

2023 State of the City Address
Presented by Mayor Nadine Woodward

Safety • Stability • Sustainability



Community is about more than any one of us, it's about all of us.

The past few years taught us many lessons and gave us a new launch point. The tests we endured showed us that Spokane is unequivocally resilient. The results reminded us that our best outcomes – and our key differentiators – are the result of working collectively. The progress established for us a clear path forward.

Spokane has a lot going for it and we are taking the steps – together – to embrace the opportunities before us and rise from our new launch point. To meet that need, we looked back and looked around to look forward.

Our experience tells us that the best times in our city's history share a few key ingredients. Big ideas turned challenge into opportunity. Critical community partnerships worked effectively across perceived boundaries. The will to get it done ensured success.

The City, with its partners and collaborators, neighbors and neighborhoods, stakeholders and volunteers, is championing investments in ourselves, our community, and our future.

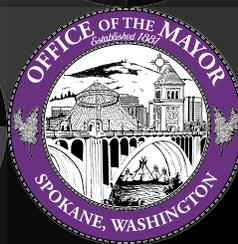
- An Expo Plus-50 celebration will return the focus to the major investments in regional attractions and connect an exciting arts and entertainment district to thriving restaurants, shopping, and hospitality with the river and park in the middle of it all.
- A regional collaborative will fundamentally change how we provide the meaningful services and supports that move people into housing faster, more efficiently, and with greater success.
- A regional broadband partnership will bring new investment to connect areas with the greatest potential for growth to economic and educational opportunities.

As we transition with the rest of the country through economic, workforce, housing, and mental health opportunities, we have met critical needs to emerge stronger as a community. Embracing community expectations of support, accountability, and advancements that deliver peace of mind is an important next step.

We must establish and reinforce a mindset and momentum that prioritizes community wellness and wellbeing. Our commitment to enhance the physical safety of the community must include a law-and-order approach that evolves systems to better meet developing community needs and harness a greater sense of security.

This is a challenge we all share and a tremendous opportunity we have all been given to work together for our community.

Julie Stougaard



SAFE

Better meet developing community needs and harness a greater sense of security

SECURE

Provide support, accountability, and advancements that deliver peace of mind

STABLE

Prioritize community wellness and wellbeing

Achievements

- Added police precincts in the downtown and East Central neighborhoods to extend proactive community policing to those who live and work there
- Expanded partnership between behavioral health professionals and police officers to address underlying needs and redirect law enforcement resources to crime response
- Partnered with regional law enforcement agencies to address gang activity
- Partnered with SAFE on a fentanyl enforcement and education program
- Established the Violent Crimes Task Force to address repeat and violent offenders
- Advocated at the state level for the return of critical public safety tools for the protection of the community and first responders
- Moved fire and EMS dispatch into the Spokane Regional Emergency Communications group to improve efficiency and save money
- Re-established the ability to enforce the City's sit-and-lie ordinance within case law constraints
- Updated the City's illegal camping ordinance to keep designated public spaces usable for everyone
- Restructured police staffing model to put more police officers on patrol in neighborhoods
- Developed the Homelessness Plan 2.0 to focus on action, accessibility, and accountability based on statewide research and national lessons learned

Next steps

- Secure additional police officer staffing to reduce criminal activity and meet community service-level expectations
- Reduce reliance on public safety overtime to make more efficient use of resources and reduce employee fatigue and burnout
- Advocate for the return of state mental health beds and resources to address the growing need
- Partner with source-matter experts to secure additional state and federal resources to adequately address the growing addiction crisis in communities

Achievements

- Facilitated two consecutive years of record-demand for residential and total construction
- Achieved two-decade high for the addition of multi-family units to the market
- Invested in neighborhood parks with initial enhancements and the completion of a master plan for additional investment
- Opened newly remodeled library locations in the northeast, northwest, central, and south areas, including the first joint school district partnerships
- Secured and distributed \$33 million in grant funding to provide rental and utility assistance to keep people in their homes during the pandemic
- Built and grew regional partnerships to advance key public safety, housing, and homelessness needs
- Introduced and championed the unanimous passage of resolutions at the U.S. Conference of Mayors seeking to direct additional federal funding locally for community policing, mental health, and fentanyl prevention and enforcement
- Helped more than 500 men, women, couples, families, and youth stay the night indoors, out of the elements with connection to services that otherwise would not have had the opportunity

Next steps

- Establish a regional homelessness authority with the support of multiple jurisdictions, service providers, and other stakeholders
- Create a transitional space to meet emergency sheltering needs while addressing long-term supportive and affordable housing demand

Achievements

- Convened a youth-focused Mental Health Task Force of local, state, and federal leaders and experts to increase awareness of supports, improve staffing, and address gaps
- Partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration and AHANA on a program to support multi-ethnic small business owners
- Partnered with community stakeholders on an Expo +50 celebration that returns the focus the major investments in regional attractions and the river
- Supported the successful selection of Spokane as professional soccer city
- Established the Building Opportunity and Choices for All pilot, which has become a national model for greater opportunities for homeownership
- Established a priority-based budget approach to managing and delivering City services
- Championed the maintenance of a healthy reserve and the strategic use of the most restrictive dollars first
- Secured new contracts with all the City's labor groups and staggered their renewal

Next steps

- Refine and fully establish the Building Opportunities and Choices for All as an ongoing program based on feedback from the housing pilot
- Secure changes at the state level that enable licensed community behavioral health agencies to successfully recruit and retain staff, and, therefore, have the capacity to respond to community needs
- Support and facilitate expansion of the behavioral health workforce through increased use of bachelor's level graduates from area colleges and universities
- Increase the utilization of non-professionals in community settings to support youth who may be experiencing (or are at risk of experiencing) mental health issues

99,751

Calls for Service with Police Response

273 per day



32,664

Officer-Initiated Contacts

89 per day



356

Commissioned Officers Authorized



97

Civilian Support Staff



26,330

Volunteer Hours

98 Volunteers (double 2021 #)
Equals 12 full time employees



8,643

Chaplain Hours including assisting officers on 661 death investigations



6,152

Total Arrests

4,646

Individuals



Created Violent Crimes Task Force

In response to an increase in several violent crime categories in Spokane, including drive-by shootings, SPD set up a Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) in late April. Mayor Nadine Woodward announced the formation of the unit to rapidly address violent crime trends. The unit identifies and arrests the most active and dangerous offenders. Working closely with other law enforcement entities, the VCTF is addressing violent crime incidents and those suspected of being associated with the commission of violent crimes. Addressing violent crime inherently addresses the accompanying drug and property crime. The unit was built on the philosophies and successes of many other specialty teams within the department. Since becoming operational in June 2022, the VCTF has successfully taken into custody more than 45 individuals identified as violent offenders actively wanted for crimes ranging from drive by shooting, first-degree assault and murder.

Created Stolen Property Unit



In January SPD put together a property crimes unit called SPEAR (Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery) specifically to address the increase in property crime. The Spokane Police Department understands the sense of intrusion

and loss people experience when they are a victim of theft. The unit focuses on property crimes, trafficking in stolen property, retail theft, forgery, identity theft and other fraud related crimes. The unit has been very effective in investigating and arresting thieves and recovering stolen property. Property crime remains a priority for SPD. Often, those committing property crimes are also involved in other criminal acts including drug offenses. In 2022, SPEAR issued 941 new felony charges and 117 new misdemeanor charges. The Unit also returned thousands of dollars worth of recovered stolen property to owners.

Volunteers

The Spokane Police Department seeks to continually engage with the community we



serve. One way to connect with SPD is by volunteering. In 2022, SPD **doubled** its number of volunteers from 2021! A big

THANK YOU to all of our hard-working, giving individuals who provide much needed support to the department, including those who serve as Reserve Police Officers. SPD was pleased to grow the Reserve Officer Program by **60%** in 2022, adding six Reserve Officers who are fully commissioned while on duty. Applicants must pass a background check, physical ability test, a polygraph, oral board, psychological testing, medical screening and a review by the Chief of Police. Applicants then attend the 370-plus hour Reserve Officer Academy on evenings and weekends. The program culminates with a certification examination administered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission prior to graduation. Reserve Officers continue monthly training and volunteering to maintain their status. Hear from one of our new Reserve Officers at vimeo.com/manage/videos/798878380. For more on all SPD volunteer opportunities go to my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/

SPD adds two Parking Enforcement Specialists

A common concern of neighbors throughout Spokane is abandoned vehicles. The City receives thousands of complaints each year. In late 2022, SPD hired two full time Parking Enforcement Specialists to assist officers in removing nuisance vehicles from our streets and other areas. Abandoned vehicles are not only an eyesore in neighborhoods, often containing unsightly and unsanitary litter, but they can also serve as hubs for criminal activity and illegal camping. SPD, along with the City's Parking Enforcement Team have been working with residents to address the nuisance vehicle issue in our city and our new dedicated Parking Enforcement Specialists are making a big difference in cleaning up our streets.

Community Engagement

SPD's Community Outreach Team **LOVES** connecting with community members and leaders! These officers spend time getting to know



community members personally and help them know and understand their police department. Outreach programs include; the Police Activities League (PAL) which pairs police and elementary/middle school age youth in recreation and enrichment activities, the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) – a prevention program for middle and high school youth and Adopt-a-Family – providing gifts and necessities to families in need. In 2022 the Outreach Team, along with other SPD officers, worked closely with and developed stronger relationships with our refugee community. Our officers make extra efforts to work around language barriers and existing fear or distrust of law enforcement learned by many refugees in their home countries. Officers are providing refugees with positive interactions with police as they assist refugees in how to report a crime, what to do if the victim of crime, and other law enforcement interactions. SPD continues to work closely with service providers for our immigrant communities, including World Relief Spokane and Thrive International.

Spokane Regional Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) going strong in 3rd year

The BHU pairs law enforcement with mental health professionals to find safe solutions for people in crisis while keeping the community safe. In 2022 the BHU made contact with 4,912 individuals, a **20% increase** from 2021. 79% of those contacts had an outcome other than jail or the hospital. The BHU saves valuable officer time, last year relieving patrol from 5,701 total calls. Spokane's BHU – a partnership with SPD, the Sheriff's Office, the Spokane Valley PD, and Frontier Behavioral Health, is a model for other crisis units across the country. This spring the BHU will host the 4th annual National Co-Responder Conference in Spokane!

Other Highlights



- SPD opened new police precinct in the East Central Neighborhood
- Enhanced officer recruiting efforts in 2022 resulted in an increase in the number of total candidates passing the Public Safety Test and sending their scores to SPD (718) with the number of candidates from underrepresented communities increasing as well
- SPD hired 20 entry level officers and 8 laterals in 2022, up from 18 and 6 respectively in 2021
- Spokane Police Chaplains gained 7 new volunteer chaplains in 2022 to assist in a 23% increase in calls for service
- SPD completed a rigorous accreditation program certifying the department as operating under best practices and standards for law enforcement. The Washington Assoc. of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs accreditation is awarded to only about 25% of all WA law enforcement



5.3% Increase In
Emergency
Incidents

4
Arson Arrests Made



16,741
Inspections Completed

521
Smoke/CO Installs




49,664
Cumulative Training Hours



42
Recruits Hired and Trained



52,538
Total Emergency Calls For Service



42,554
Emergency Medical Calls



5,365
Fire Calls

264 Patients Defibrillated
With Return Of A Pulse



2,585
Motor Vehicle Accidents

4
Residents Rescued From An Active Fire

Communications Transition

Spokane Fire Department formally transitioned the responsibility of FireComm's Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP2) to the Spokane County Regional Emergency Communications Agency (SREC). SREC operates the County PSAP 1, meaning all 911 calls enter SREC first for triage. Before the amalgamation, SREC would have to perform an initial triage as PSAP 1, then transfer the caller to SFD's FireComm, ultimately adding valuable time to the caller's wait and potential care. The increasing call volume, expectations, and ever-decreasing pool of staff was unsustainable for FireComm. The change to SREC allowed 100% of the County's Fire Service agencies and resources to operate together and as a truly integrated system for better safety and service to the person(s) needing help on the phone and our personnel utilizing land mobile radios tactically in the field.

EMS Levy-Funding Secured

Spokane voters overwhelmingly approved a renewal of the EMS Levy, securing the future of the Paramedic and BLS Medical Programs. The EMS Levy is a 6-Year funding measure based on property tax within the SFD's jurisdictional boundaries.

Addition Of Diverse Talent

Several recruiting sessions with Public Safety Testing (PST) occurred in-person and online throughout the country. Those efforts added a diverse group of 42 Entry-Level Firefighters to the SFD. Additionally, the SFD and Civil Service piloted a change to the entry process that resulted in adding an EMT Course to the academic curriculum in 2023. Adding the EMT Course to the Academy lifted the EMT certification requirement by Civil Service. It increased the number of applicants by three times in 2022.

Wellness And Mental Health Focus

Partnerships with the SFD's Psychologist, Ready Rebound, and Physical Fitness Trainers were continued and improved in 2022. The Ready Rebound Program saved over \$44,800 due to mandatory overtime backfill. However, the more profound impact of the mental and physical wellness programs has been a healthier and more resilient workforce that remains committed to protecting people's lives in Spokane.

Labor Management Relations

SFD enjoys a healthy relationship with the IAFF 29, SAFO, and the leadership team, who together participated in the IAFF/IAFC Labor Management Alliance (LMA) to create a formal agreement guiding the department's labor-management partnership. A landmark Collective Bargaining Agreement was reached with the Local 29 Firefighters Bargaining Unit and approved by Council in 2022. Formal negotiations with Local 29 Chief Officers continued later in the year, with an expected completion date in Quarter 1 of 2023.

Expanding Our Reach

SFD maintains updated partnerships with Kootenai County (ID), Whitman County, Stevens County, the Department of Natural Resources, Avista, and Spokane County Fire Agencies. For Spokane County Fire Districts 1, 8, 9, and Spokane International Airport, the SFD sends the closest resource for emergency incidents removing the political boundary for the best service to our customers.

SFD Is Not On An Island

The labor/management team is engaged with local, regional, and national organizations to help identify best practices and bring those ideas and research back to Spokane. Many Labor and Administrative leaders serve on local boards and associations. Chief Staff is appointed to state and federal committees representing the industry and Spokane's interests.

Capital Replacement Plan

SFD initiated a capital replacement plan using an ongoing Spokane Investment Pool (SIP) loan program before 2016. The budget continues to be updated and expanded for the ever-changing needs of the organization's funding. The needs in 2022 and future years continue to be greater than predicted despite access to one-time funding through the ARPA Program. Despite the challenges, the SFD successfully placed an order with Pierce Manufacturing for four Type 1 Structural Engine delivered in Quarter 4 of 2023. The remaining SIP funding allowed SFD to purchase the life-saving equipment needed for fire and rescue services, including personal protective equipment, tools, and special operations rescue gear.

Construction Plans

A Spokane company, Integrus Architecture, has begun to evaluate all fire stations for safety, physical condition/ stability, and planning needs for future stations. The SFD's facilities will meet safety codes, physical requirements, and future community growth needs when completed.

Legislative Efforts

We have established an active legislative focus for engaging in the legislative process to advance the SFD's ability to provide quality service for our communities. The SFD actively participates with the Executive Branch's agenda, the Legislative Branch's Agenda, IAFC, IAFF, NAEMT, and other organizations that further improve the safety and treatment of our people and the community.

Improved Communication

We have improved organizational transparency through improvements in internal communication. The Fire Chief continues to distribute monthly messages addressing emerging issues in the organization. A PIO was budgeted to assist us in telling the organization's story, highlighting individual members and their contributions, and representing the SFD to the community. Meetings with leaders at most levels have been held virtually for two years; however, in 2022, the shift is moving back to in-person with options for a hybrid model. This shift is intended to encourage more dialog, discussion, and sharing of perspectives throughout the organization.

Message from the Director

Our Parks & Recreation assets are a huge part of what makes our city special, and it's our team's honor to be part of this important work. 2022 was a year of continued resilience demonstrated across our community, and our Parks & Recreation division was a shining example of that spirit. Our work is built on a solid core service model of delivering what the community needs most for their health and wellbeing. That work is expanded by our collaborations and partnerships to deliver the highest quality and value of community services and programming.

Thank you for trusting us with community resources. We take that charge to heart. This report highlights many of the ways we work to deliver safe, healthy, efficient, and accessible spaces and programs that improve the quality of lives of people who live, work and visit here.

Riverfront Spokane

Community Engagement

Riverfront programs a variety of free and low-cost ways to enjoy the park, such as the Riverfront Moves series, Story Time at the Loeff Carrousel, farmers markets, Movies at the Pavilion, Riverfront Eats, Shakespeare in the Park, concerts by the Spokane Symphony, Easter egg hunt, fall festival, holiday trail of lights and tree lighting, and 4th of July and New Year's Eve fireworks! The new Riverfront Explore program benefited from SEEK funds, and served 335 youth ages 6-13 with lessons in science, history, language, and culture at no cost to economically disadvantaged youth. We also unveiled a Riverfront Story Walk and Pavilion Art Space with rotating content to further enhance educational activations in the park.

Events

The park continued to see greatly increased activities from event organizers and private group rentals, including popular signature events and summer concerts. Private event rentals saw a 240%+ increase, and birthday parties saw a 200%+ increase over 2021!

Attractions

The Loeff Carrousel, Numerica Skate Ribbon and SkyRide remain popular attractions for locals and visitors alike, year-round. Riverfront offers something for everyone, in every season. The Riverfront Gift Shop is also thriving!

121	Community Engagement programs offered at little or no cost
75,186	People attended free and low-cost Community Engagement programs
65	Events held by event organizers for the public
182	Private events/party rentals
28,557	Numerica Skate Ribbon attendance – The Ice
106,728	Numerica SkyRide attendance
108,095	Loeff Carrousel attendance

Park Rangers

Our Park Rangers saw over 14% increase in calls for service amidst an increase in park utilization, and did a great job meeting community need while serving as park ambassadors.

Riverfront Redevelopment

In 2014, voters approved a \$64M reinvestment into our downtown urban park, the first major investment in Riverfront since Expo '74. The bond didn't raise taxes and covered 5 major elements, plus a few added amenities. The five major elements were completed prior to 2022:

Recreational Ice Ribbon & SkyRide Facility	winter 2017
Loeff Carrousel building	spring 2018
Howard Street Promenade	fall 2019
U.S. Pavilion	fall 2019
Regional Playground	spring 2021

2022/2023

The North Suspension Bridge renovation was completed on schedule and budget, and a new art piece, The Seeking Place, was installed. Riverfront's renovation continues to win design awards (over 20!), securing an Honor Award in the General Design category from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2022.

Looking ahead to 2023, the South Suspension Bridge renovation is anticipated to begin, and signature art piece Stepwell is planned to open in the spring.



Holiday Celebrations



Holidays at Riverfront

The Riverfront Trail of Lights, Numerica Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration, and Winter Farmer's Market were all created to provide safe and enjoyable holiday activities for our community while supporting small businesses and the downtown economy.



Drive-Thru & Walk-Thru Lights at Manito

We partnered with The Friends of Manito and several thoughtful sponsors to transform the park into a drive-thru and walk-thru holiday light show to brighten spirits for tens of thousands of visitors.



Fireworks Shows

Riverfront hosted 4th of July and New Year's Eve fireworks with sponsor Idaho Central Credit Union, and included a free Spokane Symphony concert for the 4th.



Easter Egg Hunt

Amidst 10,000 eggs, 300 kids and kids-at-heart enjoyed finding candy and prizes.



Recreation

Our Recreation team continued to innovate new programs while offering popular community favorites, creating an incredible variety of activities for all ages and abilities. They are consistently evaluating enrollments in an effort to expand programs routinely exceeding capacity, discontinuing less popular programs, and identifying gaps in service.

2,865	Recreation programs offered
88	New recreation programs offered
144,440	Free open swim participants
724	Area youth who benefited from free SEEK programs and scholarships
22,246	Recreation program participants

- **Athletics:** Athletics saw 773 teams! Programs for adults include softball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, and cornhole. Youth athletics include flag football, pickleball, tennis, basketball, and volleyball.
- **Aquatics:** We welcomed more than 144,440 swimmers with free open swim. In addition, there were 3,301 people that took swimming lessons and we certified 122 lifeguards.
- **Corbin Art Center:** Corbin classes remain popular, especially the preschool and youth art camps. We welcomed 1,133 participants across 205 classes. Facility rentals at Corbin saw a steady increase, with 7 rentals for weddings, meetings, birthday parties, and other special celebrations!
- **Outdoor Recreation:** More than 1,829 people participated in programs like hiking, XC skiing, rafting, kayaking, snow showing, and Outdoor Adventure Camps. Nearly 650 Little Spokane River Shuttle participants enjoyed floating the river this summer, and almost 120 people rented kayaks from us!
- **Wellness and Enrichment, Recreational Sports:** Nearly 4,537 people participated in activities like esports, yoga, Pilates, lawn bowling, badminton, Qi Gong, martial arts, gymnastics, and more! A new Dementia Friendly program helped people suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia, and their care providers, thanks to a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association. We also launched a Youth Gang Intervention Summer Project in partnership with NEWESD 101's Safe Communities Partnership and Skyhawks RISE.
- **Sports Facilities & Operations:** Field rentals were popular for both practices and games of youth and adult sports, with 8,794 field rentals. New synthetic turf was placed at Merkle after the existing turf reached its end of life; this was a major investment funded in part through a facility improvement fee added into field rentals.
- **Therapeutic Recreation Services:** More than 1,600 TRS participants enjoyed a variety of programs like line dancing, pickleball, ice skating, cornhole, and one of the most popular activities – the ski program at Mt. Spokane. Funshine Day Camp was also another big success with nearly all sessions at full capacity.
- **Community Centers:** We affiliate with ten Community, Youth, and Senior Centers that provide resources and recreational services to our citizens: Corbin Senior Center, East Central Community Center (MLK), Hillyard Senior Center, Mid City Concerns, Northeast Youth Center, Project Joy, Sinto Senior Center, Southside Senior Center, Southwest Community Center, and West Central Community Center.

Park Operations

Our Park Operations team worked hard to ensure our parks were a safe and clean reprieve during ongoing impacts of the pandemic. With reduced staffing levels, they focused on our core service model of safety, sanitation, and asset protection. They integrated with Cityworks work order system for work order tracking, including integration with MySpokane 311's service requests from citizens, data tracking, and mobile use by Park Operations team members in the field. We also rolled out self-serve online reservations for small celebrations using park shelters.

32	lane miles of snow removal and maintenance of side-walks/pathways
90	facility reservations for weddings and receptions, up 28% from 2021
539	backflow prevention devices inspected and serviced
900+	mechanic service/repair orders for golf, recreation, and maintenance equipment
950+	playground inspections
46,463	people attended the Drive-Thru and Walk-Thru Holiday Lights in Manito
116,655	people attended activities happening as part of a park reservation (not including Riverfront)

Scholarships and Program Funding Support

Nearly 130 children ages 5-16 experienced a full summer camp at no cost, including kayaking, rafting, biking, climbing, wilderness survival, science experiments, and more – thanks to SEEK funding (Summer Experiences and Enrichment for Kids). SEEK also funded 260 youth ages 8-18 with outdoor recreation programs through local community centers over 10 weeks at no cost. In addition, staffing support and minor equipment was purchased with Access for All funds to help increase access for those with disabilities.



Natural Resources

Urban Forestry: Spokane Urban Forestry creates a diverse, healthy, and accessible urban tree canopy for the benefit of Spokane's citizens through quality planting, protection, and stewardship. In 2022

408	new community trees were planted, including 200 in partnership with The Lands Council and community volunteers through the SpoCanopy program.
452	street tree permits were processed representing 2,725 trees
443	trees were pruned
328	site inspections were performed for certificate of occupancy
345	development and demolition plan sets were reviewed

Natural Areas: Our goat grazing project for vegetation management at High Drive and Hangman Parks on the south hill bluff was funded in partnership with Avista and Friends of the Bluff. Two additional locations, Minnehaha and Meadowglen Parks, were also grazed with about 200 goats each. All three locations totaled about 40 acres and were each grazed twice in 2022.

We are also developing advanced wildfire prevention strategies focused our wildland urban interface, in partnership with the Spokane Fire Department. Ongoing wildfire reduction work and burn site restoration efforts continue with groups like Friends of the Bluff, Inland NW Land Conservancy, and Friends of Palisades.

We also celebrated Arbor Day and the Fall Leaf Festival with free family-friendly activities at Finch Arboretum.



Park Planning & Development

- **Audubon Park Climbing Structures:** Several new climbing structures for kids were added at Audubon Park, thanks to a donation from the Jess Roskelley Foundation.
- **Dog Park Guidelines:** Based on feedback from our updated Master Plan, a citywide study, and additional public input, we developed guidelines to determine how future dog park sites will be selected, designed, developed, and operated. The guidelines were adopted by the Park Board in the fall.
- **Downriver Golf Course:** A complete irrigation replacement began in fall 2021 and was completed in 2022 at a cost of \$2.9M, saving 25 million gallons in 2022 and providing an ongoing estimated savings of 14 million gallons of water annually while improving quality of play.
- **Dwight Merkel Sports Complex Artificial Turf Renovation:** Two artificial turf sports fields were replaced and opened to the public in fall of 2022. The new fields will ensure high quality turf playfields are available for public use for another 10 years.
- **Kardong Bridge:** The pedestrian bridge connecting the University District and the surrounding area with downtown was fully renovated, opening several months ahead of schedule at a cost of \$3.3M. Work included deck replacement, overlook replacements with ADA-accessible platforms, pier and steel repairs, painting, guardrails, and new lighting and bollards. Additional elements will be completed in 2023, including informational signs and architectural embellishments. The bridge renovation was funded through a package of an RCO grant, American Rescue Plan funds, and partner support from the Friends of Centennial Trail, Gonzaga University, Lilac Bloomsday Association, University District Public Development Authority, and the Bicycle Advisory Board.
- **Make Beacon Hill Public – Phase 1:** Partners (Spokane City and Spokane County Parks; Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance; Inland Northwest Land Conservancy; Avista Utilities; and private land owners) worked to permanently protect ~250 acres of privately owned land through purchase and donated conservation easements, made possible by \$3.3 million in funding through various grants and donations. The project connects four existing public parks (undeveloped portions of Esmeralda golf course, Minnehaha, Shields, and Camp Sekani) to create one larger, jointly managed regional park of 550 acres with a 46-mile trail system. Design for improved trailheads accessing this land is planned for 2023.
- **Manito Swan Sculpture:** A beautiful sculpture featuring a mated pair of bronze-cast mute swans was unveiled at Manito's mirror pond in the spring, in tribute to the swans who previously graced the park. Artist Vincent De Felice created the sculpture, fully funded by Washington Trust Bank.
- **Master Planning:** Our team created a road map for future priorities, focus areas, developments, and spending through an update of our Parks & Natural Lands Master Plan. Community outreach resulted in more than 5,000 responses, and that feedback created the foundation for the plan. The plan was adopted by the Park Board in the summer.
- **North Suspension Bridge (Riverfront):** The \$3M dollar restoration of one of the Expo '74 bridges involved a new deck, repair/replacement of corroded steel floor beams, repair/replacement of lighting and electrical components, and an upgraded railing. The bridge opened in March, on schedule and on budget of \$2.9M, funded through a package of grant and tax funds.
- **Palisades Park 'Rimrock to Riverside' Expansion:** Spokane County Conservation Futures program funded acquisition of 114 additional acres to Palisades Park.
- **Red Wagon Renovation:** The red wagon in Riverfront park, officially named The Childhood Express by artist Ken Spiering, received metal repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Sherwin-Williams donated the paint. We also completed asphalt repair nearby.
- **The Seeking Place:** October saw the unveiling of Riverfront's newest piece of art, The Seeking Place by Coeur d'Alene artist Sarah Thompson Moore. Sited along the Howard Street Promenade near the Pavilion, it is made of perforated metal to cast light, with inspiration drawn from our region's basalt outcroppings.
- **Upriver Park:** A newly completed park, with land from vacated right-of-way and previously underutilized park land, provides three acres of river access for water-based recreation and improved shoreline health. The park also offers an enhanced section of the Centennial Trail with views of the river and new amenities including parking. The park project was funded by Avista Utilities and opened in June.
- **Water Conservation:** Ongoing water conservation projects at golf courses and parks are estimated to have saved 55-60 million gallons of water annually by the end of 2022 (about 8% of total park water use). Parks and Utilities continued year 2 of a 10-year partnership to conserve water on public lands through annual funding of water conservation projects that support the Water department's stewardship program.



Looking ahead to 2023, we'll see work on the Liberty Park Playground and basketball court renovations, Riverfront Park Theme Stream, South Suspension Bridge at Riverfront, Cannon Hill Pond renovations, along with improvements to neighborhood park irrigation systems, playgrounds, and restrooms.



Golf

Golf continues to enjoy popularity. Revenue from rounds was up 6% over 2021, and revenue from pass sales increased 20% year-over-year.

Our City Championship sold out, with 133 players over a 3-day tournament. Thank you to our sponsor, Renaissance Financial.

We thanked golfers with a Golf Appreciation Day August 1, with discounted rounds and food specials. It was a small token of appreciation for the \$8M investment by golfers in new irrigation systems at three of our four courses (Indian Canyon, Esmeralda, and Downriver), saving approximately 38 million gallons of water annually while improving the quality of play. Design is underway at The Creek at Qualchan for irrigation upgrades.



Downriver: With the new irrigation system complete, we were able to provide even better playing conditions while saving water. Our new clubhouse roof was also completed. The Operation 36 junior programming continues to thrive, along with leagues and outings.

Esmeralda: Course conditions continued to drastically improve due to the upgraded irrigation system and focused efforts to raise tree canopy. Junior and adult player development programs continued to climb in numbers.

Indian Canyon: Total rounds increased by 900, mainly due to the success of player development programs and unparalleled golf course conditions. The first annual EWU Women's Invitational was a huge hit, and we look forward to growing that partnership for years to come.

The Creek at Qualchan: Junior golf programs continued to grow and surpass prior years. The Inland Empire Best Ball tournament (shared with Indian Canyon) and the Spokane City Championship are at full capacity, serving as area-wide favorites amongst tournament players.

Programming & Project Sponsors

A special thank you to our partners whose support help make events, places, and programs possible:

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Thank you Spokane Parks Foundation

The Campaign for Riverfront Spokane has raised nearly \$3M to provide additional amenities beyond the bond-funded projects. **Grant funds** totaling \$30,800 were provided to support recreation programs and park amenities in 2022.

Park Friends Groups & Volunteers

Thank you to our Park Friends groups and our volunteers, who ensure our park spaces are supported by community efforts to help them thrive!

Park Board

The Spokane Park Board was created in 1910 and granted power by the City Charter to layout, establish, purchase, procure, accept and have the care, management, control and improvement of all park grounds and parkways controlled by the City of Spokane and used for park purposes.

The charter also mandates eight percent of the City's annual expenditures be earmarked for Parks and Recreation. Additional funding comes from fees and charges for programs and services. The City's golf courses operate as an enterprise fund and are not supported by tax dollars. Visit SpokaneParks.org/board for meeting details.

2022 Park Board

Jennifer Ogden, President

Bob Anderson, Vice President, Finance Committee chair, and Development & Volunteer Committee chair

Nick Sumner, Riverfront Park Committee chair

Greta Gilman, Land Committee chair

Sally Lodato, Recreation Committee chair

Gerry Sperling, Golf Committee chair

Kevin Brownlee, Urban Forestry Tree Committee chair

Barb Richey

Hannah Kitz

Christina VerHeul

Jonathan Bingle, City Council liaison





**1,250 MILES
SANITARY AND
SEWER WATER PIPES**



**1,000+ MILES
WATER MAIN PIPES**



**\$368M BUDGET
760 FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES**



**800 TONS
SOLID WASTE
PROCESSED DAILY**



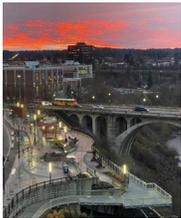
**2,200 LANE MILES
REGULARLY
MAINTAINED**

Utility Bill Relief

On Dec. 12, 2022, Spokane City Council approved \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to aid in paying down outstanding utility bills. This ARPA funding coupled with \$1.9 million in state funding from the Department of Commerce **provided thousands of customers with assistance** who were delinquent on their City utility bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

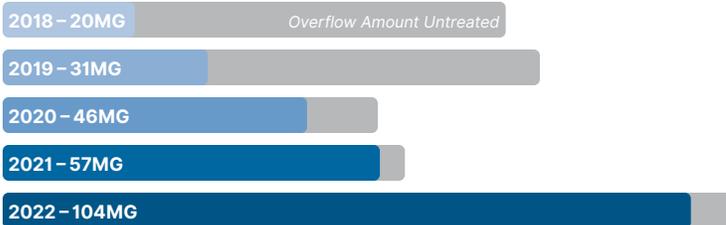
BILLING DATE	01/13/23
PREVIOUS BILL DATE	12/15/22
PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$585.29
PAYMENT ON 12/13/22	(\$200.00)
RELIEF CREDIT	(\$130.02)
TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	\$255.27
CURRENT CHARGES	
WTR RESIDNTL IC	\$2.45
WTR RESIDNTL IC SVC CHARGE	\$18.31
DUPLICATE BILL FEE	\$1.45
SWR RESIDNTL COLLECTION IC	\$15.81
SWR RESIDNTL COLLECTION IC	\$18.91

Combined Sewer Overflow Tank System Completes First Year of Full Service



At the City of Spokane, we've committed to reduce the amount of untreated overflows from combined sanitary and stormwater that reach the Spokane River. As part of our Integrated Clean Water Plan, we reached an **important milestone in 2022 having all Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks online** for an entire year. Fifty years ago, there was no protection against untreated water entering the Spokane River and over 700 million gallons made its way into the flow. In the 1980s, we began to separate the systems and divert untreated water to the reclamation facility and in 2014, the CSO tank system moved from vision to reality. Between 2018 and 2022, more tanks were completed and came online. The reduction in untreated overflows reaching the Spokane River has dramatically improved. Take a look at how we are getting a cleaner river faster!

Millions of Gallons of Sewer and Run-Off* Treated Before Reaching the Spokane River



*Annual rainfall volume and velocity measurements vary and impact number of overflow events.

Let it Snow, Melt, Rain, Freeze and Thaw!

City of Spokane Public Works teams were put to the test by Mother Nature early in the 2022-2023 snow season. **Street Department crews were supported by Water and Wastewater truck drivers** and completed three full-City plows between Nov. 1 and Dec. 20, maintaining more than 10,000 lane miles. The network of Combined System Overflow tanks held millions of gallons of run-off so it could be processed over time to protect the Spokane River. Followed up by street maintenance crews chasing down and filling potholes.

Long Term Improvements

The **Hatch Road Bridge** deck was replaced for durability and safety to accommodate the weight and volume of traffic. As an extra bonus, a designated right-hand turn lane from Hatch Road on to northbound U.S. 195 was installed, reducing wait times motorists. The project finished more than two weeks ahead of schedule, much to the relief of motorists impacted by the significant detour.



The **Thor-Freya corridor** project involved rebuilding the asphalt streets with concrete on both north and southbound streets between Sprague Ave. and Hartson Ave. Concrete will provide a more stable and durable surface for heavy loads and higher traffic volumes. This stronger foundation should reduce the number of repairs in the future. Additionally, the City replaced old water pipes.



Grind and Overlay Projects

Street conditions were improved throughout the City.

Arterials

- 4th Ave. – Washington St. to Browne St.
- 14th Ave. – Cedar St. to Lincoln St.
- 23rd Ave./Thorpe – US Hwy 195 to Inland Empire Ave.
- 49th Ave. – Perry St. to Crestline St.
- Boone Ave. – Nettleton St. to Ash St.
- Browne/McClellan – 8th to 3rd & 7th - Browne to Division
- Central Ave. – Division St. to Addison St.
- Empire Ave. – Nevada St. to Helena St.
- Garland Ave. – Maple St. to Monroe St.
- Hawthorne St. – US Hwy 2 to Nevada St.
- Lindeke St./16th – Cochran to 13th Ave.
- Main Ave. – Napa St. to Altamont St.
- North River Drive – Washington St. to Division St.
- Perry St. – Illinois Ave. to North Foothills Dr.
- Post St. – Grace Ave. to Walton Ave.
- South Cedar Rd./Eagle Ridge. Blvd.

2022 Pedestrian Improvements

Crossings and sidewalk areas were upgraded throughout the City.

- Sidewalk installation on North River Drive between Washington St. and Division St.
- School Safety Projects
- Traffic Calming Projects
- Street Maintenance Curb Ramps



Leading the Way with Shaping Spokane Housing

City of Spokane made news around the nation for its innovative approach to moving the needle for developing housing units. In June, Mayor Nadine Woodward, Council President Breean Beggs and Council Member Michael Cathcart announced a proposed pilot program to modify residential zoning to accelerate more housing in neighborhoods, especially in high-poverty rate areas.

The Building Opportunity and Choices for All pilot program would allow more housing options to be built. This strategy was identified in the housing emergency declaration, as well as Council’s action items included in the Housing Action Plan. The one-year pilot program enacted the following immediate changes to the development code:

- Allows townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes in all residential neighborhoods
- Continues to require development to fit the context of neighborhoods by matching the scale of its surroundings
- Includes basic design standards that are familiar for developers who have done work in the city before

With the jump start of the pilot program, the City quickly started building other foundational programs to increase momentum.

- Housing Action Plan Code Amendments Phase I & II – a series of zoning adjustments addressing ADU permitting and design standards, lost size transition, SEPA review, and short-term rental codes.
- Building Opportunity for Housing Program – Developing a series of Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code amendments to increase housing choice and attainability.
- Incentives include new Multi-Family Tax Exemption opportunities in targeted areas including condos, apartments, student housing, and townhomes that can qualify for significant property tax exemptions for 8-12 years. 2022 experienced a record-high number of Multi-Family Tax Exemption applications.
- For property owners who are wanting to remodel their home, add rooms, or an additional dwelling unit there is a Single-Family Tax Exemption opportunity.



2022 Housing Unit Progress

Program	# Projects	Est. Construction Valuation	# Units
ADU Fee Waiver Zone	22	\$2.4 million	22
Projects of Citywide Significance – ARPA Funds	13	TBD	TBD
Building Opportunity and Choices for All	7	\$3.3 million	13
Multi-Family Tax Exemption Pre-Construction Approvals	29	\$419 million	1,899
Multi-Family Tax Exemption Post-Construction Projects	31	\$98.2 million	475
Totals	102	\$522 million	2,409

Taking Action with Housing

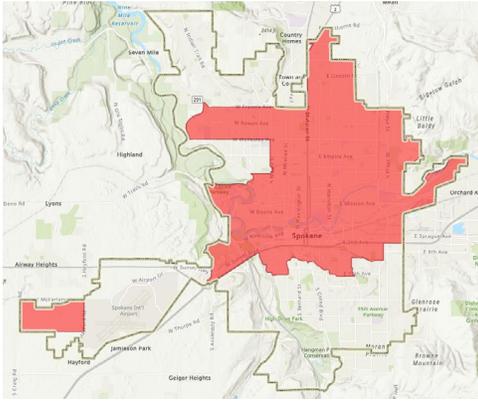
The City made great strides with its Housing Action Plan aimed at addressing the housing crisis by promoting greater housing diversity, affordability and access. Plan strategies include Shaping Spokane Housing code changes for Accessory Dwelling Units, Short Plats, and Lot Size Transition. The Building Opportunity and Choices for All Interim Ordinance is a one-year pilot project that modifies residential zoning to accelerate construction of missing middle housing development such as two-, three-, and four-unit residential structures. These changes are paving the way for working with stakeholders and the broader community to create permanent code changes to increase housing choices and a major update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan in 2026. The City also updated the Multi-Family Tax Exemption program to increase housing units.



2022 Permit Activity – By the Numbers

37,690	Total Permit Applications (Construction, Trade, Development, Engineering, Planning) *Highest in recent history*
5,155	Total Construction Permits Issued *Highest in recent history*
480	Multi-Family Housing Units Issued
277	Single-Family Residences Issued
\$79.5M	Largest Project by Construction Valuation – Airport Concourse C Expansion





Target Investment Area Created

The City created a new Target Investment Area utilizing objective Census tract poverty data to ensure that incentives are targeted where they are most needed.



Affordable Housing Incentives Expanded

To help spur more affordable housing, the City expanded the 12-year Multi-Family Tax Exemption and the new 20-year MFTE to include the entire city from previous limited areas along certain corridors. This is the largest MFTE area in Washington.



North Bank Development

Spokane's North Bank district, destined to be among the nation's premier sports and entertainment districts, is also gaining attention for planning for the 50th anniversary of Expo '74. About \$36 million in commercial

real estate has changed hands since the new Spokane Public Schools sports stadium was announced in addition to \$19 million in new developments and remodels permitted along the scenic Spokane River. The new Papillon Building that has three restaurants and office space; the Podium indoor sports venue; a future public market; a new sidewalk on North River Drive; replacement of the 104-year-old Post Street Bridge; future housing and several renovations are among the bustling economic activity.



On-Street Parking

City of Spokane installed 526 new single and dual-space on-street parking meters in the downtown paid parking area in 2022 as the on-street parking upgrade was implemented. Benefits of the new devices include:

- Payment Options and Easy-to-Read Information
- Consistency
- Convenient and Accessible
- Improved Service

Code Enforcement

1,188	Complete camping complaint abatements
1,051	Partial camping complaint abatements
2,239	Total camping complaint abatements
421.12	Total tons of waste cleaned while responding to illegal camping complaints
167	Total tons of waste cleaned while responding to illegal dumping complaints
13,457	Total inspections by Code Enforcement
12,937	Total inspections by Parking Services



Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Office approved more Special Valuation Tax Incentive projects than any other city/county in Washington in 2022. These 13 projects represent \$6.5 million invested in historic properties. Projects included 10 residential and three commercial properties. The Special Valuation Incentive is available to properties listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places or within a local historic district that have had a significant improvement within the previous two years. The amount spent on rehabilitation is removed from the property's valuation each year for 10 years by the Spokane County Assessor's Office resulting in significant property tax savings.



A multi-year effort to create a nearly 500 property historic district in the lower South Hill neighborhood is nearing completion. The proposal passed a property owner vote (56% in favor), the Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission, and Plan Commission. The next step is a hearing in front of City Council in March. Local historic districts in Spokane include Browne's Addition, Corbin Park, Comstock-Shadle, Hillyard and Booge's Addition. Historic districts protect the sense of place of an area by reviewing changes to existing properties while still allowing compatible infill to be built.





Point-in-Time Count in 2022

About 130 volunteers helped survey 1,757 homeless individuals for the Point-in-Time Count, a U.S. Housing and Urban Development requirement that helps determine funding for homeless services and assists regional planning efforts.



Affordable Housing

The City was awarded a \$680,460 state grant to help revitalize the Liberty Park Terrace affordable housing campus in the Perry District. ... Sinto Commons, partially funded through the City's Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), opened as a 47-unit apartment village. ... A total of \$10 million in funding for 11 affordable housing projects that are being leveraged by three different sources was approved. The funding will support the construction of 381 new affordable housing units, rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units, and supportive services.



Emergency Rent Assistance

The City, in collaboration with subcontractors FORWARD (formerly LiveStories) Family Promise and the Carl Maxey Center that process applications, distributed about \$35 million to 7,000 households over the past 18 months in federal and state funds.

Grants

Bolstered by the addition of eight new staff despite a tough hiring climate coming out of the pandemic, CHHS distributed \$40 million in funding from federal, state and local sources to subrecipients in the regional fight to reduce homelessness and tackle the housing crisis. The distribution amount has increased every year since 2018. More than 150 contracts were executed by CHHS.



Homeless Services

After considering more than 100 properties, the City engaged in a public-private partnership to open the Trent Resource and Assistance Center to offer support services to help individuals to find their pathway out of homelessness. The navigational center offers flex capacity during hazardous weather.

HUD announced \$4.3 million in Continuum of Care Competition Awards for Spokane homeless housing and service programs.

The City and its partners launched sheltermespokane.org, a public website that allows the community to view homeless shelter occupancy rates submitted directly by providers on a daily basis.

CHHS provided 30 trainings for partners to input homelessness data into the Community Management Information System (CMIS) that has increased to 450 users. The data is used to allocate resources, assess program and project performance, and set policy across homeless crisis response systems.

The City submitted a plan to the state to allocate \$24.3 million in state funds toward moving individuals from the homeless camp along Interstate 90 into a safe and healthy environments. The plan identified more than 650 spaces, half of them permanent housing.

Public libraries provided cooling centers for all individuals to during four heat wave activation periods encompassing 20 days.

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program is a new coordinated community approach to reducing youth homelessness.

Home Repairs

The City partners with SNAP to administer two home repair programs to assist low-income homeowners in maintaining safe and healthy living conditions.

Essential Home Repair Program
Minor home repair grants to address hazards.
130 total home repairs with \$500,000

Single-Family Rehabilitation Program Provides low-interest home loans for major home repairs
13 total home repairs with \$1.4 million



Community Engagement Grant

The grant funds activities that encourage residents to participate in neighborhood councils. Councils use funds to pay for events, movie nights, concerts, block parties, outreach materials and Zoom licenses.

\$24,500	Total spent on community engagement
8	Community events funded in neighborhoods
9	Zoom licenses funded for neighborhood councils to continue hybrid meetings
22	Neighborhoods that utilized grant funding



Leadership Academy

Nine leaders from Neighborhood Councils participated in the inaugural Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a partnership between ONS, the City Council and Gonzaga University.

Neighborhood Clean-up

The Neighborhood Clean-up Program beautifies the city and promotes community resiliency.

38	Clean-up events
870	Tons of waste removed
4,435	Digital disposal passes distributed to residents
1,200	Physical disposal passes distributed via COPS Shops



Traffic Calming

"Neighbors Drive 25" yard sign distribution: 700 at COPS shops; 300 through Neighborhood Councils; 1,000 signs given away by mid-April and 1,000 more reordered in July

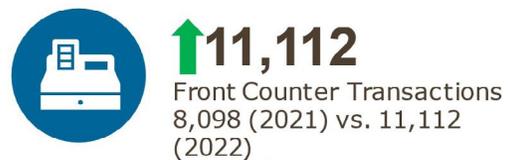
Ten issue identification workshops were held to develop project solution ideas to be voted on by neighborhoods. Selected projects will be compiled into a -year list with construction starting in 2024.

Mobile speed feedback trailers were deployed to 54 locations throughout 21 neighborhoods.

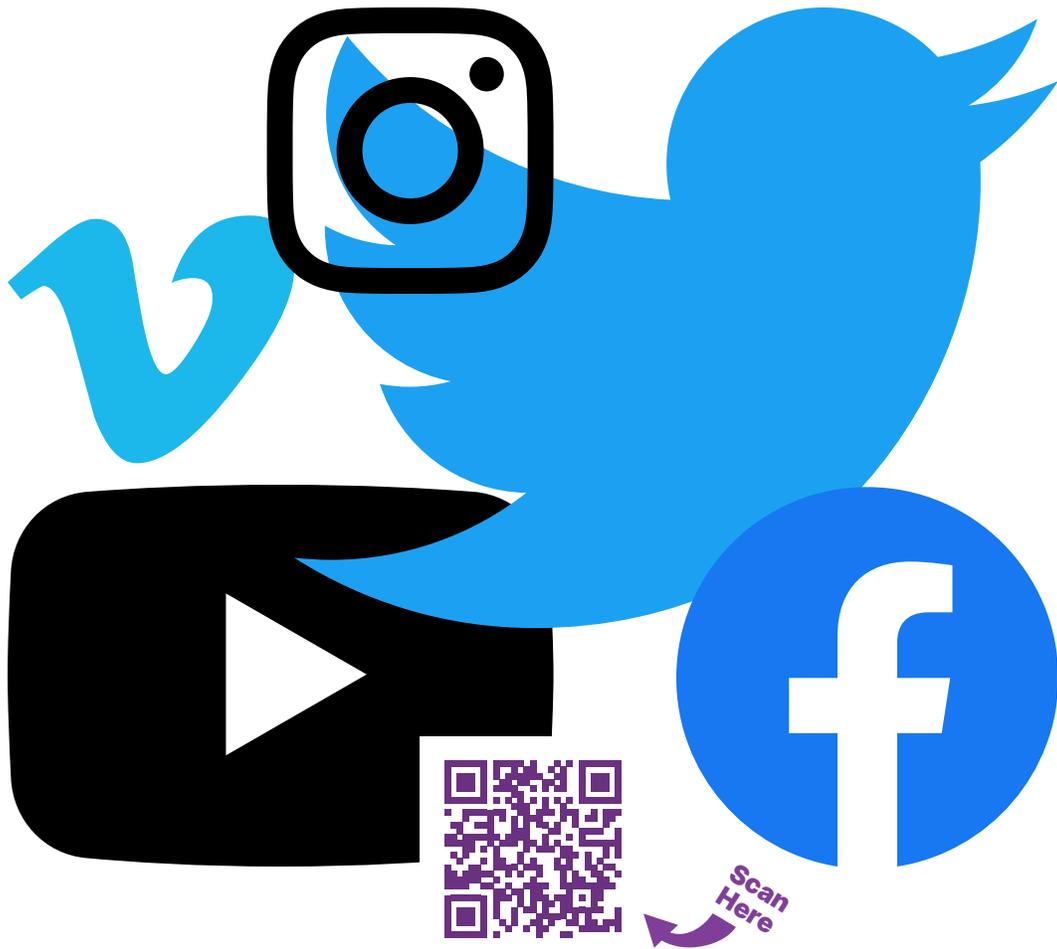
Neighborhood Councils

ONS assists Spokane's 29 neighborhoods with programs that engage people in local government, build stronger communities and improve quality of life.

My Spokane 311 2021 vs. 2022



Abandon rate was a record low in the 6-year history of the program.



Follow for more!

There are so many ways to engage with
The City of Spokane, we can't list them all here.
So we made a handy website.

my.spokanecity.org/socialmedia

