

Golf

Significant irrigation upgrades and master plans began this year that will improve conditions at all four courses now and into the future. **The irrigation upgrades align with the City’s strategic plan for a “Cleaner River Faster” and will save over 16 million gallons of water every year.**

Our courses saw increased rounds in 2018, against the national trend. We’re expanding pollinator habitats, trying innovative maintenance methods, hosting field trips, growing the game for junior players, and expanding our Clubs and programming.

Creek at Qulachan

- Hosted the WIAA 3A Boys State Tournament & the Drive, Chip, and Putt local qualifier
- Men’s Club exceeds 400 members for the second time in course history
- Record number of 2019 pre-sale passes sold

Downriver

- Home of the Dan Kleckner Golf Classic benefiting our local military veterans
- Parking lots resurfaced
- New indoor simulator league and lessons

Esmeralda

- Instituted 18 weeks of couples league, which saw 396 golfers
- Remodeled the restaurant including new furniture
- 8 Golf Boards were made available for rent, with much popularity

Indian Canyon

- Irrigation renovation commenced to update the 1935-era irrigation system
- Trackman, the first in Spokane, is the most accurate launch monitor simulator for exceptional instruction, club and ball fitting
- Resurrected Indian Canyon Men’s Twilight league, with 48 players each week



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. 2018 was Spokane’s 15th consecutive year designated as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

- 1,000 free trees to residents – the Neighborhood Tree Program
- 842 trees pruned
- 455 street/public tree permits processed related to 4,471 trees
- 155 new tree stock purchased
- 183 trees removed
- 182 trees planted (2”+ caliper stock)
- **8 acres of forest health and fuel reduction fire mitigation**
- 1 Master Plan for the John A. Finch Arboretum completed

Natural Areas

- Purchased 50 acres of private property on the south hill bluff connecting High Drive and Hangman parks
- Began recovery and restoration efforts at Camp Sekani after Upriver Beacon Fire
- Completed Palisades Park Forest Stewardship Plan



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 are operated as an enterprise fund and are not supported by tax dollars.

Park Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 3:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

2018 Park Board Leadership

Nick Sumner, *President and Golf Committee chair (January – February and June – October)*

Rick Chase, *Vice President and Urban Forestry Tree Committee chair*

2018 Members of the Board

Chris Wright, *Finance Committee chair*; **Ted McGregor**, *Riverfront Park Committee chair*; **Greta Gilman**, *Land Committee chair*; **Steve Salvatori**, *Golf Committee chair (March – May)*; **Sally Lodato**, *Recreation Committee chair*; **Jennifer Ogden**, *Bylaws Committee chair*; **Gerry Sperling**, *Golf Committee chair (October - December)*; **Jamie SiJohn**; **Mike Fagan**, *City Council Liaison*

Leroy Eadie, *Director*

Park Planning & Development

21 projects completed, 5 in collaboration with other divisions, including:

- Coeur d’Alene Park: constructed 2 new pedestrian entryways
- Comstock Park: tennis court rehabilitation + pickleball
- Dutch Jake’s Park: safety upgrades, Master Planning
- Finch Arboretum: entryway improvements, Master Plan complete
- Grant Park: completed study of parking needs in and around the Perry business district
- Latah Hangman: completed comprehensive trail study
- Loma Vista, Friendship, & Ben Burr Parks: Junior Disc Golf Courses installed, funded by the Spokane Parks Foundation grant and sponsored by School District 81, Windsor Plywood, Aloha Island Grill, and the US Youth Disc Golf Association.
- Manito Park: replaced damaged shade structure, regraded half of nursery
- Mission Park: installed new smart irrigation controls to improve automation, 4 new family restrooms, parking lot expansion with new ADA drop-off zone, and new accessible walkways
- Therapeutic Recreation Services: replaced roofing for the adaptive ski program chalet at Mt. Spokane, with a generous donation from Glacier Properties Solutions



Recreation

Corbin Art Center

Known for popular classes that fill quickly, Corbin hosted 48 Summer Art Camps with 890 campers. We also hosted 64 private art parties for kids’ birthdays and other celebrations, a 30% increase over the previous year.

We continued partnerships with Hutton & Mullan Road Elementary PTA groups, offering a six-week after school Clay and Mixed Media class. We also began a new partnership with the Franklin Elementary APPLE Program, where we held a 4 day art class for 380+ kids.

Athletics

Over 4,600 adults participated in recreation sports like softball, volleyball, and soccer. NFL flag football saw 40% growth in 2018, and we brought a new program on board for youth – offering two free rookie rugby clinics in partnership with local rugby clubs.

Personal Interest

Classes like yoga, singing, square dancing, learning a new language, and ghost tours saw more than 550 adult participants. Youth activities like Ultimate Sports Camp, gymnastics, and Mobile Recreation saw 2,696 kids participating!

Therapeutic Recreation Services

Funshine Day Camp, a summer highlight, saw an 8% increase in campers, with camp enrollment near capacity. Total TRS participation reached nearly 1,400! We also saw an increase of \$16,000 in Developmental Disabilities Administration funding, which helps folks live full, active lives in their communities through programs like ours.

Aquatics

With the implementation of the free swim program in 2018, we experienced a 61% growth in open swim participation and issued 62,037 SplashPasses for free swim access.

Many of our patrons were neighborhood kids who would come every day to swim at the pool with their friends. **Pools with traditionally lower attendance levels saw tremendous growth when we removed the cost barrier – some up 120%!**

In addition, 468 participants took advantage of the Spokane Parks Foundation sponsored Free Swim Clinics, and 219 swim lesson scholarships were issued.



Outdoor Recreation

Spokanites love the outdoors. 1,860 people enjoyed Outdoor Recreation activities in 2018 including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking, canoeing, whitewater rafting, hiking, and biking.

Youth and Teen Outdoor Adventure Camps welcomed 194 campers for a full range of outdoor activities! Free and reduced fees were available through grants funded by RCO No Child Left Inside and the Spokane Parks Foundation.

Sports Facilities & Operations

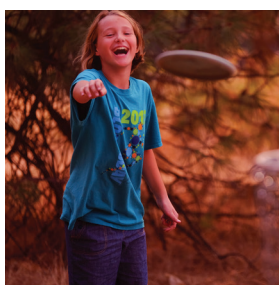
Our sports fields saw 19 baseball/softball tournaments, 2 special events, and 3 other sport events including Spike & Dig at Dwight Merkel.

To ensure teams experience the best facilities, we’ve improved grass soccer field turf by increased aerifications and a more robust fertilization and seeding plan, which decreased standing water, and improved field softness. We also regraded the ballfields to ‘crown’ the fields and improve drainage.

Community Centers

We affiliate with several non-profit community organizations benefitting older adults and children, and greatly appreciate their individual recreation programs. They include: Corbin Senior Center, East Central Community Center, 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.

Together, they see attendance of more than 706,000, up 25% from 2017. They secured more than 52,000 volunteer hours, and fundraised over \$245,000.



Parks and Recreation 2018 Snapshot

Park Operations

17	memorial items installed in parks, including benches, a chess table and an art piece
29	lane miles of snow removal and maintenance of sidewalk/ pathways
138	equipment tires replaced or repaired
180	portable park tables and 340 park benches painted
539	backflow prevention devices inspected and serviced
833	mower reels, blades and cutting units sharpened
1,040	playground inspections with 57 major repairs completed
1,508	reservations for picnic shelters and grounds
1,514	service/repair orders for golf, recreation and maintenance equipment
1,663	hours of vandalism repair, including 53,790 pounds of illegal dumping in City parks, totaling over \$75,000 including labor and dump fees
1,666	hours of illegal camp removal, including 131,680 pounds of debris from City parks, totaling over \$109,000 including labor and dump fees
1,916	work orders for service to other City departments
3,039	flowers and small shrubs planted to beautify and re-establish landscapes
13,000	people attended annual Holiday Lights event at Gaiser Conservatory in Manito, growth of 2,000 over previous year
1,636,400	pounds removed from trash and recycling receptacles

Riverfront

Carrousel Re-Opening

With many of you from the community, we celebrated the grand opening of the new Carrousel building just after the Junior Lilac Parade on May 12. The event unveiled the refurbished 1909 Looft Carrousel in a stunning new building, private party spaces, concessions, and a gift shop.

134,370 admissions were sold between opening in May and the end of the year.

SkyRide Re-Opening

The SkyRide re-opened on June 28 following a thorough maintenance overhaul during redevelopment. 83,962 people enjoyed the SkyRide between June and December.

Skate Ribbon

The Skate Ribbon enjoyed its first full year of being open, seeing all seasons from ice to roller and a variety of activities in between. The second season of the Ice Ribbon opened November 17 with a Fire and Ice themed celebration featuring ice sculptures and fire dancers. In total, 46,877 ice skating admissions were sold in 2018.

Community Engagement Activities

Providing free and low-cost entertainment is a key mission of our downtown urban park. We launched 212 free and low-cost community engagement events reaching 41,000+ attendees. We focus our programming on four categories: Families and Children, Healthy Living, Entertainment, and Arts and Culture.

Examples include free ice skating and roller skating lessons, Yoga on Ice presented by Athleta, Parkour in the Park, Chalk it Up presented by Wheatland Bank, free CPR Training with the American Red Cross, Friday Night Flights with Bent Trivia, Spooky Looft, New Year’s Eve and 4th of July, Spokane’s tree lighting presented by Senske, Riverfront Eats food truck rally, and Bark in the Park dog adoption event with Spokanimal presented by KREM 2.



Private Celebrations

We hosted 100+ private parties and corporate event rentals at the Looft Carrousel and Skate Ribbon.

Visitor’s Center

We partnered with Visit Spokane to establish a regional information and Riverfront Park Guest Relations Center adjacent to the Rotary Fountain.

Signature Events

We were pleased to welcome Bloomsday, Family Fun Fair, Hoopfest, Gathering at the Falls Pow Wow, Unity in the Community, Gleason Fest, Pride Festival, Pig Out in the Park, and more.

Programming Sponsors – Thank You!

A special thank you to Riverfront Spokane’s programming partners whose charitable in-kind or financial support help to make events and programs possible: 49 Degrees North, Athleta, Bar Method, Bent Trivia, Cecil’s Magic, Corks and Canvas, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Feld Entertainment, Greater Spokane Food Truck Association, iHeart Media, KREM 2, Krete Freerunning, Lilac City Roller Derby, Music City Spokane, Pepsi Cola, Piano Technicians Guild, River City Brewing, Spokane Art School, Spokane Civic Theatre, Senske Spokane FPV, Spokane Gymnastics, SpokAnimal, The Barre Method, Tomato Street, Wheatland Bank, WSECU, and Z Nation.



SPOKANE PARKS
FOUNDATION
Planting Roots. Growing Community.

Thank you Spokane Parks Foundation!

Thank you Spokane Parks Foundation! They awarded tens of thousands of dollars in grant funds to assist with camps, classes, free swim clinics, park revitalizations, and winter recreation trail grooming.

**Youth/Teen Outdoor Adventure Camps • TRS Ice Skating • Junior Disc Golf Course
Rochester Heights Park Revitalization • Winter recreation trail grooming**

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Riverfront Park Redevelopment

The redevelopment of our downtown crown jewel – Riverfront Park – is the first significant investment in the park in 40 years. Voters approved a \$64 million bond for redevelopment that didn’t raise taxes, and covers 5 major design elements:

1) Recreational Ice Ribbon & SkyRide Facility – Opened Winter 2017

2) Looft Carrousel – Opened May 2018

While the area was under construction, we also invested \$1M in new electrical and plumbing for the adjacent Rotary Fountain, to ensure it remains enjoyable for the community for years to come.

3) U.S. Pavilion – Early 2018 – Fall 2019

The Pavilion transformed tremendously in 2018. The design focuses on river views, an elevated experience up the mast into the cable net, light blades around the net that create what the Master Plan calls the Lantern of the Community, green spaces, and seating/staging for events.

By year end, the amenities added post-Expo (concrete roof over the former Ice Palace, IMAX theater, and science building) were removed and the expansive beautiful space under the net structure revealed. Half the light blades were hung, the topography was well underway, and the interior spaces were being re-furnished.

The multi-use event space is anticipated to open fall 2019.

4) Promenades – Winter 2016 – Winter 2019

The Promenade is being completed in phases; it focuses on strong connections north/south and to the center at the Pavilion. Well-lit, expanded walk ways with destination points for river views will make strong visual connections through the park.

The first phase of the Promenade opened in spring 2018 with the Howard Street Bridge South (orange bridge), at the same time as the Looft Carrousel. It provides get-down features to connect visitors closer to the water – key feedback from the community in the Master Plan.

The central Promenade will open with the Pavilion, and pair with a central green for gathering. The north Promenade will follow, timed with the Regional Playground, and include an Expo ’74 Butterfly to mark the north entrance.

5) Regional Playground – Spring 2019 – Spring 2020

In 2018, we hired architecture firm Bernardo Wills to design the regional playground and adjacent amenities on the north bank. It’s an area surrounded by public and private development, and we’re ensuring connectivity and collaboration between nearby destinations. Through community outreach, we reached 50% design by the end of the year.

The area will feature a great floods-themed playground, wheels park, and parking. Construction is anticipate to begin spring 2019, with an opening in spring 2020.

Additional Funding: Capitalizing on the Community’s Investment

Throughout the bond project, we’ve worked hard to leverage funds to maximize the deliverables to the community. We’ve done this through grants, earned interest, and collaboration on utility projects. It’s resulted in additional funding to bring our budget to \$70.7M.

The Master Plan encourages exploration of public and private sponsorships/donations to sustain the community’s investment in the redevelopment of Riverfront. We enjoy wonderful partnerships with program sponsors, and are looking to expand in 2019. We are also fundraising for additional amenities in the park including a basketball court, dog park, and second playground.

The redevelopment project is on budget, and all five bond projects are fully funded without sponsor/donor dollars.

A Cleaner Park

An additional deliverable to the community is a cleaner park. The City was awarded three grants from EPA for Soil Remediation for a total of \$600,000.

