



Project Description  
Artesian Commons Park (ACP)  
Youth Outreach

#### Activities

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1. The City of Olympia contracts with Adam Fletcher to conduct this phase.
2. Identify five key stakeholder organizations that currently serve or represent the target youth population, including Community Youth Services, Partners in Prevention Education, Stonewall Youth, YWCA, and GRuB;
3. Host a conversation with adults from these stakeholder organizations focused on “Youth as Assets” and collect their ideas; secure their commitment to participate in a youth workshop;
4. Facilitate a youth workshop for young participants from these stakeholder organizations focused on “Youth as Assets” and collect their ideas; secure their commitment to supporting the Artesian Commons Park in positive ways;

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#### Outcomes

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- Meaningful partnerships formed to foster a more successful Artesian Commons Park
- Concrete suggestions from youth users and organizations that serve them focused on improving park usage
- A summary report focused on practical implementation and real outcomes

#### Timeline

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- ACP Youth Serving Agencies Summit—Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm at The Olympia Center.
- ACP “Youth as Assets” Workshop—Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm at the ACP.
- ACP Youth Report Presented to the City—Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Costs

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- Planning, facilitation, and report writing—\$600

Submitted by:

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Artesian Commons Park  
Youth Service Providers Summit  
July 31, 2014

Present

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Rosalinda Noriega (PIPE), Meg Martin (EGYHOP), Lionel Collins (DSHS), Hillary Soens (YWCA), Rob Richards (Oly DT Amb), Paul Simmons, Brian Wilson, Dave Hanna, Scott Rivers, and Luke Burns (CoO), Keylee Marineau (CYS)

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Agenda

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- Impressions
- Expectations
- Hopes & Dreams
- Concerns
- Next Steps

Additional Questions

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1. How can we adapt our management approach to improve the atmosphere of the Artesian Commons?
2. Do you have an interest in ongoing programming at the Artesian Commons?
  - a. If not, what are the barriers and would there be anything that the City could do to entice them to bring future programming to the Artesian?
3. Where should we focus future investments at the Artesian Commons?

1. "What Impressions Do You Have Of The Park Right Now?"

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- Port-a-potty locked after bar patrons leave—its open for some, not all
- Hugely improved over what it was
- Haven't been there for a while
- Young adults covered in puke upon walking up to the park
- Play at the Park was an awesome event
- The bushes in the cement planters are holly and pokey—a horrible message that is repelling to people and doesn't send a welcome message
- Community members say "Thank god we chased those street kids away" during community events
- It feels like an "either/or" space that are exclusive, not connected
- Space is used for homeless/at risk youth to communicate, especially since they don't have phones, etc.
- Ambassadors checked in with youth to discover that they were encouraged not to attend by the OPD
- Ambassadors want youth and larger community to intermingle
- Design and management of the space can happen independently of the policing of the space
- Space is used by multiple groups of users, and not just youth



## Consulting for Communities

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- Pro-social activities are apparent without programming
- Fighting happens, graffiti happens, anti-social behavior happens
- An important space for many people to use
- Need for a positive behavior and programming rather than idle space
- “How do I get an event here?”
- “All kinds of perspectives have been shared with the City.”
- Some people are excited about the momentum
- Some people are feeling pessimistic and grim
- The park is a moving target: What it is now isn’t what it was or what it will become...
- The downtown should feel a sense of ownership over the park
- Vending and events perspectives: “Is smoking marijuana legal in a public park?” There’s a perception that its legal to smoke marijuana at the park
- The park isn’t perceived as a safe space for customers to use the food trucks
- There is neutral behavior that isn’t especially violent or anti-social, or poor social behavior
- Picnic tables and restroom usage have abated vandalism and negative behavior
- During the design process there was a concern from the avid well users that the well couldn’t co-exist with the park. Today, people are pleased with the circulation between the well-users and the park users
- A complaint came into the office today from a well-user that can’t find the parking to use the well. The complainer suggests that parkers aren’t the well-users
- A park user was doing trash cleanup at the park

### 2. “What Expectations Do You Have For The Park?”

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- The City of Olympia operates it the same as any other park
- Fresh, clean public water source continues
- City honors the heritage of making the space available and accessible to anyone
- Public restrooms
- Freedom to hang-out
- A non-harassment area where the City’s sit/lie ordinance doesn’t apply
- The space is safe and secure for little kids, animals, and other users
  - A watering bowl and doggie poo bags for animals
  - Space free on violent and/or destructive behavior
  - Space free from all illegal drug use
- Lighting
- Clean places for everyone to sit anywhere
- Usable features throughout the park, including elements and plants
- A place to belong
  - Recognize all acts of ownership, including individual acts in big or small ways
  - Support and foster park ownership activities



## Consulting for Communities

- Recreation elements, like basketball hoops, hopscotch squares, and other activities that don't require equipment
- The City takes responsibility for creating a positive narrative about the park and continuously promoting it
- Smoke-free environment
- A Sharps disposal box
- MANY colors in a colorful space with no more black surfaces
- Murals
- Events and bands
- Flexibility of uses and ADA-compliant
- Unique features that no other park has

### 3. "What Hopes And Dreams Do You Have For The Park?"

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- GRuB-sponsored garden boxes available to the public
- A rotating mural wall
- Replace the holly bushes with herbs and/or vegetables
- Agencies and businesses downtown could sponsor a garden box and maintain it, i.e. clean highway projects
- A "free wall" for graffiti which gets repainted monthly
- Park resources on City website like Sylvester Park, i.e. how to have events there, use the resources, etc.
- Online calendar on the City website
- Calendar posted at the park
- Host outdoor cinemas there
- Offer exercise equipment of some time to encourage physical activity
- Have a simple process for getting on the calendar
- Have local group homes host activities at the park
- Put a [literal] punching bag there
- Ensure groups can use the sound system and microphone
- Create a real water feature like the LOTT stream using the flow from the well
- Host a regular Olympia Film Society Night at the Well with chairs and a screen
- Host an agency-sponsored food cart employing formerly homeless people
- Host a simple mural contest any school, nonprofit, or business could participate in
- Have a wading pool
- Have a basketball court or just a hoop
- Have multi-agency sponsorships for murals
- Have a Market-In-The-Park like the maker markets downtown
- Have a ping pong table
- Move the City fleet so there's more space for the park
- Have rotating art like on Percival Landing

#### 4. “What Concerns Do You Have For The Park?”

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- No “Lifetime trespassing” that eliminates usage of the park
- Approach punishment at the park in a restorative way instead of a punitive way
- An absence of visually stated rules; people could be involved in creating them and make a mural out of it (Graphic notes style)
- Sit/Lie Ordinances will leak into that space (paint murals of people lying down to encourage their laying down there and that it’s okay) (Expand the mural to show different uses at the park and the different people who use it)
- Downtown polarization is targeted at the park
- Police aren’t given proper guidance on how to address the park; they’re getting mixed messages
- Funding will be affected by negative public perception that isn’t informed by actual practice
- The port-a-potty isn’t progressive; use the Portland style potty
- Targeted discrimination against juvenile offenders, especially against sex offenders and others
- Maintaining a safe and secure expectation for *all* users of the park is important
- Can the park actually be used to serve all the city’s residents, or is it inherently just for some of them?
- We won’t succeed in including everyone; instead, we’ll end up excluding more people and having more people pushed out
- Unrealistic expectations of the park—it’s becoming a symbol of larger issues instead of just as a park
- The park is a bandaid that’s been ripped off the larger wounds downtown
- Olympia is good at planning, not implementation; how can we ensure real outcomes?
- Is there a way to gather peoples’ opinions before they gather in two weeks? Multiple ways of input are vital... Different people need different ways to contribute...
- How does the City address problems with people with mental health issues? Is there a process? Is there a system?

#### 5. Next Steps

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- This document will be sent to all participating organizations and individuals. They’re invited to submit corrections and additions.
- A Youth Forum will happen on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm at the Artesian Well Commons Park. Participating organizations will be highly recommended to attend and bring youth they serve. The Forum will be facilitated by Adam Fletcher, and pizza will be provided for all participants. We are hoping for 60-80 participants in the Youth Forum.
- The City will implement a variety of improvements and alterations over the next year, including many items on this list. Outcomes will be reported back to participating organizations and individuals.
- Paul Simmons will continue to meet with participating organizations and individuals as needed, and will serve as a direct contact for those organizations and individuals to promote ongoing park usage.
- Additional next steps will emerge from the Youth Forum and the process will be elaborated on then.



**Artesian Well Commons Park  
Youth Service Providers Summit Roster**

Name	Org	Role	Email	Phone
<b>Brian Wilson</b>	City of Olympia	Downtown Liaison	BWilson1@ci.olympia.wa.us	709-2790
<b>Charles Shelan*</b>	Community Youth Services	CEO	CShelan@communityyouthservices.org	918-7880
<b>David Hanna</b>	City of Olympia	Associate Parks Director	DHanna@ci.olympia.wa.us	
<b>Dusty Weber LaMay*</b>	Stonewall Youth	Executive Director	Dusty@stonewallyouth.org	705-2738
<b>Hillary Soens</b>	YWCA	Executive Director	HSoens@ywcaofolympia.org	352-0593
<b>Keylee Marineau</b>	Community Youth Services	Director of Services for High Risk Youth	KMarineau@ communityyouthservices.org	918-7828
<b>Lionel Collins</b>	DSHS	No Parole JJRC	collilx@dshs.wa.gov	486-2246
<b>Luke Burns</b>	City of Olympia	Recreation Specialist	LBurns@ci.olympia.wa.us	570-5857
<b>Meg Martin</b>	People's House/EGYHOP	Program Director	Meg@thepeopleshouseoly.org	545-3176
<b>Paul Simmons</b>	City of Olympia	Director of Parks, Art and Recreation	PSimmons@ci.olympia.wa.us	753-8462
<b>Rob Richards</b>	Olympia Downtown Ambassadors	Program Director	Rob@capitalclubhouse.org	292-0565
<b>Rosalinda Noriega</b>	PIPE (Partners in Prevention Education)	Executive Director	Rosalinda@youthchangeagents.org	357-4472
<b>Sarah Wilkins*</b>	Community Youth Services	YouthBuild Director	SLloyd@communityyouthservices.org	918-7813
<b>Scott River</b>	City of Olympia	Recreation Manager	SRiver@ci.olympia.wa.us	753-8506

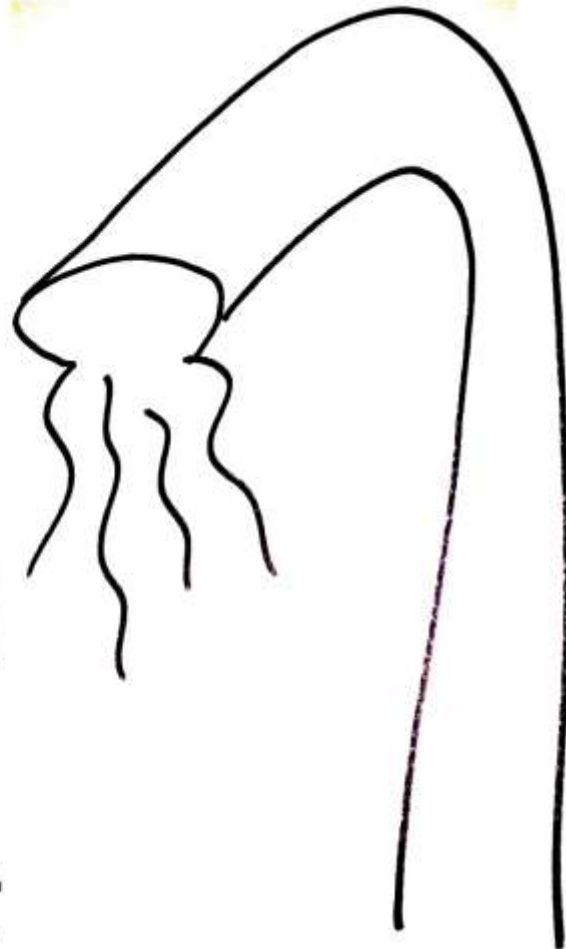
*NOTE: \* indicates invited but not in attendance.*

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Come to the

**ALL  
YOUTH  
FORUM**

@ the  
**WELL, about  
the WELL.**



THIS Thursday, August 21st at 4pm.  
Talk about the Well and YOUTH.  
We want to hear what YOU think.

### Artesian Well Commons Park

### ALL YOUTH FORUM

August 21, 2014

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#### Introduction

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An ALL YOUTH FORUM was held to gather input from young people regarding the Artesian Commons Park.

- Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 4pm at the Artesian Commons Park
- Designed and facilitated by Adam Fletcher for CommonAction Consulting, a locally-owned boutique firm specializing in engaging people from historically disengaged communities in issues that matter to them
- Approximately 50 participating youth
- In addition to the participants, there were a variety of observers and others interacting, including staff from Parks, Arts and Recreation; the Olympia Downtown Ambassadors; and various agencies serving participants including Community Youth Services and DSHS.

#### Notes

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- The process focused participants on moving straight into questions with little introduction or interaction
- Participants were informed their comments would be considered, as would many other peoples' perspectives
- The entire process took approximately 45 minutes, with lingering input shortly after.
- The order of the responses below does not indicate frequency, priority, or importance. There is no significance to the order below.
- The majority of youth attending the Forum appeared to be under 21 years old.
- Most participants were already at the ACP when the Forum began, meaning they are regular users.
- All notes were transcribed by Adam Fletcher. Most were written directly, some were interpreted, and others were left out due to their inappropriate or irrelevant nature.

Following are the main categories of questions and responses.

#### 1. What Do You Like About The Park Right Now?

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • The water                 | • Great place to meet new people |
| • The people                | • We can be loud!!!              |
| • Chill people              | • Good people, caring people     |
| • Flowers                   | • Taco truck                     |
| • Free place to relax       | • Kids, dogs                     |
| • Free water for everyone   | • Communal                       |
| • The restroom left open    | • Everyone can be here anytime   |
| • The space itself          | • Hacky sack                     |
| • An easy place to hang out | • It's a place to be             |

- Music
- Food and tables
- Fresh water
- Play at the Well events
- 24/7 access to water
- “Meet at the Well”
- Socializing
- Open and airy feeling
- Some people feel comfortable
- Everyone welcome

## 2. What Don't You Like About The Park Right Now?

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- Too much concrete
- No park stuff
- No positive influences
- Crack heads
- People who behave bad
- Tweakers
- Weed isn't legal here
- Hours
- Not enough shade
- Smooth jazz
- No graffiti wall
- Too much drama
- Users leave dirty needles where people play and lay
- Too many police
- No plugins
- No electricity
- More benches
- Under cover
- The daycare going on here
- No skateboarding allowed
- The rules
- Closing at a certain time
- Cops harassing “over the level”
- Need more comfort
- Trash cleanup
- Needs more grass and plants
- Trees in pots right now keep dying
- Some people are uncomfortable
- Heroin addicts
- Food trucks should be here more days and hours
- Sex offenders
- Too much trash
- Volleyball or tennis
- Adult sex with minors
- Plants in pots feel temporary

## 3. What Would You Like At The Park In The Future?

- Respect from authorities
- Sanctuary
- A pool
- No sandboxes
- A fire pit
- Legal camping in tents
- Exercise equipment
- Punching bags
- Pain the concrete
- Potted trellises
- Cut grass instead of asphalt
- Places to sit
- More food trucks
- Basketball courts
- Positive, artistic graffiti
- Racquetball
- More events
- More park stuff
- “They should be willing to catch more dangerous people, because there are plenty around here that the youth have been traumatized by.”

- Less drugs
- More free food
- Better bathrooms
- A swing set
- More seating
- Days where participants can choose the music
- List for people to sign up to choose the music
- Locked needle exchange in the port-a-potty
- Just add anything to it
- Leave it alone
- 24/7 bathroom
- Sports equipment
- Jukebox
- Skate ramps
- Not enough help for the homeless
- Shade for every table
- Fans in the park
- More garbage cans
- Can we be allowed to bring our own furniture
- No electricity
- More inclusive social circles
- Doggy fountain
- Trees in the ground
- Events
- Actual stream, not just painted on
- Kids area
- A play area not for little kids
- A plug in area for recharging phones
- Barbeque area
- Permanent restrooms, not port-a-potties
- Pond with a wishing well
- Always flowing waterfall into a stream that is never nasty, high enough to shower in
- Fenced in dog area
- Make the walls a chalkboard
- Dome over the whole area
- A stream like the Children's Museum
- Umbrellas on the tables
- Smoking spot
- Park and potty open 24/7
- Plant everything in the ground

## Recommendations

By Adam Fletcher

Reviewing the suggestions of the youth service providers and youth participants at the All Youth Forum, the following recommendations emerge strongly:

### 1. Recognize the current successes of the ACP

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- Inclusive space successfully welcoming a group of users who do not feel welcome in other parks
- Strong sense of belonging, feelings of comradery and group cohesion among current users
- Growing sense of identity with the Well among ACP users

### 2. Acknowledge challenges faced by youth users

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- Frequently identified illegal drug use and alcohol use prevalent, including paraphernalia
- Potentially inappropriate youth/adult interactions at the ACP
- Needle disposal and unsafe seating options
- Shaded areas and growing plants

### 3. Identify growth areas

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- Increase feelings of safety and security at the ACP for current users
- Need for additional elements at the ACP such as a basketball court
- Increase feelings of safe access to police
- Increase feelings of individual ownership over healthy behavior at the ACP

### 4. Most importantly

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Two side comments collected from participants revealed the reality of these youth:

- “We write a lot because we have something to say. Listen.”
- “This place is the one consistent thing about downtown Olympia.”

These two comments indicate that the youth attending the Forum do not feel acknowledged, and that they need stability. It is within the City of Olympia’s capability to serve these park users by:

- Facilitating regular, substantive opportunities for these youth to be heard
- Provide stabling, consistent opportunities for youth to recreate and participate at the ACP.

Submitted in completion of the Artesian Commons Park (ACP) Youth Outreach Project on August 22, 2014.

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