

## Trolls in Astoria Nordic Heritage Park

The six trolls in the Nordic Park have been popular with visitors of all ages. They were originally designed for as a feature for children to enjoy in the park and that's why they are kid-sized and smiling, rather than fierce and foreboding as they are sometimes portrayed in Nordic mythology. Here's some additional information about them and an activity to get visitors to look at trolls closely.

### What are Trolls?

Trolls are part of Nordic myths and folklore. Other words for trolls are gnomes, elves, and nisse, tomte, or tonttu in the Nordic languages. Some trolls are dwarves and some are giants. We have the small kind in Astoria Nordic Heritage Park. Trolls can be mischievous and baffling to humans who they sometimes try to trick or deceive. Some trolls are helpful to animals and some may be only visible to children.

### Troll Tales Synopsis

The six trolls in the Nordic Park immigrated to Astoria from the Nordic lands.

Viktor was the first troll to arrive in Astoria. He's not a smoker but he brought his grandfather's pipe to remind him of his grandfather. The pipe is magic so he can still communicate with the old country. Viktor used to be a mean bully but now he's 550 years old and a strong and able troll man. He's the leader of this troll clan. (Viktor is by the stairs.)

Margit immigrated to Astoria when she was only a troll child 331 years old. She needed new friends in a new country so she found Fat Cat. (Mar' git = emphasis on first syllable)

Olle (pronounced Oh-luh) was kicked out of Norway because he liked to steal human children's toys and one day he stole the human king's daughter's wedding dress. He was sent to America with only one toy but sometimes visitors to the park bring him new ones.

Sven was Master of the Accordion in Norway but the some of his troll friends accidentally smashed his accordion so he couldn't play anymore. He was invited to Astoria by Olle who gave him an accordion so he could play the old tunes so immigrants to Astoria could hear them again.

Annette (pronounced Annettah) learned to sing in Norway and sang so well she joined the opera. Everything went fine until they discovered she was a troll. She left Norway and now she sings duets with the sea lions. Come to the park at night and maybe you'll hear her.

Leif (pronounced lafe or leaf) is very grumpy because he grew up in a cave. He doesn't like sunshine so he hides under a leaf. He thinks the street in front of the park should be renamed Leif the Troll Drive because he's here now and Leif Erickson never visited Astoria.

## Troll Activity

As you stroll through the park, look at the six trolls carefully. They were designed to be human kid-sized so as not to scare children who visit the park, but they have **THREE** distinctive features that sets them apart from human children. Can you find all three features?

Answers:

1. Trolls have tails.
2. Trolls do not have five fingers or toes. They have three or four.
3. Trolls get tusks as they age.

NOTE: The QR code on the sign next to Olle links to a page to download the complete troll tales as pdfs or audio files. Troll tales booklets are also available for sale at Finn Ware. The reading level is 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.