

Programming Sponsors – Thank You!

A special thank you to programming partners whose charitable in-kind or financial support help to make events and programs possible:

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Fairwood Farmer's Market • KHQ • Lee & Hayes • Mobius
MultiCare • No-Li • Numerica Credit Union • The Odom Corporation
Pizza Factory • River City Painting • R&R RV Center
Spokane Chiefs Hockey • Spokane Indian's Baseball Club
Spokane County • Spokane Public Schools • STCU
The Spokesman-Review • Volunteers of America • Wagstaff, Inc.
Wake Up Call • Washington Trust Bank

Thank you Spokane Parks Foundation

The Campaign for Riverfront Spokane has raised more than \$2.5M to provide additional amenities beyond the bond-funded projects. One of the shining stars of the campaign is Providence Playscape - the City's first all-inclusive playground, funded by Providence Health Care. We celebrated a grand opening in the fall with 15,000 virtual attendees. Grant funds totaling \$5,500 were provided to support recreation programs in 2020.



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 operate as an enterprise fund and are not supported by tax dollars. Visit SpokaneParks.org/board for meeting details.

2020 Park Board

Jennifer Ogden, President and Bylaws Committee chair
 Bob Anderson, Vice President and Finance Committee chair
 Nick Sumner, Riverfront Park Committee chair
 Rick Chase, Urban Forestry Tree Committee chair
 Greta Gilman, Land Committee chair
 Sally Lodato, Recreation Committee chair
 Gerry Sperling, Golf Committee chair
 Barb Richey
 Hannah Kitz (joined October 2020)
 Kevin Brownlee (joined October 2020)
 Lori Kinnear, City Council liaison



2020 Annual Report

Message from the Director

Spokane has long cherished its park land, and 2020 further highlighted the value of our open spaces. Amidst a very difficult year of COVID-19 impacts, parks were a safe reprieve for our community. Families could shoot hoops together, have a picnic, explore a new trail, or bike their favorite path. Park use increased significantly, and I'm proud of our team who operated under our core service model to maintain parks with about 1/3 of our normal staffing levels. Staff from all departments pitched in to clean up litter, weed, mow, and more. We also hosted safe and engaging programs under evolving COVID-19 guidelines, and found creative solutions to community activities like the 4th of July drive-in fireworks show and color-coded Numerica Skate Ribbon. 2020 was filled with challenges, and Parks & Recreation remains ready to support the physical, mental, and emotional health of the Spokane community. We look forward to a brighter year ahead, together.

– Garrett Jones, Director



Creative Celebrations

We found ways to keep community celebrations alive amidst a difficult year.

- **4th of July & New Year's Eve Drive-In Fireworks Celebrations:** Instead of our traditional shows at Riverfront, we offered four neighborhood drive-in fireworks displays (meeting COVID guidelines) to ensure the community had the bright, entertaining celebrations they so deserved for these holidays. Parks & Recreation lead the effort for a regional partnership including Spokane Indians Baseball Club, Spokane County Parks, and Spokane Public Schools, and many generous sponsors.
- **Holidays at Riverfront:** The Riverfront Trail of Lights, Numerica Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration, and Winter Farmer's Market were all created to provide safe and enjoyable holiday activities for our community while supporting small businesses and the downtown economy.
- **Enchanted Garden Drive-Thru Holiday Lights at Manito:** We partnered with The Friends of Manito and several thoughtful sponsors to transform the traditional show at the Gaiser Conservatory into a drive-thru holiday light show to brighten spirits.

Recreation

Our Recreation team used creativity and determination to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. They created "boredom buster" videos people could do at home, and new virtual programs like family trivia nights. Constantly striving to provide safe recreation opportunities for a community seeking physical and mental outlets, our team found ways to modify and offer existing and much needed programs like summer day camps and outdoor recreation outings, staying in lock step with the ever evolving COVID-19 guidelines.

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| 509 | Recreation programs offered, many adapted to meet COVID-19 guidelines |
| 1,796 | Sport Complex reservations booked (Dwight Merkel, Franklin & SE Complex) |
| 4,984 | Program participants served in person and virtually |

- **Adult Athletics:** We introduced a cornhole program with 3 divisions, and it was a huge hit! We also adjusted our volleyball program to a 3v3 format to meet guidelines, and quickly reached capacity with 24 teams. Our softball leagues, flag football, and soccer leagues were cancelled amidst COVID-19.
- **Aquatics:** Unfortunately, we were unable to safely open the aquatic centers in 2020 due to COVID-19 guidelines.
- **Corbin Art Center:** With modifications and in small groups, some of the most popular preschool and youth art camps and classes were enjoyed by participants during the summer and fall, along with some adult art programs as well both in person and virtually. Two students from the Next Generation Zone provided 240 hours of valued internship support over the summer.
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Some of our outdoor programs were able to safely resume with modifications, including hiking, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, private guided tours, and youth winter adventure camps. Camp Sekani Park remained active during the pandemic, for mountain biking, walking, and disc golf.
- **Wellness and Enrichment:** Trivia nights online were a hit, offering a fun evening for families and adults. Yoga went virtual, with many people enjoying the benefit of in-home exercise and connecting with others. Staff created the City Roll and Stroll Challenge designed to get people outside exploring our parks and staying active. Select Skyhawks, Supertots, USTA Tennis, gymnastics, and martial arts classes were also possible with modifications.
- **Sports Facilities & Operations:** Field rentals resumed June 15 for modified practices of youth and adult sports. Our complex staff kept the facilities well maintained to ensure when play resumes full time, our fields are ready.
- **Therapeutic Recreation Services:** TRS participants enjoyed line dancing lessons outdoors, a walking program, a biking program, ice skating and swim lessons all in very small groups, even a cornhole program and one of the most popular activities – the ski program at Mt. Spokane.
- **Community Centers:** We affiliate with ten Community, Youth, and Senior Centers that provide resources and recreational services to our citizens: Corbin Senior Center, East Central Community Center (MLK), 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.



Park Planning & Development

- **Esmeralda Golf Course:** A complete irrigation replacement was completed early in the year, saving an estimated 6M gallons of water annually while improving quality of play.

- **Manito's Mirror Pond:** Rejuvenation project is complete, including a new recirculating pump system and treatment wetland.



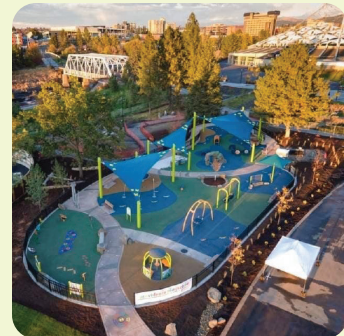
- **Manito Park Irrigation Renovation:** A partnership with the City Water Department replaced hard-to-mow turf along steeper hillsides with meadow grasses pollinator wildflower mix, and SpokaneScape, all of which require less water. A new irrigation system along Grand Blvd. also replaced outdated and leaking infrastructure.



- **North Suspension Bridge (Riverfront):** The design for repairs is complete, and permits have been secured. An initial fast-track round of bidding was completed but pricing was too high. We have secured \$2M in local cash funding and an additional \$500,000 in state reimbursable grants and are scheduled to re-bid in early 2021. Construction is expected to be substantially completed in 2021.

- **People's Park:** New art installation by Sara Thompson Moore, plus a new parking lot and improved water access point near the Sandifur Bridge.

- **Riverfront Park:** Providence Playscape, the City's first all-inclusive playground, opened in the fall. The project was funded entirely by Providence Health Care through the Spokane Parks Foundation's Campaign for Riverfront Spokane. The Barbieri Triangle Truss bridge received a new deck as part of its renovation



- **Rochester Heights:** Phase II added an additional pathway, filled 'the pit' to create new usable turf area, and lowered the hill to improve views.



- **Water conservation:** Ongoing water conservation projects at golf courses and parks are estimated to save 55-60 million gallons of water annually by the end of 2021 (about 8% of total park water use).

Park Operations

Our Park Operations team worked hard to ensure our parks were a safe and clean reprieve during the pandemic. With almost no temporary-seasonal help, at just 1/3 of our normal staffing levels, they focused on our core service model of safety, sanitation, and asset protection. Staff from all departments, and some wonderful volunteers, also pitched in to clean up litter, weed, and mow. Some facilities required hand watering, and others remained closed as we focused limited resources on our core services to ensure healthy open spaces for our community.

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| 21 | abandoned vehicles removed from park properties |
| 32 | lane miles of snow removal and maintenance of sidewalks/pathways |
| 216 | Vandalism and illegal dumping work orders completed |
| 539 | backflow prevention devices inspected and serviced |
| 987 | mechanic service/repair orders for golf, recreation, and maintenance equipment |
| 1,000+ | playground inspections |
| 66,000 | people attended the annual Holiday Lights in Manito, transformed into a drive-thru event to meet COVID-19 guidelines |
| 1,010,842 | pounds removed from trash and recycling receptacles |

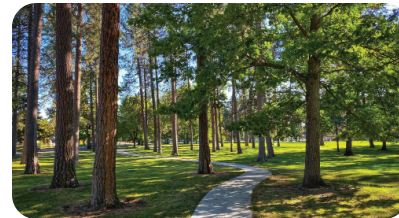


Food service in our parks was delicious this year
Ben & Jerry's operated the Manito Park Bench Café, and the Eat Good Group served it up at the Sky Ribbon Café in Riverfront.

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. Under the SpoCanopy program, in partnership with The Lands Council and community volunteers, we planted 32 new trees in the West Central and Logan neighborhoods. SpoCanopy aims to ensure every neighborhood has access to trees and green space.



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| 86 | volunteers contributed 241 hours of service |
| 144 | acres of forest health and fuel reduction fire mitigation |
| 155 | community trees planted (Underhill, Dutch Jake's, Liberty, Lincoln, Riverfront, Finch Arboretum, Manito, Comstock, and along Five Mile Rd.) |
| 404 | development plan sets reviewed and commented |
| 470 | street and public tree permits processed representing 2,536 trees |
| 683 | trees pruned |

Natural Areas

- In partnership with Spokane County Parks, we acquired 38 acres of land adjacent to Camp Sekani Park. This addition improves park and trail connectivity, protecting mountain biking trails from development in the future. Funding was provided by county Conservation Futures and state RCO.
- Our goat grazing pilot project targeted vegetation management at Hangman Park with 200 goats covering six acres. Two additional locations, Minnehaha and Meadowglen Parks are planned for future treatment. The pilot was a partnership with City Councilmember Kinnear and the Spokane Fire Department.
- Six south hill bluff trail names were proposed by the Friends of the Bluff and approved by Park Board.
- The Washington Conservation Corps completed fuels reduction and forest health treatment at Esmeralda Golf Course and Fish Lake Trail. Funding provided by WDNR.

Golf

Golf was one of the first recreational activities to open (with revised protocols) on May 5, and over the busy season we welcomed many people who were new or returning to the sport! Rounds were up 12% over 2019, and bucket of ball purchases were up 18% over the previous year. Junior golf lessons were up 160%!

Our City Championship was sold out, with 132 players over a 3-day tournament. Thank you to our new sponsor, Renaissance Financial.

Irrigation upgrades were completed at Esmeralda, where 1950's systems were replaced with new. Coupled with Indian Canyon's recent replacement, this will save approximately 32M gallons of water per year while improving quality of play. A preliminary master plan for Downriver was developed by Robert Trent Jones II, with the new irrigation project breaking ground fall 2021, and The Creek at Qualchan golf course soon to follow.

- **Downriver:** Dan Kleckner's Golf Classic raised \$70,000 for a variety of local veteran organizations and these most deserving men, women, and families.
- **Esmeralda:** Family Nights were a wonderful success again this year, and the Washington Junior Golf Association State Tournament brought 90 kids ages 8-13 to the course.
- **Indian Canyon:** Men's and ladies' leagues, such as the "Canyonettes", continue to set records in growth and popularity. 'The Canyon' showed an increase of over 8,000 rounds over the 2019 golf season.
- **Qualchan:** Junior golf programs doubled in size in the year 2020. Both men's and ladies' club tournaments had their largest turn out in the last decade, and all leagues were at maximum capacity.

Riverfront Spokane

Community Engagement

Many of our community engagement activities – free and low-cost ways to enjoy the park – were postponed to 2021, but our staff found ways to continue to safely activate the park. We brought the "Before I Die" wall to the Pavilion in September, where 3,360 people shared their hopes and dreams; an art exhibit, "Eye Contact" with Volunteers of America that featured works from local artists living in shelters; and Spo-Candy, a free scavenger hunt for Halloween in partnership with River Park Square and the Downtown Spokane Partnership. Staff also hosted virtual activities like Riverfront Faces, Fun Fact Fridays, Throwback Thursdays, and 2-minute sketch videos.

Events

Though many of our community engagement activities, signature events, and private group rentals weren't possible in 2020, we look forward to working with organizers to bring these activities back to Riverfront when it's safe to do so. The concert series at the Pavilion will be postponed to 2021 or 2022, and we can't wait to celebrate with everyone.



Attractions

The Numerica SkyRide was able to re-open May 29 with adjusted operations, in time to see a beautiful roaring falls. The Numerica Skate Ribbon opened for the holiday season with a new color-coded ribbon to support social distancing and a much smaller ice capacity, along with additional safety protocols. Unfortunately, the Loeff Carrousel remained closed for most of the year. However, we welcomed a new friend to the park – Isidore, the beloved coin-operated white elephant ride from the White Elephant store who now resides inside the Numerica SkyRide building, a generous donation from the family of owners.



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| 20,962 | Numerica Skate Ribbon – The Ice |
| 49,118 | Numerica SkyRide |
| 12,119 | Loeff Carrousel (closed 3/17) |

Park Rangers

Our Park Rangers saw increased calls for service amidst an increase in park utilization, and did a great job meeting community need while serving as park ambassadors.

2020/2021

The fifth and final key bond project is an Ice Age Floods-themed playground on the North Bank. The site will also include a wheels park, the Roskelley Performance Climbing Boulder funded by the Jess Roskelley Foundation, and a signature basketball court funded by Hooptown USA. The project is scheduled for spring/summer 2021 completion.

In the meantime, enhancements along West Havermale Island (between Post St. and the Pavilion) showcase a beautifully restored theme stream from Expo '74. Our city's first all-inclusive playground opened in the fall, called Providence Playscape, and fully funded by Providence Health Care. Still to come on the site is a new interactive art piece Stepwell and expanded parking.

Riverfront Redevelopment

In 2014, voters approved a \$64M reinvestment into our downtown urban park, the first major investment in Riverfront since Expo '74. The bond didn't raise taxes and covers 5 major elements, plus a few added amenities. Four projects were completed prior to this year:

Recreational Ice Ribbon & SkyRide Facility – winter 2017

Loeff Carrousel building – spring 2018

Howard Street Promenade – fall 2019

U.S. Pavilion – fall 2019

Riverfront's U.S. Pavilion won 18 regional, national, and international awards for innovative design!

