



# Park Rangers

Park Rangers are community ambassadors, providing park visitor support while helping keep our parks safe for all to enjoy. In 2024, Park Rangers received a reinstatement of their Special Commission, providing authority to issue infractions for certain misdemeanors related to enforcing park rules. They had 3,856 calls for service and issued 722 citations. The majority of calls for service focused on people being in the parks during overnight closures, and unauthorized camping.



# City of Spokane PARKS & RECREATION 2024 Annual Report

## Recreation

In addition to strong participation numbers across the board in 2024, Recreation saw some stand-out accomplishments, including a fall volleyball league with the largest-ever number of teams at 186; a successful pilot of family Outdoor Recreation trips for those as young as 8 years old; guided kayaking with Therapeutic Recreation Services; and Corbin Art Center after-school programming at 4 area schools. They also launched a Sensory Sensitivity Swim, skateboarding lessons, ArtSci camps, and partnered to produce PickleFest during the Expo 50th Celebration.

### By the numbers

136,696	free open swim check-ins
98,725	activity guides distributed (print)
23,500	online guide reads (digital)
18,439	program participants
4,131	athletic complex rentals
3,475	recreation programs offered



## Holiday Celebrations

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Fireworks Shows on Independence Day & New Year's Eve
- Holidays at Riverfront
- Walk-Thru Lights at Manito



## Partners, Sponsors, and Donors – Thank You!

A special thank you to our partners, sponsors, and donors whose support help make events, places, and programs possible! Please view a full list of our incredible supporters at [SpokaneParks.org/get-involved](https://SpokaneParks.org/get-involved).

## Park Board

Thank you to our all-volunteer Park Board. For more information about the Board, please visit [SpokaneParks.org/board](https://SpokaneParks.org/board).

### 2024 Park Board

Bob Anderson, President,  
Gerry Sperling, Vice President  
Jennifer Ogden  
Nick Sumner  
Greta Gilman  
Sally Lodato

Kevin Brownlee  
Barb Richey  
Hannah Kitz  
Doug Kelley  
Jonathan Bingle,  
City Council liaison



## Park Planning & Development

In 2024, we continued investments in neighborhood parks, focused on the top community desires we heard in our master planning outreach. The most significant physical investments were made in dog parks, sport courts, and irrigation upgrades, with two-thirds of park capital dollars allocated to these improvements. We also prepared a levy package for voters to consider in 2025, aimed at improving every neighborhood park citywide over 20 years with targeted investments, increased maintenance staff, and more than doubling our Special Commission Park Ranger team. Learn more about the levy at [SpokaneParks.org/levy](https://SpokaneParks.org/levy), and the unique partnership with Spokane Public Schools to expand the impact at [TogetherSpokane.org](https://TogetherSpokane.org).



### 2024 highlights include:

Centennial Trail Connection from Post St Bridge to Riverfront Park
Corbin Park sport court renovation
Downriver Park river access
Grants awarded for future work at Meadowglen and Coeur d'Alene parks
High Bridge Dog Park renovation
Irrigation upgrades and water efficiency projects
Levy package, 'Healthy Parks, Healthy Neighborhoods' prepared, designed to improve all neighborhood parks (scheduled for Nov. 2025 ballots)
New neighborhood Dog Park @ 63rd and Regal
Playground repairs at 16 parks through grant funding
Pool Deck Repairs at Liberty Park
South Suspension bridge (Riverfront Park) renovation
Underhill Park sport court renovation
Whitewater Disc Golf Course (formerly Downriver)

In 2024, over 80% of all funding used for park capital repair and improvement came from grants. Only 1 in 5 dollars spent on park improvements came from local tax dollars.

Follow us on Social Media: [@SpokaneParks](https://SpokaneParks)



Visit us online: [www.SpokaneParks.org](https://www.SpokaneParks.org)





## Park Operations

Our Park Operations team work on maintenance of grounds, facilities, and equipment. With about 100 properties covering 4,000 acres, it's a big job! They take great pride in providing excellent community service, despite an increase in vandalism. They remain focused on the priorities of safety, sanitation, and asset protection so the community can enjoy our beautiful parks.

<b>32 lane miles of snow removal and maintenance of sidewalks/pathways</b>
<b>533 work orders, outside of routine work, including vandalism repairs, memorial bench installations, plumbing repairs, electrical work, etc.</b>
<b>\$136,370 revenue from park reservations (non-athletic)</b>
<b>204,430 people attended activities happening as part of a park reservation, like weddings and family reunions (not including Riverfront)</b>

## 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 2024:

<b>The 'Tree Equity Spokane' grant program launched. It's a \$6M award to increase tree canopy cover and provide urgent care for trees in disadvantaged communities. The project is part of SpoCanopy, a joint venture with City of Spokane Urban Forestry and The Lands Council, and aims to assist Spokane in achieving 30% canopy cover by 2030.</b>
<b>645 new community trees were planted, 1,150 tree seedlings were planted, and 3,209 were pruned</b>
<b>414 street tree permits were processed representing 2,468 trees, and 288 site inspections were performed for certificate of occupancy</b>
<b>The Finch Arboretum Willow tree succumbed to old age, and based on a community survey result, its wood will be used to construct a nature-based play areas in the future</b>
<b>The SpoCanopy Expo Forest Tree Plantings, Arbor Day, and the Fall Leaf Festival supported tree education, celebration, the distribution of 1,000 free seedlings</b>



### Natural Areas

2024 was a robust year for fuels reduction work, with 484 acres of City-owned forest land treated in collaboration with the Spokane Fire Department. Focus areas included Wyakin Park, Esmerelda Golf Course, Indian Canyon, Upper Palisades, High Bridge, Hangman Park and the Bluff / Qualchan. More than 9,600 trees were also pruned through these projects.



## Golf

Golf continued to enjoy immense popularity. Rounds were up 7%, with 190,239 rounds played in 2024 compared to 177,670 rounds played in 2023. This was close to the increase year-over-year between 2022 and 2023.

Golf is funded only through players' fees (no tax dollars), and \$1,050,000 was invested in capital improvement projects at the courses, primarily focused on irrigation upgrades (that save about 40 million gallons of water per year!) but also including bunker renovations at Indian Canyon. Fuels mitigation and pine beetle treatments occurred, and the Qualchan pump house renovation kicked-off (a City Utilities project). Golf Course Pros also funded improvements like the Indian Canyon patio and Esmeralda restrooms.

In August, the City Championship sold-out with 133 players over 3 days.



## Riverfront Spokane

### Expo 50th Celebration

The celebration to mark 50 years since Expo '74 brought in 317,000+ visitors to the park. Over a nine-week celebration, there were 150+ events in the categories of Arts & Culture, Tribal Culture, Environment, Sports & Entertainment, and Expo Legacy. All 4th and 7th graders in Spokane Public Schools experienced an Expo field trip and paired curriculum, to ensure future generations understand the legacy of Expo's impact on Spokane.

The celebration was produced through a partnership of 12 organizations and 39 sponsors.

### Park Programming & Attractions

<b>117</b>	<b>community engagement events</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>public events</b>
<b>182</b>	<b>private events</b>
<b>429,000</b>	<b>total event visitors</b>
<b>237,000</b>	<b>attractions riders (Looff Carrousel, Numerica SkyRide and Skate Ribbon)</b>
<b>60+</b>	<b>partners and sponsors</b>
<b>18,000</b>	<b>attendees for 6 concerts</b>

### Recognition

Riverfront Park was awarded the 2024 Placemaker Award from Visit Spokane, and the 2024 Best of BID for Family Friendly Spot. They also won several Inlander Best Of awards: #2 Best New Community Effort for Concerts, #2 Experience for your Inland NW Bucket List for the Numerica SkyRide, #2 Best Place for a Picnic, and #3 Best Skate Park.

