



Frequently Asked Questions for Extreme Heat Weather Event

Why are library locations being utilized instead of activating a separate “cooling center”?

Over the last two years, the library branches have been undergoing major renovations and updates. They were not an option in 2021 when we experienced the last weather event.

- Located throughout the City with more convenient access in neighborhoods to residents
- Already staffed with simple capacity to expand hours when needed
- Equipped with restrooms and drinking fountains as well as water bottle fillers
- Provides FREE access to wi-fi connectivity, books, technology, and active play areas
- Libraries are always open to the public and there are rarely scheduling conflicts with other events
- Maximizing current facilities is substantially more cost-effective to provide relief to City residents
- It is a great opportunity for those who have never accessed libraries to learn more about them

How many people can the libraries provide cooling space for?

The total capacity for the four library locations is 1,784. In 2021, a total of 731 people utilized the cooling center over a 10-day period.

Why aren't we using community centers and schools?

Most of the community centers and schools are already programmed with summer activities and don't have the staffing to accommodate the services needed on short notice with an undetermined amount of time.

Is there a concern about COVID and other transmittable infections?

Fewer people in various locations will reduce the transmission of COVID and other infections.

Is there a way for people to be transported to a library or park?

Libraries and parks are located throughout the community, near STA bus stops and within walking distance. STA does provide paratransit transportation for those who qualify.

How will people know these locations are available?

Information will be pushed out to media and to our network of partners to amplify the information.

- Local media releases
- City of Spokane website
- Social media and digital channels with City, Spokane Public Library, Spokane Parks and Recreation
- Human services partner outreach
- Schools outreach

How can the community help during this time?

Just like we check on our neighbors, friends, and family during any challenging event, we need to do the same with heat. If you can help someone, please do.

Are there other resources besides the libraries and parks?

Spokane has a great network of assistance.

- My Spokane 311
- 211
- SNAP Resource Guide
- Spokane Homeless Coalition
- Spokane Regional Health District