



City of Spokane Park Board Recreation Committee Meeting

5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jun. 04, 2025
Hybrid in-person and WebEx teleconference meeting
Jennifer Papich – Recreation Director

Committee members

X Sally Lodato – Chair
X Greta Gilman (left 3:10)
X Bob Anderson
X Doug Kelley

Parks staff

Jennifer Papich
Ryan Griffith
Andy Fuzak
Mark Poirier
Fianna Dickson
Megan Kapaun
Kris Behr

Guests

Carol Manikowski Nelson
Paula Davis
Denise Fanazick

SUMMARY

- The committee passed the following action items which will be presented to the Park Board for consideration and approval:
 - None
- Revised winter recreation trail grooming locations were presented and discussed.
- The new recreation activity guide RFP was discussed.
- Jennifer Papich presented the recreation report.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 2:15 p.m. Wed. Jul. 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. [Winter Recreation Trail Grooming Locations](#) - Andy Fuzak

- a. For the last 7+ years, Indian Canyon Golf Course has served as a winter recreation destination for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, etc. It is being proposed to move the snow grooming operations to Finch Arboretum. It has been a great trial but has run its course.
- b. Although the terrain at Indian Canyon is more advanced with steep hills and a 2.5-kilometer loop, set in a picturesque location close to downtown, there is a risk of damage to the turf, especially with less snowpack. To keep people on track, the trails need to be marked with rope lines, which could lead to injury. The location is also prohibitive to users with disabilities.
- c. By moving the snow grooming to Finch, turf damage is not as critical of a concern, as this park is noted for its abundance of beautiful trees, therefore, trail rope lines would not be necessary. There is better accessibility for people with disabilities and is flatter and gentler, for less experienced users. However, the trail is shorter until the full potential is realized. Unlike the golf courses in general, people are already using Finch for winter activities. Finch also has better access for machinery.
- d. Greta suggested more signage regarding fat bikes, as they damage the groomed trail leading to potential injury. Bob Anderson noted that the road to Finch as well as the parking lots are plowed more consistently than they are at Indian Canyon.

2. Recreation Activity Guide RFP – Jennifer Papich

A 3-year contract is currently in process. Recreation develops the content, and the designer takes care of the layout, puts the books together, prints, and does the mailing. The same vendor, TPC Printing, won the bid again this year and their price is very close to their last contracted price. The approval process for this contract will be going through Finance Committee next month.

Standing Reports:

1. Recreation Report – Jennifer Papich

- a. In [Athletics](#), adult softball continues to grow. It reached full capacity within 72 hours of opening and 6 waitlisted teams. Youth NFL flag football saw a record number of girls this year which has earned some media attention. The new concessionaire is now fully operational at Merkel. Spring volleyball just concluded with 174 teams. Summer volleyball is beginning this week.
- b. [Therapeutic Recreation](#) saw 140 participants over last spring and many additional classes. They are doing remarkable.
- c. [Corbin Arts Center](#) hosted 198 participants in 34 classes. The rentals are also going well. They just finished their Train the Trainer training for camp staff. If you visit, you will

notice behind the house has received a large makeover. This not only helps with forest health and fuels reduction, but also safety and vagrancy.

- d. [Aquatics](#) is in pre-season with only Witter open. Already they have had 472 lap swimmers, 1,411 lane rentals, 52 lifeguard certifications and 31 swim instructors certified. Maintenance issues included the Witter boiler and deck jacking to prevent trip and falls at AM Cannon, Comstock, Hillyard and Shadle Aquatic Centers. They are planning for a full season opening June 16th.
- e. [Outdoor Rec](#) is a bit slower in summer, yet the archery and rafting classes are full. They brought back orienteering this year. Adventure Camp is being rebranded as Base camp and is proving to be very popular. There is a new nature program in development with the Department of Fish and Wildlife for women and girls, which will be held in the fall.
- f. The [Community Center Funding Review Committee](#) had their first meeting. Because of the Purchasing Department's new requirements, a new application removing any bias is being created. The questions are now weighted and scored accordingly. Based on an incomplete application, Southwest Community Center's request for funding was recently denied. They will be permitted to reapply later this year with all the centers.
- g. The [HOPE Soccer Mini Pitch Project](#) is a smaller version of a soccer field. A current, non-usable sport court in a vulnerable area would be converted to a mini pitch soccer field. HOPE Soccer will be covering the cost of the project. If this is successful, Spokane Parks would have the opportunity to purchase more Mini Pitch fields for other areas. There are several non-playable, damaged tennis courts which could be utilized again until Parks acquires the funding to restore those sport courts.
- h. The [Fall Activity Guide](#) process will begin in early July.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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



Finch Arboretum Winter Snow Grooming Proposal

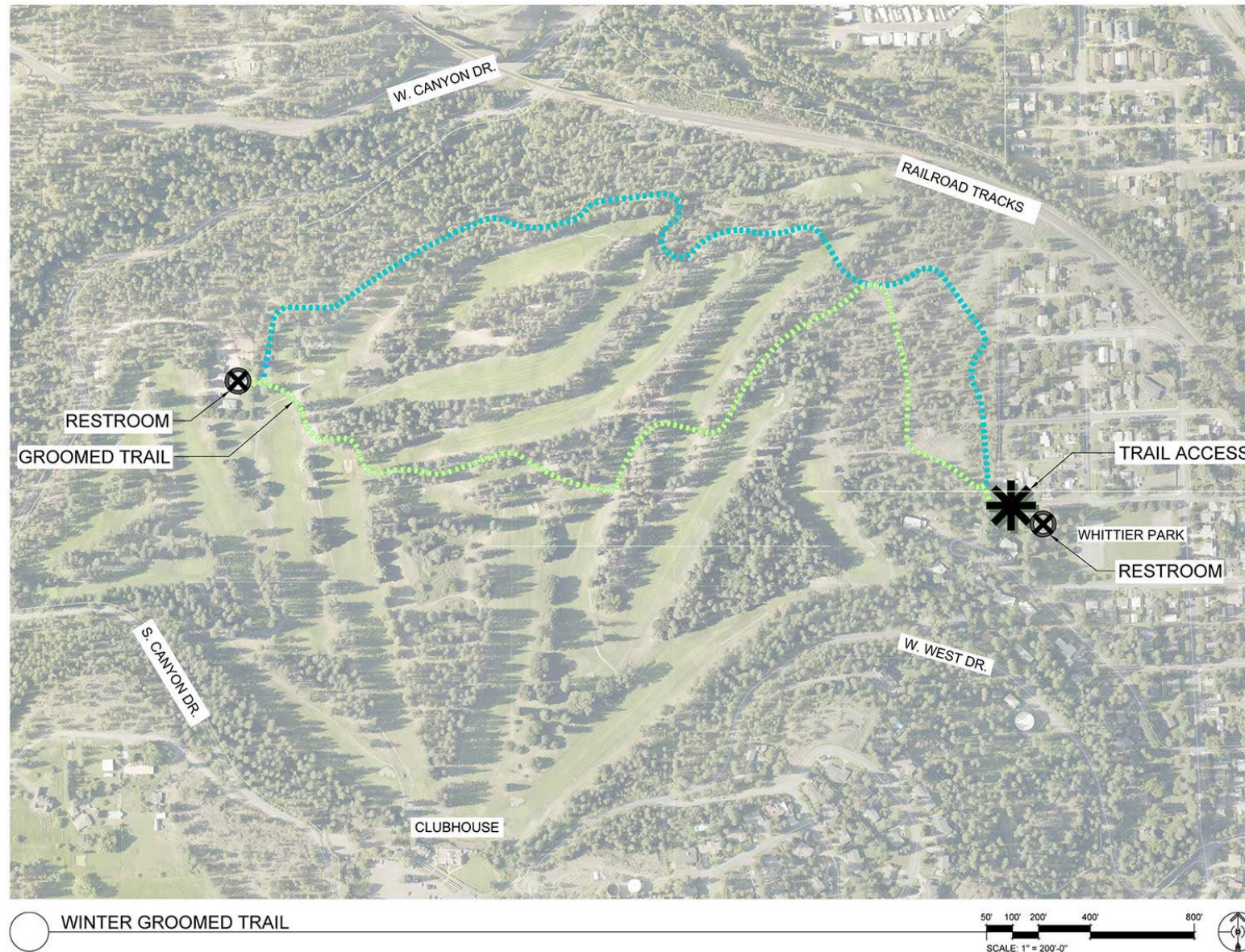


What we are looking at doing

Moving snow grooming operations to Finch Arboretum due to turf damages, labor intensive and unsafe “fencing”, and less than ideal access for users at Indian Canyon Golf Course.



Map of Indian Canyon Golf Course Trails



TRAIL LENGTH:
+/-8,260' PER LAP

ROUTES:

===== = SOUTH TRAIL
BEGINNER DIFFICULTY
+/-3,960' IN LENGTH

===== = NORTH TRAIL
INTERMEDIATE DIFFICULTY
+/-4,300' IN LENGTH



Strengths and Weaknesses of Indian Canyon Golf Course

Strengths

- **Longer sustained trail lengths**
 - ~2.5 km loop
- **Dogs allowed on leash**
- **More advanced terrain**
- **Beautiful location**
- **Close to downtown**
- **Free of charge to use**
- **Brings winter enjoyment to facility**

Weaknesses

- **Turf damages**
 - People going off trail during times of turf sensitivity
 - Variable snowpack and temperatures puts turf in danger
- **Trail rope lines/posts**
 - Labor intensive
 - Metal tee posts create hazard of injury
- **Access for users**
- **Access for equipment**
- **Steep hills**



Strengths and Weaknesses of Finch Arboretum

Strengths

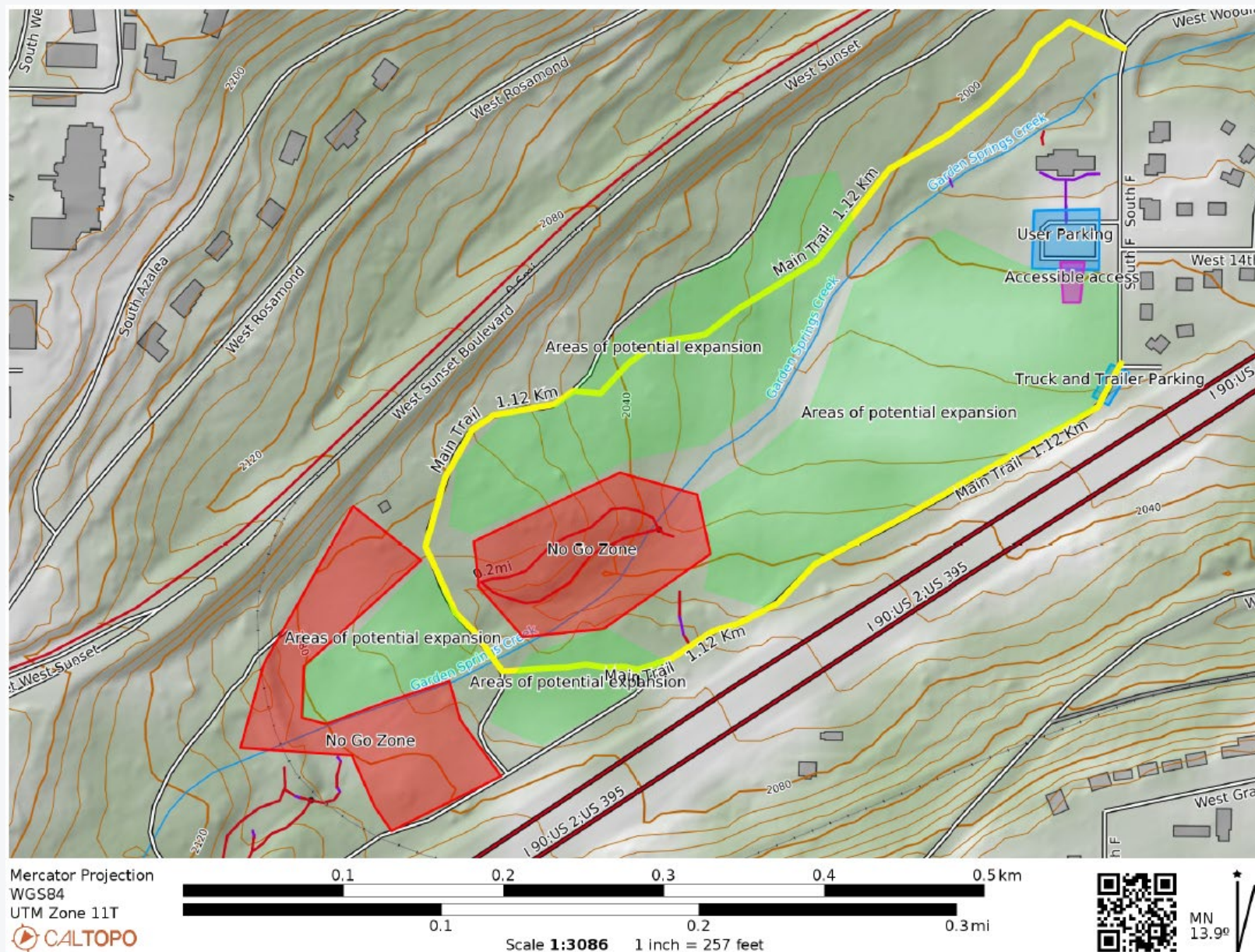
- **Turf is not a main priority**
- **Trail rope lines/posts are unneeded**
- **Better access for users**
- **Potential for ADA Accessibility**
- **Good access for equipment**
- **Beautiful location**
- **Flat and gently rolling terrain**
- **Close to downtown**
- **Free of charge to use**
- **Enhances winter use to facility**

Weaknesses

- **Shorter trail until full potential is realized**
- **1.1 km one way**
- **Dogs not allowed**
- **Fat Bikes may not be allowed**



Map of Proposed Finch Arboretum Trails

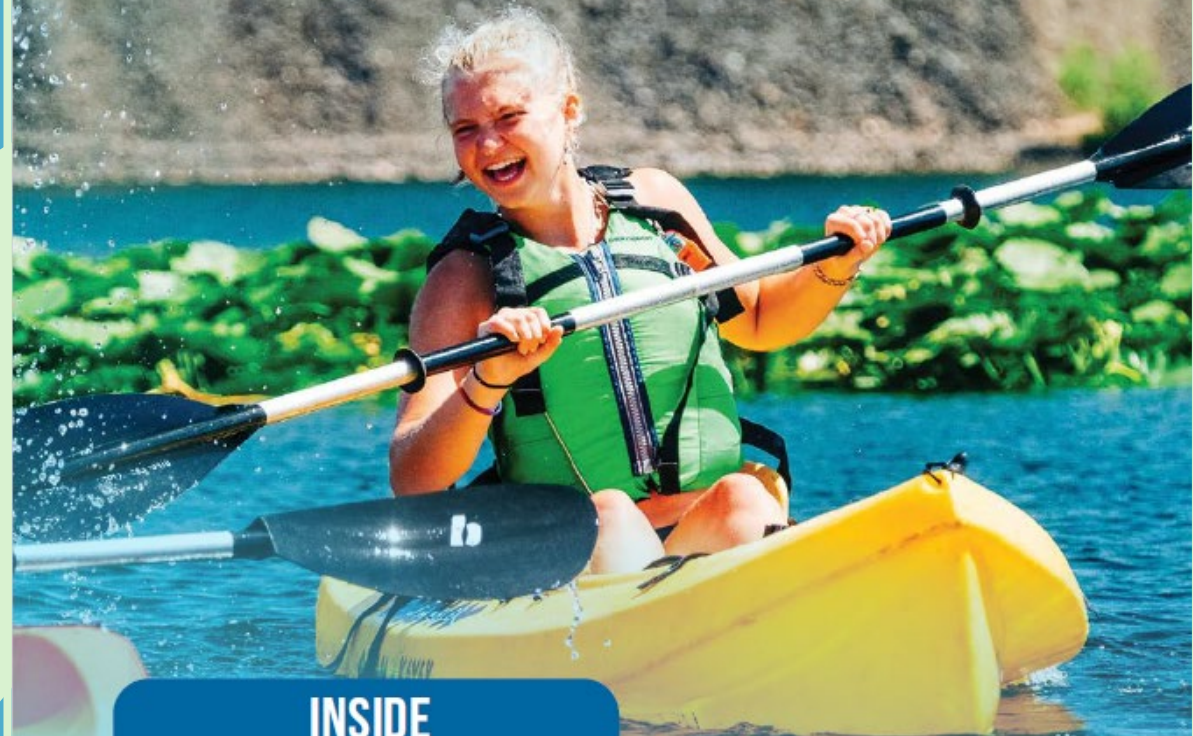


JUNE 2025 RECREATION REPORT

SPRING &
SUMMER
2025

ACTIVITY GUIDE

APRIL - AUGUST



INSIDE

AQUATICS, SPRING BREAK CAMPS, ORIENTEERING,
SUMMER CAMPS, RAFTING, KAYAKING,
GUITAR LESSONS, NINJA SKILLS TRAINING,
THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS AND MORE!

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PARKS
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& REC
OUTDOOR

CAMPS
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CLASSES

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City of Spokane
**PARKS
& RECREATION**

Athletics Spring Quarter

[Return to Minutes](#)



• Adult Softball – Spring 2025

- Spring adult softball registration reached full capacity within 72 hours of opening.
- Waitlists extended up to six full teams, indicating continued high demand.
- The women's division expanded by two teams this season.

• Youth Sports – NFL Flag Football



- Youth NFL Flag league has 320 registered participants.
- With a record number of 20 girls participating—our highest to date!



• Adult Spring Volleyball just concluded with 174 teams.

• Summer Volleyball begins this week with 44 teams and counting



• Concessions Partnership at Merkel

- All Star Concessions is now fully operational at both concession stands at the Merkel complex.

Spring Quarter
Participant numbers 560
an increase of 140 over
last Spring!

T
R
S



Cooking,
Line Dancing,
& Cycling Classes
are extremely popular!





Corbin Art Center Spring Quarter

- 198 participants
- 34 classes offered
- 9 birthday art parties
- 1 facility wedding rental
- Hosted All Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Staff
“Train the Trainer Training”

Forest Health & Fuels Reduction work around Corbin Art Center



Aquatics Updates

WITTER PRE-SEASON

- Public Lap Swim
 - 472 lap swimmers from May 5th to May 31st
- Swim Team Lane Rentals
 - 83 hours rented with a total of 1,411 swimmers
- Lifeguard Certification Courses
 - 3, two-week sessions with a total of 52 students
- Swim Instructor Certification Courses
 - 3, two-week sessions with a total of 31 students

- The boilers at Witter Aquatic Center required attention prior to opening for preseason.
- The small pool at Witter Aquatic Center has been closed due to a computer controller outage. A new part has been ordered and we hope to install before the season begins.
- Deck jacking projects took place at AM Cannon, Comstock, Hillyard, & Shadle Aquatic Centers to raise the concrete in places to remove trip hazards.

FULL SEASON PREPARATIONS

- 3 Nights of Hiring Fairs – Over 100 employees met with Aquatic and Human Resources Staff to complete hiring assignments and discuss the upcoming season.
- 4 Nights of Manager Training
26 individuals attended this training.
- 2 Nights of Customer Service & computer training
40 individuals will attend this training at the Liberty Park Library.
- All Staff Orientation – All of our 180 aquatics employees will be attending this event.
- 3 Days of Pump Room Training – Pool Staff teams will train in the pump room to learn the pool's mechanical system and maintenance.
- All staff training weekend – This weekend, staff will undergo training, practice the emergency action plan, and clean their facilities in preparation for opening day Monday, June 16th.

Outdoor Recreation Spring Quarter

- 118 Participants in 11 Programs
- Activities included:
 - Archery, Rafting, Orienteering & Hiking

⇒ *Working on programming with WDFW for women and girl's nature classes to be held in the Fall* ←

Summer Staff Training

- Kayak & SUP (*Stand Up Paddleboard*) rescue training at Witter Aquatic Center
- 2-day River Kayak Day Trip
Leader Assessment
- SUP Skills Assessment
- Swiftwater Skills Course
- Camp Staff Training
- Van and Trailer Training



Other Recreation Updates

- Community Center Funding Review Committee
 - Had First Meeting
 - Committee reviewed and declined Southwest Com. Centers' request for funding this year as they attempt to reopen - based on an incomplete application, lacking sufficient key details regarding their budget, key onsite staff and long-term financial sustainability planning.
 - Scheduled 2nd meeting later this month
- HOPE Soccer Mini Pitch Project
 - A mini pitch soccer field is a smaller version of a soccer field designed for recreational play in smaller spaces. Typically, 60 yards x 40 yards.
 - Park Planning in very early phases of contracting to convert an out-of-service sport-court in a vulnerable area into a mini-pitch soccer court at no cost to the city.
 - More information down the road to come on potential programming and partnership opportunities.
- Fall Activity Guide planning and preparations will begin in July