



**Spokane Park Board
Development & Volunteer / Citizen Advisory
Committee
12:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2025
In-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications**

Committee members:

DVCAC:

- X Lee Williams – Chair/The Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park
- X Jeff Lambert / ~~Trevor Finchamp – Friends of the Bluff~~
- X Cole Taylor – Friends of Riverfront Park
- X Paul Lindholdt – Friends of Palisades

DVC:

- X Jennifer Ogden – Chair/Park Board (*arrived 12:21*)
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- X Gerry Sperling – Park Board
- X Lee Williams – Development & Volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee representative

Park staff

Fianna Dickson (*left 12:45*)
Sarah Deatrich

Guests

Heather Page, Community, Housing, and Human Services

Additional Park Board members

Lindsey Shaw

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by DVC member Bob Anderson. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:** None

CDBG informational presentation was moved up in agenda order to respect our guest’s time. See below for notes.

3. **DVCAC discussion items:**

- A. Potential future agenda items – Lee Williams opened the floor to suggestions as to

items the committee would like to hear about at future meetings, particularly things to help the committee to better understand, that may help parks and neighborhoods to continue improving.

- 1) Jennifer suggested inviting someone from Innovia to speak about various funds they have available. Lee also mentioned endowments.
- 2) Gerry suggested a discussion about photo documenting projects.
- 3) Bob suggested inviting Al Vorderbueggen (Park Ops) or Nick Hamad (Park Planning) to share a presentation on timeline for getting involved with neighborhood projects.
- 4) Lee suggested she bring in an example email that she and Fianna composed about adopt-a-park and forming Friends of Parks groups to give out to neighborhoods.

4. **DVCAC standing reports:**

A. DVCAC member news – Lee Williams

1) District 1 – Lindsey Shaw

- Logan Neighborhood is organizing their annual block party which will be on September 12.
- Hays Park is working on Music Under the Oaks in partnership with Spokane Parks Foundation

Lindsey suggested organizing a 'day of service' for neighborhoods to get together and clean up their parks and get to know their neighbors. Fianna added that April is Spokane Gives Month, and the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) has put together several volunteer opportunities, many of which are in our parks. She will look into it and supply a list of opportunities to the group.

2) Friends of the Bluff – Jeff Lambert

- The Friends are still working on the Rocket Stairs, which are on a street right-of-way near The Rocket Market. The stairs provide the southernmost access to the Bluff Conservation Property.
- Board elections are next week. Recruitment is focused on skills and diversity. The number of board members is now double what it was.

3) Friends of Palisades – Paul Lindholdt

- Friends of Palisades now host two cleanups per year, one in the Spring around Earth Day, and one in the Fall. This year's Spring cleanup will be on April 19. Meet in the lot at the corner of Greenwood and Basalt at 8:30 a.m. Wear protective clothing (boots/gloves/long pants) and bring grabbers if you have them. Pastries and coffee will be provided. Cleanups are advertised on the group's website and Jennifer suggested adding the information to the Parks Facebook page.
- The Friends are putting together a trail building working party with Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. A recent land acquisition will extend the Palisades from the NW corner of Palisades Park to Centennial Trail. The event will be the last Saturday of March and tools will be provided. Bring your own boots, gloves, and water.
- Coming soon: Wildflower Hike, Weed Awareness Walk, and Geology Hike.

4) Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park – Lee Williams

- The Friends applied for CDBG funding for a north/south, asphalt, accessible pathway in the park, which will connect the playground, restroom, and gazebo. They did ask to be put on the CDBG list and were informed that they are eligible.
- Irrigation work continues in playground and basketball areas.
- Lee relayed a 'Cheer' she saw in the Inlander in which someone bicycling in

Browne's Addition observed neighborhood citizens enjoying the Park. Lee attributed this to the work that has been done to clean up the park to encourage activation.

- The Friends are exploring serving alcohol at their summer concerts and have contacted Dawn Frey for guidance. Fianna will look up the City Ordinance.
- The Friends are having difficulty coming up with a way to transport all the musical equipment to the middle of the park for concerts. Previously, trucks would drive on the lawn, but with the new sprinkler system, they can no longer do that. Fianna suggested speaking with Al Vorderbrueggen (Park Ops Director), and Bob suggested golf carts. Gerry mentioned the symphony concerts at Comstock and suggested calling the symphony office or contacting Friends of Comstock. Jennifer added that the MAC may be able to supply a transportation vehicle.

5) Friends of Riverfront Park – Cole Taylor had no report. He is still looking for suggestions and assistance on rebuilding membership

5. DVC action items

A. None

6. DVC discussion items

A. [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) information](#) – Heather Page, City of Spokane Community, Housing, and Human Services

Heather is a program manager from City of Spokane's Housing and Community Development program which is a section within the Community, Housing, and Human Services Department that manages the CDBG funding received from the City. She gave an overview of the CDBG program funding they are estimating they will receive in 2025.

Every five years per the department's consolidated plan, community needs and priorities for funding are evaluated. Through extensive community outreach, information was gathered to identify goals and priorities of neighborhoods in Spokane. This information was used to determine what will be funded. Neighborhood improvements were identified as a priority under the goal of improving public & community infrastructure for low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods with some specifically mentioned improvements of streets, lights, safety, parks, and trails. In the past, CDBG funds were able to fund neighborhood projects; however, beginning in 2014, there were changes to regulatory requirements and the way that HUD interpreted them. Because of this, the City could no longer operate its neighborhood allocation program in the same manner.

Funds must be allocated through a competitive, transparent, well-documented Request for Proposals (RFP). Neighborhoods must work with a legal entity (usually a non-profit organization) eligible to receive and manage projects on behalf of neighborhoods. This year, due to the shorter timeline, neighborhoods are not required to have a 501c3 or partner with a 501c3 organization; however, next year it will be a requirement. Projects must be completed within the program year of July 1-June 30. Funds cannot accumulate year over year, and CDBG will only fund projects from eligible neighborhoods as defined in the census block data. Anticipated 2025 funding to be allocated to neighborhoods is \$400,000.

The 2025 CDBG neighborhood allocation will prioritize improvements to neighborhood parks and may include playground, restroom, pathway, and sport court improvements. To

determine eligibility, a website is used to identify service areas of the parks within a 10-minute walking distance. The information is then plugged into another website the City uses to generate the low- to moderate-income census blocks within the service areas. For a park to be eligible for CDBG funding, it must be 51% or more low- to moderate-income.

Lindsey Shaw questioned if a neighborhood needs to decide whether they want the park to be investigated for eligibility or if CHHS will inform them. Heather informed her that information went out to the Community Assembly that if anyone had questions, they could reach out to CHHS.

Gerry Sperling asked if HUD monitors the projects' progression, specifically the end product. Heather told her that they are monitored periodically for compliance with rules and regulations but not project progress.

Lindsey asked if the funds are split between projects or if one project is chosen. Heather told her that funds are typically spread around but that it's the decision of the review committees.

B. Associated Garden Club grant information – Jennifer Ogden

May 31st is the deadline to apply for the available Associated Garden Club grant which is typically between \$500 and \$5,000. Grant applications are reviewed in early June and decisions are made quickly with checks going out in the end of June. Grants are typically for hardscape (rock, bark, compost, etc.), plant materials, and educational materials and do not fund salaries or staff time. If workers in specialized fields are needed for a project, they may be given an exception. Lynn Davis is the grant chair, and Jennifer will give Lynn's number to anyone interested.

Records show that the Associated Garden Club grant program has been operating since 1986. No Park Board member or Park staff serve on the grant committee. Park Board members or Park staff in attendance abstain from any votes.

7. **DVC standing reports:**

A. Levy subcommittee update – Jennifer Ogden

A citizens' advocates group comprised of advocates for both parks and schools has been meeting and working on putting together a levy/bond project for a possible November ballot initiative. [TogetherSpokane.org](https://togetherspokane.org) gives information on what can be achieved if both the Parks levy and the Schools bond pass.

8. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in-person in the Finch Arboretum Ponderosa Room, and virtually via Webex.

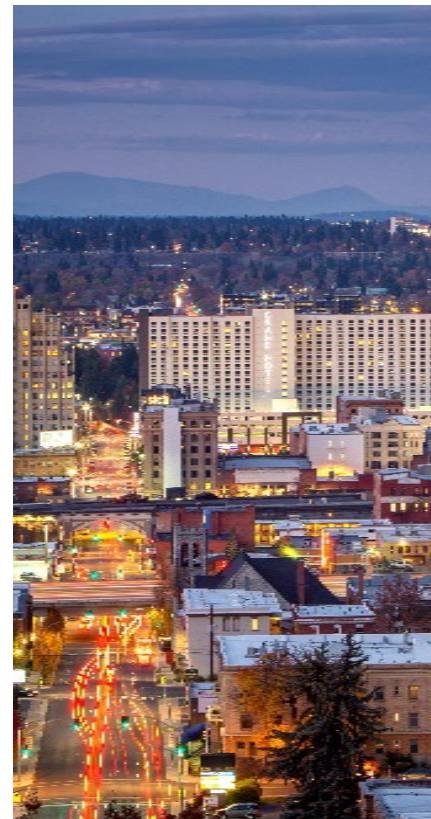


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CDBG Program
2025 Program Year

Neighborhood Allocation

March 12, 2025



Overview

- 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Goals
- Approved Program
- PY2025 Anticipated Funding
- PY2025 Funding Priorities
- CDBG Request for Proposals



2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Goals

Goal	Priorities
Increase access to essential services for low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods	Mental health services Childcare services Addiction treatment services Supportive services for vulnerable populations Homeless Services
Improve public/community infrastructure for low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods	More and/or improved childcare facilities Neighborhood improvements Help for nonprofits
Increase and preserve the stock of affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income households	Affordable rental housing Affordable homeownership opportunities Housing repair and rehabilitation
Create and expand economic development opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals	Workforce development Microenterprise programs

Approved Program

1. Funds will be allocated through a competitive and transparent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The selection process must be well-documented, following already established RFP processes.
2. Neighborhoods must work with a legal entity eligible for receiving the funds. In most cases this will mean working with a non-profit who can accept the funds and manage the project on behalf of the neighborhoods.
3. Projects must be completed within the program year of July 1-June 30.
4. Set aside funds cannot accumulate year over year and must be spent down during the contract term. CHHS will reprogram unspent neighborhood allocation funds on a yearly basis into the general CDBG funding pool.
5. To meet a required National Objective, CDBG will only fund projects from eligible neighborhoods as defined in the census block data.

PY2025 CDBG Anticipated Funding

Source	Amount
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$3,046,000*

Category	Maximum Amount
Neighborhood Allocation	\$400,000*

*These amounts are estimates and subject to change

PY 2025 Funding Priorities

The 2025 CDBG Neighborhood allocation will prioritize improvements to neighborhood parks. Improvements to be prioritized for funding include:

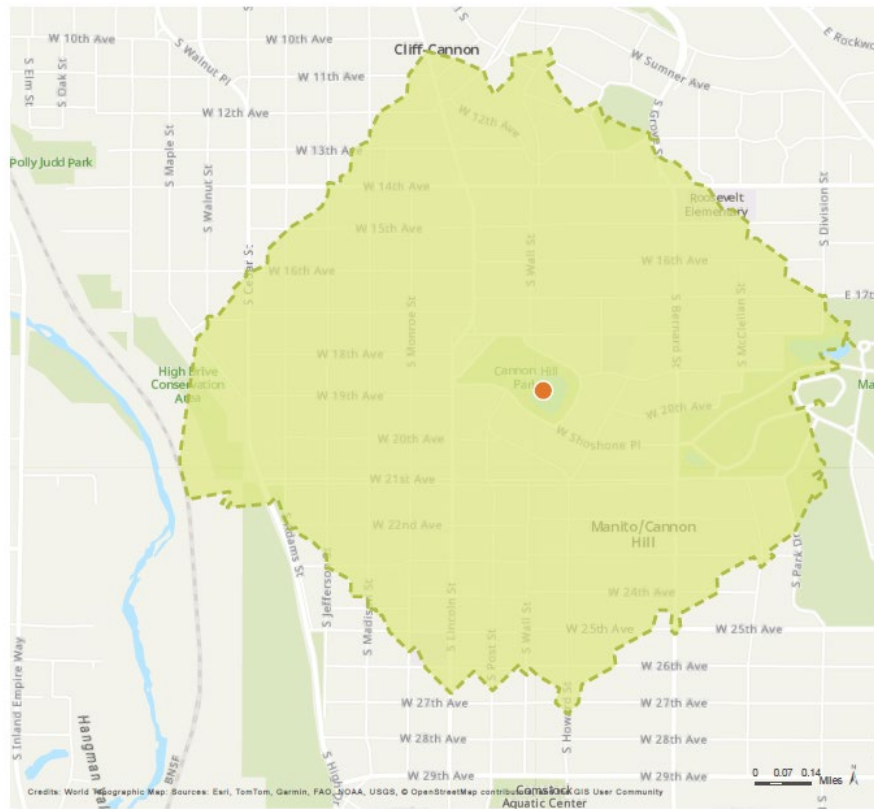
- Playground Improvements
- Restroom Improvements
- Pathway improvements
(may or may not be within a park boundary)
- Sport Court Improvements



Additional information for each category is available in the RFP

ParkServe Service Area

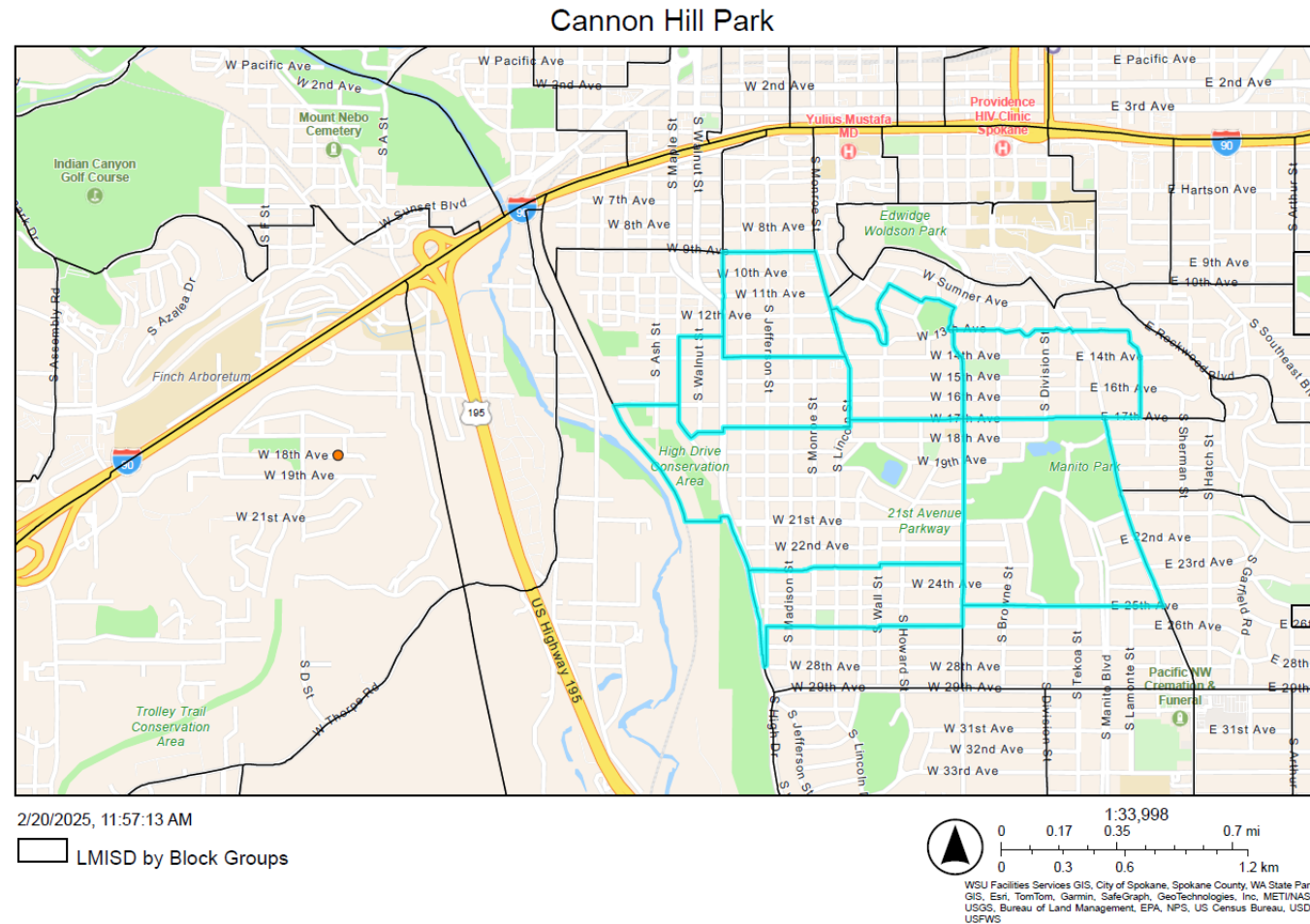
ParkServe Map Export



- <https://ParkServe.org>

Service Area Block Groups

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/279eca022754f8a954bbf8cf995a1a3>



LMI Percentages

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
1	OBJECTID	GEONAME	STUSAB	COUNTYN	STATE	COUNTY	TRACT	BLKGRP	LOW	LOWMOD	LMMI	LOWMOD	LOWMOD_	MOE_LOW	UCLOW	UCLOWM	UCLOWM	MOE_UCL	Source
2	81445	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4001	2	130	260	690	795	32.70%	+/-20.90%					2020 ACS
3	81446	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4001	3	45	170	365	615	27.60%	+/-24.00%					2020 ACS
4	81450	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4100	2	110	165	345	800	20.60%	+/-11.20%					2020 ACS
5	81451	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4100	3	125	235	415	845	27.80%	+/-14.50%					2020 ACS
6	81452	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4200	1	45	205	350	770	26.60%	+/-15.50%					2020 ACS
7	81455	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4200	4	20	40	85	855	4.70%	+/-5.30%					2020 ACS
8	81456	Block Groi	WA	Spokane C	53	63	4200	5	70	185	435	1310	14.10%	+/-8.00%					2020 ACS
9																			
10																			
11										1260		5990							
12																			
13																			
14										LOWMOD_	0.210351								
15																			

CDBG Neighborhood Allocation RFP

Activity/Process	Date
RFP Advance Notice to Community Assembly	January 9, 2025
Public Notice of Funding Availability	January 15, 2024
Applications Available	January 15, 2024
Individual Technical Assistance meetings available*	January 16 – March 7, 2025
Technical Assistance Virtual Workshop*	January 22, 2025
Applications Due 5:00 pm	March 14, 2025
Acknowledgement Letter sent to all applicants	March 17, 2025
Parks, CHHS Staff reviews	March 17 – 31, 2025
CHHS Committee application review	April 1 – 15, 2025
CHHS Committee funding recommendations	April 22, 2025
CHHS Board approval of funding recommendations	May 7, 2025
Neighborhoods notified of funding decisions	May 9 , 2025
Contract Start Date	July 1, 2025

Questions

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