



Artesian Commons Update

City Council Study Session
April 17, 2018· 5:30 p.m.



Project for Public Spaces – Vision for Artesian



Park History

- June 2010 City Purchases lot for overflow City Hall Parking
- Oct 2011 Project for Public Spaces
- May 2014 Artesian Commons Park grand opening
- Dec 2014 Proposal to close the park due to safety
- Feb 2015 Approval to conditionally keep park open
- Apr 2015 Artesian Leadership Committee formed
- May 2015 Increased maintenance, programming and community partner support
- June 2016 Well Host and Ranger positions created



Artesian Leadership Committee

Formed: April 2015

Purpose: Provide ongoing feedback and guidance for the operation and continued development of the park.



Representatives from:

- Neighboring Property Owners
- Community Youth Services
- Downtown Ambassadors
- Olympia Police Department
- Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA)
- Olympia Downtown Alliance (ODA)
- CP&D - Downtown Liaison
- Olympia City Council
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)
- H2Olympia
- PB & J Project
- Olympia Parks Maintenance & Design
- Olympia Park Rangers
- Olympia Recreation Staff

Park Improvements

2014

- Food trucks
- Lighting

2015

- Basketball hoop
- Fence & gates
- Mural
- Cameras
- Tables and chairs
- Programming and increased maintenance

2016

- Well Host and Ranger positions
- Expanded programming

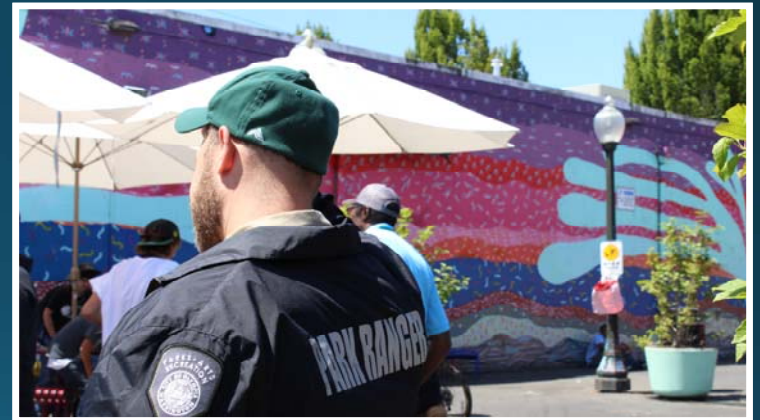
2017

- Portland Loo



2017 – Increased Behavior Challenges

- Drug Dealing in and around the park
- Intoxication
- Bike shops
- Verbal altercations
- Accumulation of personal property
- Nuisance behaviors (littering, bathing, respectful etiquette)
- Animal welfare
- Mental health issues and medical emergencies
- Increased complaints from neighboring properties



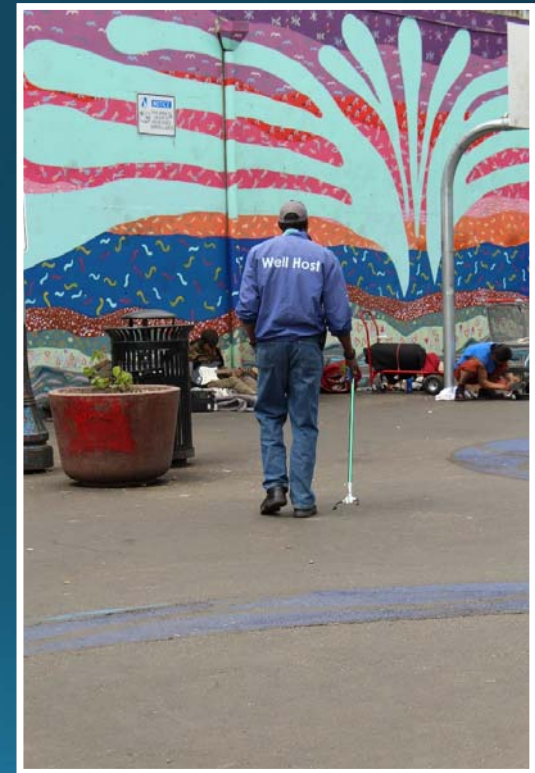
Statistics – Illegal Behavior

2016	2017
6 Trespass Notices	33 Trespass Notices
130 Needles	747 Needles (91 Loose Needles)
2 physical assaults (both felony)	11 physical assaults (w/in 3 mo.)
5 notable verbal altercations	12 notable verbal altercations (including threats to staff)
221 Calls for Service to OPD 195* previous statistics given	188 Calls for Service OPD (9 months)

Impacts of the Artesian Commons

Consequences

- Staff Roles and Duties
 - Takes the other park rangers away from parks like: Yauger, Grass Lake and Karen Fraser Woodland Trail
 - Enforcement (required from all staff)
 - Maintenance Increase
- Perception of Downtown
- Staff Morale/Credibility
- Safety (threats to the public and staff)
- Management and Supervisory time
- Complaints (internal & external)



2018 Changes

- Artesian Loo construction complete
- Resources provided for park users
- Impact of Police Levy
- Impact of Community Care Center
- CYS Rosie's Place hours expanded
- Expanded Well Host and Ranger
- Increased programming



Policy Questions for the City Council

- What are the current community needs being met by providing this park?
- Is the City committed to continuing to provide a park of this type for the current user groups?
- Is this the best location? Could those needs be met better and more effectively in another space? Are there other options?
- Is it too small? What does it physically allow?
- Would the City consider selling the park site for redevelopment? If so, how does the well factor into the discussion?
- How do we define success?

