

# LEGACY OPPORTUNITY FUTURE

2015 Annual Report

*Photo by Alisha Richart  
SkyRide over the lower Spokane River falls  
at Riverfront Park*

## Letter from the Director

Dear Citizens:

2015 has been an exciting year for Parks and Recreation. We began executing the Master Plan for Riverfront Park redevelopment that was overwhelmingly supported by voters in 2014. Plans have been drawn up for a new recreational rink ice ribbon and SkyRide facility, as well as new housing for the historic Loeff Carrousel. Improved designs for public spaces and park grounds, including a regional playground have made significant progress. Still to come is an enhanced Pavilion and event shelters. None of this would be possible without input from the people of Spokane and our volunteer citizen oversight committees. Please plan to celebrate construction groundbreaking with us in July.



In other business, Park Operations made consistent improvements to parks around the city in 2015, repairing and restoring existing amenities as well as constructing new ones. They dedicated over 720 hours to graffiti abatement and removed 620 tons of litter and debris from parks.

The Athletics department had another banner year, both in participation and program revenues. In 2015 approximately 6,200 adults and 2,100 youth participated in sports through Parks and Recreation and partner programs generating over \$260,000 in revenue.

We focused a lot of effort on improving our golf courses in 2015. The Creek at Qualchan, Downriver, Esmeralda and Indian Canyon all saw renovation and maintenance projects throughout the year.

It should come as no surprise that Parks and Recreation was greatly affected by the November windstorm. In the wake of such a destructive storm, our staff really came through to clean up the debris and get our parks and golf courses back to operational condition. Urban Forestry reported a loss of over 1,900 trees managed by the city, 500 of which were on Parks and Recreation property. We are so grateful to Urban Forestry and to all of our staff for going above and beyond the call of duty to help restore the natural beauty of our city after the storm.

As always, thank you to our Park Board President Chris Wright and all members of the Board for your hours of volunteered time and talents. Your continued investment in our city is truly inspirational and we owe you a debt of gratitude for guiding Parks and Recreation to greater and greater heights each year.

Thank you, citizens of Spokane, for your continual support of and involvement in Parks and Recreation. I'm proud of all we've done together in 2015 and I look forward to an exciting 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leroy Eadie'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Leroy Eadie  
Spokane Parks and Recreation Director

# Urban Forestry

Trees are intrinsically connected to our lives – from the air we breathe to the value of our homes, the food we eat to the success of our business, and the water we drink to our shady afternoon respite. Urban Forestry’s mission is to enhance the benefits provided to the citizens of Spokane through quality management, maintenance, protection and planting of public trees. Through stewardship of Spokane’s urban forest, we aspire to connect people to the world of trees, and in doing so connect them to the strength of their own roots, the beauty of their presence in this world, and the vast reach of their influence.

## Stewardship by the Numbers

### 879 Trees Planted (2" caliper stock)

- 168 by Urban Forestry staff
- 711 by Street Tree Permit

### 1,770 Trees Pruned

- 468 by Urban Forestry staff
- 1,302 by Street Tree Permit

### 873 Trees Removed

- 431 by Urban Forestry staff
- 442 by Street Tree Permit

## Major Projects, Grants, and Events

- Celebrated the 12th consecutive year as a Tree City USA.
- Arbor Day Celebration at the John A. Finch Arboretum on April 25.
- Fall Leaf Festival at the John A. Finch Arboretum on October 24.
- Garden Springs Creek Restoration and Finch Low Impact Development projects completed (grant-funded by the Washington Department of Ecology).
- Developed a Draft Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Spokane (grant-funded by the USDA Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources).
- Completed the John A. Finch Arboretum Educational Series presenting 12 public education workshops (grant-funded by the USDA Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources).
- An estimated 1,900 public trees managed by the city were lost in the November windstorm, with gusts up to 70 miles per hour. Approximately 500 were on Parks and Recreation property, and the remaining on street rights-of-way and other city owned property. The appraised value for these trees was around \$22 million.



# Riverfront Park

## In the Community

- Maintained a 4.5 star rating average from 1100 Trip Advisor reviewers and ranked # 2 in Spokane for all 42 attractions listed.
- Riverfront Park Facebook page likes increased from about 2,000 (January 2015) to 12,000 (March 2016).
- The Ice Palace maintained more than 12 different regular user groups including Inland Empire Amateur Hockey Association, Coeur d'Alene Youth Hockey Association, Gonzaga University Hockey Club, Spokane Youth Sports Association Hockey, Spokane Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation, and Gonzaga University PE.
- A special thank you to Riverfront Park's community partners whose charitable, financial or volunteer support help make events and programs possible: Downtown Spokane Partnership, Visit Spokane, Spokane Parks Foundation, Avista, Festival of Speed, Burke Promotion, Numerica Credit Union, KXL, Pepsi Cola, Washington State Employees Credit Union, Aktion Club, Spokane ServFest, and River Keeper (Center of Justice)
- Riverfront Park employed over 240 seasonal team members in 2015.

## Events

Riverfront Park scheduled or hosted 90 events in 2015, including:

- First Annual Washington State Chinese Lantern Festival, which saw more than 80,000 visitors and generated \$4.67 million in economic impact to Spokane. It was supported by a team of 30 volunteers.
- The first Shakespeare in the Park free public performances. The event is expected to return in 2016.
- Return of Royal Fireworks Concert.
- Hosted the annual 4th of July Celebration, which included a Pie Eating Contest, Hot Dog Eating Contest, live entertainment, the Spokane Jazz Orchestra, and a fireworks display.
- Hosted the PEMCO Outdoor Movie Night, a six week series showing family favorite movies on a giant inflatable screen in the Lilac Bowl.



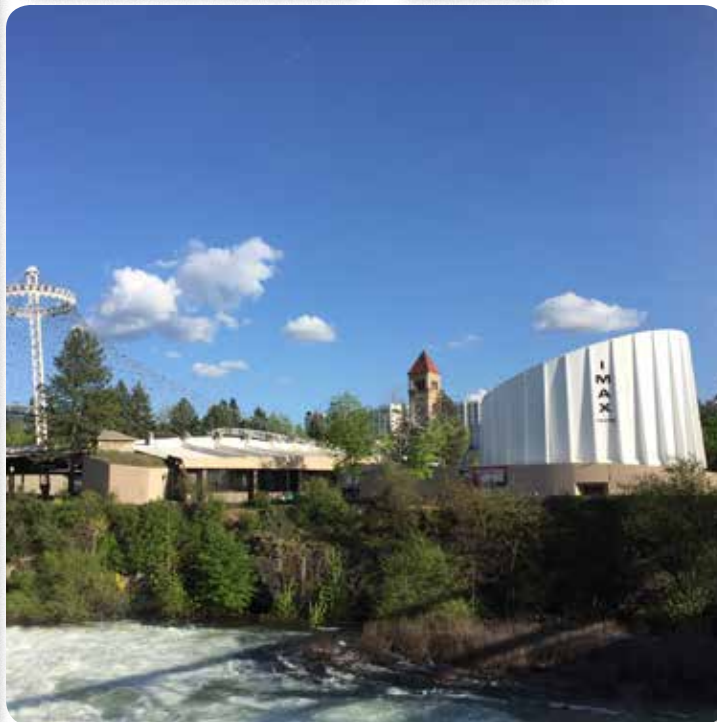
## Operations

- Riverfront Park had 377,168 recorded attraction uses. Skyride – 93,787, Carrousel – 92,419, IMAX – 28,526, Ice Palace – 66,670, Mini Golf – 18,796, Pavilion Attractions & Tour Train – 76,970.
- Giant Screen IMAX Theatre's features included Everest, Journey to the South Pacific, Born to be Wild, Dolphins, The Living Sea, and Lewis & Clark. Over 6,500 students attended educational films in the IMAX Theatre.
- Riverfront parking revenue increased by 6% (from \$412K to \$440K).
- Creating a safer park, Riverfront Park's Security team responded to more than 4,500 calls for service, made nearly 120 arrests, and issued about 240 civil infractions for \$66,923.
- Planted over 1,600 pansies and 10,200 various flowers throughout the park.
- Between April – September, grounds crews mowed an equivalent of 230 football fields.

## Redevelopment

- Retained landscape architects, architects, and engineers to design the park grounds, the Howard St. south channel bridge, recreation rink & SkyRide facility, and the Loeff Carrousel facility.
- Worked closely on permitting with city planners and agencies such as the Department of Ecology, Department of Architecture & Historic Preservation, Spokane Tribe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Surveyed the park, conducted geotechnical investigations, inspected for hazardous materials and started a comprehensive utility master plan.
- Engaged the public through open houses, public meetings, publications and regular website and social media updates.

*None of our achievements would be possible without our dedicated crew of 200+ permanent and seasonal employees, and the support of the community, Park Board, Park Administration, Park Operations, Recreation, Urban Forestry and the countless others who help make it all happen at Riverfront Park.*



# Park Operations

## Projects

- Constructed new gazebo in Manito Rose Hill (Friends of Manito funding)
- Expanded Manito Park Shade Garden, adding nine new planting beds and irrigation (Friends of Manito funding)
- Repaired historic rock retaining walls and decorative rock features at Manito and Moore-Turner Garden
- Completed engineering for new emergency generator at Manito and developed four conceptual plans for future projects
- Installed exercise stations along pathway in Mission Park (CHHS funding)
- Completed new restroom installation at Kehoe park (CHHS funding)
- Completed Coeur d'Alene Park improvements (CHHS funding)
- Installed new playground equipment at A.M. Cannon Park (CHHS funding)
- Completed replacement of tennis courts in Mission Park
- Replaced sidewalks at Cliff Park
- Completed road surfacing improvements at High Bridge Park
- Installed fencing along hillside at Corbin Art Center/ Woldson park
- Replaced playground equipment at Cowley Park
- Replaced lighting on Don Kardong Bridge
- Automated irrigation in large section of Franklin Park with funding assistance from City Utilities
- Completed watercraft put-in / take-out under Division Street Bridge
- Coordinated with Underhill CSO tank and High Drive construction and other City projects
- Manito Park placed on State Historic Register and completed National Register Multiple Property submission

## By the numbers

- Completed 1,191 service and repair orders for golf and park maintenance equipment, and sharpened 406 mower reels
- Issued permits, scheduled, and accommodated 963 special events, reservations, and other park activities
- Completed over 70 work orders for other departments
- Dedicated over 720 hours to graffiti abatement and removed 620 tons of litter and debris from parks
- Cleaned and re-striped 5 parking lots
- Inspected and repaired 290 backflow prevention devices, installed new sewer line at Harmon Park, installed 5 drywells to mitigate spring flooding
- Repaired 3 roofs and cleaned up debris from November windstorm
- Over 8,500 people attended annual Holiday Lights event at Gaiser Conservatory



# Golf

## Creek at Qualchan

- 38,700 rounds played, the most in the past 8 years. The course was in fabulous shape thanks to Mike Greene and his staff.
- The First Tee continues to grow and plans are moving again to build the 3-hole course next to the driving range.
- The course lost approximately 35 trees in the November windstorm.

## Downriver

- A complete remodel of the 10th tee
- Removal of debris along the 11th tee
- Hosted the Wounded Warriors Tournament



## Esmeralda

- The course saw golfers during 10 months out of the year.
- 2015 rounds were up over 2014 rounds in 7 out of 10 months of the season
- Created evening Par 3 tournament
- Exterior painting of the clubhouse

## Indian Canyon

Indian Canyon saw several renovation and maintenance projects throughout the year including:

- New Clubhouse deck rail, painted exterior of all Clubhouse buildings and interior of restaurant/dining area
- New Maintenance building roof
- Major irrigation system repairs
- Purchased six new turf maintenance units
- Major brush removal around course



# Recreation

## Aquatics

- New additions to aquatic centers including an inflatable fun run at Witter pool and expanding the fenced area at Shadle pool.
- Free Swim Week, sponsored by Local Firefighters Union 270, was a huge hit.
- Thousands of dollars was again donated through grants and scholarships for local youth to have free access to swimming including swim suits, swim passes and swimming lessons. Funding was provided by the Spokane Park Foundation and USA Swimming Foundation.

## Athletics

- Athletics continues on an ascending trend for the 4th year, both in participation and program revenues.
- Approximately 6,215 adults and 2,110 youth participated in sports through Spokane Parks and Recreation and partner programs Skyhawks, SuperTots, Sounders FC, Spike & Dig, and USTA.
- Softball League: 2,625 participants, 1,115 games played at Dwight Merkel and Franklin generating \$106,810 in program revenue.
- Flag Football League: 2,240 participants in 140 teams playing at Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, generating \$97,165 in program revenue.
- Volleyball League: 1,250 participants in 180 teams playing, generating \$46,172 in program revenue.
- Ultimate Sports Summer Camp: 110 participants generating \$13,201 in program revenues.

## Outdoor

- The Youth & Teen Outdoor Adventure Camps enjoyed the outdoors in Riverside State Park. The campers went on a variety of field trips learning outdoor skills such as survival skills, archery, canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, hiking, biking and more! They even toured the County Conservation District's Water Resource Center and learned how to keep our aquifer clean, and the Spokane River Keeper came out and taught river entomology. It was a great summer!
- Received 10 stand up paddleboards.
- Hosted an Ice Age Floods Tour with author Bruce Bjornstad. The tour took the group through the Eastern Channeled Scabland explaining and exploring the areas of giant floods.
- The Spokatopia Outdoor Adventure Festival at Camp Sekani was a major success with over 1,000 people enjoying the outdoors, learning new skills, demoing mountain bikes and more.

## Sports Facilities & Operations

- New soccer goals, natural turf rehab and synthetic turf rehab were completed at the Southeast and Dwight Merkel Sports Complexes this past year.
- A Facility Light Evaluation Study was completed. Resulting lighting upgrades will commence in 2016.
- The Southeast Sports Complex master planning process was initiated.





## Therapeutic Recreation Services

- Held first annual Fishing Frenzy event at Clear Lake Military Resort on free fishing weekend. Poles, bait, and personal floatation devices were sponsored by Mike & Josh Marro.
- Bicycling program had 11 participants and 10 volunteers, more than doubled in size from last year.
- Offered standup paddleboarding in cooperation with our Outdoor program; it was a huge success and lots of fun.

## Corbin Art Center

- Created new partnerships with Inland Northwest Culinary Academy, Urban Art Co-op and Let's Get Sewing resulting in increased registrations.
- Offered 13 new Summer Art Camps, each filling to capacity.
- Created new partnerships with Mead School District and Fairchild Air Force Base to offer field trip programs and tours at Corbin Art Center.



## Centers, Services and SYSCA

Spokane Parks and Recreation affiliates itself with a number of non-profit community organizations benefiting older adults and young children. We greatly appreciate our relationship with these centers and their individual recreation programs:

- Corbin Senior Activity Center
- East Central Community Center Youth Program
- Hillyard Senior Center
- Mid-City Senior Center
- Northeast Youth Center
- Peaceful Valley Youth Center
- Project Joy Senior Entertainers
- Sinto Senior Activity Center
- Southside Senior & Community Center
- West Central Community Center Youth Program

The centers are non-profit organizations officially represented by Spokane youth & Senior Center Association (SYSCA). SYSCA was formed in 2012 and its main focus is to work collectively to represent the thousands of citizens who partake in the programs and services SYSCA organizations provide.

The primary focus of SYSCA is to educate the public on the importance of sustaining adequate levels of park funding for recreational services for senior and youth programs in the City of Spokane.

### SYSCA by the Numbers

Attendance Hours	530,861
Volunteer Hours	44,777
Fundraising	\$277,461



# Marketing and Communications

- Saw a 120% increase in Facebook page likes
- Top organic Facebook posts averaged more than 24,000 people reached, received nearly 2,000 likes/comments/shares and 3,600 clicks
- Top boosted Facebook posts averaged more than 45,500 people reached, received nearly 1,300 likes/comments/shares and 2,600 clicks
- Top Tweets averaged about 3,000 impressions, 15 re-tweets, 25 likes and 9 replies
- Produced 6 Walk in the Park television programs aired on City Cable 5
- Distributed 65 e-newsletters
- Sent 28 media releases
- Posted 29 blogs
- Hosted Thank You Spokane event to show appreciation to voters for passing the Riverfront Park redevelopment bond. The first 10,000 visitors rode all park attractions free throughout the day; the community enjoyed \$1 hot dogs, live music, a beer garden, prizes, and interactions with the design teams.
- Developed and instituted a marketing campaign for our four golf courses
- Provided marketing assistance for Washington State's first annual Chinese Lantern Festival, bringing more than 80,000 visitors
- Organized a grand opening ceremony for the new Spokane River access point near the Spokane Convention Center

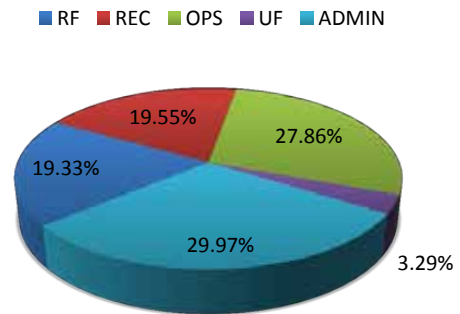


# Finance and Budget

- During the 2015 year, the Parks Accounting Department had high turnover and a new team has taken the helm. While rising to the challenge of learning all things “new,” accounting staff is working to improve processes and efficiency across the board.
- The Parks Accounting Department is dedicated to achieving higher transparency, accuracy and communication in daily accounting processes and coordination with other departments and personnel.
- The Parks Division improved payment timeliness while participating in the city-wide initiative to have all invoices paid within 30 days of the billing date.
- In support of the RFP re-development project, accounting staff has addressed numerous challenges for budgetary, accounting and financial reporting needs that have developed during this exciting time of progress.
- The Parks Division also had budgetary evolution in answer to pressing needs of change in spending due to grant applications and awards, the implementation of ACA in 2015 and an increase in capital spending.

The above mentioned items are just a few of many initiatives and changes the Parks & Recreation Division is achieving with the support of staff both operationally and administratively. Much appreciation and thankfulness goes out to LaVonne Martell, Alyce Millhorn, Lori Harvey, Karla Thompson, Nicole Edwards and Bruce Wright for your dedication and hard work. Thank you!

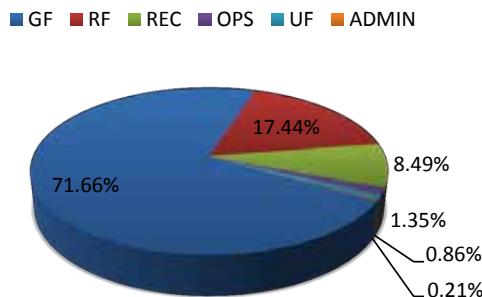
## 2015 EXPENDITURE



### 2015 Expenditure:

Riverfront (RF)	RF	19.33%	3,285,654
Recreation (REC)	REC	19.55%	3,323,641
Park Operations (OPS)	OPS	27.86%	4,736,143
Urban Forestry (UF)	UF	3.29%	559,631
Administrative (ADMIN)	ADMIN	29.97%	5,095,095
		<b>100%</b>	<b>17,000,164</b>

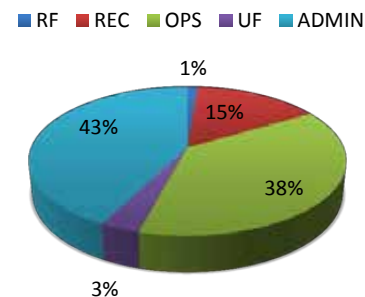
## 2015 REVENUE



### 2015 Revenue:

General Fund (GF)	GF	71.66%	12,845,514
Riverfront (RF)	RF	17.44%	3,126,177
Recreation (REC)	REC	8.49%	1,522,701
Park Operations (OPS)	OPS	1.35%	241,139
Urban Forestry (UF)	UF	0.86%	153,409
Administrative (ADMIN)	ADMIN	0.21%	37,875
		<b>100%</b>	<b>17,926,815</b>

## 2015 NET EXPENDITURE LESS REVENUE



### 2015 Net Expenditure Less Revenue:

Riverfront (RF)	RF	1.34%	159,477
Recreation (REC)	REC	15.11%	1,800,940
Park Operations (OPS)	OPS	37.71%	4,495,004
Urban Forestry (UF)	UF	3.41%	406,223
Administrative (ADMIN)	ADMIN	42.43%	5,057,219
		<b>100%</b>	<b>11,918,863</b>



## Park Board

The Spokane Park Board was created in 1910 and granted power by Article V of the City Charter to layout, establish, purchase, procure, accept and have the care, management, control, and improvement of all parks 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 are operated as an enterprise fund and are not supported by tax dollars.

Park Board meets on the second Thursday of each month, 1:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers, City Hall.

### 2015 Park Board Leadership

Chris Wright, President

Susan Traver, Vice President and Finance Committee Chair

### 2015 Members of the Board

Ross Kelley, Bylaws Committee Chair

Kenneth Van Voorhis, Land Committee Chair

Andy Dunau, Riverfront Park Committee Chair

Dr. Samuel Selinger, Recreation Committee Chair

Preston Potratz, Golf Committee Chair

Lauren Pendergraft, Urban Forestry Tree Committee Chair

Nick Sumner

Ted McGregor

Mike Allen, City Council Liaison

### Director

Leroy Eadie

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