

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Advancing Geographies of Justice by Removing Offensive Place Names

Use these suggestions to **explore the topic further** or **begin an inquiry** using the ST NAMES LAB app.



READ TO LEARN AND GAIN PERSPECTIVE (FREE TO ACCESS, BEFORE OR AFTER WEBINAR)

[Offensive names dot the American street map – a new app provides a way to track them](#)

The Conversation – Published: August 14, 2024

[From Negro Creek to Wop Draw, place names offend](#)

NBC News – Published: February 26, 2012

[Offensive place names dot the American landscape. Efforts to change them are about to get a lot faster.](#)

The Washington Post – Published: December 17, 2021

[A derogatory word is being removed from public spaces. Some in this California town see it differently](#)

PBS News – Published October 7, 2022

[California Continues Progress to Rename Historically Offensive Place Names](#)

CA Natural Resources Agency – Published: February 7, 2024

[Work underway to eliminate offensive street names in Northern California as deadline looms](#)

CBS News – Published August 5, 2024

[Reexamining Our Past Initiative](#) (California State Parks)

[Nathan Harrison](#) (National Park Service-Homestead National Historic Park)

EXPLORE & REFLECT (SHARE YOUR VIEWS AND USE DISCUSSION TO EXPLORE THESE QUESTIONS)

Have you or people in your community had experiences of encountering offensive place names?

Are there offensive place names in use in your local area or anywhere in your state? How would you know?

What do you need to know to determine if a place name is offensive?

Can one person be certain?

What groups of people in your area or state may be impacted most by the use of offensive place names?

What was the purpose of the offensive place names for the people who attached them to places in the first place?

Why does the interpretation of what is offensive sometimes differ between people?

Why does it change over time?

How do place names impact a place and the people who live, work, and visit there?

Why is it important to understand and get involved in this issue?

If there is a need for action to address offensive place names in your area or state...

- **What authorities are likely to need to be convinced to invest in making changes?**
- **What kind of process would be most useful for specifying the harm that had been done, restoring justice, and reconciling differences between groups to bring people in that place together?**

RESOURCES (TOOLS FOR THE JOB)

[North American street names search app](#)

See next page for tips on using the app!

[Tips for Taking Action from the Institute for Local Government](#)

[A guide to changing racist and offensive names on public lands](#)

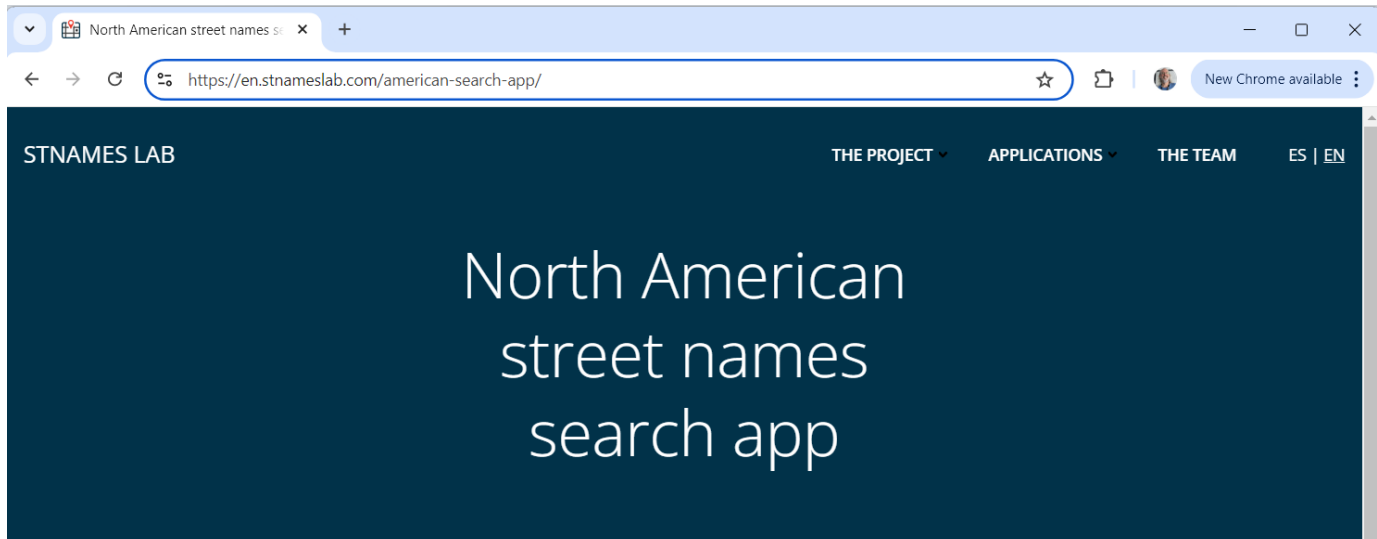
Natl. Assn. of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers & The Wilderness Society – Published: February 23, 2022

SURVEY

Please share how you use this guide and engage with this topic



QUICK TIPS FOR USING THE STREET NAMES SEARCH APP



When you select a country, an additional drop-down will appear for state/province

1

2

*Add * as a wild card before or after a word root for more powerful queries*

A screenshot of the search input form. It consists of two identical input fields, each with a "Choose a country" dropdown menu and a text input area for "Enter one or more names separated by ;". A red minus sign is on the left of the first field, and a green plus sign is on the left of the second field. A "SUBMIT" button is located below the second field. A red circle with the number "1" is placed over the first dropdown menu, and a red circle with the number "2" is placed over the text input area of the second field.

3
Downloads

After hitting the submit button and seeing if any results appear on the map above, use these buttons to download your results. This file can be opened with Excel or Google sheets or imported into a GIS map.

RESULTS BY STREETS GROUPED RESULTS

Did something go wrong? We would like to know.
[Click here.](#)

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