



**City of Spokane Park Board
Recreation Committee Meeting**

2:15 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 05, 2025
Hybrid in-person and WebEx teleconference meeting
Jennifer Papich – Recreation Director

Committee members

- X Sally Lodato – Chair
- X Greta Gilman
- X Bob Anderson
- X Doug Kelley (arrived 2:25)

Parks staff

Jennifer Papich
Ryan Griffith
Carissa Gregg
Alice Busch
Adriano Eva
Andy Fuzak
Kacie Hurtardo
Carissa Ware
Josh Oakes
Kris Behr

Other City Staff

Phillip Jenkins

Guests

Rich Kimpall
Deron Schroeder
Jessie Montney
Call-in User

SUMMARY

- The committee passed the following action items which will be presented to the Park Board for consideration and approval:
 - None
- Spokane BMX Partnership Presentation – Deron Schroeder- Spokane BMX President & Ryan Griffith
- An Introduction to the Recreation Team for incoming Committee Members – Recreation Staff

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 2:15 p.m. Wed. Apr. 02, 2025.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by committee chair Sally Lodato.

Public Comments: None

Action items: None

Discussion Items:

1. **Spokane BMX Partnership Presentation** – Deron Schroeder, Spokane BMX President & Ryan Griffith
 - a. Spokane BMX has been around since 2010. It has been a tremendous partnership with Spokane Parks and Recreation (SPRD)/Dwight Merkel Sports Complex with Ryan being their single point of contact. Spokane BMX maintains the track for all BMX events, whereas the City maintains all other areas of the premises as well as assisting with RV parking and soccer field spectator use. Aside from the president and vice president, this is an all-volunteer organization. Of the money that is raised by Spokane BMX, a portion is paid back to Spokane Parks.
 - b. The league is open to any skill level with loaner bikes and helmets available. It is a true family sport. Many parents are former BMX riders and go on to volunteer. Beginners learn new skills while the veterans sharpen existing skills. The 5-week “little league” season concludes with awards and a pizza party. Spokane BMX had the 7th largest beginner league in the USA. Open racing runs April-October and is open to all ages and skill levels. The riders are encouraged to travel to the 10 state qualifier events. They will be adding banners at the tracks this year to highlight the state series dates and locations.
 - c. Spokane BMX has the #1 track in Washington State, #6 on the west coast and #15/308 nationwide. Last year Spokane Sports Commission hosted the NW gold cup finals, a three-day USA BMX event, with a total economic impact of over \$3.8M. Many site improvements were done in 2024 including adding parking, fencing repair, increased spectator section, and repainting. Future plans include many site improvements, a covered track for year-round racing, summer camp session with SPRD and hosting the WA State finals in September.

Standing Reports

1. An Introduction to the Recreation Team for incoming Committee Members – Recreation Staff
 - a. **Ryan Griffith**, Assistant Recreational Director with 17 years’ experience at SPRD, is very excited to share in the redesign of the original disc golf course at High Bridge Park in 2025. A goal for 2025 is to increase revenue by expanding the programs doing exceptionally well. The 2023 Age of Elegance was so popular with the public, Corbin Arts Center will be revising that experience again in September. Corbin Arts will receive 20 hours of no charge staffing through the grant funded AARP Senior Community Service Employment program. He is looking forward to the Corbin Arts veranda restoration in 2026 through continued fundraising.
 - b. **Carissa Gregg**, Corbin Arts Center’s program coordinator with 17 years’ experience with SPRD (6 years full time) is looking forward to the summer Art/Sci camps at Finch Arboretum as well as Corbin Kids and No School day camps. This year she is assisting with program rebranding in order to increase revenue.
 - c. **Alice Busch**, Supervisor of Therapeutic Recreation with 41 years’ experience in her dream job with SPRD, is looking forward to retiring this year! She is additionally excited to see the bicycling program grow. TRS has developed tremendous partnerships with Athletics,

Outdoors, Aquatics and DogSmile Sailing. She is looking forward to bringing back rafting this year. The students are thrilled to see the CatTails trip returning this year as well as Spokane Velocity soccer games.

- d. [Adriano Eva](#), Wellness & Enrichment and Youth Sports Supervisor, has been with SPRD for 17 years. He is looking forward to some new programs this year including guitar, dance, and Ninja skills. He is also excited to roll out a new innovative partnership opportunity with Apple this summer. Other significant wellness community partnerships include the Spokane Public Library, NewESD 101's Gang Prevention project, the Dementia Friendly Community, and the EWU Biology Department.
- e. [Carissa Ware](#), Supervisor of Athletics and Athletic Facilities has been with SPRD for 12 years. Prior to overseeing adult softball and flag football, field allocations and contracts for 3 sports complexes and 88 park fields, she assisted with Golf. Her favorite program is the youth NFL with 350-400 kids. She was happy to see the softball program nearly full within the first day of registration. She is hoping the levy passes so that this very popular program can be expanded. She is also excited to take over Alice's Corn Hole and Line Dancing programs.
- f. [Josh Oakes](#), Aquatics and Adult Volleyball supervisor with 7 years' experience with SPRD, is in the midst of recruiting his enormous and extraordinary aquatics team. The aquatics program, with its energetic staff and community members, is his favorite part of his job. The Parks Foundation matched funds for new AED devices at all the centers. The Witter Aquatics Center is restructuring programming to maximize facility demand. He is looking forward to these new opportunities. The volleyball program is growing tremendously. The Recreation and Podium staff are assisting with the transition to the Podium for Spring Adult Volleyball.
- g. [Andy Fuzak](#), Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, logging 15 years with SPRD (6 years full time) is always excited to get people outside, enjoying all that nature has to offer. This program offers an assortment of entry level activities for most ages, providing them with gear, transportation and tips to prepare for the activities. He is working on a \$75,000 No Child Left Inside grant and has already been chosen to receive a \$15,000 youth kayaking gear grant. He is excited to roll out the rebranding of the Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp. He is also focusing on maximizing participation numbers this year.
- h. [Kacie Hurtado](#), Outdoor & Athletics Recreation Aide, has been with SPRD for 10 years (3 years full time). She assists Carissa Ware with field allocations and is seeing a dramatic uptick already this spring. She is very excited for the upcoming Pickleball season with new much needed lighting. She enjoys being a guide for the Outdoor Mt. Spokane and Greenbluff partnership trips. She and Carissa developed a formal adult league policy focusing on good sportsmanship and will also be implementing a sportsmanship rating for all adult sports leagues.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 2:15 p.m. Wed. Apr. 02, 2025.



March 2025

- City of Spokane – Parks & Rec Partnership
- Spokane BMX Overview
- 2024 Accomplishments
- 2024 Site Improvements
- USA BMX Data
- Future Plans



City of Spokane – Parks & Rec Partnership

- New Facility Use Agreement 1/1/25 – 12/31/27
- Single Point of Contact – Ryan Griffith
- BMX Facility at Merkel Sports Complex
- Spokane BMX maintains track facility for all BMX events
- City maintains premises including electrical repairs, lighting maintenance, security fence, plumbing and irrigation repairs. Provides garbage pick up, weed treatment, and pest control. Seasonally opens and closes dedicated restroom facility and track irrigation.
- Parks & Rec assists with RV Parking and soccer field spectator use for large events



Spokane BMX Overview

- 2025 Board of Directors
 - Track Operator – Matt Gallagher
 - President – Deron Schroeder
 - Vice President – Rich Kimpel
 - Secretary – John Servatius
 - Treasurer – Jasmyne Ross



Spokane BMX Overview

- 501c3 Non-Profit Organization
- **100% Volunteer Based**
- Community Outreach
 - Spokane Outdoor Expo
 - Motorcycle Show
 - St. Patty's Day Parade
 - Bike Swap
 - Spokatopia



Spokane BMX Overview



- BMX Racing League
 - Allows new families to learn how the sport works.
 - Riders progress gradually, riding only with other beginners.
 - Focus is on fun, developing bike handling skills, spending quality family time and meeting new friends.
 - 5-week season includes a league jersey, number plate, end-of-season award and pizza party.
 - Loaner bikes and helmets available.
 - Spring Open House – Saturday, April 12th 10am to Noon – FREE
 - Spring Session Begins April 19th.
 - Summer Open House – Saturday, June 28th with session to follow
 - Fall Open House – Saturday, September 6th with session to follow
- In 2024, held 3 BMX Beginner League Sessions – 78 riders, 7th largest in USA with 85% transitioning to become active members

Spokane BMX Overview

- BMX Open Racing
 - April through October/November (weather dependent)
 - Thursday and Saturday
 - Gate Practice at 6pm
 - Racing starts at 7pm
 - Available for all ages and proficiency levels with a valid USA BMX Membership, long sleeve shirt, pants, and helmet.
 - Loaner bikes and helmets available based on availability.



Spokane BMX Overview

- RFL Series partnership with Eastern WA Tracks
- Theme Races
- Rider Clinics with Pros
- End of Year Party
- **100% FUN FOR EVERYONE**



2024 RACE FOR LIFE 800 POINT WEEKEND

KIDS ACTIVITY: Can you find all of the road signs below?

1 SPOKANE BMX
Date: August 16, 2024
Registration: 6-7 PM
Race Time: ASAP

2 WALLA WALLA BMX
Date: August 17, 2024
Registration: 10-11 AM
Race Time: ASAP

KIDS ACTIVITY: Find the license plates!

3 COLUMBIA BASIN BMX
Date: August 17, 2024
Registration: 4-5 PM
Race Time: ASAP

4 MOSES LAKE BMX
Date: August 18, 2024
Registration: 10-11 AM
Race Time: ASAP

Thank you for participating in the R4L series!



Spokane BMX Overview

- WA State Profit Share Program
- 8 of 10 WA tracks participate
- Helps build up BMX at all tracks throughout Washington
- Encourages riders to travel to all tracks for State Qualifier Events
- Jacket Award for riders that participate in all 10 State Qualifiers
- In 2025, adding banners at tracks to highlight the state series dates and locations



WASHINGTON BMX		2025 SCHEDULE	
QUALIFIERS	PENINSULA INDOOR BMX SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 11:30am	PENINSULA INDOOR BMX SUNDAY MARCH 16TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 11:30am	
	MOSES LAKE BMX SATURDAY MAY 17TH Sign-ups 10:30am - 12:30pm	MOSES LAKE BMX SUNDAY MAY 18TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 12:30pm	
	WALLA WALLA BMX SATURDAY JUNE 28TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 12:30pm	COLUMBIA BASIN BMX SUNDAY JUNE 29TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 12:30pm	
	SPOKANE BMX SATURDAY JULY 19TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 4:30pm	CHERRY HILL BMX* SUNDAY JULY 20TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 10:30am	
	LINCOLN PARK BMX SATURDAY JULY 26TH Sign-ups 1:00pm - 2:00pm	LINCOLN PARK BMX SUNDAY JULY 27TH Sign-ups 9:00am - 10:30am	
	RIVER VALLEY BMX SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND Sign-ups 1:00pm - 2:00pm	SEATAC BMX SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD Sign-ups 11:00am - 12:30pm	
	BAKERVIEW BMX SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH Sign-ups 9:30am - 10:30am	BIGFOOT BMX SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH Sign-ups 9:00am - 10:30am	
	GOLD CUP FINALS SEATAC BMX SEPTEMBER 12TH - 14TH Triple District Point Total Qualifier	STATE FINALS SPOKANE BMX SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH District District Point Total Qualifier	
	FINALS	SEATAC BMX SEPTEMBER 12TH - 14TH Triple District Point Total Qualifier	SEATAC BMX SEPTEMBER 12TH - 14TH Triple District Point Total Qualifier
		MORE INFO AT WABMXRACING.COM	 



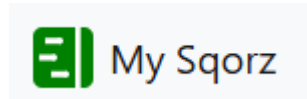
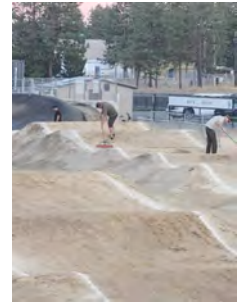
2024 Accomplishments

- #1 Track in Washington State
- #6 Track on the West Coast
- #15 Track in the USA
- Hosted 56 Races with an average 131 riders
- 1,133 individual riders participated in at least one race during the season, 865 of them under age 18
- 48 local single point races, average rider count of 99
- Double Point Fundraiser for Leukemia Lymphoma Foundation - 165 riders
- Double Point College Scholarship Race – 98 riders
- State Qualifier Race – 374 riders
- Hosted State Finals in September
- Hosted NW Gold Cup Finals – 3 Day USA BMX Event in partnership with Spokane Sports Commission



2024 Site Improvements

- Normal grooming and reshaping of obstacles
- Helped regrade the crushed asphalt road leading up to facility
- Repaired the back fence by taking it down, digging back the hill that fell onto the fence, placed eco blocks to hold the hill, and put fence back up
- Cleaned up and leveled the back lot to add parking
- Fenced the unused land north of the track into the overall track property footprint which allowed the fence along the north side of the track to be lowered to 3' and add areas for spectating
- Brought dirt to level much of the north side previously unused to allow for spectating
- Upgraded and relocated bike container as well as dirt holding area to add a path to the new portion of property
- Added a smaller container to the top of Turn 2 for more storage
- Repainted all containers on property to match
- Cut the downed tree that fell from the park's property over the cemetery property, repaired the cemetery fence
- Added drainage at the end of the asphalt in the exit of Turn 1 and between Turn 2 and the start hill to help reduce water damage to the track from rain
- Purchased and installed an Electronic Timing System for riders to use as a training tool. The timing system is now required by USA BMX when applying for big races such as National Qualifiers.



USA BMX Data



ECONOMIC IMPACT CALCULATOR

2024 State Finals: 8/30/24-9/1/24	Attendee Qty	Sports ETA Spending	Multplier	Total Economic Impact
Total Participants	585			
Total Spectators	1463			
Total Attendees	2048			
Local Participants	206	\$ 81.00		\$ 16,686.00
Local Spectators	515	\$ 81.00		\$ 41,715.00
Total Local Attendees	721	\$ 81.00		\$ 58,401.00
Out of Town Participants	379	\$ 360.00		\$ 136,440.00
Out of Town Spectators	948	\$ 360.00		\$ 341,100.00
Total Out of Town Attendees	1327	\$ 360.00		\$ 477,540.00
Total Economic Impact				\$ 535,941.00
Spectator Multiplier	2.50	USA BMX Average		



ECONOMIC IMPACT CALCULATOR

2024 Gold Cup Finals: 9/12/24-9/15/24	Attendee Qty	Sports ETA Spending	Total Economic
Total Participants per Day	1828		
Total Spectators per Day	5850		
Total Attendees per Day	7678		
Local Participants	171	\$ 81.00	\$ 13,851.00
Local Spectators	547	\$ 81.00	\$ 44,323.20
Total Local Attendees	718	\$ 81.00	\$ 58,174.20
Local Attendee - Visits Total	1436	\$ 81.00	\$ 116,348.40
Out of Town Participants	1657	\$ 360.00	\$ 596,520.00
Out of Town Spectators	5302	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,908,864.00
Total Out of Town Attendees	6959	\$ 360.00	\$ 2,505,384.00
Out of Town Attendee - Visits Total	10439	\$ 360.00	\$ 3,758,076.00
Total Economic Impact			\$ 3,874,424.40
Spectator Multiplier	3.20		
Local Attendee (day) Visit Frequency	2.00		
Out of Town Overnight Visit Frequency	1.5		

Economic Impact Report provided by USA BMX



USA BMX -
BMX Economic In



USA BMX Data

Metrics

Spokane BMX

4918 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane, WA 99205

Visits	15.8K	Avg. Dwell Time	83 min
Visitors	4.6K	Panel Visits	881
Visit Frequency	3.54		

Jan 1st, 2024 - Dec 31st, 2024

Data provided by Placer Labs Inc. (www.placer.ai)



Visits Trend

Spokane BMX

W Wellesley Ave, Spokane, WA

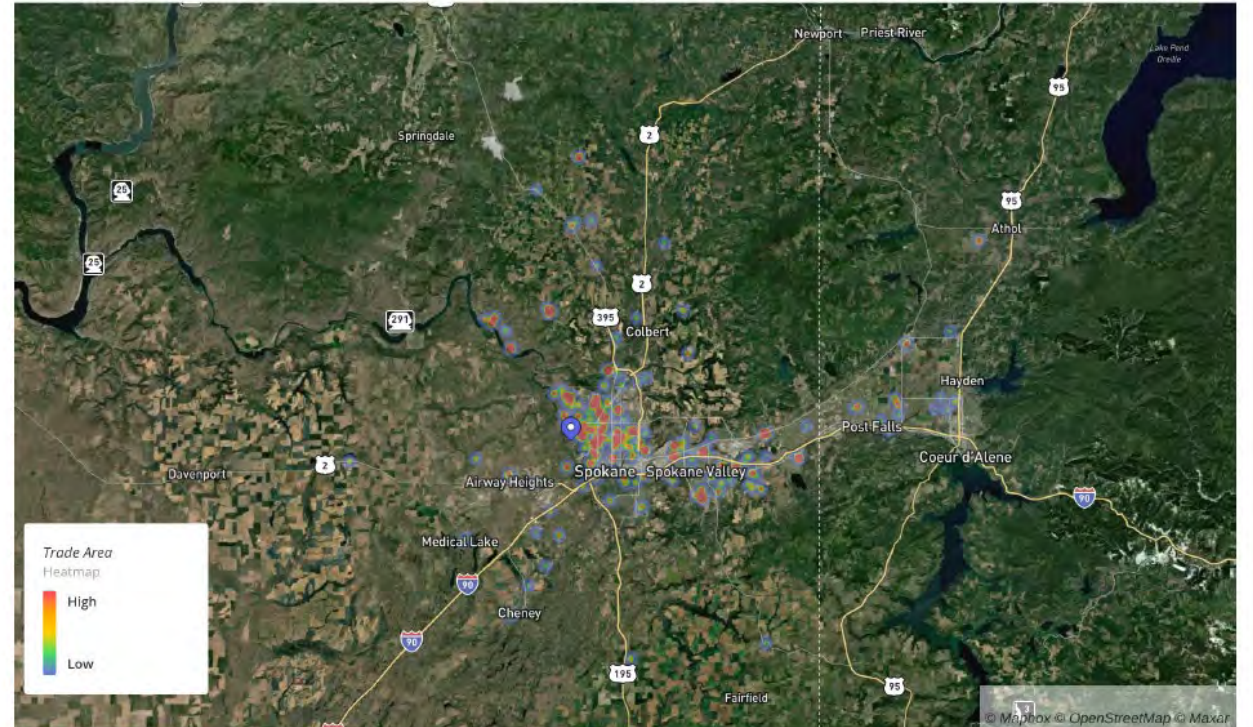


Weekly | Visits | Jan 1st, 2024 - Dec 31st, 2024

Data provided by Placer Labs Inc. (www.placer.ai)



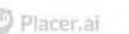
Market Landscape



Home locations are obfuscated for privacy and randomly placed within a census block. They do not represent actual home addresses.

Jan 1st, 2024 - Dec 31st, 2024

Data provided by Placer Labs Inc. (www.placer.ai)



Placer.ai Report provided by USA BMX



Placer AI Report -
Spokane BMX



Future Plans

- 2025 Potential Site Improvements include but not limited to:
 - Purchasing 300 yards of new premium (70% clay 30% sand) dirt to cap the track
 - Building shade over the start and staging hill
 - Adding cameras to be able to live stream races
 - Running power to new containers
 - Adding solar powered lights to light up the parking lot and common, off track, areas to make them safer during evening races
- Cover the entire track for year-round racing
- Continued partnership with Spokane Sports Commission to apply for National Qualifier & Gold Cup Final Events
- Partnering with Parks for Summer Camp Sessions at the Track
- Hosting 2025 WA State Finals – September 28, 2025



COME CHECK IT OUT!



Spokane BMX

<https://www.facebook.com/SPOKANE.BMX/>

BMX is a family- friendly sport
available to all ages!
BMX IS FOR EVERYONE!



Ryan Griffith

Assistant Recreation Director
17 Years

Main Areas of Responsibility:

Disc Golf Courses, ~ Camp Sekani & Mountain bike trails BMX track @ Dwight Merkel ~, River Access and Corbin Art Center facilities.

Areas of Direct Supervision:

Outdoor, Corbin, Heath & Wellness



Most Excited About for 2025:

- High Bridge Disc Golf Course re-design.
- Concentrate on expanding successful programs to meet the demand & increase revenue potential.
- Age of Elegance & Corbin Kids Youth Art Show.
- New agreement with AARP Sr. Community Service Employment Program.
- Fundraising for the Corbin Veranda restoration in 2026.



Carissa Gregg

Corbin Art Center Recreation Assistant
6 years *FTE* + 11 years *Temp Seasonal*

Main Areas of Responsibility:

Corbin Art Parties, ~ Youth & Adult Art Classes
Corbin Kids Summer Camps & Special Events

2025 Highlights

- Summer Art/Sci Camps at Finch
- Corbin Kids Day Camps
- No School-Day Camps
- Program Rebranding
- Continued Connection with Wex Students





Alice Busch

Supervisor of Therapeutic Recreation Services

41 years with Parks & Rec! Started as a volunteer while a student @ EWU

2025

Looking Forward To:

- Strong Participation for Bicycling
- Summer Partnership Programs with Athletics, Outdoor & Aquatics
- Teen Funshine Camp
- Sailing Program
- Trips to CatTales & a Spokane Velocity Game!
- Going to try rafting midweek instead of weekend to avoid congestion.



Adriano Eva CRP, MBA

Wellness & Enrichment & Youth Sports Supervisor

17 years

Main Areas of Responsibility:

Youth & Adult Fitness & Wellness programs, Martial Arts, Music, Youth Sports Programs, Partnership Programming & Summer Camps

Highlights for 2025

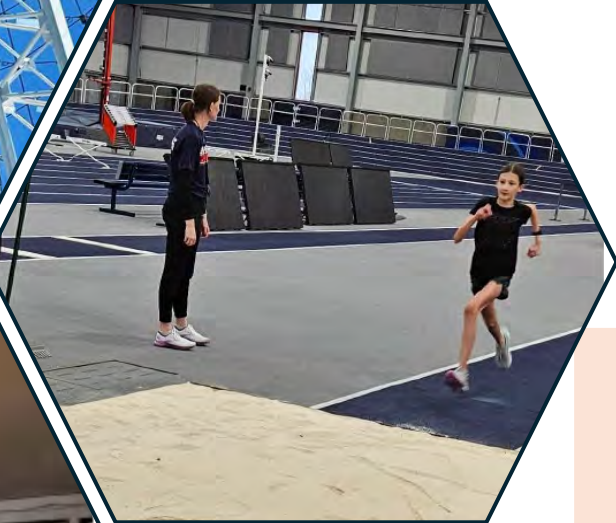
NEW Programs!

- Guitar Lessons
- Summer Dance Camp
- Ninja Skills Training

NEW Innovative Partnership
w/ Apple starting this summer

Wellness Community Partnerships:

Spokane Libraries ~ Gang Prevention NewESD 101 ~
Dementia Friendly Community ~ EWU Biology Dept.



Carissa Ware

Supervisor of Athletics & Athletic Facilities

Since 2013, started as a Temp Seasonal

Oversees:

- Adult Softball ~ Adult Flag Football ~ Youth NFL Football Leagues
&
- Athletic Field Allocations and contracts for our 3 Sports Complexes and 88 Park Fields

2025

Goals:

- Expand Youth NFL Flag to the 14-16yr. age group
- Confirm a Concessions Contractor @ Merkel
- Increasing Sportsmanship across all leagues

Challenges:

- Increased demand, not enough facility space



Josh Oakes

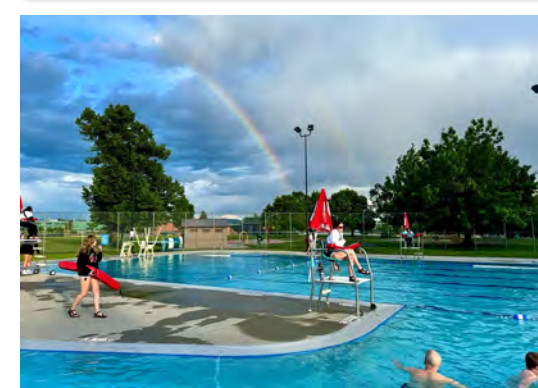
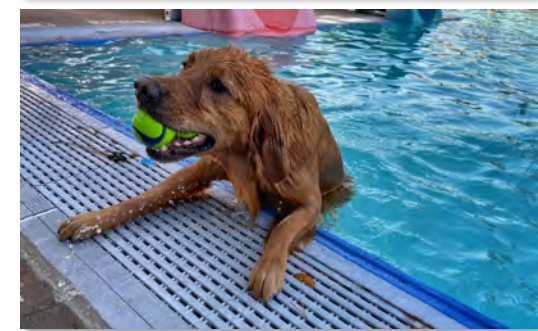
Aquatics & Adult Volleyball Supervisor

7 years

One of my favorite parts about my job is the beginning of the aquatics season. I enjoy the recruitment of staff, developing preseason trainings, and developing teams.

2025

- Looking forward to transitioning into the Podium for Spring Adult Volleyball. The space is fantastic!
- Parks Foundation matching funds for AED purchases (\$5,000).
- Project 100 AED kiosk donation @ Witter.
- *NEW* Washington State Parks water safety event at Witter.
- Restructuring Witter Aquatics Center programming to maximize facility for high-demand programs, events, and new opportunities with community partners.
- Modified Open Swim Season to mirror pool trends, staffing availability, and changing School District calendars.





2025

Funding Opportunities:

- NCLI – Spokane Jr. Outdoor Guide School
 - \$75,000
- WA State Parks Boating Grant
 - \$15,000

New Strategies & Programs

- The Rebranding of Outdoor Summer Camp
- Family/Intergenerational programming
- Intentional programming with the goal of maximizing participation numbers
- New Archery program with Dragon Flight Archery



Kacie Hurtado

Outdoor & Athletics Recreation Aide
3 years FTE, 2017 intern, 2018-2021 Temp Seasonal

Main Areas of Responsibility:

Process field use agreements & annual contracts and field allocations for outlying parks.
Guide outdoor adventures and maintain equipment & inventory,
Establish and update Essential Eligibility Criteria for programs, and more.

2025 Highlights:

- Dramatic increase in Spring Athletic Field scheduling for practice and play space.
- Excited for New Mission Park Tennis/Pickleball Court Lights !!
- Outdoor Mt. Spokane / Greenbluff Partnership Trips

2025 New Things!

- Formal Publication of Adult League’s philosophy
 - *“We provide quality recreation leagues for a variety of skill levels. We emphasize a safe and fun environment that promotes good sportsmanship. Our leagues focus on healthy competition while emphasizing participation over winning and losing.”*
- Implementing Sportsmanship Rating for Adult Sports Leagues

