



Special meeting of the Spokane Park Board Retreat

9:00 a.m. Friday, October 18, 2024
In-person at The Pavilion – Sky Room

Park Board Members

Bob Anderson – President
Gerry Sperling – Vice President
Garrett Jones – Secretary
Nick Sumner (*absent/excused*)
Greta Gilman
Sally Lodato
Jennifer Ogden
Barb Richey (*absent/excused*)
Hannah Kitz (*absent/excused*)
Kevin Brownlee
Doug Kelley
Jonathan Bingle – City Council liaison

Parks Staff

Jason Conley
Nick Hamad
Al Vorderbrueggen
Jennifer Papich
Carl Strong
Jonathan Moog
Rich Lentz
Mark Poirier
Ryan Griffith
Fianna Dickson
Amy Lindsey
Angel Spell
Sarah Deatrich

Guests

Mayor Lisa Brown
CP Betsy Wilkerson
Rick Romero
Gavin Cooley
Dr. Adam Swinyard
Greg Forsyth

MINUTES

1. **Call to order / Roll call:** Bob Anderson
The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. See above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:**
 - A. None
3. **Special discussion:**
 - A. Welcome and goals for the day – Bob Anderson
 - 1) Bob shared news from Lee Williams, the Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park representative from the DVCAC committee. Lee reported that Coeur d'Alene Park is set to receive new play equipment and a new restroom thanks to a grant submitted by Parks and Recreation to the State of Washington.
 - 2) Bob's goal for the day is to seek answers on how to use what is learned today to accomplish Parks' master plan priorities.
 - B. Spokane Urban River Experience – Rick Romero/Gavin Cooley
 - 1) Rick Romero and Gavin Cooley shared a presentation on a possible Spokane Urban River Experience (SURE) Partnership. The project started as a vision around the assets within the Spokane core and bringing them together under one partnership to maximize economic, environmental, and quality of life outcomes for the Spokane region. The SURE partnership would include the three-mile stretch of the Spokane River from the Sandifur Bridge to Iron Bridge and neighboring public spaces along that

stretch. Rick outlined some methods of accomplishing this and feels that the easiest and most cost-effective way would be to form a partnership or consortium of key 'owners'.

- 2) Rick then outlined goals of the project and shared examples of how to attain them.
 - a. Goal 1: Activate the river corridor with additional amenities/activities. Ideas included a zipline (project in process), an upriver cruise, a big wheel, and others.
 - b. Goal 2: Brand/market under one unified identity, possibly "Spokane Urban River Experience", possibly another.
 - c. Goal 3: Identify sustainable funding for Riverfront Park (RFP). Among ideas were the possibility of creating a City enterprise fund for RFP, use of revenue from new amenities, new partnerships, new branding, and rethinking the Pavilion. This goal aims to bring more revenue to RFP by bringing more people to the park.
 - d. Goal 4: Keep Riverfront Park affordable and accessible for families. Keeping in mind that RFP is still a free park, ideas included partnering with Spokane Public Schools (SPS and free sponsored events/activities, among others.
 - e. Goal 5: Address mobility to connect people to and through the corridor. Research revealed that over 50% of the population can't or won't walk one mile. One suggestion of an innovative "people-mover" included rickshaws along the corridor and connecting north and south through the park. Jennifer Ogden suggested possibly extending the gondola and including stops along the way, and an STA partnership was mentioned. Jonathan Moog added that the zipline operators will be offering accessible narrative tours through RFP.
 - f. Goal 6: Increase safety emphasis. This goal could be a direct result of new river and park activations bringing added eyes and ears to the park. Also suggested were coordination of Park Rangers and other commissioned officers, and increased activities and events.
 - g. Goal 7: Continue to be good environmental stewards and tell our environmental story as part of park tours.
- 3) In addition to Parks, some possible partners could include: Public Facilities District, Avista, Gonzaga, University District, Kendall Yards, Centennial Trail, River Forum, Downtown Spokane Partnership, and Visit Spokane. Several board members would like to see cultural/tribal partnerships as well.
- 4) Next steps in the SURE project:
 - a. Secure support from Park Board and Parks Executive Team
 - b. Secure support from initial partners
 - c. Form a strategic plan
 - d. Establish timing and public communications
 - e. Develop partnership agreements

Jon Moog feels the project is a fitting next step in terms of the evolution of RFP. It provides a good prospective for expanding RFP's borders which would be beneficial to the City both economically and culturally.

Gerry Sperling reminded Rick and Gavin that the Park Board operates in committees, and to remember that avenue to the Board.

C. City of Spokane Update – Mayor Brown/CP Wilkerson

- 1) Council President Betsy Wilkerson shared her support for Spokane Parks and Recreation Division and conveyed that the full City Council is committed to Parks, as well. She reflected back to the Covid pandemic and the importance of parks during that time. She feels that parks are the core of neighborhoods, and the role parks play in the Spokane community is taken for granted. CP Wilkerson is supportive of the direction

parks is heading, in terms of funding options, and stressed the “power of we” as Parks focuses on new partnership opportunities. She suggested internet in every park and urged the group to remember the City’s changing demographics when planning changes. She also thanked the Board for their service.

- 2) Mayor Lisa Brown shared that her working relationship with Parks is an important part of her day-to-day job. She thanked the Board for their service and for their contributions to the people and the communities of Spokane. Mayor Brown went on to say she inherited a challenging budget situation which is now on a good path. Having implemented furloughs and delays of COLA increases at the cabinet level, eliminating vacant positions, reorganizing work, and eliminating the Reographics department, she hopes to see the structural deficit for 2025 decreased from a projected \$25M to approximately \$5M by the time she announces the 2-year budget in the first week of November. She feels this will enable the community safety proposal to be put into the community safety investments the Spokane community wants, such as bringing back neighborhood resource officers and traffic safety. Administration is working on partnerships between the City, SPD, Parks, and Schools.

Sally Lodato asked the Mayor what is in store for the financial aspect of Parks. Mayor Brown stated that Parks sets its budget and Administration appreciates the 5% reduction exercise. She stated that as she examined the departments’ exercises, there were many areas where she felt cuts simply could not be made and told of areas where cost cuts have been made, such as early retirement incentive for Police, Fire, and the Managerial & Professional union. She said she is hopeful that the City can have a 2-year budget that shows a pathway to eliminating the structural deficit and that there is success on the community safety proposal on the ballot. Once that is achieved, she will continue to advocate for a partnership with Parks as she is aware of how important it is to the community.

Sally then stressed the importance of pools and programs in getting the community in the outdoors. She is in hopes that Parks can continue to invest in them. Mayor Brown agreed that programing is very important and reaches a diverse population.

- D. [Levy Update/Partnership Opportunities](#) – Garrett Jones/Dr. Adam Swinyard (SPS Superintendent)/Greg Forsyth (SPS Director of Capital Projects)
 - 1) A lot has been done since the adoption of the Master Plan in June of 2022. In 2023, a draft investment program was developed, an Executive Team formed, and a program and funding strategy was adopted. Currently, we are exploring partnerships and timing for a Parks levy ballot measure.
 - 2) The recent failure of the School Bond has presented an opportunity to partner with Spokane Public Schools (SPS). A partnership with SPS would provide mission alignment through thriving neighborhoods, wellness, youth development, and safety/maintenance/operations; and build on past successes such as land coordination (middle schools, libraries, dog parks) and mutual use (larger gyms for Parks activities, collaborative programming). Dr. Adam Swinyard feels that the failure of the school bond may someday be looked upon as a saving grace in that they were forced to re-evaluate and explore working together to do more for the community. He went on to say there has been a great decline in the kids’ engagement over the past 15 years, largely due to the use of electronic devices. Research shows that most kids are looking at screens 5+ hours a day which has contributed to a steady decline in their overall wellness. SPS is looking to provide practical alternatives to screen time and Dr. Swinyard stated that educating families, raising awareness of risks, and getting kids outside every day, doing something active, is imperative for their mental and physical

- wellness. He is passionate about what a partnership could do for Spokane's youth.
- 3) SPS and Parks' needs align in many ways, including aging infrastructure/facilities, desire for improved maintenance & operation, high demand for sports and recreational spaces, limited opportunities for art & culture, lingering concerns for safety, need for access to early learning, and providing youth alternatives to screens. Dr. Swinyard added to the importance of early learning by stating that SPS has one of the lowest kindergarten readiness rates across Washington State, with some schools experiencing 0% readiness, resulting in the need for potty-training and diaper changing programming in kindergarten classes. Socialization and verbal development are also low, partially due to the pandemic.
 - 4) A Parks/SPS partnership can be looked at in three conceptual "buckets".
 - a. Joint development projects could include adjacent park/school improvements, sports field improvements, additional indoor/outdoor recreation hubs. All joint development projects would go before Park Board for approval
 - b. Joint activities could include such things as coordination in maintenance, operations, and public safety, as well as collaborative field & facility scheduling for community users.
 - c. Joint programming could include outdoor learning, early learning, and engaging in real life.
 - 5) An SPS/Parks partnership would provide:
 - a. Healthier neighborhoods through 21st century school facilities, improved gathering spaces, renovated & expanded park facilities, increased use, and spaces to support local art & culture
 - b. Safer community through added limited commission Park Rangers & city-wide coverage, timely maintenance & vandalism repairs, and increased positive activity
 - c. Economic growth through creating a desirable place to live, encouraging business investment & development, urban amenities to attract tourism, and job creation
 - 6) A collaborative streamlined approach to outreach & education would provide greater reach, combined resources able to stretch further, and volunteer coordination and implementation.
 - 7) The Parks Investment Program would remain substantially unchanged, and regardless of the 2025 ballot date, a passing measure would see funding available in May 2026.
 - 8) If the Park Board wishes to proceed with this proposal, they would adopt a resolution requesting the City Council to remove the Levy from the February 2025 ballot and place on a specific future ballot <or> leave a future date open. This would need to happen at the November 14 Park Board meeting. It would then be heard at Council and voted upon on December 2, and the deadline for removal from the ballot is December 13. With these steps in place, Q1 2025 would see the kick-off of public outreach and education.

There was discussion around the importance of parks in a community, and the impact parks can have on lives. Board members are supportive of the partnership, stressing the importance of educating the public to show the value they would receive in return for the dollars paid.

The SPS bond and Park levy would remain separate measures, though marketed together, on a future ballot. If one or both measures fail, Parks and SPS will continue to partner on other projects.

E. [2024 Park Highlights](#) – Garrett Jones

- 1) The combined Right of Way crew pilot project has created efficiencies, created a streamlined process, and provided enhanced care. The ROW crew has received kudos

from neighborhood residents.

- 2) Parks & Rec employed hundreds of temp/seasonal workers, many of whom were youth holding their first jobs.
- 3) Water efficiencies have been created through irrigation system replacements and partnering with Utilities to replace the pump house at Qualchan golf course this fall.
- 4) Capital investment projects included numerous renovations and improvements, several in partnership with outside entities.
- 5) Volunteers, partners, and sponsors celebrated the 50th anniversary of Expo '74. Between May 4 and July 4, more than 150 events drew 317,000 visitors.

4. **Adjourn for lunch:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

5. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

F. [Policy Update – Alternative Use on Park Land/Case Studies](#) – Al Vorderbrueggen/Nick Hamad/Greta Gilman

- 1) Policy goals:
 - a. Protect and enhance public park lands and uses
 - b. Standardize process and criteria for evaluating proposed alternative uses on park lands, for both Park Board and applicants
 - c. Gather proposal information prior to requesting time on Park Board committees.
 - d. Continue to allow case-by-case evaluation of proposals
- 2) The purpose is to establish a policy to evaluate proposals for alternative uses on park land and ensure quantifiable net benefit to the park system. The policy is intended to evaluate only those proposals for alternative use that require the City to transfer a real property interest to a 3rd party. It is not intended for facility rentals, community events, or park sponsorship. 'Alternative use' is any use of park land for other than park purposes. Some examples of alternative use include utility infrastructure, access easements, and facilities not owned, operated, or maintained by Parks.
- 3) The draft policy and draft application are complete.
- 4) Key points to note:
 - a. Permission for alternative use can only be granted or denied by the Park Board.
 - b. To be approved, the proposal must demonstrate quantifiable net improvement to park land.
 - c. When considering net benefit, Park Board may consider market value of rights conveyed to applicant and applicant's property.
 - d. Proposals should not compromise the ability of adjacent park land to function, restrict free access to surrounding park land, or result in potential danger to the public.
 - e. Agreements shall not require Park Board to fund site improvements, security, maintenance, and/or capital replacement unless agreed to by the Board.
- 5) Overview:
 - a. Applicant submits application form, backup documentation, and payment.
 - b. Staff reviews to ensure required information is present
 - c. Application goes to the appropriate Park Board Committee for discussion. If supported, an agreement is drafted. If opposed, the proposal is rejected. An applicant may revise and resubmit a proposal.
 - d. Drafted agreements go before the Committee for action.
 - e. If passed at committee level, it proceeds to the full Park Board for action.

There was discussion regarding whether all applications should go directly to committee or if Park Board wants staff to have authority – with guidelines – to decide what will proceed.

As an alternative, it was suggested that the applicant be required to approach a committee member to sponsor the item to proceed to the committee agenda. Most Board members were not in favor of this suggestion, feeling that it would give decision making authority to one person.

6) Several test cases were presented which spurred discussion around weighing net benefits when reviewing cases.

7) Questions:

- a. Should all applications be brought to committee, or could 'minor' requests be decided by staff?

At this point, the policy states that all requests come through committee once staff verifies necessary documentation is present. Some Board members feel they should not come to committee until the quantifiable net benefit is defined. Staff would not have the authority to approve applications as only Park Board can approve agreements regarding land.

There was a suggestion of creating a category for applications that staff feel may not present sufficient quantifiable net benefit. These may be forwarded to committee in small groups, via email, with a recommendation stating staff feels they do not meet requirements. A possible addition of a 'staff review and comments' section to the application was mentioned.

Also suggested was the formation of a sub-committee to the Land Committee for reviewal of applications. This would result in less applications coming through Land Committee but present the challenge of time constraints.

- b. Should the policy apply to 'us' (City / Park staff)? Examples: Another City department wants to build on/through park land, or Park staff proposes revision to the joint-use-agreement with SPS.

Board members agreed the policy should apply to City entities.

- c. Should there be an application fee, or should it be removed from the policy?

There was a comment that perhaps the fee applies if staff perform initial review, but not if the application goes straight to committee. Another commented that a fee would pose a barrier to those without sufficient funding to move forward with a request. Most Board members feel the application fee is minimal in comparison to the benefits the applicants receive, and it should be kept. Any appraisals, environmental assessments, technical reviews, or other related assessments will be paid for by the applicant.

F. [Future Budget Considerations Update](#) – Staff

- 1) Rich Lentz shared an introduction to this presentation. The General Fund continues to decline as a % of the overall City budget as more funds are split out into other types of funds. In recent years, the increases to the Parks transfer have not kept pace with inflationary pressures or wage increases. From 2021 to 2024, the cost of chemicals increased 106%. Despite conservation efforts, the cost of water usage has increased by 52%, despite conservation efforts. With this trajectory, Parks will be unable to maintain service levels without seeking additional funding sources.
- 2) Fianna Dickson presented strategies to generate revenue through sponsorships.

- a. First, to streamline the current policy, it has been separated into two policies. One policy will focus on sponsorships, advertising, donations, and naming rights, and the other would be solely for naming. Legal is currently reviewing the policies which will be brought to an internal work group and eventually to the Park Board for review. If the Park levy is successful, there will be new park properties, and a clear naming policy will be necessary.
 - b. Next, a planning document will be developed. Fianna will be working with Amy Lindsey to create a solid plan for sponsorship opportunities outside of Riverfront Park.
- 3) Jennifer Papich shared Aquatics Master Plan - Goal D: Swim and Splash Strategies.
- a. Objectives are to expand access to existing outdoor pools; form partnerships with SPS and Facilities to enhance water recreation; and provide additional splash pads in parks. Open swim is currently in level 1 of Recreation's Cost Recovery Plan. Level 1 activities remove cost barriers and there are no target goals for cost recovery.
 - b. 2025 will see increased programming & programming fees and reduced open swim times where it will be least impactful.
 - i. Increasing programming will be accomplished by finding the most effective methods to expand programming based on demand and optimizing revenue generation. Fees will be updated to match current market rates to guarantee adequate cost recovery.
 - ii. Decreasing free open swim times will be done by exploring alternative ways to reduce open swim days with minimal impact on the community. Some options are shortening the swim season by one week; eliminating one day of open swim per week at each pool; or reducing open swim times at a facility with the lowest historical open swim attendance. Some reduced open swim times may be replaced with fee-based programming.
 - c. Ten non-profit community centers receive financial support from Parks to provide programs throughout Spokane neighborhoods. Funds are allocated by taking into consideration each center's requirements, expense challenges, and revenue sources. Funding mechanisms for the centers may need to be evaluated based on updated state and federal purchasing policies.
- 4) Angel Spell shared a presentation on Urban Forestry's programs and Operations.
- a. Part of the uniqueness of Urban Forestry is the way it is embedded in the community through partnership programs, neighborhood councils, government agencies, and more. Urban Forestry also provides inter-agency support for several departments within the City. Within Parks & Rec, Urban Forestry provides support through stewardship (planting, pruning, removal) and working with Park Planning on site plan reviews, permitting, and tree protection plans.
 - b. Angel shared a spreadsheet showing revenue in and out of Urban Forestry (UF). There is an approximately \$128,730 funding gap between services provided and funding revenue. UF is exploring ways to decrease that gap.
 - c. UF and Development Services Center (DSC) are holding ongoing meetings to target efficiencies and opportunities. They have developed a phased approach to transfer select duties from UF to DSC. DSC budget funding of .40 FTE will remain intact for 2025.
 - i. UF will no longer be present at pre-development meetings and have provided DSC with materials to distribute to applicants.
 - ii. UF will provide training to DSC Planners on conducting street tree and landscape plan reviews on residential and commercial applications.
 - iii. UF will remain available for consultation on development projects with unique or complex technical issues.

G. Closing thoughts – Bob Anderson

- 1) Bob stated that he feels the meeting showed more possibilities than he felt there would be prior to meeting.
- 2) Related to the SURE project, Bob asked next steps. In coming meetings with City leaders, Rick and Gavin would like to be able to express Parks' support. Bob suggested he send an email to Board members to gather individual thoughts and ideas.
- 3) Related to the SPS/Parks partnership, Bob stated the next step would need to be to change the levy date. This will be discussed at the November 14 Park Board meeting.
- 4) Parks will continue to explore ways to narrow the budget gap.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Garrett Jones

Minutes approved by: _____
Garrett Jones, Park Board Secretary

Spokane Urban River Experience

SURE Partnership



The WHY

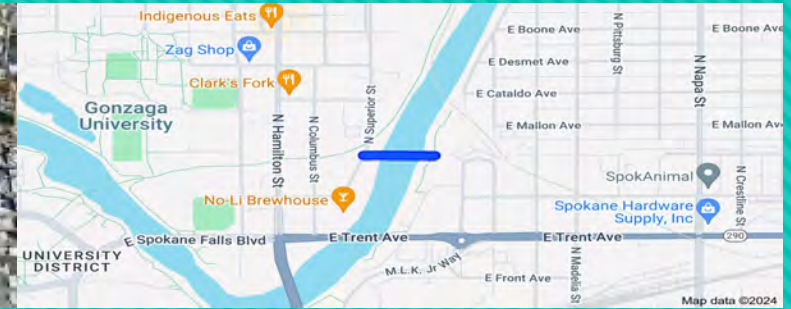
Spokane has a world-class set of Natural Assets, Built-out Amenities and Public Spaces in its Urban Core

- Largest Urban Falls in the Nation
- Nationally Ranked EXPO-Legacy Downtown Park
- Unmatched Entertainment, Sports and Tourist Facilities
- Nationally Recognized Universities on Both Sides of the River
- Incredible Urban River Trail System
- Kendall Yards Best in Class Downtown Community

The WHY

By bringing these assets Together under one Partnership, we can better maximize our Economic, Environmental and Quality of Life outcomes for the Spokane region

The WHERE



The 3-mile stretch of the Spokane River from the Sandifur Bridge to Iron Bridge, and the neighboring public spaces along that stretch.

The HOW



○ Partnership/Structure Options

- New Organization – i.e. Conservancy or Non-Profit
- Extend Park Boundaries to Encompass 3-Mile Stretch
- Partnership/Consortium of Key ‘Owners’

The WHAT - Proposed Strategic Goals

- **GOAL 1** – Activate the Urban River Corridor with Additional Amenities and Activities
- **GOAL 2** - Brand/Market this Under One Unified Identity
- **GOAL 3** - Identify Sustainable Funding for Riverfront Park
- **GOAL 4** - Keep Riverfront Spokane Affordable/Accessible for Families
- **GOAL 5** - Address Mobility to Connect To and Thru this Corridor
- **GOAL 6** - Increase Emphasis on Safety throughout Corridor
- **GOAL 7** - Continue to be Good Environmental Stewards of these Assets

The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

○ GOAL 1 - Activate the Urban River Corridor with Additional Amenities and Activities

- Zipline?
- Upriver Cruise?
- Big Wheel?
- Whitewater Experience?
- Floating Wine/Beer Garden?
- Other Opportunities?



The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

○ GOAL 2 - Brand/Market Under One Unified Identity

- Spokane Urban River Experience (SURE)?
- Riverfront Spokane?
- Other?

The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

○ GOAL 3 - Identify Sustainable Funding for Riverfront Park

- Possible Use of City “Enterprise” Fund for Riverfront Park?
- Revenue from New Amenities?
- Impact of New Branding?
- Rethinking the Pavilion?
- New Partners?
- Sponsorships, Naming, Gifts?
- Other?



The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

- GOAL 4 - Keep Riverfront Park Affordable/Accessible for Families
 - Riverfront Park is Still a Free Park
 - Family Passes and Discounts
 - Free Sponsored Events and Activities
 - Partnership with Schools
 - Innovative People-Movers – (Goal 5)

The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

- **GOAL 5** - Address Mobility to Connect To and Thru this Corridor
 - Over 50% of Population Can't/Won't Walk 1 Mile
 - Innovative Use of Electric Vehicles Along the Corridor
 - Innovative Use of Electric Vehicles to Connect N/S Thru the Park
 - Key Partnership Initiative
 - Entertainment
 - Retail
 - Hospitality
 - Residential
 - Tourism



The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

- GOAL 6 - Increase Emphasis on Safety Throughout Corridor
 - Use New Amenities and Mobility to Add Eyes and Ears
 - Park Rangers/Limited Commission Officers
 - Key Partnership Initiative:
 - Private Security
 - Partner Participation and Funding
 - CPTED
 - Increased Activities and Events

The WHAT

Discussion of Strategic Goals

- **GOAL 7** - Continue to be Good Environmental Stewards of these Assets
 - Legacy of EXPO
 - Integrated Clean Water Plan
 - Park Lighting, Amenities and Electric Vehicles Powered by Park Dams
 - Tell our Environmental Story as Part of Park Tours

Potential Consortium Partners

- Parks
- Public Facilities District
- Avista
- Gonzaga
- University District
- Kendall Yards
- Centennial Trail
- River Forum
- DSP
- Visit Spokane



Next Steps

- Secure Support from Park Board and Parks Executive Team
- Reach out to Initial Partners to Secure Support to Proceed
- Work with Partners on Business Plan
- Work with Partners on Timing and Public Communications
- Work with Partners to Develop Partnership Agreements

THANK YOU!



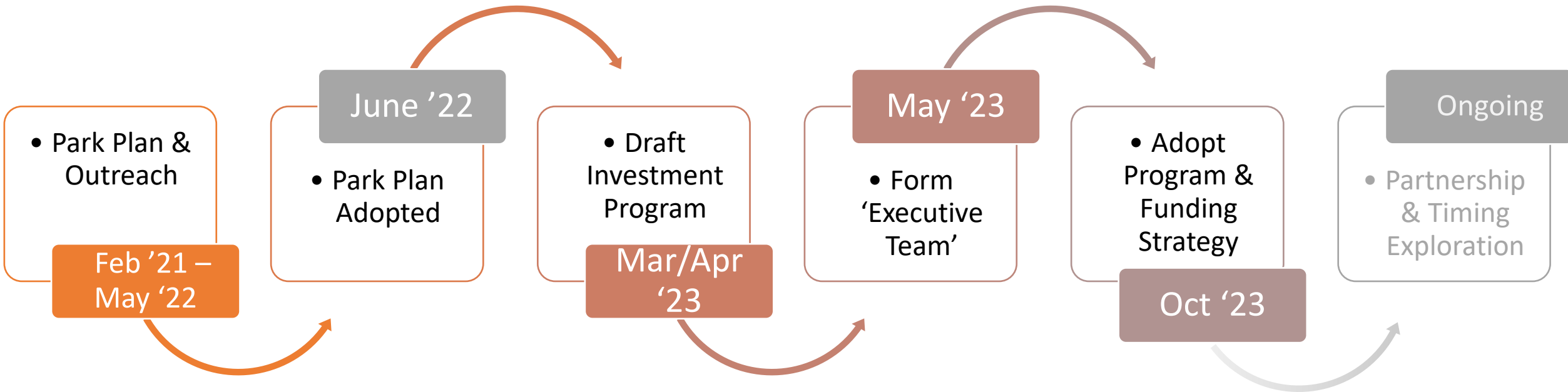


Healthy Parks, Healthy Neighborhoods

Update & Next Steps



Where We Are



Partnership Opportunity w/ Spokane Schools

- **Mission alignment – Parks Master Plan**
 - Thriving neighborhoods - investments in every neighborhood
 - Wellness
 - Youth development
 - Safety, maintenance, operations
- **Building on past successes**
 - Land coordination (middle schools, libraries, dog parks)
 - Mutual use (larger gyms for Parks activities, collaborative programming)

Addressing Community Needs

- Aging infrastructure & facilities
- Desire for improved maintenance & operations of facilities
- Extremely high demand for sports and recreational spaces
- Limited opportunities for art & culture
- Lingering concerns for safety in public spaces
- Critical need for access to early learning
- Enormous implications to provide youth alternatives to screens

Partnership opportunity w/ Spokane Schools

Joint development projects

- Adjacent park/school improvements - one community space, multiple uses
- Sports field improvements, expansions
- Additional indoor & outdoor recreation hubs
- All projects would come before Park Board for approval

Joint initiatives

- Maintenance & operations coordination
- Public safety coordination
- Collaborative fields/facility scheduling for community users

Joint programming

- Outdoor learning
- Early learning
- Engage IRL

Partnership opportunity w/ Spokane Schools



Value-add for Spokane neighborhoods



Spokane can provide more programming and infrastructure opportunities for the community through collaborative partnerships that leverage collective expertise and resources

Partnership Benefits



Healthier Neighborhoods

- 21st century school facilities
- Improved gathering spaces
- Renovated & expanded park facilities
- Increased use
- Spaces to support local art & culture vibrancy



Safer Community

- More Limited Commission Park Rangers, city-wide coverage
- Timely maintenance & vandalism repairs
- Increased positive activity in public spaces



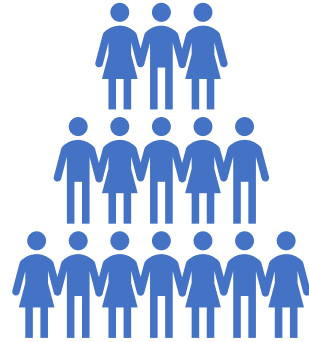
Economic Growth

- Creates a desirable place to live
- Encourages business investment and development
- Urban amenities attract tourism
- Job creation

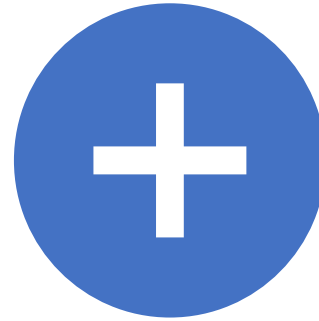
Outreach & Education



**Collaborative,
streamlined
approach**



**Greater
reach**



**Combined
resources can
stretch further**

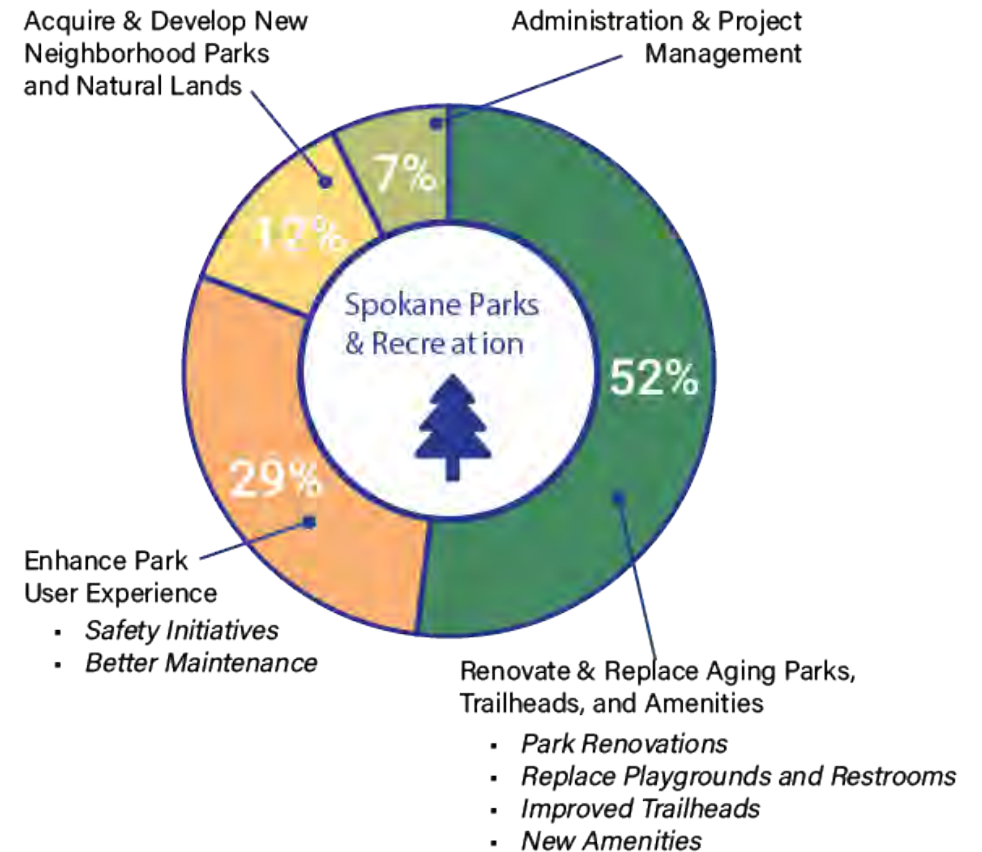


**Volunteer
coordination and
implementation**

Parks Investment Program

Substantially unchanged:

- Enhanced security and maintenance across all parks
- 3 new neighborhood parks (Shiloh Hills, North Indian Trail, and Latah/Hangman)
- 3 major park renovations (Minnehaha, Harmon, and Grant)
- 54 +/- playground replacements/repairs
- 95 +/- restroom improvements
- 4 - 6 new all-weather sports fields
- 14 +/- sport court renovations
- 1 new disc golf course
- 1 new pump track
- 12 +/- irrigation system replacements
- 5 trail and trailhead renovation/developments
- Amenity improvements like lighting, picnic shelters, parking lots, pathways
- Natural lands planning, management, and land acquisition



Impact of Ballot Measure Timing

**REGARDLESS OF 2025 BALLOT DATE, A PASSING MEASURE
= LEVY FUNDING IN MAY 2026**

Timeline for Next Steps



November 14

**Park Board resolution
requesting City Council
remove the levy from
February 2025 ballot
and:**

Place on a specific future ballot

OR

Leave a future date open



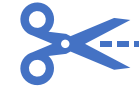
November 18

**PIES committee of City
Council**



December 2

City Council vote



December 13

**Deadline to remove levy
from February ballot**



Q1 2025

**Public outreach &
education kick-off**

Park Board Input & Discussion

2024 Highlights



Right of Way Crew



The combined Right of Way crew pilot project has proven successful:

- created efficiencies
- streamlined process
- enhanced care

Right of Way Crew Kudos

"I just wanted to take a moment and thank you and [the Park Operations] team for a noticeable improvement of the appearance of the Rockwood Greenways. I have had several neighbors call me to say that they think it looks much better. Thank you again. All the best." - Dave Lucas, neighbor

"I'd like to thank [new Right of Way crew: Chris Bastin, Robin Berry, Kirk Schaffer, Joe Miller, Kaila Red Bow, Reece Dunlap, Emma Hawkings, Jonah Hurst, Carter Hayes, Atticus Prim, Eugene Budsock, and Nehemiah Hires] for the beautiful work they did on the triangle on Lincoln between 17th and 18th and all the weed control, as well as the memorial downtown by the Spokane Club. They wacked it down nicely and saved the shrubs, and it looks so much better. Thank you very much to you and your team for doing that so fast!" - Elizabeth Goldsmith, neighbor

Youth Summer Employment

- Parks & Recreation employs hundreds of temp/season workers, many of them youth holding their first jobs.
- This summer, we noted quite a few familiar faces returning to work as aquatic aides, lifeguards, camp staff, Riverfront attractions staff, retail/food & beverage, and park maintenance.



Not only are these employees key to helping us deliver important community services, but along the way, they build new friendships and professional connections!

Water efficiencies

- Parks has ongoing water efficiency projects and efforts
- Our in-house Irrigation team is replacing the antiquated irrigation system at Coeur d'Alene park, replacing a manual system with automated
- Through a great partnership with Utilities, the Creek at Qualchan pump house is being replaced this fall



Capital Investments

- Corbin Park sport court renovations
- Underhill sport court renovation
- TJ Meenach river access
- Whitewater disc golf course renovation
- South hill dog park, with SPS
- High Bridge dog park renovation, with SPS
- Indian Canyon bunker renovation
- South Suspension Bridge renovation
- Nevada Park ballfield improvements, with KXLY Extreme Team
- Grant park ballfield improvements, with Spokane Indians Baseball
- 16 neighborhood playground repairs, via grant





“We live on Corbin Park. The care for the park has been great. We watch literally hundreds of citizens enjoy the park on each of these lovely summer days. The upgrades to the Tennis/Pickle Ball courts are already well utilized and we look forward to the new play structure that our grandkids and the whole neighborhood will enjoy. All this makes us feel a little better about paying our property tax bill. Thanks to everybody at the City for the stewardship of this precious resource.” – Kevin & Dana Foster

Expo 50th

- Community volunteers, corporate and community partners, and sponsors came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Expo '74 and its impact on Spokane
- 150+ events between May 4 and July 4 drew 317,000 visitors
- Events included festivals, cultural sharing, artwork, storytelling, performance, music, legislative work, history sharing, community service, education, and more



Questions?
Thank you



~~Partnership Agreement~~ Alternative use on Park Land

Park Board Update

Policy Goals

- Protect and enhance public park lands & uses.
- Standardize process & criteria for evaluating proposed alt. uses on park lands.
 - For both Park Board & Applicants
- Gather additional proposal information for Park Board and staff prior to requesting time on park board committee.
- Continue to allow 'case-by-case' evaluation of proposals.

Purpose

“To establish a policy to evaluate proposal for ‘alternative uses’ on park land and ensure quantifiable net improvement to the park system.”

Intended Policy Use

Intended only to evaluate proposal for 'Alternative Use' that requires the City transfer a real property interest to a 3rd party.

Not intended to apply for facility rentals, community events, and park sponsorship.

Progress

- Draft Policy....*complete!*
- Draft Application....*complete!*

CITY OF SPOKANE PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE	ADMIN 1400-24-[#]
TITLE: ALTERNATIVE USE ON PARK LAND EFFECTIVE DATE: TBD	
REVISION DATE (IF APPLICABLE)	

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to evaluate proposals for 'Alternative Use' (as defined below) on park land owned by the City of Spokane and controlled by the Spokane Park Board, and ensure such proposals provide a quantifiable net improvement to the city park system.

1.2 This policy is intended only to evaluate proposals for an "Alternative Use on Park Land" that requires the City of Spokane to transfer a real property interest to a third party. It is not intended to apply to proposals for park or park facility rentals, community events on park land, and park sponsorship.

1.3 TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	GENERAL
2.0	DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS AFFECTED
3.0	REFERENCES
4.0	DEFINITIONS
5.0	POLICY
6.0	PROCEDURE
7.0	RESPONSIBILITIES
8.0	APPENDICES

2.0 DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS AFFECTED

This policy shall apply to all City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Land.

3.0 REFERENCES

City Charter - Section 48. Park Board - Powers

What is an 'Alternative Use'

- “Any use of Park Land for other than Park Purposes...”



What is an 'Alternative Use'

- “Any use of Park Land for other than Park Purposes...”
- Examples
 - Utility Infrastructure



What is an 'Alternative Use'

- “Any use of Park Land for other than Park Purposes...”
- Examples
 - Utility Infrastructure
 - Access across park land (vehicles / pedestrians / construction)



What is an 'Alternative Use'

- “Any use of Park Land for
- Examples
 - Utility Infrastructure
 - Access across park land (v
 - Facilities which are not owned, maintained or operated by Parks
 - (sportsplex, library, school, etc.)



Key Points to Note

- Permission for 'alt use' granted/denied only by park board.
- To be approved, proposal must demonstrate 'quantifiable net-improvement to park land'.
- When considering benefit, park board may consider market value of rights conveyed to applicant & applicant's property.
- Proposal should not compromise ability of adjacent remaining park land to function, shall not restrict free access to surrounding park land, or result in potential danger to public.
- Agreement shall not require park board to fund site improvements, security, maintenance and/or capital replacement (*unless agreed by board*).

Process Overview

- Applicant submit application form + backup + fee

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 - If supported, draft agreement.
 - If opposed, reject proposal or revise/resubmit.

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 - If opposed, reject proposal or revise/resubmit.
- Land Committee Action
- Park Board Action

Some Test Cases

Test 1 - Access across developed park land

- Applicant requests driveway access across park boulevard to a private residence.
- Will Maintain
- No other Compensation





APPROXIMATE AREA
REQUESTED FOR USE AS
PRIVATE ACCESS DRIVE
ACROSS PARK LAND



Test 2 - Access across undeveloped park land

- Applicant requests driveway access across undeveloped park land.
 - Will Maintain
 - Minor Compensation (\$10k)
 - Increases traffic across trail.



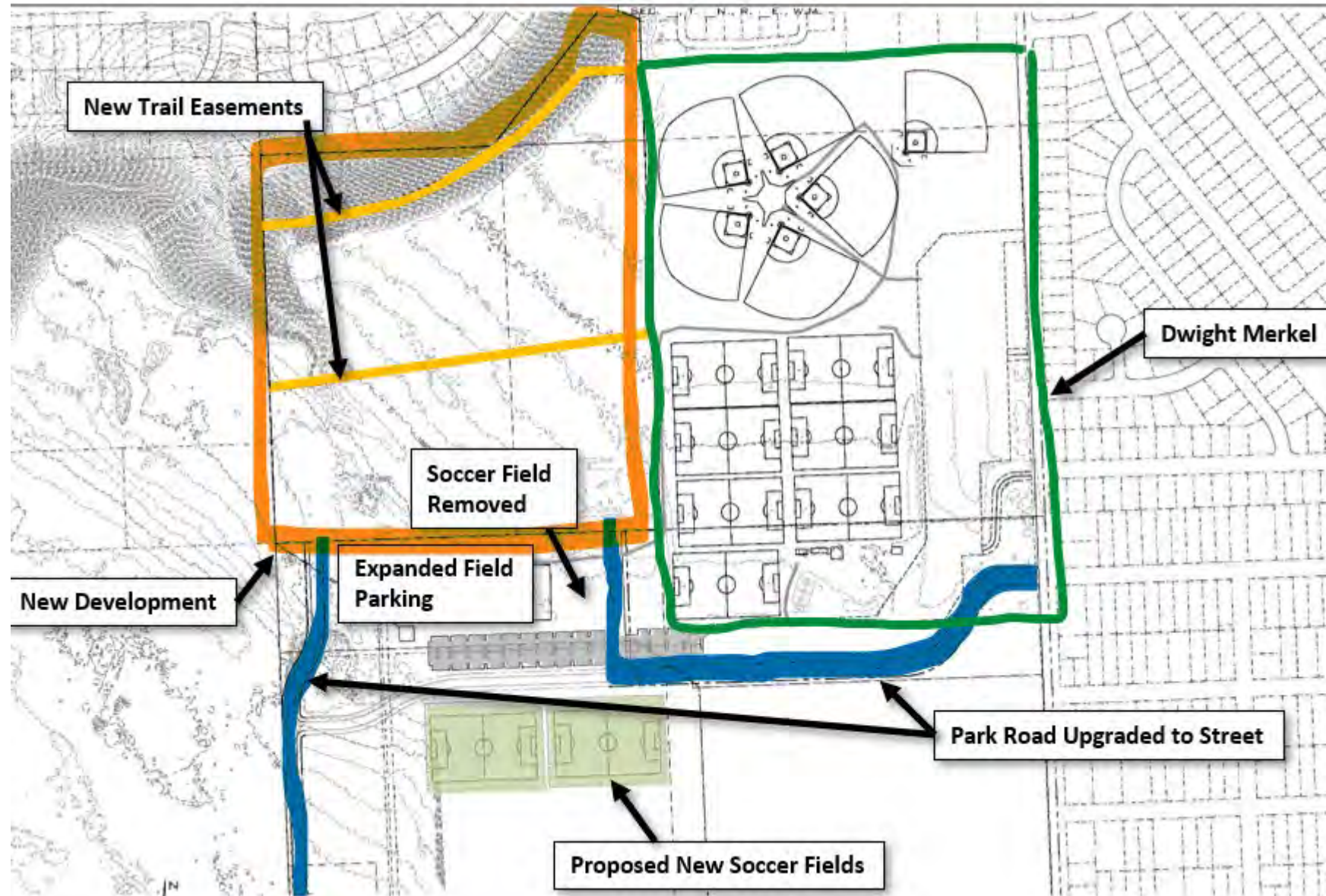
Test 2 - Access across undeveloped park land



- Note: ex. access requires +/- \$500k to improve...

Test 3 – Development Agreement for Access

- Applicant requests access across park land.
 - Remove 1 field
 - Replace w/ 2 fields
 - Upgrade 'park road' to street
 - Preserves trails



Test 4 – Donated improvement w/ private access

- Applicant proposes dog park w/ exclusive access.
 - Enhance park space at no cost to parks.
 - Open to public some of time.
 - Restricted to private use some time.



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Some Questions...

Question - 1

- Should all completed applications be brought to park board, or should 'minor' requests be decided by staff?

Question - 2

- Should this policy apply to 'us' (City / Park Staff)?
 - Other city dept. wants to build on/through park land,
 - Park staff proposes revision to joint-use agreement w/ SPS

Question - 3

- Application fee – keep or cancel?

That's It!

Any other comments?

Parks Budget Discussion – Intro.

- The General Fund continues to decline as a % of the overall City budget as more and more funds are split out into other types of funds (i.e. Special Revenue, Enterprise. etc.).
- In recent years, the increases to the Parks transfer have not kept pace with inflationary pressures or wage increases (shown on table below).
- Examples of operational cost increases:
 - From 2021 to the 2024 budget, the cost of chemicals has increased 106%.
 - From 2020 to 2023, despite conservation efforts, the cost of water usage has increased by 52%.
- With this trajectory, Parks will be unable to maintain service levels without seeking additional funding sources.

	General Fund Transfer to Parks	Increase Over Prior Year	Salaries and Wages	Increase Over Prior Year
2020	\$ 15,171,223	N/A	\$ 6,393,498	N/A
2021	\$ 15,958,647	5%	\$ 7,646,296	20%
2022	\$ 16,907,513	6%	\$ 8,908,186	17%
2023	\$ 17,063,823	1%	\$ 9,837,785	10%
2024	\$ 18,770,703	10%	\$ 11,431,250	16%
	Total Increase	24%	Total Increase	79%

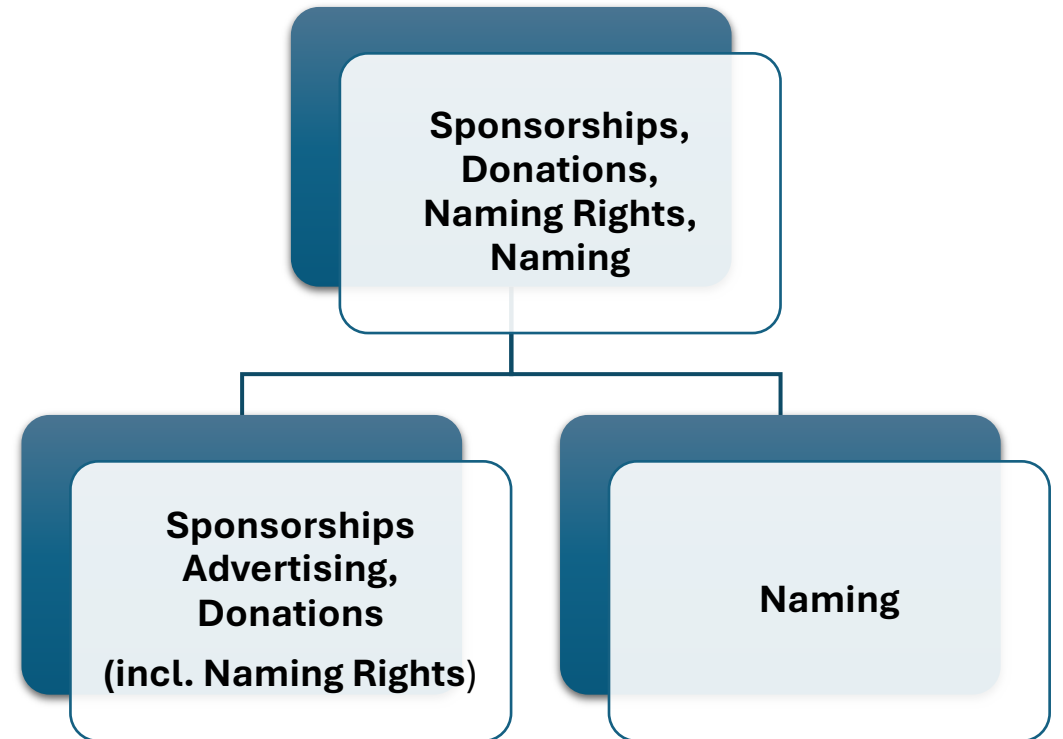
Revenue generation: Sponsorships

POLICY REVISIONS

- Staff/legal recommendation
- Workgroup w/Kevin, Gerry
- Park Board review

PLANNING DOCUMENT

- Review of regional examples, past work
- Recommended approach/strategy
- Pro forma analysis
- Phasing
- Next steps



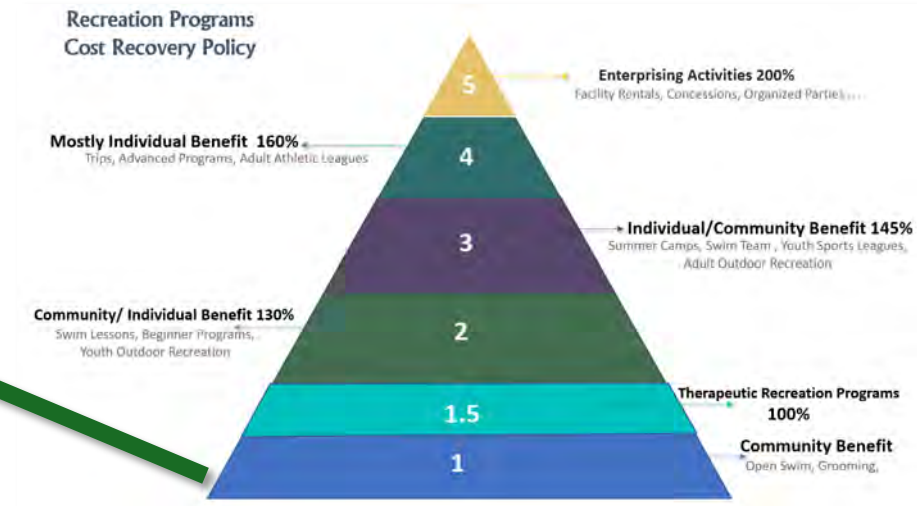
AQUATICS MASTER PLAN GOALS

Goal D: Swim & Splash Strategies

- Objective 1: Expand access to existing outdoor pools.
- Objective 2: Partnerships with public schools & facilities to enhance water recreation.
- Objective 3: Provide additional splash pads in parks.

RECREATION COST RECOVERY POLICY

LEVEL 1: Programs or activities that fulfill the core mission of the Recreation Department. Enhancing the health, safety, and livability of the community therefore requires the removal of a cost barrier for optimum participation. There are no target goals where cost recovery is concerned.





2025 AQUATICS



Increasing Programming Opportunities and Programming Fees &
Reducing open swim times where least impactful.

INCREASING PROGRAMMING & FEES

- Finding the most effective and impactful methods to expand programming based on demand and optimize revenue generation.
- Updating program fees to match current market rates and guaranteeing adequate cost recovery.

DECREASING FREE OPEN SWIM TIMES

- Exploring all alternative ways to reduce extra open swim days with minimal impact on the community.
 - Shortening the season by 1 week.
 - Eliminating one day of open swim per week at each pool.
 - Reducing open swim times at a facility with the lowest historical open swim attendance.

COMMUNITY CENTER PARTNERS

10

There are 10 non-profit community centers that receive financial support from the Parks Fund for providing recreation programs throughout the many neighborhoods of Spokane.

\$

The centers have similar compositions, but they have different requirements, expense challenges, and revenue sources. All of these factors were taken into consideration when funds were allocated.

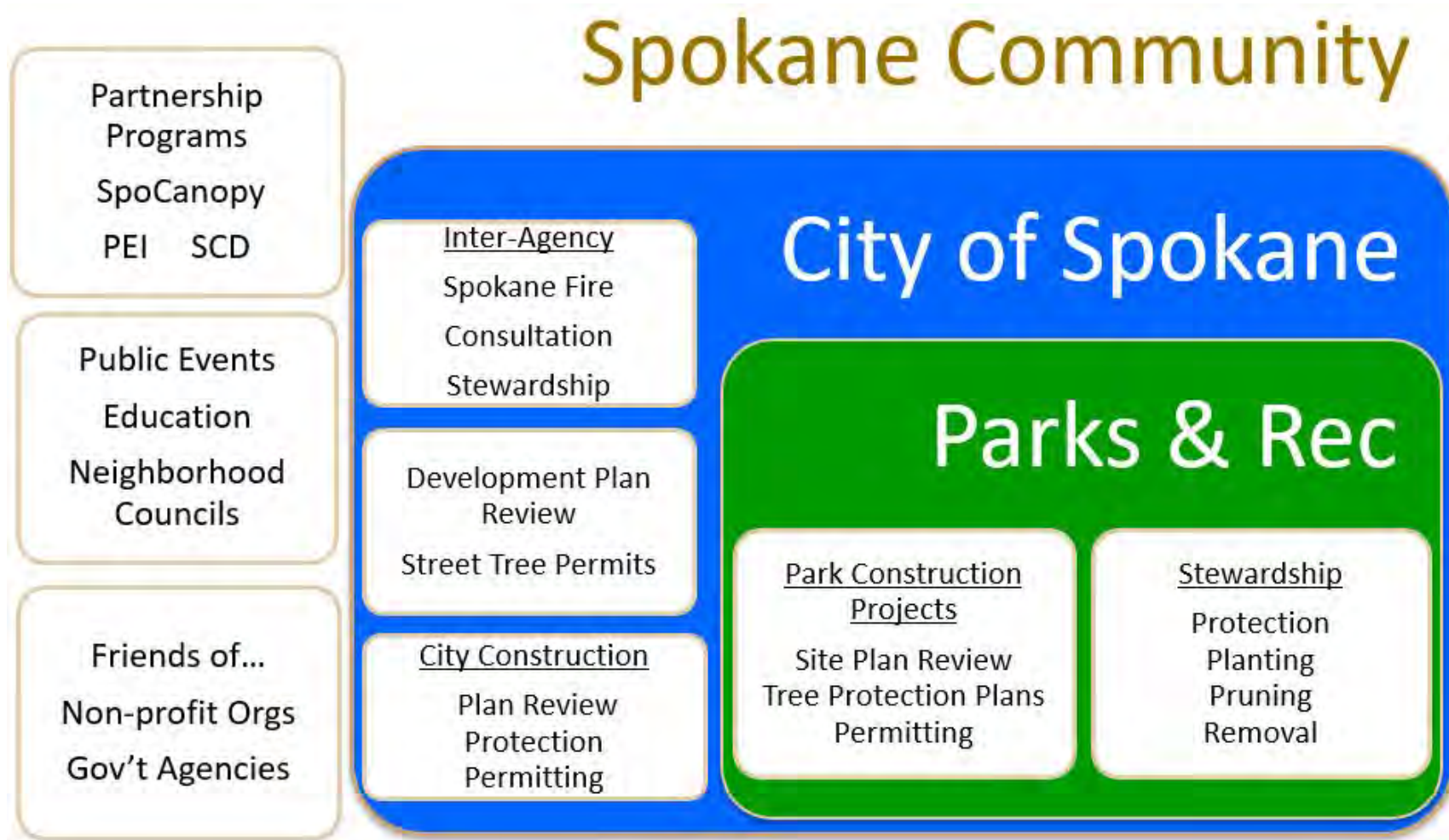


Community centers have gone through budget challenges with the City in the past, the most recent reductions were in 2011. By 2013 all City staff were removed from centers and the financial support contracts of today were established with all centers.



The funding mechanism for the centers may need to be evaluated based on updated state and federal purchasing policies. If changes occur, the centers will be promptly informed of process updates.

Programs and Operations: What does that look like today?



► More information at - <https://my.spokanecity.org/urbanforestry/>

	Arborist	UF Specialist	UF Specialist	Urban Forester	Urban Forester	Urban Forester	Clerk II	Total
2025 BUDGET	Lars Erpenbach	Jeff Perry	Becky Phillips	Katie Kosanke	Steve Nittolo	Amber Ramirez	Karin Cook	
FUNDING METHOD								
FTE Total	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	7.00
Budget Expense Total (\$)	\$ 112,208	\$ 113,557	\$ 110,160	\$ 142,269	\$ 142,518	\$ 112,010	\$ 79,648	\$ 812,370
FTE - PARK FUND/UF	1.00	1.00	0.60	0.54	0.80	0.00	0.50	4.44
Budget Expense - PARK FUND/UF	\$ 112,208	\$ 113,557	\$ 66,096	\$ 76,269	\$ 114,014	\$ -	\$ 39,824	\$ 521,968
FTE - Other Funds	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.46	0.20	1.00	0.50	2.56
Budget Expense - Other Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,064	\$ 66,000	\$ 28,504	\$ 112,010	\$ 39,824	\$ 290,402
Source of Other Funding			DSC direct	General Fund revenue	Golf Fund direct	USFS Grant reimbursed	Parks Planning direct	
TIME (service provided)								
ACTUAL TIME SPENT (estimated)								
PARKS TREES & PROPERTY	100%	50%	10%	40%	80%	20%	25%	
	\$ 112,208	\$ 56,779	\$ 11,016	\$ 56,908	\$ 114,014	\$ 22,402	\$ 19,912	\$ 393,239
Street Trees - Permit & Plan Review	0%	20%	85%	55%	0%	80%	20%	
	\$ -	\$ 22,711	\$ 93,636	\$ 78,248	\$ -	\$ 89,608	\$ 15,930	\$ 300,133
City Construction Projects	0%	30%	5%	5%	0%	0%	5%	
	\$ -	\$ 34,067	\$ 5,508	\$ 7,113	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,982	\$ 50,671
Other (Golf + Parks Planning)	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	50%	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,504	\$ -	\$ 39,824	\$ 68,328
Time allocation to Street Tree Permits - Plan Review - City Projects				\$ 350,804				
Total outside funding offset (DSC/General Fund/USFS Grant)				\$ (222,074)				
Net estimated funding gap (services provided - funding revenue)				\$ 128,730				

Allocation of Staff Time and Funding

Future Budget Considerations

- Ongoing regular meetings with Urban Forestry and Development Services Center staff to target specific efficiencies & opportunities
- Phased approach to transfer select duties from UF to DSC
- Step 1 - UF will discontinue attendance at Pre-Dev meetings; informational materials have been created and provided by UF staff to DSC staff for delivery to applicants.
- Step 2 - UF staff will provide training sessions to DSC Planners on conducting street tree and landscape plan reviews on both residential and commercial applications.
- Step 3 - UF staff will remain available for consultation on development projects with unique or complex technical issues.
- DSC budget funding of .40 FTE remains intact for 2025