



**Special Meeting of the
Citizen Advisory Committee to the
Spokane Urban Forestry Tree Committee
and Park Board Urban Forestry Tree
Committee**

**Joint Field Trip/Meeting to the
Spokane Conservation District Quarry**

3:00 p.m. Tuesday April 29, 2025

Katie Kosanke – Urban Forester

UFTC Committee Members:

- X Kevin Brownlee – Chair
- Kevin Cash (Absent – Excused)
- Lindsey Shaw (Absent – Excused)
- X Kris Neely – UFCAC Chair

UFCAC Committee Members:

- X Kris Neely – Chair
- X Tim Kohlhauff
- X Beth LaBar
- Guy Gifford (Absent – Excused)
- X Kathryn Alexander (left at 3:15 p.m.)
- Cindy Deffe – (Absent – Excused)
- Joe Zubaly – (Absent – Excused)
- X Matt Stewart
- Ben Kappen (Absent – Excused)
- X Justyce Brant
- X Paul Lower
- X Logan Callen

Park staff:

Al Vorderbrueggen
Katie Kosanke

Guests:

None

MINUTES

Public Comment: None

IRA Grant Update, Katie Kosanke

An update on the IRA Grant program 'Tree Equity Spokane' was provided. While the project was paused completely for 3 months, work picked back up in late March in smaller increments as clarity is being sought on the Federal Funding and caution/uncertainty was given. Staff are focusing on planting work currently and after the spring planting season, plan to resume removal operations with contractors which are currently fully paused). Amber Ramirez who is overseeing the entire project has provided the following updates for spring planting efforts:

- The Lands Council quickly gathered a list for Spring planting after having paused since January
- 84 trees will have been planted this Spring by 5/2/25 by 3 contractors
- 15 trees to be planted with volunteers in the Emerson Garfield neighborhood on 5/2/25 and Mayor Lisa Brown will be there to give the Arbor Day Proclamation
- There may be a possibility for a small number of plantings for the spring season depending on available sign-up locations
- Total project planted trees is 262 - between fall 24' and spring 25'
- New yard signs with QR codes for free trees are being installed at high visibility locations, to further spread word about the opportunity
- Once planting is completed, removal contracts will resume
- Work is moving forward in smaller increments due to the uncertainty to reduce possible risk
- 15 parks have been vetted for high priority pruning needs once removals are completed (projects ready for contractors).

Spokane Conservation District Tour of the Quarry, led by Matt Stewart - ([Photos](#))

The committee toured the Quarry and observed the restoration process which is ongoing. Highlights included:

- Matt provided an overview history of the site which is 50 acres in total. The site was formerly an asphalt company and was purchased by SCD in 2020. Extensive restoration is needed as the site was filled with asphalt (much remaining) as well as many other items that were left behind.
- Conservation District building - the new building is impressive with large windows and impeccable designs in and out, it's a must see!
- The Scale House Market is another building at this site adjacent to the main building. The market is an innovative community space located in the heart of Spokane County. This project transforms a landmark building into our region's first permanent, year-round farmers market and agricultural hub. The market will feature 65+ local farms/business, create jobs and be a regional hub for nutrition education, events, activities, and cultural experiences.
- Tenant spaces – an additional building has been constructed and features tenant spaces which have all been rented by other agencies.
- Pond Renovation – a pond adjacent to the scale house market is being repaired and restored and features many plants and is great habitat for many species.
- Tree Sale – the tree sale continues to have record annual sales with more than 100,000 trees distributed at the 2025 sale.

- Tree Stock – more than 1,000 landscape-sized trees are stored at the Quarry for the IRA USDA/USFS grant projects. SCD is generously providing, storing, and caring for 500 trees per year (for 5 years) for the City of Spokane’s Tree Equity Spokane project. Trees are planted throughout the community through the SpoCanopy program each spring and fall. Trees onsite also include those to be planted through SCD’s grant program ‘Cool Canopy’ which plants on private properties, and in addition private and street trees throughout the county (in select areas). Trees are organized by species and are in neat rows; each tree has its own irrigation emitter for adequate watering. Matt has extensive experience in tree nurseries and has created a great place for the trees to be held, prior to plantings.
- Appleway Trail trees – Matt is salvaging damaged trees from this project in the Valley where vandalism was a major issue. Many of the trees are starting to re-grow and likely will be planted again in other areas.
- Wildlife Biologist and historian, Jack Nisbet has lead tours on the site, sharing about the rich history of the area. It is planned to likely have frequent tours of the site and interpretive signage may be placed.
- Wildlife Observed include various bird species, coyotes, turkeys, frogs, salamanders and more.
- Habitat piles have been left around the property which provide favorable conditions for many wildlife species.
- A portion of the site contains “Asphalt Mountain”, a very large pile of asphalt and concrete which was from years of dumping. Miraculously, many plant species are growing out of it – such as mock orange and in some places it’s difficult to even tell plants are growing out of actual asphalt / such harsh conditions.
- Forest health items – much fuels reduction has taken place onsite to thin small trees and there have been some small beetle outbreaks. Many new trees have been planted in other areas onsite including Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and Larch.
- Weeds are not treated with chemical means onsite. Interns and volunteers pull weeds and often smother them with 5+ inches of mulch.
- Greenhouse – two new grant funded greenhouses have just been completed. They will be primarily used for growing plants for their riparian programs.
- Geology Focus – The ice age floods story can be told/seen at the site. The site has a rich geological value with basalt outcroppings, cliffs, and different formations. Fossils of tree species of the past have been found such as oak and there are log formations visible that are approximately 17 million years old as determined by local geologists.
- Wetlands, small pond – on the west side of the property there are springs which create small wetlands and another small pond area.
- SCD plans for the site to be ideal for field trips and other educational opportunities.

The Field Trip adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled UFCAC meeting is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

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