



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Agenda

Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025
2:00 PM

Hybrid - Council Briefing Center / Microsoft Teams
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

Virtual Meeting Link - See Below for Information

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Public Comment Period:

3 minutes each | Citizens are invited to address the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board on any topic not on the agenda.

Board Briefing Session:

2:00 – 2:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roll Call 2. Approve 1/9/2025 meeting minutes 3. Chair Report 4. Secretary Report 5. Approval of current agenda 	Planning Staff All Brian Henning Jon Snyder All
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Workshops:

2:15 – 2:25	1. Aquifer Protection Area	Marlene Feist, Director, Public Works
2:25 – 4:10	2. Climate Planning Technical Update #2 – Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment – Feedback needed, see questions on Page 10 of packet.	BERK Consulting and Maren Murphy, Planning
4:10 – 4:45	3. Tree Equity Spokane Project	Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester, Spokane Parks

Adjournment: The next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025.

* Items denoted with an asterisk may include final action taken by the Board. Written public comments will be accepted at eracrsb@spokanecity.org on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Verbal testimony may also be accepted during the meeting.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mlovmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting Information

Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board will be held in a hybrid in-person / virtual format. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person at City Hall or online using the following information.

Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 297 827 294 047

Passcode: qhF8iY

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Meeting ID:
297 827 294 047

Passcode:
qhF8iY

Join with a video conferencing device

cityofspokane@m.webex.com

Video Conference ID: 112 012 615 5

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-618-1887,,999419515#](tel:+13236181887,999419515) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 999 419 515#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Please note that public comments will be taken during the meeting, but the public is encouraged to continue to submit their comments or questions in writing to: eracrsb@spokanecity.org. Written public comments will be accepted on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

The audio proceedings of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board meetings will be recorded and are available online.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

Upcoming Agenda Items (All items are subject to change)

March 13, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid		
Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Roll call/Briefing/ Agenda review, Secretary report	
2:15-3:00	Climate Planning Update	Maren Murphy, Planning
3:00-3:30	PFOS/PFOA	Loren Searl, Water Department
3:30-5:00	PlanSpokane 2046 -Periodic Update of the Comprehensive Plan	Tirrell Black, Planning

April 10, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid		
Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Roll call/Briefing/ Agenda review, Secretary report	
2:15-2:45	Climate Planning Update	Maren Murphy, Planning
2:45-3:45	GHG Emissions Inventory Reporting	Logan Callen, Public Works
3:45- 4:45	Fire/Hazard Mitigation	

May 8, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (60 minutes available) Hybrid		
Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Roll call/Briefing/ Agenda review, Secretary report	
2:15-2:45	Climate Planning Update	Maren Murphy, Planning
May/June	Special Meeting possible: 3-hour tour of Public Works Facilities (Waste to Energy, Water Reclamation, Water) – date/time TBD	

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Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board - Meeting Minutes Draft

Thursday, January 9, 2025

City Council Briefing Center

Meeting called to order at 2:01 PM by Brian Henning

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Brian Henning, Amanda Parrish, Bob Lutz, Larry Luton, Happy Avery, Elyse Hochstadt, Kerry Brooks, Kevin Fagan, Lea Molina, Hala Zahalqa, Kit Parker
- Board Members Not Present: Kathryn Alexander, Matthew Hollon
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Tirrell Black, Emily King, Raylene Gennett, Marlene Feist, Elizabeth Schoedel, Maren Murphy, Logan Callen, KayCee Downey, Kelly Thomas, Katherine Miller, Sarah Sirott, Marlene Feist

Minutes: Minutes from 12/12/2024 approved unanimously.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report - Brian Henning**
 - Brian began by noting that some of our community members are confronting severe impacts of the changing climate and paused for a moment to imagine what they are going through, similar to what our neighbors experienced locally during recent fires.
 - Brian discussed a few housekeeping items and reminders:
 - The board is proceeding under Robert's Rules. If members wish to be addressed, they should raise their hands, and he will do his best to give them the floor.
 - If members have an electronic device they are able to bring, it does make it easier to have all agenda materials available.
 - A request if members can review all briefing materials ahead of time so the board can get into the weeds on items as quickly as possible.
 - Brian has asked that for presentations, time be split with two thirds presentation and one third discussion so that there is enough time to engage in discussion.
 - If members could let Brian know if they need to be absent, email Brian at his city email address so he is aware.
 - The Community Climate Action Fund, which is funded by an EPA grant, launches on the 15th of January. Grants are available to community-based organizations or partners.
 - Part of the mission of this body relates to the Sustainability Action Plan, that combined with the Comp Plan are two important focuses. Brian proposed to add an hour briefing to the March meeting to get up to speed on what those plans entail so that the board may be able to make useful suggestions.
- **Secretary Report - Tirrell Black**
 - Tirrell discussed a few housekeeping items:
 - There is a webpage for the board that has member information, as well as agendas, minutes, and meeting recordings.
 - We have received six OPMA certificates. It is required within the first 90 days of appointment, so if members have not completed that, please take the time to do so. Please turn in your certificate, as Planning staff will provide those to the City Clerk's Office.
 - Brian, Amanda, and Tirrell discussed compiling a list of any non-City organizations that might want to get on the agenda in the future. Members can email that information to Tirrell.

- Planning is starting EIS scoping and visioning with agencies, the community, and tribes in February into March for the periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Tirrell is staff on the Steering Committee of Elected Officials, which is a regional planning group of elected officials. At the workshop of that group on January 29th they are looking at the county-wide climate planning policies.
- The City of Spokane Planning department does have a climate survey out right now as well.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved unanimously with an amendment.

- Kerry Brooks motioned to add time to the end of the agenda to discuss the form of feedback that board members would like to provide to presenters.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Climate Planning Technical Update #1 – Policy Audit, Climate Justice, Spatial Index
 - Presentation provided by: BERK Consulting, Maren Murphy
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Water Quality – NLT (Next Level Treatment) and CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow)
 - Presentation provided by staff member: Raylene Gennett
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Discussion Regarding Board Member Feedback on Presentations
 - Discussion proposed by: Kerry Brooks
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:46 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting is on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

BRIEFING PAPER: Potential Aquifer Protection Area Ballot Measure
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

Aquifer Protection Area. Spokane County is planning to ask voters to reauthorize its Aquifer Protection Area (APA) in 2025 for another 20 years. The APA includes a per-parcel fee charged on residents' property tax bill for aquifer protection activities. The Spokane area has had an APA since 1986. The City participated in the APA from 1986-2004. The City did not join in the APA in the reauthorization between 2005 and today. The City has an opportunity to rejoin the APA as the County seeks reauthorization. Staff would like to provide information on this issue to the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board to allow the board to weigh in on this matter.

Background:

Aquifer Protection Areas are authorized by RCW 36.36 and approved by a public vote. They provide on-going financial support for a variety of aquifer protection activities, including planning related to protection and preservation of subterranean water, construction of drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities to improve water quality, monitoring and enforcement of standards for protecting groundwater, and public education. The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (SVRP) is designated as a sole source aquifer in 1978, and it provides drinking water to more than a half million people, including the residents and businesses within the City of Spokane.

Protection of our sole source aquifer is critically important to the City of Spokane, especially considering that we operate the largest drinking water utility in our region. We work and live over our drinking water source so stringent stewardship practices are an absolute must. For us, priority uses for such funding could include investing in infrastructure to manage pollutants of concern such as PFAS, controlling stormwater in both our separated and combined sewer areas, and projects that would mitigate impacts of climate change on the aquifer. We also support ongoing public education around best management practices over the aquifer.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Participating in the Aquifer Protection Area would be consistent with the Water Resources chapter of the Sustainability Action Plan, which includes multiple goals around protecting the Spokane River and Aquifer.

It would be consistent with goals in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Water System Plan that encourage protection and stewardship of the Aquifer.

Additionally, as a purveyor of drinking water, we remain committed to protecting the aquifer. Annually, we collect more than 2,000 samples to ensure we are meeting all drinking water standards. We deliver up to 150 million gallons of drinking water in our community daily, as the third largest water purveyor in the state of Washington.

BRIEFING PAPER: Potential Aquifer Protection Area Ballot Measure
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025

Timeline/ Further Action:

A recommendation from the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board at its March meeting would provide timely input for the City Council. In order to participate in the APA, the Council would need to pass a resolution supporting its inclusion on the ballot. Additionally, the City and County would need to adopt an interlocal agreement related to its use.

Citizens could engage on this issue at the CRSB meeting, at the City Council meetings where this item is discussed and voted on, and through their vote, if the measure is forwarded to an upcoming election. We would also provide ballot measure education to the community if this moves ahead.

**BRIEFING PAPER: Comprehensive Plan Consultant Presentation: Climate Risk and Vulnerability Index
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025**

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

Planning staff and the consultant team lead by BERK will facilitate a discussion with the CRSB on climate planning next steps, focusing on reflections from the recent analysis and policy memos and upcoming engagement. This will help support the analysis for the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, the framework for evaluating impacts to climate hazards and identifying risks to different sectors, resources, and communities. The Climate Planning webpage has project updates and recent deliverables for background, including the Climate Impacts & Climate Justice Memo and the Climate Policy Audit Memo:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/climate-planning/>.

See attachment of discussion question for the workshop.

Background:

The City of Spokane is developing climate planning under HB 1181 to enhance community resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prioritize environmental justice to avoid worsening environmental health disparities. Climate planning is part of the City's general periodic update requirement for the comprehensive plan, which is due in June 2026. This work is supported by WA Dept. of Commerce climate planning grant which is funded from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board is serving as the Climate Policy Advisory Team for climate planning element.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The City of Spokane is required under the Growth Management Act to have a climate element as part of the comprehensive plan. The climate element will be integrated throughout the comprehensive plan elements such as housing, transportation, land use, utilities, and natural environment. Integration of climate into the comprehensive plan was also identified in City Council's Sustainability Action Plan.

Timeline/ Further Action:

See below for timeline for Phase 1 climate planning. Engagement will be facilitated throughout, with focus groups and a community workshop in Spring 2025.



**BRIEFING PAPER: Comprehensive Plan Consultant Presentation: Climate Risk and
Vulnerability Index
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025**

Relevant Climate Planning Links:

City of Spokane	
Spokane Climate Planning Project Page	https://my.spokanecity.org/climateplanning
Spokane Climate Planning Engage HQ	https://engage.spokane.gov/
Spokane Comprehensive Plan	https://my.spokanecity.org/shapingspokane/comprehensive-plan/
Spokane Environmental Programs	https://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/environmental/
Spokane Parks Master Plan	https://my.spokanecity.org/parksrec/master-plan/
WA Dept. of Commerce	
Commerce Climate Planning	https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth-management/climate-planning/
Commerce Guidance for Climate Planning	https://deptofcommerce.box.com/s/fpg3h0lbwln2ctqjg7ig802h54ie19jx
Commerce Menu of Measures	https://deptofcommerce.box.com/s/n34kivqzn9rfe74jfz2vvzxqlrv7j9m9

Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board:

Discussion Questions

What input will the CRSB be providing at the next meeting? What are the 1-3 key takeaways that they will influence?

Engagement

Purpose: Share early ideas for workshops and focus groups in the spring.

Feedback wanted:

- Having spent time with the early climate planning material in January and February, what are some topics to focus on at the upcoming spring workshops and focus groups?
- **Questions we asked in January that you may have more input on:**
 - Which communities do you suggest as priorities for focus groups?
 - What is likely to generate good attendance at community workshop?
 - Who are possible partner organizations?

Spokane Climate Impacts and Climate Justice Memo

Purpose: Extreme weather events and changing climate impacts affect everyone, regardless of age, background, or income. However, those impacts are not distributed evenly.

Following HB 1181 requirements and guidelines, the Spokane Climate Impacts and Climate Justice memo identifies climate trends affecting Spokane, as well as the vulnerable populations and overburdened communities that are impacted first and worst.

Feedback wanted:

- Based on a review of the Memo what impacts or affected communities stood out to you? In the future Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), what sectors/topics are you most interested in seeing addressed?
- **Questions we asked in January that you may have more input on:**
 - What are initial priorities from the Board on climate justice?
 - How to best reflect priorities in the process?

Spokane Climate Policy Audit

Purpose: The Spokane Climate Policy Audit analyzes and summarizes existing climate-related plans, policies, and regulations to lay a strong planning foundation to the new climate and resiliency requirements of HB 1181. The audit identifies policies and codes to keep, amend, add, consolidate, or incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan.

Feedback wanted:

- Reviewing the audit, are there policy topics that are a priority for you? Are there other opportunities or gaps you feel need more highlight?
- **Questions we asked in January that you may have more input on:**
 - What policy questions do you have?
 - What are suggestions to engage the community in development of climate policy?

Spokane Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Purpose: To support the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) a draft Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) has been developed to share geographical information. The Spokane CVI considers over 30 indicators of climate vulnerability and summarizes multiple sets of data into one measurement; the index allows for an “apples-to-apples” comparison across the community.

The data include different climate hazard exposures, socioeconomic and health information, and built and natural environment data across the community. It also includes assets – people, places, and infrastructure that could be exposed to different climate related hazards.

In response to the CRSB January 2025 meeting, the team added layers to address habitat and other critical areas (streams, wetlands, geologic hazards, aquifers). In addition, more layers regarding power were added with assistance from Avista and City staff.

- **Feedback wanted:**
- What stood out to you when exploring the CVI?
- What concerns or opportunities are not visible in the CVI at a block group scale?
 - This can help us reach out to the community to gain lived experiences, or find positive or negative examples of adaptive capacity (ability to adapt to climate impacts).

BRIEFING PAPER: Urban Forestry Grant
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

In September 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a \$6 million grant award to the City of Spokane's Urban Forestry program. Grant funding of \$6million over 5 years, with no match required, was provided by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) and the [USDA Forest Service](#), Urban and Community Forestry Program. Additional funding was provided by the [Justice40 Initiative](#) and [Avista's](#) Named Communities Investment Fund.

These funds are being used to plant and care for trees in areas of Spokane that have the most need, to replace dead trees that have been removed, to create more equitable canopy coverage, and provide community forestry education. The Spokane Conservation District also received funding through the same USDA grant program and has generously agreed to commit a portion of those funds to purchase all trees to be planted as part of the Tree Equity Spokane project. The Urban Forester's presentation will provide information about project progress.

Background:

As with many cities across the county, Spokane is no different in that tree canopy cover is inequitably distributed. The highest percentage of canopy cover and healthy trees are growing in affluent, less diverse neighborhoods. While the City of Spokane has been increasing planting efforts in disadvantaged neighborhoods, funding has been a barrier, and we have received support for this historic opportunity to make long lasting and lifechanging improvements in our community for our citizens and environment.

Research proves trees which are provided quality care, are safer, live longer, and provide benefits for longer. Trees are also more sustainable and resilient to pest outbreaks and harsh climatic events when they have been maintained. Our community is no stranger to increasing hot and fatal temperatures, as well as intense record snow and wind events. We need support for our urban forest now, more than ever. Abutting property owners are responsible for street trees in public right-of-way areas which is also a similar occurrence across the nation. In these low-income areas, tree care is a major financial burden to abutting property owners. Many trees in these disadvantaged areas receive no care, or inconsistent care due to the substantial cost to citizens. A major barrier to neighborhoods embracing new trees is their inability to provide care for the street trees they already have.

The project seeks to address inequitable access to the economic, social, environmental, and health benefits associated with urban tree canopy in the City of Spokane, specifically in under-served and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Through best management and maintenance practices, along with local technical resources and research, the project will improve overall resiliency to climate change, pests, and storm events. At the neighborhood level, the project will broaden community engagement in urban forest practices and planning.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The City's Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, local studies and more greatly assisted with the original grant application to show project scope alignment with current local

BRIEFING PAPER: Urban Forestry Grant
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
2/13/2025

policies. These are listed on the pages following, as trees and their benefits are supported extensively throughout these important documents.

Timeline/ Further Action:

Timeline: Project Launch October 2024

Year 1: Dead tree removals prioritized

Years 2-5: Pruning emphasized

Years 1-5: Planting new trees (continuous)

Comprehensive information regarding the Tree Equity Spokane Project can be found online at www.SpokaneParks.org/TreeEquity

Funding is within Parks and Recreation and items requiring approval make their way through Committee then to Park Board for approval. No City Council action has been requested other than amending budget spending authority (within Parks Accounting) for reimbursements. City Administration(s) and Council support has been very strong and is documented in support letters for the initial grant application and general support thereafter.

Opportunities for citizen engagement: Volunteer tree planters, education and outreach to assist in finding locations where abutting property owners want trees and commit to providing care, with a focus on watering during the hot summer months. Other support roles included continued conversations and public engagement regarding sustainability and possible further investments for the long-term success of our community's urban tree canopy.



Tree Equity Spokane

Planting, Maintenance, Education



Tree Equity Spokane : A 5-Year Project

In September of 2023, the City of Spokane's Urban Forestry department received a \$6 million dollar grant over 5 years to plant and care for trees and provide community forestry education in low canopy and underserved areas of Spokane. The no match funding was provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Additional funding was provided by the Justice40 Initiative and Avista's Named Communities Investment Fund.

Timeline: Starting October 2024

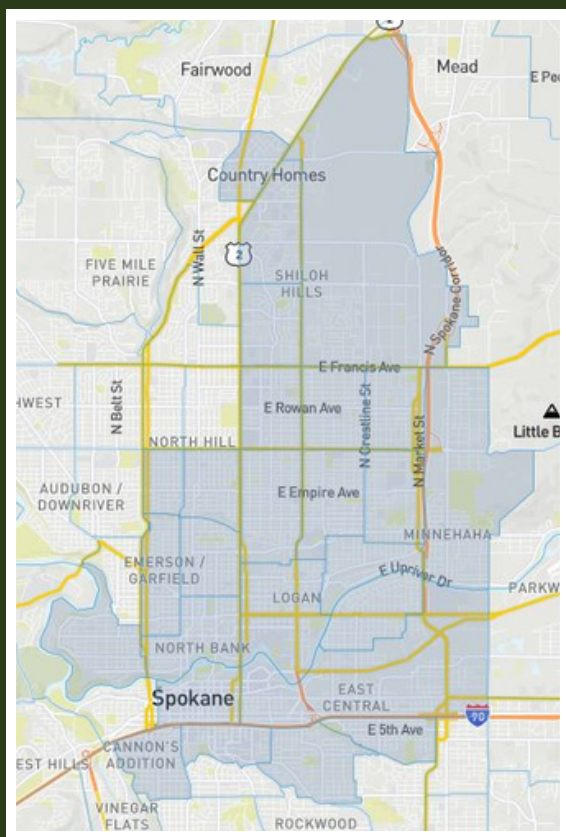
- Year 1: Dead tree removals prioritized
- Years 2-5: Pruning emphasized (major issues- clearance, public safety)
- Years 1-5: Planting new trees (continuous)- 500 per year

Work Area

All grant-funded Tree Equity Spokane work will be performed within City of Spokane public rights-of-way and on City properties. All tree planting and maintenance work must be performed in disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment, as identified on a Federal Map

This grant will allow the City of Spokane to assist abutting property owners with major concerns, reducing the burden to under resourced neighborhoods and improving the canopies now and for the future. We believe that everyone should have access to the many benefits that trees provide.

WORK AREA MAP



Visit SpokaneParks.org/TreeEquity to:

- See if your neighborhood is in the work area
- View the neighborhood work order and find out how the order was defined
- Check the timeline for contractors in your area
- Sign up to have a free tree planted where space allows. Urban Forestry will make sure that utilities are not in conflict with planting space, and a commitment to care will be required in order for a free tree to be planted.
- Check the list of frequently asked questions

OUR PARTNERS

The Lands Council

Received a subaward to find homes for approximately 500 trees per year and provide educational resources to the public about tree care. They will work with free tree recipients to ensure tree survival and that regular watering is provided in the dry and warmer months.



The Spokane Conservation District

Received \$6 million dollars in a grant from the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program.



A portion of their grant will be used to purchase trees for Tree Equity Spokane's planting projects and caring for them until they are ready to be planted.



LEARN
MORE!



SpokaneParks.org/TreeEquity