

# Peaceful Valley neighborhood action plan

September 2015







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Plan is the result of the collective efforts of the City of Spokane and neighborhood residents. A special thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who contributed their time and effort to the development of this plan.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the City of Spokane partnered with neighborhood leaders to develop a plan for Spokane's Peaceful Valley Neighborhood. The plan is a long-range, 20-year vision and conceptual document. It implements the goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan through an emphasis on improving connectivity and streetscape, public safety, environment and sustainability, livability and local services.

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood planning process is part of a larger planning effort being led by the City in partnership with neighborhood leaders, stakeholders, and members of the public. When approved, the plan will guide the neighborhood through the vision, goals, and actions envisioned by interested and engaged residents. Ideas presented in this plan will require further analysis and capital projects will require funding for implementation.

### Planning Process and Neighborhood Involvement

The planning process for preparing the neighborhood plan was composed of three phases:

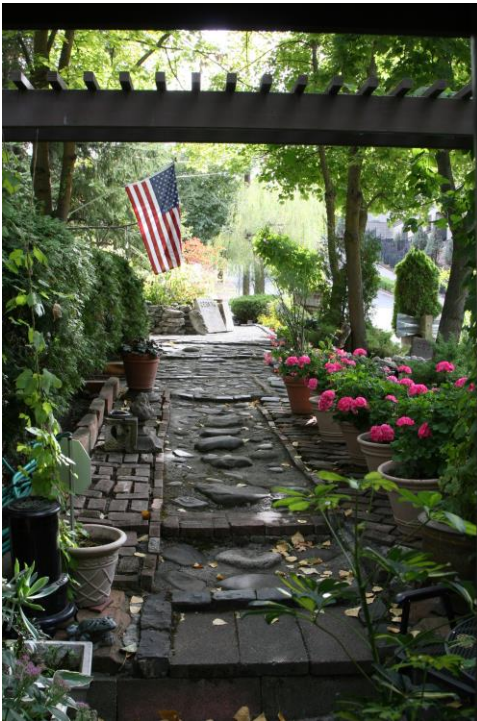


- *Context and Visioning:* The initial phase focused on opportunities, challenges, and desires, including future vision and goals. During this phase, the City held the first neighborhood workshop to discuss existing and desired conditions within the neighborhood.
- *Plan Development:* During the second phase, the planning team worked with neighborhood representatives to refine the vision, goals, and projects. The project priorities and strategies that will be needed to implement the desired vision of the neighborhood were developed during a second neighborhood workshop hosted by the City.
- *Plan Approval:* The third phase consists of the development of a draft plan and a detailed implementation strategy, a neighborhood open house, public hearings to review the plan, and its review and approval by City Council.

## Plan Overview

This plan summarizes the current state of Peaceful Valley and outlines the neighborhood's ambitions for the future as voiced by interested and engaged residents. Section II provides an overview of the neighborhood and its assets and priorities. The Planning Framework (Section III) describes the envisioned future of the neighborhood through a series of goals and objectives. Section IV presents the priority projects to implement the vision and goals and consists of the following two elements:

- **Projects Matrix** Identifies top priority and longer-term projects, as well as their relation to plan goals and partnerships.
- **Neighborhood Design and Project Priorities Map** Shows the conceptual location of priority projects.



*Residential path created by Peaceful Valley neighbor*



*Welcoming sign created by residents of the neighborhood*



## II. NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

### Planning Area and History

Located on the south bank of the Spokane River, immediately west of Downtown Spokane, Peaceful Valley is unique in form and character. Peaceful Valley residents describe their neighborhood as eclectic, colorful, and bohemian – *A Hidden Village*. The neighborhood is bounded by a bluff to the south and the Spokane River to the north and defined by natural amenities, historic structures, and an individualistic spirit.

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood has land designated for Conservation Open Space to its western extent and along its frontage on the Spokane River. Residential uses include both low-density and higher-density. The eastern edge of the neighborhood is part of Downtown Spokane.

Prior to settlement of Peaceful Valley in the late 1800s, this land was a gathering place where three bands of the Spokane Tribe celebrated the annual salmon run. In the late 1800s, Spokane's Mayor, Charles F. Clough, began selling 25 by 100-foot plots, resulting in the development pattern that is seen today.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, investment and redevelopment in adjacent areas, including the Central Business District, had a marginal impact on investment in Peaceful Valley. However, the construction of the Maple Street Bridge in the 1950s greatly affected the character of the neighborhood, bisecting it and resulting in the removal of numerous homes. The bridge right-of-way was partially developed into a public park, with the remainder still vacant.

The current boundaries of Peaceful Valley are the Spokane River to the north, the bluff adjacent to Riverside Avenue to the south, Monroe Street to the east, and the confluence of Latah Creek and the Spokane River to the west.

### Assets

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood has identified the following major assets:

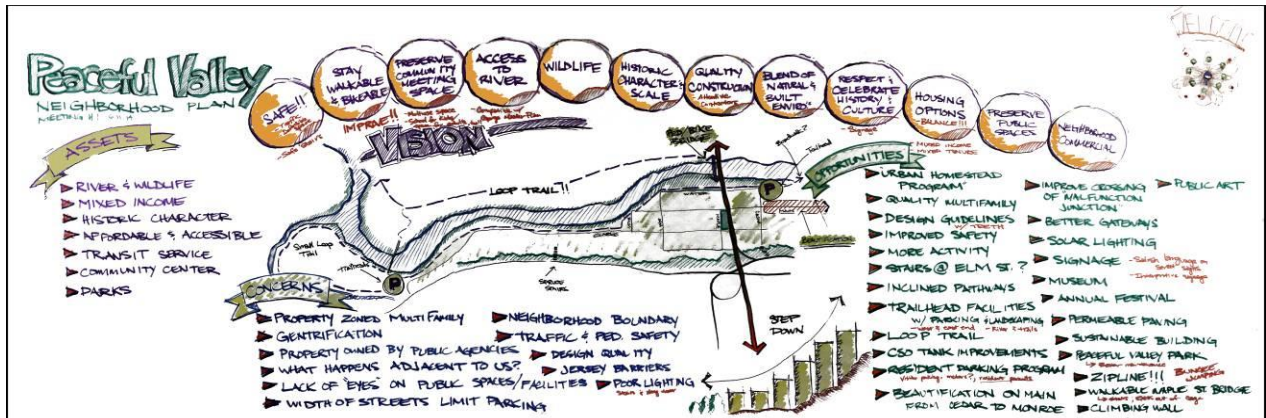
- The Spokane River, with its natural environment, wildlife, parks, and recreational opportunities.
- The unique and distinctive neighborhood character, which makes Peaceful Valley livable, affordable, and accessible.



*Residential Character*

## Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Action Plan

- An affordable and accessible mix of housing styles, some historic in character.
- Transit service that provides affordable and convenient access to other destinations in Spokane.



Wall graphic meeting notes from June 11, 2014 Neighborhood Workshop

## Priorities

Key neighborhood priorities are:

- **Public Safety**
  - Improve traffic and pedestrian safety along Clarke and Main avenues.
  - Improve crime awareness and prevention by putting more “eyes on the street.”
  - Create welcoming places to increase neighbor interaction and build trust.
- **Environmental Protection** Support green building design and construction and reduce negative impacts to the river, natural areas, and wildlife habitat.
- **Access to Parks and Recreation** Improve and maintain parks and trails including better maintenance of Glover Field and a perimeter trail for People’s Park. Provide diverse recreational facilities, including a trail that connects to Huntington Park on the east end and to the Sandifur Bridge on the west end. Trail amenities should include trailheads with parking, landscaping, signage, and restrooms.

- **Parking Management** Improve parking management strategies to address visitor parking and the parking needs of local residents.
- **Housing Quality and Historic Preservation** Preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.



*Peaceful Valley House*



*Residents discuss planning options at the September, 2014 neighborhood planning workshop.*



*View of Spokane River from Peaceful Valley*



### III. PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This section describes the vision, goals, and objectives of the Peaceful Valley neighborhood.

#### Vision

The following statement defines how the neighborhood envisions the character and future pattern of physical and social development for Peaceful Valley.

*Peaceful Valley is an historic and colorful neighborhood, nestled along the river and forest, just steps from Downtown. Residents and visitors enjoy a high quality of life in a safe, serene, and walkable setting. The built environment has a human scale, and new development is both compatible and complementary with our diverse and historic roots. Our neighborhood is sustainable, informed, and connected, close to commercial services, with nearby access to parks, natural areas, and recreation.*

#### Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives articulate the direction that is necessary if future neighborhood projects and programs are to fulfill its vision. The goals are divided into six major categories: Connectivity, Streetscape, Safety, Environment and Sustainability, Livability, and Local Services.

#### Connectivity

**C-1: Active Transportation** Improve facilities for cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users.

**C-1.1:** Ensure that Peaceful Valley is a walkable neighborhood by developing a connectivity plan that addresses pedestrian walkways and maintains the existing stairs to Browne's Addition.

**C-2: Access to Destinations** Work with the City to explore ways to improve access and multimodal connectivity to desirable destinations in and near Peaceful Valley, including Downtown, residential areas, offices, commercial areas, parks, and schools.

**C-2.1:** Work with the Spokane Transit Authority to maintain and improve affordable transit access.

**C-2.2:** Improve public access to the river with trailheads, a small boat put-in, and a trail connecting People's Park to Huntington Park.

## Streetscape

**ST-1: Streetscape Improvements** Improve the streetscapes on Main and Clarke avenues.

**ST-1.1:** Work with the City to explore the feasibility of improving aesthetic and traffic calming measures on Main and Clarke avenues.

**ST-1.2:** Improve lighting and landscaping where feasible in streets, parks, and other public spaces.

**ST 1.3** Create a gateway to the neighborhood on Main Avenue.

**ST-2: Parking Management** Improve the balance of parking for residents and visitors.

**ST-2.1:** Design and implement parking management strategies to protect neighborhood parking and accommodate visitor parking, particularly for visitors using the river.

## Safety

**S-1: Crime Prevention** Identify design strategies, physical improvements, and programs to make the Peaceful Valley Neighborhood safer.

**S-1.1:** Encourage foot traffic in public places by adding paths, lighting, landscaping, improved community gardens, improved playgrounds, and activity spaces to encourage community-building activities, while discouraging criminal behavior.

**S-2: Traffic Safety** Work with the City to improve street safety.

**S-2.1:** Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety by adding street crossings, street bulb-outs, signs, or other design treatments at appropriate locations.

## Environment and Sustainability

**ES-1: Natural Resources and Wildlife Conservation** Maintain and improve Peaceful Valley's natural assets such as the river, wildlife habitat, and parks, while increasing recreational opportunities.

**ES-2: Significant Views and Vistas** Identify and advocate for the protection of significant river views, vistas, and viewpoints.



*View of Monroe Street Bridge*

**ES-2.1:** Work with the City to maintain view corridors from the interior of the neighborhood to the riverfront to extend the positive influence of the riverfront into the neighborhood.



## *Livability*

**L-1: Unique Neighborhood** Strive to improve Peaceful Valley’s visual identity and maintain its historic character and cultural and natural assets.

**L-1.1:** Strengthen the identity of Peaceful Valley with wayfinding, interpretive features, public art, and other amenities that reinforce the unique identity of the neighborhood.

**L-1.2:** Seek ways to protect and showcase historic housing.

**L-2: Neighborhood Participation and Communication:** Ensure participation by a broad range of residents in shaping the future of the neighborhood.

**L-2.1** Improve an ongoing communication mechanism to inform all neighbors about various City processes and planned improvements.

**L-2.2** Identify a location for a public gathering space that welcomes people to neighborhood events.

## *Local Services*

**LS-1: Community Center** Explore the potential for sustainable funding for the continuing use of the existing community center.

**LS-1.1:** Work with the City and community partners to test the feasibility and likelihood of locating or co-locating one or more community and/or recreational facilities in Peaceful Valley.

**LS 1.2** Ensure that the community center continues to be available as a neighborhood gathering place.

## IV. PRIORITY PROJECTS

The neighborhood identified the following projects that will help drive progress towards the envisioned future. As part of a long-term plan, these projects will take time to complete and some will require significant effort to secure resources that are not yet available. Others will require ongoing discussion with a variety of partners. The project types identified below address broad project categories.

### Priority Projects Overview

#### Streetscape, Traffic Calming, and Parking

Streetscape improvements include gateways on the west and east entrances of the neighborhood, signs, street trees, landscaping, as well as columnar basalt or another iconic elements. Traffic calming measures – street narrowing, curb extensions, signage, and marked crossings – should also be considered to slow through traffic, especially along Clarke and Main avenues.



*Concept of a redesigned  
Clarke Avenue,  
People's Park entrance,  
and trailhead*

*(Source: City of  
Spokane)*

#### Planned River Trail

The neighborhood is currently working with the City on the design of a river trail along the Spokane River. This work includes both shared street/sidewalk and off-street pathway improvements. This planned trail would eventually link People's Park to Huntington Park. Trail design elements should include wayfinding signs, a loop trail, as well as potential restrooms at People's Park and Glover Field.

Through planning of the river trail, the neighborhood expressed an interest in a non-motorized boat launch and staging area at Glover Field. The facilities should be designed to minimize impacts to surrounding neighbors, especially when planning for visitor parking and traffic.

#### Community Center

The neighborhood is currently working with the City of Spokane Parks Department to find a tenant with sustainable funding for the existing community center. The neighborhood desires continued use of the building as a neighborhood gathering place.

## **Neighborhood Housing Quality and Historic Preservation**

The neighborhood is interested in quality and historically compatible housing, as well as in measures to preserve existing homes. Peaceful Valley is the site of a National Historic District.



*Peaceful Valley Housing Stock*



*Residents identify goals and priorities during the neighborhood planning process – June 11, 2014*

## Projects Matrix

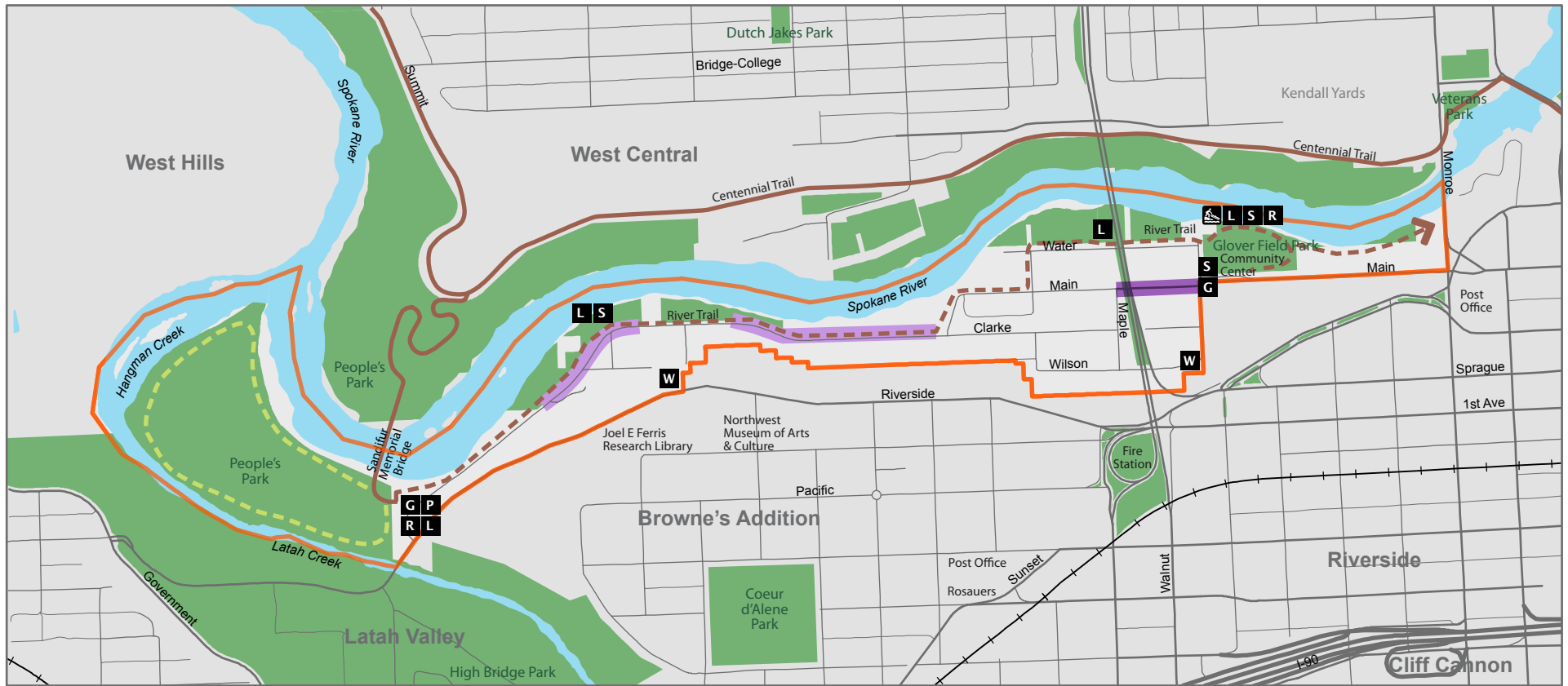
Peaceful Valley has several high-priority projects to be addressed over the next 20-year planning horizon. This matrix describes each project's purpose, related planning goals, potential partners, and notes possible funding opportunities and treatment details. The projects will require additional planning, discussion among the community and with City staff, and resources for implementation.

High Priority Projects	Potential Partners	Additional Information
<b>Streetscapes, Traffic Calming, Parking</b>		
1. Improve the streetscapes on Main and Clarke avenues.	City	Streetscape improvements include signs, street trees, and landscaping, as well as columnar basalt or another iconic elements. Pedestrian and bicycle improvements include sidewalks, street crossings, and security lighting.
2. Explore traffic calming improvements to address safety concerns and vehicle speed.	City , Spokane Transit Authority	Measures include street narrowing, curb extensions, signage, and marked crossings, particularly on Clarke and Main avenues.
3. Create gateways to improve entryways to Peaceful Valley.	City, local artists	The eastern Peaceful Valley gateway improvement could be phased to include a short-term solution that improves existing Jersey barriers and a long-term solution that includes new gateways. The short-term solution would allow local artists to paint the Jersey barriers and/or install sculptural elements on them. A permanent gateway for both the eastern and western neighborhood points of arrival could include landscape and hardscape improvements as well as signs. Work with the City to identify funding sources.
4. Pursue a neighborhood parking plan to identify parking management strategies.	City	A parking plan is particularly important for the shoreline area of the neighborhood to address the parking needs of river visitors and recreational users. Coordinate with the City to identify strategies for parking management.
5. Work with Spokane Transit Authority (STA) to provide bus stop amenities at priority locations.	STA, City	Coordinate with STA to identify options and opportunities for future transit improvements, such as shelters with benches.

*Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Action Plan*

<b>Planned River Trail</b>		
1. Continue partnering with the City on trail planning and design to establish a complete riverfront trail throughout Peaceful Valley that eventually connects to Huntington Park.	City	Coordination with property owners will be required for trail location details and easements.  Compliance with the City's Shoreline Master Program and applicable regulations will be required.
2. Through the river trail planning process, create a non-motorized boat launch and staging area to improve public access to the river.	City, WA Dept. o Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. of Ecology	Formalizing a non-motorized boat launch and staging area will require coordination and permitting approval from the state departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife
<b>Community Center</b>		
1. Continue to work with the City Parks Department to find a tenant for the existing community center.	City Parks Dept.	The neighborhood is seeking a tenant with sustainable funding for the existing community center and desires that the center continue to be used as a neighborhood gathering place.
<b>Neighborhood Housing Quality, Historic Preservation</b>		
1. Find opportunities to protect the historic character of the neighborhood.	City	The neighborhood will work toward finding opportunities to preserve and protect the historic character of the neighborhood, which contains a National Historic District. Seek funding for historic signage.





## PEACEFUL VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN & POTENTIAL PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Planned River Trail ———
- Gravel Surface with Historical Markings ———
- R** Restrooms
- S** Signage/wayfinding
- Boat Launch/Staging Area
- Non-motorized Launch

- Streetscapes, Traffic Calming and Parking
- Traffic calming
- G** Neighborhood Gateway
- L** Decorative Street Lighting
- P** Parking
- W** Walkways/Stairs

- Neighborhood Boundary
- Railroad
- Freeway
- Arterial Road
- Local Street
- Centennial Trail
- Parks + Open Space
- Building

Source: City of Spokane GIS + Google Maps

0 500 1,000 2,000 feet



## V. NEXT STEPS

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Plan reflects the eclectic nature of the neighborhood as a “Hidden Village” near Downtown Spokane. The plan celebrates the neighborhood’s past while planning improvements for the future and outlines objectives and projects to be addressed over the next 20 years.

The plan is intended to serve as a guide to secure funds for project development, but will not result in immediate project funding or implementation. Projects presented in this plan will require further analysis and capital projects will require funding for implementation.

Interested and engaged residents should use this plan to pursue projects over time, while ensuring continued involvement with other neighbors and stakeholders. It is critical that neighbors leverage this plan towards the following next steps.

- **Partnerships** Identify project partners and agree on roles and critical paths to move projects forward.
- **Project Development** Each project is unique, and champions within the neighborhood are needed to engage stakeholders and seek and obtain policy support and funding for design and implementation/construction.
- **Funding** Use this plan to help initiate and follow up on all efforts to identify potential project funding sources and leverage project funding. Consider grants, public/private partnerships, fundraising, and volunteer organizing as needed.

## VI. FUNDED PROJECTS NEEDING COMPLETION

The Peaceful Valley Neighborhood has been allotted funding for projects to improve neighborhood parks. These Parks Department projects include:

- Improvements to River Walk Park, including historical markers, landscaping, and lighting. The funds for these improvements come from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.
- Improvements to playground equipment in Peaceful Valley Park, funded by CDBG dollars and the Parks Department.
- Resurfacing of the athletic court in Peaceful Valley Park, funded by the Parks Department.