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Annual Report 2023

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Office of
Neighborhood
Services

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Letter from the Director



2023 proved to be a busy and dynamic year for the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). Stepping into the Director role, I supported ONS in continuing to aid the Spokane neighborhood system. I considered myself incredibly blessed to have been able to come into a department with staff who are engaged, knowledgeable, and serving all of Spokane's 29 neighborhoods.

My goal for this department has been to do what we can to help neighborhood councils, many of which are struggling, to become revitalized and an integral part of the city of Spokane. With that regard, 2023 saw us re-arrange our schedules to attend neighborhood council meetings more frequently than we were in the past. Our department continued our collaboration with Gonzaga University for the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy and started a new initiative, the "Spokane Neighborhood Summit," a great one-day event aimed at helping train residents and Neighborhood Council members alike. We also successfully ran our Mobile Speed Feedback Trailer, Community Engagement Grant, and Neighborhood Clean-up programs all of which you can read more about in the next few pages. 2023 was a great and exciting year, and we can't wait to keep serving our neighborhoods in 2024. We hope to see more residents involved in our programming!

Patrick Striker
ONS Director

Our Team



01. Patrick Striker, Director

02. Pollyanne Birge, Community Programs Manager

03. Amber Groe, Community Programs Coordinator

04. Annie Deasy, Community Programs Coordinator

05. Gabby Ryan, Community Programs Coordinator

Clean-Up Program



The Neighborhood Clean-up program is a partnership between Solid Waste and ONS, which works to make Spokane neighborhoods clean, safe, and healthy for all residents to live and thrive in. Clean-up also supports the City’s broader actions to reduce property crime, beautify Spokane, and promote community resiliency.

The 2023 Clean-up program year boasted greater involvement from neighborhoods. Twenty-six out of 29 neighborhood councils participated in the program.

The spring began with eleven curbside collections and eight roll-off events for nineteen neighborhoods. In the fall, Solid Waste provided five curbside collections and two roll-off events to seven neighborhoods.

Disposal passes were released in March and throughout the summer, and redemption rates for disposal passes were higher than ever, increasing by 6.8% from 2022.

769.9

tons of waste removed

26

clean-up events held by neighborhoods

4,204

disposal passes distributed



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Traffic Calming

The Traffic Calming program aims to improve safety for multi-modal street users—including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. By decreasing volume and/or reducing speed, the number and severity of accidents can be diminished, and the livability of streets improved.

Following up on issue identification traffic workshops that were held in 2022, City Council and ONS conducted 10 traffic calming project solution identification workshops for all 29 neighborhoods. Neighborhoods selected their top projects that will create a four-year list that will begin construction in 2024. Cycle 10 and 11 projects will be built in 2024.

Neighbors Drive 25

1,000
signs
distributed

The Office of Neighborhood Services and Spokane City Council partnered with Spokane C.O.P.S. and MySpokane 311 to have bright yellow “Neighbors Drive 25” yard signs available for residents to pickup. The signs, free to residents, were funded through revenue generated from red light cameras as part of the Traffic Calming program and encourage motorists to heed the speed of 25 mph on residential streets.

Community Engagement Grant



Annually, \$25,000 has been available to individual Neighborhood Councils and Community Assembly (CA) committees to apply for funding that encourages and increases overall engagement at the neighborhood level.

In its seventh year, the Community Engagement Grant program was able to provide neighborhood councils with Zoom licenses, printed materials such as postcards, door hangers, informational brochures, banners, and A-frame signage, in addition to covering costs for movie nights in parks and band fees for outdoor concerts.

Additionally, funds that remained at the end of the year were used to purchase items (generator, movie screen, signs, flags, and more) that will help neighborhood councils and CA committees hold community events.

14

community events funded

\$24,700

spent on by neighborhoods and committees

25

councils and committees received funds



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++ Mobile Speed Feedback

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The Mobile Speed Feedback program addresses excessive speeding within neighborhoods as well as providing valuable insight and data regarding traffic safety. Every year, neighborhoods request up to three locations for trailer placements of two-week periods during the months of May-September.

51

trailer deployments

24

councils benefited

Asphalt Art

2

projects completed in 2023

The Asphalt Art pilot program allows all 29 neighborhoods to commission asphalt art, creating a visual that slows down traffic. New community crosswalks were added as part of the pilot program, with the goal of installing at least two per district. The program is done in partnership with Spokane Arts which works with neighborhoods and artists from concept to completion.

Asphalt Art projects completed in 2023



Riverfront Park,
Pride Flag Crosswalk



South Perry District,
Pride Crosswalk



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Graffiti & Litter Clean-up

ONS worked in collaboration with Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Councils to gather volunteers for graffiti and litter abatement. We collaborated with Neighborhood Councils to identify the areas of most need to address litter and vandalism. ONS scheduled events and coordinated the volunteers for the clean-up days. ONS also worked with Code Enforcement to supply the equipment and coordinate the trash removal.

3

volunteer
clean-up events

20+

volunteers engaged
through program

5

areas persistent
graffiti was removed



Special Events

ONS oversees the general Special Event Application permitting process for the City of Spokane. ONS works in tandem with several City departments such as the Spokane Police Department, Fire Department, Engineering, Code Enforcement/Parking, Parks and Recreation and Waste Management as well as the Downtown Spokane Partnership and the Spokane Public Facilities District, Spokane Transit Authority, Riverpark Square, and Washington State Parks (Centennial Trail).

ONS ensures the permit process is progressing through the departmental specific review and approvals to the completion and eventual issuance of the special event permit. ONS also works as the main point person with applicants to ensure updated and appropriate materials are secured in order to issue an official permit.

Events included: Hoopfest, Lilac Parade, Bloomsday, Pride Festival, MLK Day Annual Unity Rally and March, Friendly Sons of St Patrick (FSOP) Parade, Terrain Art Show, Juneteenth Celebration, Summer Parkways, Perry Street Fair, Mexican Independence Day Celebration.

185
event
applications
issued

2+
million
attendees at local
special events



Spokane Neighborhood Summit

In 2023, ONS and Building Stronger Neighborhoods hosted the inaugural Spokane Neighborhood Summit! The Neighborhood Summit is

designed for Spokane neighbors to gather around community-identified priorities, learn together, and grow best practices in their neighborhood councils. Local leaders presented topics relative to the needs of Spokane neighborhoods. The Summit was free for participants and is planned to become an annual event open to any current or aspiring member of a Spokane neighborhood council.

Every aspect of this event was planned alongside our neighborhood council community. They were surveyed to determine what topics were covered and allowed for folks to present on their own experiences and best practices.

The event was made possible from donations and sponsorships from: Spokane City Credit Union, Rosauers Supermarkets, Craven's Coffee, Spokane Transit Authority, Spokane Fire Department, and Idaho Central Credit Union.

25

neighborhoods
represented

83

attendees at the
summit

9

workshops
hosted for
attendees

Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy



The Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA) welcomed its second cohort this year. The program is a partnership between the Office of Neighborhood Services and Gonzaga University’s School of Leadership Studies, made possible by funding from Spokane City Council.

The cohort went through a six month program designed to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities.

Participants:

- Developed essential skills for leading volunteer teams, including communicating effectively, facilitating meetings, delegating, resolving conflict, and more.
- Learned how to create inclusive, welcoming spaces and collaborate with people of diverse identities, personalities, and abilities.
- Became familiar with Spokane’s municipal structures, processes, and resources to better serve their neighborhoods.

16

neighborhood
leaders
participated

\$25,000

spent on
leadership
education

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You Don't Have to Move to Live in a Better Neighborhood

Join today!

my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/councils