Park Ranger positions, ultimately leading to 111 hours of events and 540 hours of staff coverage at the park.

TRAINING NEW PARK STAFF:

The Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation Department (OPARD) in coordination with the Downtown Ambassadors, the Olympia Police Department and the Street Outreach Team at Community Youth Services all worked together to hire and train the new Well Host and Park Ranger. The Well Host position's main focus would be to act as a concierge for the park, providing activities for users while also educating visitors on park rules and resource in the area. The Park Ranger's position was to educate and enforce the park rules, ultimately trespassing users if necessary.



Garrett Cooper, Well Host and Lee Wyatt, Park Ranger

Because of the vulnerable community that would frequent the park, along with the public's sometimes negative perception of the park, there was much trepidation towards getting the right personnel for

the job. With the help from the ALC partners, the Well Host and Park Ranger completed eight extensive days of training. Training included walking patrol with OPD and the Downtown Ambassadors, as well as completing the CYS Street Outreach employee training.

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF:

The ALC partners thought it imperative that the park users know of the new staff that would soon be in the park, regulating the park rules (e.g. no drug or alcohol use). Everyone worked together to make the transition as smooth as possible. During their training week, the Well Host and Park Ranger introduced themselves to the public during their walking patrol shifts. The Street Outreach Team and the Downtown Ambassadors helped communicate to the public what the Well Host and Park Ranger's purpose at the park would be and that the park rules would in fact be in effect. To begin, the Well Host and Park Ranger had three core focuses: reduce litter and minimize alcohol and drug use in the park.

Once training was complete, there were still concerns with how the park patrons would react to the daily presence of the Well Host and Park Ranger. For that reason we (OPARD) had daily meetings with the new employees to ensure they were getting the support they needed while also continually educating the park patrons of the park rules.

During their first week on site, the environment was tense and the Well Host and Park Ranger received verbal threats.

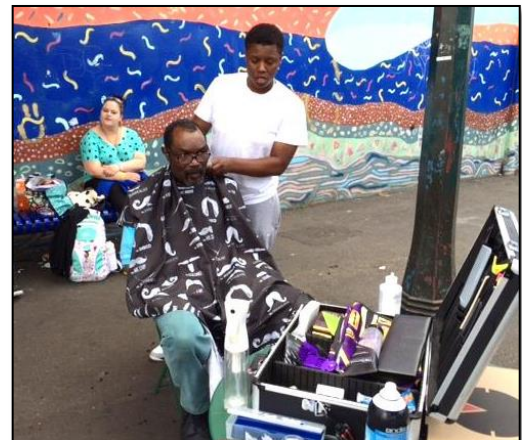
Over the coming weeks as the employees continually provided daily activities and held conversations with the park patrons, tensions began to ease. Every day, board games, music and arts & crafts supplies were offered to anyone and everyone. Garrett and Lee (Well Host & Park Ranger) communicated that they were there to educate park visitors and to contribute to making the park welcoming and safe for all.

By summer's end the park environment had drastically improved. Park patrons regularly communicated concerns with staff, sharing knowledge of potential issues that may arise between park patrons. Garrett and Lee worked with OPD, the Downtown Ambassadors and CYS to minimize altercations. By September there were fewer incidents at the park and the Well Host and Park Ranger felt comfortable and confident in their roles.

Olympian article: <http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article102491417.html>



Well Host – Garrett Cooper losing at chess - June 17



Well Host – Garrett Cooper enjoying a haircut during the Youth Forum - June 20

A SUMMER OF EVENTS:

OPARD and the ALC provided another full season of programs & events. The Bridge Music Program (CYS) provided the second annual Summer Concert Series, featuring five Friday night events with local performers and two Emmy Award-winning artists (see The Bridge Summer Concert Series report attached). We held eight skateboard competitions and sessions that brought new young faces to the park. A variety of other special events occurred, including a yoga event, a blessing of the well, a pedal-powered music fest among others. The facility and park staff were able to accommodate all the proposed events the community brought forward. With the help of the onsite staff, games and activities such as Giant Chess, a water sprinkler and art projects were possible. In addition the ALC conducted a survey of visitors who came to the park to collect water (see 2016 Artesian Water Survey).



Olympia City Councilman – Clark Gilman
enjoying the Pedal-Powered Music Festival
“Biketopia” – July 19



Parks Maintenance Staff, Ansel Jardine
getting in on “Biketopia” – July 19



City Manager, Steve Hall (right) speaking with
social service workers - July 20



Happy child enjoying the “spritzer” on a hot
day - August 26

In conclusion, it was another successful summer of events. In all, the Well Host and Park Ranger trespassed two individuals from the park. While staff was onsite (540 hours), drugs and alcohol use was strictly prohibited and a mutual respect of the space was shared by all.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE:

The Well Host & Park Ranger positions will once again be funded in 2017. We will continue to work closely with our partners to provide quality events and programs at the park. One area of focus will be to provide a flexible schedule for the onsite staff so they can help close up late night events. Meanwhile the ALC is working to improve the design of the park, in order to improve future events/programming, flow and visibility.

TESTIMONIALS:

"Countless altercations or issues were prevented because of the work that the Well Host & Park Ranger did this summer. Largely their success is due to their everyday non-enforcement interactions with the folks down there. When things go wrong or someone is having a bad day they know what baseline is and are better able to intervene, redirect them, or seek medical or law enforcement intervention as a last case scenario. It is the unique combination of civilian friend/guide without the enforcement threat that is most useful. Great program."

Lt. Sam Costello Olympia Police Department

"After 3 months of daily de-escalation and education, park patrons really began to follow the park rules and respect each other."

Lee Wyatt, Olympia Park Ranger

"I have heard many people say that what the Well needs is more social services available to folks who frequent there. Although initially skeptical about the Ranger and the Host roles, it became clear that what Lee and Garrett were offering the youth and others who frequent the well was indeed direct social services. The youth felt safe. They played basketball with them. They shared their stories with them. They respected them. And in return, the host and ranger earned the respect of most of the folks. In order for there to be sustainable change at the Well, there must be caring, trained staff members that provide a consistent, caring, professional and trauma informed container. That is precisely what Lee and Garrett did."

**Keylee Marineau, Director of Services for High Risk Youth
Community Youth Services**

"It was a really great summer in the Artesian Commons. Ranger Lee and Well Host Garrett were the perfect fit for those positions. They embraced the park and community the moment they walked in. They both left a positive impression on the park and the people they encountered."

Teal, Olympia Downtown Ambassador

Events & Programs	Date	Time	Event or Program	Hours
	January 28	9am-3pm	Thurston County Homeless Census	6
	April 22	7-8:30pm	The Bridge @ Arts Walk	2
	May 5	4-6pm	Game of SKATE	2
	May 19	4-6pm	Game of SKATE	2
	June 8	6-7 pm	Emoto Peace Project	1
	June 9	4-6 pm	Skate Jam	2
	June 10	3:30-5:30p	POSTPONED – Youth Forum	0
	June 10	7-9pm	POSTPONED – The Bridge moved to CYS parking garage	0
	June 16	5-7pm	Stand Up For Kids - tabling	2
	June 20	3:30-5:30p	Youth Forum	2
	June 21	2-5pm	Go Skateboarding Day *at Isthmus Property	0
	June 24	7-9pm	The Bridge Sumer Concert Series	2
	June 26	3-8pm	22 nd Annual Olympia Exp. Music Festival	5
	July 7	2-4pm	POSTPONED: Skate Jam	0
	July 8	7-9pm	POSTPONED: The Bridge Summer Concert Series	0
	July 14	2-4pm	Skate Jam	2
	July 15	7-9pm	The Bridge Summer Concert Series	2
	July 19	5-9pm	Pedal Powered “Biketopia” Music Festival	4
	July 21	2-4pm	Skate Jam	2
	July 22	7-9pm	The Bridge Summer Concert Series	2
	August 2	5-7pm	National Night Out	2
	August 4	2-4pm	Skate Jam	2
	August 5	4-6pm	Yoga and Music provided by “On Both Sides of Life”	2
	August 5	7-9pm	The Bridge Summer Concert Series	2
	August 17-20	8am-7p	Artesian Water Survey	44
	August 21	8am-7p	CANCELED: Artesian Water Survey	0
	August 24	4-6pm	POSTPONED: Skate Jam	0
	August 25	4-6pm	Skate Jam	2
	August 31	9am-3p	International Overdose Awareness Day	6
	September 2	7-9pm	The Bridge Summer Concert Series	2
	September 5	1-3pm	PiPE Watermelon Feed	2
	September 7	4-6pm	Back to School Skate Jam	2
	October 7	1-2pm	Tree Planting	1
	October 7	5-8pm	Arts Walk: KOWA Radio and Flower Installation	3
	October 8	2-5pm	Arts Walk: KOWA Radio and Flower Installation	3
			TOTAL	111

Year	Special Events	Total Hours of Events	Onsite staffing/volunteering
2015	19	54	184 hours of "Rec. Time" provided by partners and volunteers
2016	22	111	540 hours of paid staff coverage

Expenses	TYPE	DESCRIPTIONS	AMOUNT
	Contractual Services	Partners providing events and programs	3,653
	Supplies	Games, plants, arts supplies, prizes, etc.	2934
	Administrative Costs	Well Host phone, uniform, online calendar subscription	433
	Total		\$7020
	*Operating budget for programs, events and supplies was \$7,000 for the season.		

