

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Annual Report 2007

Proud Stewards of a 100-year Legacy



Spokane Parks and Recreation – A Brief Look at What We Do



Park Operations staff plants a tree on Sky View Drive. The City of Spokane’s Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City, and this year planted approximately 100 new trees city-wide.

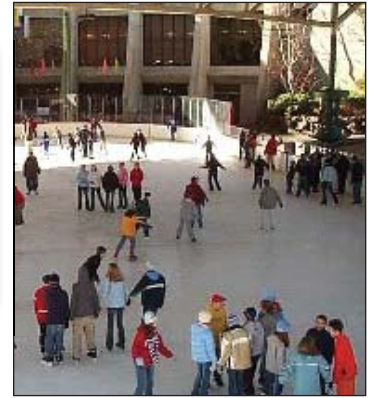
The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates and manages Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events.



Learning to swim is fun with a full series of summer classes offered by the Spokane Parks and Recreation Aquatics Program.



Northeast Youth Center kids enjoy a Halloween dress-up party. Since 1971, the Spokane Parks & Recreation Department has sponsored youth programming in the lowest income area of the state. Today, NEYC, also known as “Best in Play,” is the largest municipal youth center operating in Spokane.



There’s skating fun at the Riverfront Park Ice Palace from October through March. USA Today, Sunset magazine and Outdoor magazine have all described the Riverfront Park Ice Palace as one of the best outdoor skating rinks in the nation.



Corbin Art Center hosts quarterly fine arts and crafts classes and workshops, an exhibition gallery, special events including the Corbin Kids Art Party Program, satellite programming and facility rentals.



Golfers at Indian Canyon Golf Course, one of the City’s four championship courses, enjoy a near perfect summer day. The 20th Rosauers’ Open, hosted in 2007 at Indian Canyon, has grown to be the largest PGA Section event in the country.



In its first full year of operation, the Spokane Falls SkyRide in Riverfront Park entertained 117,000 visitors—twice the number who rode the original Expo ’74 gondola attraction during its final season in 2002.

The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and The Creek at Qualchan.



Biking the Hiawatha Trail with the Spokane Parks and Recreation Outdoor Adventure Program is just one of the more than 90 activities offered every quarter.

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land.

Front cover fireworks photo courtesy of Denny Marit.

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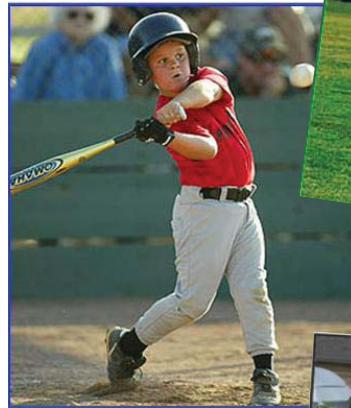
Voters Say **YES** to Parks Improvement Bond

Approved by voters with an overwhelming 68.1228% “yes” vote, this \$42.9 million bond issue will fund the construction and development of a variety of aquatics and youth sports projects throughout the City of Spokane.

The City’s five outdoor neighborhood swimming pools will be replaced in their same parks with facilities the same size or larger. A new outdoor neighborhood swimming pool will be constructed in northwest Spokane to replace the now closed Shadle pools. And, 10 spray pads will be built in parks throughout the City, many in locations where wading pools have recently been closed.

The bond will also fund development of Phase 1 of a new Sports Complex on the Joe Albi Stadium site located north and slightly west of the current Stadium. Phase 1 will include softball and soccer fields, a skateboard park, a BMX bike course, play equipment, trails and improved parking.

In addition to funding from the bond, improvements at the Joe Albi Stadium Complex will also be funded by \$4 million from the sale of park property that was approved by City voters in 1999 and subsequently held in reserve.



As an independent, non-partisan advocate, the Spokane Parks Foundation “fills the gaps” between what parks need to thrive and what annual budgets can provide. Through the Foundation’s endowment and the generous support from donors, the Foundation helps preserve valuable community green spaces – and enhance them for future generations. The Foundation provides the dollars to ensure that everyone can enjoy the programs and places that make Spokane a city of parks.

For more information, please visit: spokaneparksfoundation.org

The Foundation worked with Park Operations staff to install doggie bag clean-up dispensers in area parks. Pictured left to right: Executive Director, Toni Nersesian, Board Member Josie Dix and 2007 Board President, Cajer Neely, at the news conference launching the project.

2007 Accomplishments by Division

Spokane Parks and Recreation manages a vast system of parks, trails, street islands and conservation land, with more than 4,100 acres dedicated to open space and recreational opportunities.

Park Operations & Urban Forestry

Manager, Tony Madunich

Park Operations

- Completed automated irrigation installation at Hays Park.
- Completed installation of new water service and sewer connection, and are 95% complete on automating irrigation at Minnehaha Park.
- Purchased a centralized computer control utilizing weather station input for park irrigation that will result in significant savings on labor and water costs.
- Constructed more than 400 park benches and 200 picnic tables, utilizing the same classic traditional design, to replace a portion of those lost in a warehouse fire in 2006.
- Replaced the boiler at Liberty Pool and heat exchanger at Comstock Pool and provided numerous other repairs to keep pools running through the season.
- Scheduled and coordinated over 800 park reservations and events.

Manito Park

- Installed new sidewalk and repaired sections of existing sidewalks.
- Made significant progress on renovation and vegetation management in native areas.
- Initiated plans for improving the water quality and other renovation of Manito pond and managing waterfowl populations.
- Received funding through Friends of Manito for major pruning and tree thinning project in the Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden.
- Broke all previous years' attendance records at the increasingly popular Holiday Lights display.

Urban Forestry

- Received Tree City USA award for fourth consecutive year at annual Arbor Day Celebration.
- Completed update, data transfer, and training on new tree inventory software; added 600 existing trees to park tree inventory.
- Removed 50 trees from Riverfront Park Boeing Amphitheater to prepare for redevelopment of the area.
- Planted nearly 100 trees along streets and in parks throughout the City.
- Developed a collaborative relationship with Avista Utilities for management and maintenance of street trees located under power lines.

Parks Administration/Golf Program

Manager, Pamela McKinzie

- Completed new fairway at Downriver Golf Course (Hole # 6) which will open Spring 2008.
- Completed sand trap reconstruction at Qualchan Golf Course.
- Completed cart path project at Indian Canyon Golf Course.
- Rebuilt Tee box at Esmeralda Golf Course (Hole # 12).
- Continue to grow Junior Lessons and Tournament Series in addressing "Growth of the Game" goals.

Planning & Project Management

Manager, Taylor Bressler

- Completed Aquatics Master Plan which will be used to guide development of splashpads and neighborhood swimming pools as part of the Parks Improvement Bond measure.
- Worked with the development of a plan for Camp Sekani bike trails and worked in concert with the Fat Tire Trailriders Bicycle Club to clean up and restore poorly developed areas of the park. The intention is to make the informal trails and features user friendly, along with providing a site that accommodates all bike riding skill levels.
- Fish Lake Trail development included finishing the environmental study for the trail route and contracting for a total design package for the unfinished portions of the trail route, including selected bridges and proposed bridges.
- Whitewater Park at the Sandifur Bridge in Peoples Park has had the planning and permitting contracts completed and the required permitting work will start in early Spring of 2008.

Budget & Finance

Manager, Rebecca Madany

- Provided financial set-up and services for new operations including Joe Albi Stadium, Park Bench Café, Boulevard Bistro Café and a parking kiosk.
- Completed year one of the new registration system, meeting the 30% target for Internet registrations.
- Developed a cost recovery policy for Recreation services.
- Met annual 2008 revenue projections within 2%, producing a positive expenditure variance and as a result, exceeding the reserve fund balance target for the Park Fund.
- Developed a Contract Master Worksheet and sponsored Contract Training to assist staff with contract preparation and processing.
- Updated fixed asset inventory worksheets and prepared initial information for a comprehensive capital plan.

Recreation & Entertainment Services

Manager, Craig Butz

Riverfront Park

- Riverfront Park exceeded its annual gross revenue budget projection of \$3.5 million which is the highest in the Park's 29 year history.
- Major increases were seen in both gross revenue and revenue-less direct costs in the following Park attractions:
 - Riverfront Park Concessions gross revenue up \$260,000 over 2006. Revenue less direct costs is up by \$50,000 over last year.
 - Pavilion Amusements Rides gross revenue is up \$200,000 over 2006. Revenue less direct costs was up \$130,000 over 2006.
 - Ice Palace gross revenue was up \$28,000 over 2006 and revenue less direct costs was \$53,000 over 2006.
 - Group Sales increased revenues generated from \$258,151 in 2006 to \$296,289 in 2007, an increase of \$38,138 -- up 14.8 %.

Riverfront Park -continued

- Capital & Other Park Improvements in 2007 include:
 - New IMAX Theatre seats
 - Food Service Improvements including taking over the operation of the Boulevard Bistro (next to the Carrousel) and the Park Bench Café in Manito Park
 - Spokane Falls SkyRide Building Improvements
 - Parking lot Lighting Improvements
 - Shelter restroom roof & fixture improvements

Parks Food Service

- Riverfront Park Concessions saw extraordinary growth with both gross revenue and profits reaching their highest level since year 2000.
- Opened and operated Manito Park food service at The Park Bench Café with Parks Department management and staff. Financial results exceeded business plan projections, and the staff received rave compliments about the customer service and extended hours of operation.
- Purchased the Boulevard Bistro and opened and operated it in Riverfront Park under Parks Department management and staffing.

Corbin Art Center

- Held 497 classes including 140 Corbin Kids Summer Camp programs for children ages 2 – 11.
- Held 86 special programs including children's art parties, Girl and Boy Scout Programs and Gonzaga University Exchange Student Program.
- Conducted satellite programs with Hutton Elementary School and First Presbyterian Church including after-school programs for over 100 children and the Hutton Elementary Imagination Celebration for grades 1 – 6.

Outdoor Recreation

- Created a text messaging promotion to announce class openings and to secure greater total enrollments.
- Plan developed to create fitness and activity programs including Snowshoe and fitness, Climbing and fitness, and Summit Snowshoeing.
- Began marketing to 19-30 year olds with new promotions (text messaging) and activities of interest to this growing demographic including Whitewater Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Shooting, Longboarding and Snowboarding.

Personal Interest Recreation

- Revamped the walking program to include theme walks, walking for fitness, walking tours and Chi Walking.
- Added more exercise classes including Ball Fitness, Yolates, Belly Dancing and Tap, Cardio Fusion and Salsa Aerobics.

Therapeutic Recreation

- Offered first therapeutic sailing trips on Lake Coeur d'Alene.
- Ice skater Sarah Fullen was chosen to skate in closing ceremonies at the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships held in Spokane.
- A team of Eastern Washington University students developed a brand new Web site for Therapeutic Recreation.

Northeast Youth Center

- Northeast Youth Center (NEYC) successfully relocated the administrative offices to The Hillyard Baptist Church-Community Services Building, 2121 E. Wabash, just 8 blocks north from the NE Community Center, thus, saving \$10,000 in facility leasing for 2007.
- Participation hours increased by 4% (up 8,608) from 2006.

Senior & Community Centers

Corbin Senior Center

- Purchased a brand new 14 passenger van and offered an average of 12 day tours per month.
- Both day and long tours saw an increase in passengers.

East Central Senior Center

- Overall attendance has increased 33% since 2006.
- Lunch program has increased 30% since 2006.
- The Center's new Adult Day Program was featured in a Spokesman-Review article with a great photo.

Hillyard Senior Center

- Hillyard Senior Center provided over 110,000 hours of attendance with an emphasis on recreation based classes and activities.
- Increase in attendance by 24% over 2006.
- Won the Travel Trophy and Senior Summer Croquet League in 2007.
- Increased fundraising by 15% over 2006.
- Increased Membership by 8%.

Peaceful Valley Community Center

- Hosted an appreciation luncheon July 10th to celebrate completion of the Center's kitchen remodel. The project involved the installation of new flooring and wall coverings, all designed to meet current health codes. The Spokane Service Team AmeriCorps program completed this project as an opportunity to provide service and training for AmeriCorps volunteers.
- The Center offers a wide variety of programs and events year round for people of all ages, including many classes which are taught informally, including pottery, ceramics, weaving, spinning and yoga.

Sinto Senior Activity Center

- Provided 165,000 hours of attendance with an emphasis on Recreation based classes & activities, up 5% over 2006.
- Won the All-City Senior Center Walking Challenge for Most Miles Walked - 9,428 miles with 58 participants.
- Installed New Dining Room Flooring, New Lighting throughout the center and resurfaced the parking lot.
- Added 115 new members in 2007 with membership up 12%.

Southside Senior Activity Center

- 1,600 members and going strong. Approximately 200-300 people use facility each day. Open six – seven days a week and four nights till 9:00 p.m. with a variety of classes and activities.
- Fun, active atmosphere with all classes and activities; motto for 2008 "Come on Along!"

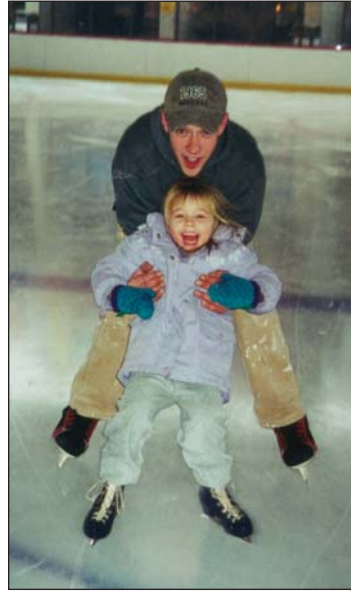
What We Do – continued



The Spokane Parks and Recreation Therapeutic program serves a broad range of people with developmental and physical disabilities. The program is one of the first in the nation to offer mountain biking for people with developmental disabilities, and it's the only one of its kind east of the Cascades and west of the Rocky Mountains providing instruction in how to use adaptive equipment for downhill skiing.



By using filtered, recycled water, the Rotary Riverfront Fountain uses only about as much water as a single family residence. Water circulates quickly through the fountain's dozens of water jets, some spraying up to four stories high.



Skate rentals and lessons, party facilities, and day or season passes mean fun for the whole family at the Riverfront Park Ice Palace. You'll find some great improvements this season including indoor seating, an expanded food service and more new skates.



After being left untended for 75 years, the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens opened to the public August 18, 2007, following a nine year research, planning and restoration process. The Gardens will reopen for the season in May.



Spokane received its fourth year in a row designation as a Tree City USA during the annual Arbor Day celebration April 28, 2007, at Finch Arboretum.

Parks Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory and the many city-wide gardens, Finch Arboretum and the Urban Forestry Program.



Park Operations staff cuts grass, picks up leaves and nurtures the wonderful horticulture displays you'll find in the many gardens and parks throughout the City. Ongoing work also includes installation of automatic irrigation systems, shown here under construction at Hays Park, which will provide significant savings on labor and water costs.



The 2007 Fall Leaf Festival, held at the John A. Finch Arboretum October 22, offered fun for all ages. Highlights of the event included the opportunity to be a kid again and jump into piles of leaves, and the planting of a Champion Green Ash tree just west of Woodland Center.



The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department has one of the largest municipal outdoor recreation programs in the country, offering nearly 90 classes each season.

2007 Awards

The Spokane Park Board, management team and department staff are proud stewards of a 100-year legacy and work hard, day in and day out to provide and support this community's wonderful park and activities system. We are dedicated to continuing to maintain high standards of care for the public assets assigned to our safe keeping.

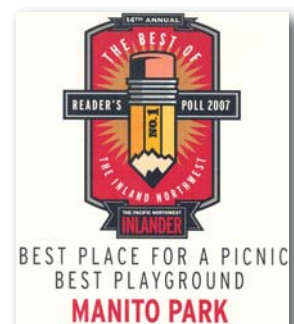
The following recognitions are proud reminders of this legacy:

- Spokane was awarded the designation, Tree City USA for the fourth year in a row, an award given by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.
- The Inland Northwest Tourism Awards presented by the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded Manito Park its Top Attraction Award for 2007.
- East Central Community Center Director, Kathy Armstrong, was awarded the 2007 Professional of the Year by the Washington State Association of Senior Centers.
- The Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens and project manager Lynn Mandyske received the Shrinking Lilac Award from the Mayor's Urban Design Awards Design Review Committee under a special acknowledgements category describing the project, "highly deserving of recognition is this recently unearthed and freshly restored piece of Spokane's history and the people who made it happen."
- Mark Gardner, Qualchan Golf Course's golf professional, was awarded the 2007 Pacific Northwest Professional Golfer's Association Merchandiser of the Year Award for Public Facilities. This prestigious award is given annually to only one person in the Pacific Northwest section which is comprised of Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Northern Idaho and Western Montana.



- Gary Lindeblad, head professional at Indian Canyon, was inducted into the Pacific Northwest Section of the Professional Golfers' Association of America Hall of Fame, the highest honor the Section can bestow upon one of its members.
- The Pacific Northwest Inlander's "Best of..." Readers Poll named Manito Park the "Best Place for a Picnic" and "Best Playground" for 2007.
- Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living magazine awarded the following to the City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Department:

- Best Place to Picnic: 1st place Manito Park, 2nd place Riverfront Park
- Best Golf Course: 1st place Indian Canyon, 3rd place Downriver
- Best Place for Family Fun: 2nd place Riverfront Park



2007 Park Board Members

Frank Knott, President
 Mike Howson
 Gary Lawton
 Steve McNutt
 Jim Quigley
 Ron Rector
 Elizabeth Schoedel
 Steve Silkworth
 Larry Stanley
 Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter
 Bob Apple, City Council Liaison

Staff

All facilities and programs are managed by a talented and energetic staff of approximately 80 full-time employees, augmented with several hundred dedicated seasonal workers.

Administrative Headquarters



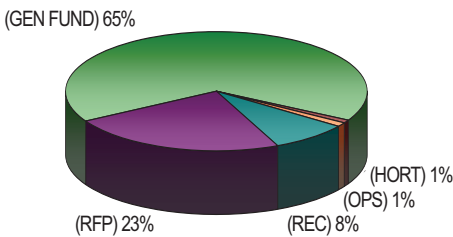
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 509.625.6205 (fax)
 Email: spokaneparks@spokanecity.org
 Visit us on the Web: spokaneparks.org



This flagpole was formerly located at Liberty Park. A team of employees worked together to erect the pole at Park Operations in remembrance of all former Park Department Employees. Dedicated July 3rd, 2007.

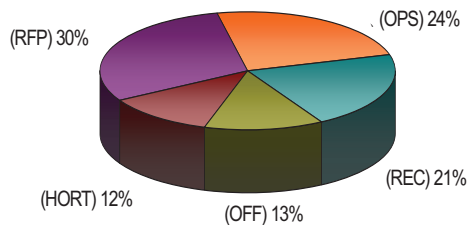
2007 Financial Report

2007 REVENUE



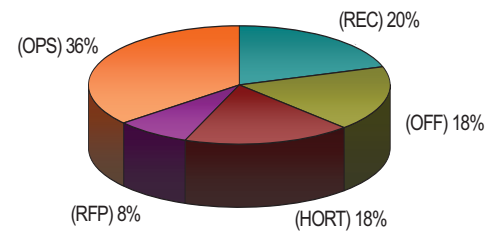
GENERAL FUND (GEN FUND)	65%	\$9,455,500
HORTICULTURAL (HORT)	1%	77,700
PARK OPERATIONS (OPS)	1%	125,300
RECREATION SERVICES (REC)	8%	1,130,000
RIVERFRONT (RFP)	23%	3,501,000
CENTRAL OFFICE (OFF)	1%	\$138,000
REVENUE TOTAL	98%	\$14,427,500

2007 EXPENDITURES



RIVERFRONT (RFP)	30%	\$4,293,100
PARK OPERATIONS (OPS)	24%	3,421,700
RECREATION SERVICES (REC)	21%	3,002,400
CENTRAL OFFICE (OFF)	13%	1,795,300
HORTICULTURAL (HORT)	12%	1,702,100
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	100%	\$14,214,600

2007 NET EXPENDITURES LESS REVENUE



PARK OPERATIONS (OPS)	36%	3,296,400
RECREATION SERVICES (REC)	20%	1,872,400
CENTRAL OFFICE (OFF)	18%	1,657,300
HORTICULTURE (HORT)	18%	1,624,400
RIVERFRONT (RFP)	8%	\$792,100
NET TOTAL (Excluding General Fund)	100%	\$9,242,600