



## Golf

Golf continues to enjoy popularity. Revenue from rounds was up 6% over 2021, and revenue from pass sales increased 20% year-over-year.

Our City Championship sold out, with 133 players over a 3-day tournament. Thank you to our sponsor, Renaissance Financial.

We thanked golfers with a Golf Appreciation Day August 1, with discounted rounds and food specials. It was a small token of appreciation for the \$8M investment by golfers in new irrigation systems at three of our four courses (Indian Canyon, Esmeralda, and Downriver), saving approximately 38 million gallons of water annually while improving the quality of play. Design is underway at The Creek at Qualchan for irrigation upgrades.



**Downriver:** With the new irrigation system complete, we were able to provide even better playing conditions while saving water. Our new clubhouse roof was also completed. The Operation 36 junior programming continues to thrive, along with leagues and outings.

**Esmeralda:** Course conditions continued to drastically improve due to the upgraded irrigation system and focused efforts to raise tree canopy. Junior and adult player development programs continued to climb in numbers.

**Indian Canyon:** Total rounds increased by 900, mainly due to the success of player development programs and unparalleled golf course conditions. The first annual EWU Women's Invitational was a huge hit, and we look forward to growing that partnership for years to come.

**The Creek at Qualchan:** Junior golf programs continued to grow and surpass prior years. The Inland Empire Best Ball tournament (shared with Indian Canyon) and the Spokane City Championship are at full capacity, serving as area-wide favorites amongst tournament players.

## Programming & Project Sponsors

A special thank you to our partners whose support help make events, places, and programs possible:

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 98.9 KKZZ                                   | Garco Construction                        | Northern Quest Resort & Casino                     | Spokane Shakespeare Society                             |
| Association of Washington Cities            | Global Credit Union                       | Numerica Credit Union                              | Spokane Symphony  |
| Avista                                      | Gonzaga Ski Club                          | Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction | Spokane Tribe   |
| Bernardo Wills Architects                   | Gonzaga University                        | OREO Cookies                                       | Spokast!  |
| Beyoutiful Hot Yoga                         | Heads Up Hockey                           | Pool World   | Starbucks on Main                                       |
| Bicycle Advisory Board                      | Hooptown USA                              | Providence Health Care                             | STCU  |
| Bloomsday Association                       | Idaho Central Credit Union                | Renaissance Financial                              | Susie Forest  |
| BMT Metal Fabrication                       | iHeart Media                              | River Park Square                                  | Swire Coca-Cola   |
| Brick West Brewery                          | Inland Northwest Opera                    | Senske Services                                    | TDS Fiber   |
| Budweiser                                   | Innovia Foundation                        | Sherwin Williams                                   | The Lands Council                                       |
| Core Four Collective                        | Jess Roskelley Foundation                 | Skyhawks RISE                                      | The Union   |
| David's Pizza                               | Johnston Hanson Foundation                | Spokane Arts                                       | University District Public Development Authority        |
| Disc Golf Uprising                          | KHQ                                       | Spokane Barre                                      | Wagstaff, Inc.  |
| Downtown Spokane Partnership                | King Beverage                             | Spokane Chiefs Hockey                              | Walker Construction                                     |
| Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center | Knights of Columbus                       | Spokane City Council                               | Washington Recreation & Park Association                |
| Eclipse Power Yoga                          | Lake City                                 | Spokane City Public Works & Utilities              | Washington State Department of Natural Resources        |
| Edward Jones                                | Figure Skating Club                       | Spokane Chiefs Hockey                              | Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) |
| Evergreen East                              | LeafGuard                                 | Spokane Ensemble Theater                           | Washington Trust Bank                                   |
| Mountain Bike Alliance                      | Lee & Hayes                               | Spokane Humane Society                             | Windermere Spokane                                      |
| Friends of the Bluff                        | Mobius                                    | Spokane Parks Foundation                           | WSECU   |
| Friends of the Centennial Trail             | Mt. Spokane Prime Timers MultiCare        | Spokane Public Library                             |   |
| Friends of Manito                           | NEWESD 101's Safe Communities Partnership | Spokane Rapids                                     |   |
|   | No-Li Brewhouse                           | Spokane Rotary 21                                  |   |

## Thank you Spokane Parks Foundation

The Campaign for Riverfront Spokane has raised nearly \$3M to provide additional amenities beyond the bond-funded projects. Grant funds totaling \$30,800 were provided to support recreation programs and park amenities in 2022.

## Park Friends Groups & Volunteers

Thank you to our Park Friends groups and our volunteers, who ensure our park spaces are supported by community efforts to help them thrive!

## 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.

### 2022 Park Board

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Jennifer Ogden</b> ,<br>President  | <b>Greta Gilman</b> ,<br>Land Committee chair                  | <b>Barb Richey</b>                               |
| <b>Bob Anderson</b> ,<br>Vice President, Finance Committee chair, and Development & Volunteer Committee chair | <b>Sally Lodato</b> ,<br>Recreation Committee chair            | <b>Hannah Kitz</b>                               |
| <b>Nick Sumner</b> ,<br>Riverfront Park Committee chair   | <b>Gerry Sperling</b> ,<br>Golf Committee chair                | <b>Christina VerHeul</b>                         |
|   | <b>Kevin Brownlee</b> ,<br>Urban Forestry Tree Committee chair | <b>Jonathan Bingle</b> ,<br>City Council liaison |



## Message from the Director

Our Parks & Recreation assets are a huge part of what makes our city special, and it's our team's honor to be part of this important work. 2022 was a year of continued resilience demonstrated across our community, and our Parks & Recreation division was a shining example of that spirit. Our work is built on a solid core service model of delivering what the community needs most for their health and wellbeing. That work is expanded by our collaborations and partnerships to deliver the highest quality and value of community services and programming.

Thank you for trusting us with community resources. We take that charge to heart. This report highlights many of the ways we work to deliver safe, healthy, efficient, and accessible spaces and programs that improve the quality of lives of people who live, work and visit here.

## Riverfront Spokane

### Community Engagement

Riverfront programs a variety of free and low-cost ways to enjoy the park, such as the Riverfront Moves series, Story Time at the Loeff Carrousel, farmers markets, Movies at the Pavilion, Riverfront Eats, Shakespeare in the Park, concerts by the Spokane Symphony, Easter egg hunt, fall festival, holiday trail of lights and tree lighting, and 4th of July and New Year's Eve fireworks! The new Riverfront Explore program benefited from SEEK funds, and served 335 youth ages 6-13 with lessons in science, history, language, and culture at no cost to economically disadvantaged youth. We also unveiled a Riverfront Story Walk and Pavilion Art Space with rotating content to further enhance educational activations in the park.

### Events

The park continued to see greatly increased activities from event organizers and private group rentals, including popular signature events and summer concerts. Private event rentals saw a 240%+ increase, and birthday parties saw a 200%+ increase over 2021!

### Attractions

The Loeff Carrousel, Numerica Skate Ribbon and SkyRide remain popular attractions for locals and visitors alike, year-round. Riverfront offers something for everyone, in every season. The Riverfront Gift Shop is also thriving!

121	Community Engagement programs offered at little or no cost
75,186	People attended free and low-cost Community Engagement programs
65	Events held by event organizers for the public
182	Private events/party rentals
28,557	Numerica Skate Ribbon attendance – The Ice
106,728	Numerica SkyRide attendance
108,095	Loeff Carrousel attendance

### Park Rangers

Our Park Rangers saw over 14% increase in calls for service amidst an increase in park utilization, and did a great job meeting community need while serving as park ambassadors.

## 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 covered 5 major elements, plus a few added amenities. The five major elements were completed prior to 2022:

Recreational Ice Ribbon & SkyRide Facility	winter 2017
Loeff Carrousel building	spring 2018
Howard Street Promenade	fall 2019
U.S. Pavilion	fall 2019
Regional Playground	spring 2021

### 2022/2023

The North Suspension Bridge renovation was completed on schedule and budget, and a new art piece, The Seeking Place, was installed. Riverfront's renovation continues to win design awards (over 20!), securing an Honor Award in the General Design category from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2022.

Looking ahead to 2023, the South Suspension Bridge renovation is anticipated to begin, and signature art piece Stepwell is planned to open in the spring.



## Holiday Celebrations



### 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.



### Drive-Thru & Walk-Thru Lights at Manito

We partnered with The Friends of Manito and several thoughtful sponsors to transform the park into a drive-thru and walk-thru holiday light show to brighten spirits for tens of thousands of visitors.



### Fireworks Shows

Riverfront hosted 4th of July and New Year's Eve fireworks with sponsor Idaho Central Credit Union, and included a free Spokane Symphony concert for the 4th.



### Easter Egg Hunt

Amidst 10,000 eggs, 300 kids and kids-at-heart enjoyed finding candy and prizes.





## Recreation

Our Recreation team continued to innovate new programs while offering popular community favorites, creating an incredible variety of activities for all ages and abilities. They are consistently evaluating enrollments in an effort to expand programs routinely exceeding capacity, discontinuing less popular programs, and identifying gaps in service.

2,865	Recreation programs offered
88	New recreation programs offered
144,440	Free open swim participants
724	Area youth who benefited from free SEEK programs and scholarships
22,246	Recreation program participants

- **Athletics:** Athletics saw 773 teams! Programs for adults include softball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, and cornhole. Youth athletics include flag football, pickleball, tennis, basketball, and volleyball.
- **Aquatics:** We welcomed more than 144,440 swimmers with free open swim. In addition, there were 3,301 people that took swimming lessons and we certified 122 lifeguards.
- **Corbin Art Center:** Corbin classes remain popular, especially the preschool and youth art camps. We welcomed 1,133 participants across 205 classes. Facility rentals at Corbin saw a steady increase, with 7 rentals for weddings, meetings, birthday parties, and other special celebrations!
- **Outdoor Recreation:** More than 1,829 people participated in programs like hiking, XC skiing, rafting, kayaking, snow showing, and Outdoor Adventure Camps. Nearly 650 Little Spokane River Shuttle participants enjoyed floating the river this summer, and almost 120 people rented kayaks from us!
- **Wellness and Enrichment, Recreational Sports:** Nearly 4,537 people participated in activities like esports, yoga, Pilates, lawn bowling, badminton, Qi Gong, martial arts, gymnastics, and more! A new Dementia Friendly program helped people suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia, and their care providers, thanks to a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association. We also launched a Youth Gang Intervention Summer Project in partnership with NEWESD 101's Safe Communities Partnership and Skyhawks RISE.
- **Sports Facilities & Operations:** Field rentals were popular for both practices and games of youth and adult sports, with 8,794 field rentals. New synthetic turf was placed at Merkle after the existing turf reached its end of life; this was a major investment funded in part through a facility improvement fee added into field rentals.
- **Therapeutic Recreation Services:** More than 1,600 TRS participants enjoyed a variety of programs like line dancing, pickleball, ice skating, cornhole, and one of the most popular activities – the ski program at Mt. Spokane. Funshine Day Camp was also another big success with nearly all sessions at full capacity.
- **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.

## Scholarships and Program Funding Support

Nearly 130 children ages 5-16 experienced a full summer camp at no cost, including kayaking, rafting, biking, climbing, wilderness survival, science experiments, and more – thanks to SEEK funding (Summer Experiences and Enrichment for Kids). SEEK also funded 260 youth ages 8-18 with outdoor recreation programs through local community centers over 10 weeks at no cost. In addition, staffing support and minor equipment was purchased with Access for All funds to help increase access for those with disabilities.



## Park Operations

Our Park Operations team worked hard to ensure our parks were a safe and clean reprieve during ongoing impacts of the pandemic. With reduced staffing levels, they focused on our core service model of safety, sanitation, and asset protection. They integrated with Cityworks work order system for work order tracking, including integration with MySpokane 311's service requests from citizens, data tracking, and mobile use by Park Operations team members in the field. We also rolled out self-serve online reservations for small celebrations using park shelters.

32	lane miles of snow removal and maintenance of side-walks/pathways
90	facility reservations for weddings and receptions, up 28% from 2021
539	backflow prevention devices inspected and serviced
900+	mechanic service/repair orders for golf, recreation, and maintenance equipment
950+	playground inspections
46,463	people attended the Drive-Thru and Walk-Thru Holiday Lights in Manito
116,655	people attended activities happening as part of a park reservation (not including 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. In 2022

408	new community trees were planted, including 200 in partnership with The Lands Council and community volunteers through the SpoCanopy program.
452	street tree permits were processed representing 2,725 trees
443	trees were pruned
328	site inspections were performed for certificate of occupancy
345	development and demolition plan sets were reviewed

**Natural Areas:** Our goat grazing project for vegetation management at High Drive and Hangman Parks on the south hill bluff was funded in partnership with Avista and Friends of the Bluff. Two additional locations, Minnehaha and Meadowglen Parks, were also grazed with about 200 goats each. All three locations totaled about 40 acres and were each grazed twice in 2022.

We are also developing advanced wildfire prevention strategies focused on wildland urban interface, in partnership with the Spokane Fire Department. Ongoing wildfire reduction work and burn site restoration efforts continue with groups like Friends of the Bluff, Inland NW Land Conservancy, and Friends of Palisades.

We also celebrated Arbor Day and the Fall Leaf Festival with free family-friendly activities at Finch Arboretum.



## Park Planning & Development

- **Audubon Park Climbing Structures:** Several new climbing structures for kids were added at Audubon Park, thanks to a donation from the Jess Roskelley Foundation.
- **Dog Park Guidelines:** Based on feedback from our updated Master Plan, a citywide study, and additional public input, we developed guidelines to determine how future dog park sites will be selected, designed, developed, and operated. The guidelines were adopted by the Park Board in the fall.
- **Downriver Golf Course:** A complete irrigation replacement began in fall 2021 and was completed in 2022 at a cost of \$2.9M, saving 25 million gallons in 2022 and providing an ongoing estimated savings of 14 million gallons of water annually while improving quality of play.
- **Dwight Merkel Sports Complex Artificial Turf Renovation:** Two artificial turf sports fields were replaced and opened to the public in fall of 2022. The new fields will ensure high quality turf playfields are available for public use for another 10 years.
- **Kardong Bridge:** The pedestrian bridge connecting the University District and the surrounding area with downtown was fully renovated, opening several months ahead of schedule at a cost of \$3.3M. Work included deck replacement, overlook replacements with ADA-accessible platforms, pier and steel repairs, painting, guardrails, and new lighting and bollards. Additional elements will be completed in 2023, including informational signs and architectural embellishments. The bridge renovation was funded through a package of an RCO grant, American Rescue Plan funds, and partner support from the Friends of Centennial Trail, Gonzaga University, Lilac Bloomsday Association, University District Public Development Authority, and the Bicycle Advisory Board.
- **Make Beacon Hill Public – Phase 1:** Partners (Spokane City and Spokane County Parks; Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance; Inland Northwest Land Conservancy; Avista Utilities; and private land owners) worked to permanently protect ~250 acres of privately owned land through purchase and donated conservation easements, made possible by \$3.3 million in funding through various grants and donations. The project connects four existing public parks (undeveloped portions of Esmeralda golf course, Minnehaha, Shields, and Camp Sekani) to create one larger, jointly managed regional park of 550 acres with a 46-mile trail system. Design for improved trailheads accessing this land is planned for 2023.
- **Manito Swan Sculpture:** A beautiful sculpture featuring a mated pair of bronze-cast mute swans was unveiled at Manito's mirror pond in the spring, in tribute to the swans who previously graced the park. Artist Vincent De Felice created the sculpture, fully funded by Washington Trust Bank.
- **Master Planning:** Our team created a road map for future priorities, focus areas, developments, and spending through an update of our Parks & Natural Lands Master Plan. Community outreach resulted in more than 5,000 responses, and that feedback created the foundation for the plan. The plan was adopted by the Park Board in the summer.
- **North Suspension Bridge (Riverfront):** The \$3M dollar restoration of one of the Expo '74 bridges involved a new deck, repair/replacement of corroded steel floor beams, repair/replacement of lighting and electrical components, and an upgraded railing. The bridge opened in March, on schedule and on budget of \$2.9M, funded through a package of grant and tax funds.
- **Palisades Park 'Rimrock to Riverside' Expansion:** Spokane County Conservation Futures program funded acquisition of 114 additional acres to Palisades Park.
- **Red Wagon Renovation:** The red wagon in Riverfront park, officially named The Childhood Express by artist Ken Spiering, received metal repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Sherwin-Williams donated the paint. We also completed asphalt repair nearby.
- **The Seeking Place:** October saw the unveiling of Riverfront's newest piece of art, The Seeking Place by Coeur d'Alene artist Sarah Thompson Moore. Sited along the Howard Street Promenade near the Pavilion, it is made of perforated metal to cast light, with inspiration drawn from our region's basalt outcroppings.
- **Upriver Park:** A newly completed park, with land from vacated right-of-way and previously underutilized park land, provides three acres of river access for water-based recreation and improved shoreline health. The park also offers an enhanced section of the Centennial Trail with views of the river and new amenities including parking. The park project was funded by Avista Utilities and opened in June.
- **Water Conservation:** Ongoing water conservation projects at golf courses and parks are estimated to have saved 55-60 million gallons of water annually by the end of 2022 (about 8% of total park water use). Parks and Utilities continued year 2 of a 10-year partnership to conserve water on public lands through annual funding of water conservation projects that support the Water department's stewardship program.



Looking ahead to 2023, we'll see work on the Liberty Park Playground and basketball court renovations, Riverfront Park Theme Stream, South Suspension Bridge at Riverfront, Cannon Hill Pond renovations, along with improvements to neighborhood park irrigation systems, playgrounds, and restrooms.