

## Introduction and Guidelines

The following chapter provides the goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of the **Parks & Recreation** chapter. While reviewing this document, it helps to keep a few things in mind:

1. PlanSpokane 2046 is NOT an entirely new document. The existing Comprehensive Plan and ongoing community engagement were the foundation of this document, along with adopted plans, state legislation, and new engagement informing proposed changes.
2. The current Comprehensive Plan, Shaping Spokane, can be found at [shapingspokane.org](http://shapingspokane.org). Readers may refer to that document if they wish to see the existing chapter language.
3. The Vision and Values, previously found in each chapter, are being combined into a single unified vision for the City. Accordingly, those sections of the chapters do not appear in this document.
4. Many policies in the existing plan include “discussion” below the policy. Where those discussions do not provide a better understanding or clarification of the policy, they have been removed from this new document or the language in that discussion has been incorporated into the policy language itself. These removals are not identified specifically here.
5. The plan has undergone a review and minor edits throughout. Terms have been updated, language has been streamlined, and many small changes have been made to increase readability and understanding. Minor wording changes aren’t marked directly to make sure the proposed language is as clear as possible, but any large updates may be identified.
6. A range of helpful notes are provided in the sidebar to the right—these are not part of the proposed text, rather they help readers understand certain proposed changes.
7. The [Climate Planning effort](#) is still ongoing and may affect the language in the chapter later on. Places where we anticipate this *might* occur will be marked with the appropriate icon (see at right).
8. Work towards understanding Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement is ongoing and may likewise have an impact on the language in this chapter. Where we anticipate this happening, an icon has been included (see at right).
9. Some policies or goals from the past versions of the Comprehensive Plan may have been omitted. If they have been combined with other

The following icons will appear where:



General information or notation is provided, clarifying changes to the existing text.



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won’t be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.



Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.

policies or goals, there will be an icon and description in the blue margin. Where policies or goals have been removed entirely, they are listed at the end in their own section.

The currently proposed language for this chapter begins on the following page. Please be sure to note the “version date” at the bottom of the page as we anticipate future changes as this effort evolves.

### **A Note on the Parks & Recreation Department and this Chapter**

Work is ongoing to coordinate updates to this chapter with the Parks and Recreation department and, ultimately, in consultation with the Spokane Park Board. Accordingly, some additional changes and updates may occur in the near future as that coordination is completed.



# Parks & Recreation

## Introduction

This chapter of the Comprehensive Plan concerns the many parks and recreation facilities and opportunities throughout the city. The opportunity for relaxation, recreation, and the enjoyment of natural features and landscaping provided by parks and open spaces has long been recognized as important in the City—even during its earliest days. The Park Board has been an integral part of City government since the City was first incorporated. Throughout its history, Spokane’s residents have encouraged and supported the development of a park system superior to that of most other cities.

Today, changing recreational pursuits and demographic characteristics of the population have made the provision of parks and open spaces even more challenging and important. Seeking to explore and understand the new environment in which Parks and Recreation will operate in the future, the Parks and Recreation Department recently adopted a new Master Plan for the City. Known as “Preserve & Play: The City of Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan,” this important document outlines the challenges and opportunities the City faces when providing an integrated and interconnected network of parks and recreational opportunities available for all in the City of Spokane.

The Parks Master Plan is incorporated by reference in this Comprehensive Plan, as it provides important guidance and background information the City should use in decision making and the development of funding, programs, and development in the near future. However, as this document is a 10-year plan and the Comprehensive Plan has a longer timeline (20 years), the following goals and policies are also provided—intended to inform decision making from a parks and recreation perspective into the distant future, commensurate with the overall vision and values the community has identified.

## Goals and Policies

Goals and policies provide specificity for planning and decision-making. Overall, they indicate desired directions, accomplishments, or aims in relation to the growth and development of Spokane as it relates to the development, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreational uses in the city.

### **Goal:** PR-1, Preservation and Conservation

*Assure the preservation and conservation of unique, fragile, and scenic natural resources, and especially non-renewable resources for the enjoyment and use of the public.*



The introduction has been rewritten to reflect the current situation as well as the recently adopted Parks Master Plan.



Readers should note that the order of these goals (and their attached policies) has changed somewhat to flow better and to correspond more closely to the format and layout of the Parks Master Plan.

**Policy:** PR-1.1, Open Space System

*Partner with regional park and open space providers to create a regional system as well as to provide an open space system within the urban growth boundary that connects with regional open spaces and maintains habitat for wildlife corridors.*

**Policy:** PR-1.2, River Corridors

*Recognize, enhance, and preserve access to the Spokane River and various waterways for the recreational enjoyment and use of the public, recognizing the health and social benefits access to the waters of Spokane provides, while maintaining consistency with preservation and protection standards.*

**Policy:** PR 1.3, Connecting the River and Adjacent Uses

*Study and develop ways adjacent uses can enhance and preserve the river by coordinating access and use of the waterways in Spokane with access to adjacent uses and opportunities, such as providing put-in locations adjacent to shops and restaurants.*

**Policy:** PR-1.4, Explore Opportunities for Acquisition of Natural Areas

*Acquire and preserve natural lands that provide and support opportunities for passive recreation while preserving the land in its natural state and helping to preserve and provide wildlife protection.*

**Policy:** PR-1.5, Developers and Open Space Dedication

*Implement and maintain development standards calling for required open space and parks dedication within large developments while working cooperatively property owners and developers to secure and preserve open spaces between developments where possible.*

**Policy:** PR-1.6, Open Space Buffers

*Establish standards for and encourage the use of open space buffers between conflicting land uses, including provisions and incentives for clustering of development.*

**Goal:** PR-2, Parks and Open Space System

*Provide a park system that is an integral and vital part of the open space system, taking advantage of the opportunities for passive and active recreation provided by a comprehensive open space network.*

**Policy:** PR-2.1, Amenities Within City Boundaries

*Provide open space and park amenities throughout the city that serve all residents, as determined by the level of service standards.*



Policy 1.1 was reworded to make collaboration a stronger part of the sentence.



A cross-reference to Chapter 9, Natural Environment, will likely be included here, as that chapter deals heavily with surface waters.



A new policy was suggested by the Chapter Review Subcommittee, tying business and river access together.



Policy 1.3 was updated to focus more on acquisition and less on finance.



A cross-reference to Chapter 3, Land Use, is likely to be included here as well as to the Parks Master Plan.



A cross-reference to Chapter 9, Natural Environment, will likely be included here, as that chapter deals with open space as well.

**Policy:** PR-2.2, Access to Open Space and Park Amenities

*Provide equitable public access to linkages and connected open space and park amenities, including features such as sidewalks, trails, bicycle paths, and mass transit.*

**Policy:** PR-2.3, Parks and Recreation Amenities

*Continue to develop parks and recreation amenities, including but not limited to interpretive areas, sports complexes and fields, public gardens, and entertainment venues, amenities that provide benefits to both residents and visitors and enhance the local economy.*

**Policy:** PR-2.4, Urban Forestry Program

*Coordinate with and consult the urban forestry program when developing parks and recreation facilities throughout the City.*

**Policy:** PR-2.5, Historic and Cultural Value in Parks

*Encourage and showcase the preservation of the cultural and historic character of the parks and the park system.*

**Goal:** PR-3, Recreational Programs and Facilities

*Maintain and ensure an indoor and outdoor recreation program in the city, providing well-rounded recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.*

**Policy:** PR-3.1, Inclusive Recreational Access

*Provide and improve recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to all people in Spokane and that reflect the diverse needs and socio-economic status of people in the city.*

**Policy:** PR-3.2, Public-Private Partnerships

*Create public-private partnerships and develop funding and incentives for community-oriented recreational programs responsive to diverse needs and encouraging participants of all ages and abilities.*

**Policy:** PR-3.3, Parks for All

*Upgrade parks and facilities to be ADA compliant, culturally inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all Spokane residents, regardless of income, age, gender, or ability, including but not limited to addressing American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility.*

**Policy:** PR-3.4, Community Outreach

*Promote parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities through an effective community outreach program and marketing campaign, utilizing a variety of communication methods.*



A cross-reference to applicable parts of Chapter 9, Natural Environment, is likely here.



A cross-reference to applicable parts of Chapter 8, Urban Design & Historic Preservation, is likely here.



Diversity was added here in reference to RDI and public engagement discussions.



Diversity was added here in reference to RDI and public engagement discussions. A cross-reference to Chapter 10, Social Health, is likely to be added as well.



The concept of equity was added to Policy PR-2.2 per public engagement input.

**Policy:** PR-3.5, Indoor Recreational Facilities and Programs

*Provide facilities and programs that afford the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of indoor recreational activities year-round.*

**Policy:** PR-3.6, Outdoor Recreational Facilities

*Provide facilities and programs that allow the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities, including expanding the hours and dates these locations are available where feasible.*

**Policy :** PR-3.7, City Golf Courses

*Continue to provide for and maintain the public golf courses in Spokane.*

**Goal:** PR-4, Trails and Pedestrian/Bicycle Amenities in Parks and Open Spaces

*Provide a convenient and pleasant open space-related network for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation throughout the City of Spokane and the region through coordination with local partners.*

**Policy:** PR-4.1, Trails and Linkages

*Provide trails and linkages between and among parks and open spaces in accordance with City plans and programs, prioritizing people-oriented transportation in natural areas while considering special needs like equestrian use.*

**Policy:** PR-4.2, Trail Corridor Development and Enhancement

*Include landscaping, revegetation, and reforestation in trail corridor development where appropriate and desirable, providing a pleasant trail experience, compatible with adjacent uses, and in consideration of the natural environment found in the region.*

**Policy:** PR-4.3, Innovative Trail Development Techniques

*Incorporate innovative techniques into trail design, including but not limited to Low Impact Development, natural drainage patterns, native landscaping, protection of natural features, and porous pavement to further protect and enhance the natural environment.*

**Goal:** PR-5, Coordination and Cooperation

*Encourage and pursue a climate of cooperation between government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private business in providing open space, parks facilities, and recreational services that are beneficial for the public.*



A policy here relating to the river was removed, as it was redundant with Policy 1.2. Accordingly, a cross-reference to that policy is likely to be included here.



Policy 4.1 is a combination of two original policies that both dealt with trails and circulation. (Original policies. 3.1 and 4.2)



This new policy (4.3) was formerly found in the discussion of another policy. It warrants highlighting in its own policy here.

**Policy:** PR-5.1, Avoiding Duplication of Recreational Opportunities

*Facilitate cooperation and communication among government agencies, non-profit organizations, school districts, and private businesses to avoid duplication in providing recreational opportunities within the community.*

**Policy:** PR-5.2, Joint Park and Open Space Planning

*Ensure that parks, open space, and trails are planned and funded in coordination with Spokane County prior to allowing urban development within the city's Urban Growth Area (UGA), yet outside city limits.*

**Policy:** PR-5.3, Cooperative Planning and Use of Recreational Facilities

*Coordinate and cooperate with local private and regional entities when planning and operating recreational facilities to ensure efficient, integrated, and cooperative uses and operations.*

**Goal:** PR-6, Quality Parks and Recreation Services

*Provide the community with a parks and recreation system that is enjoyable, efficient, financially responsible, and a source of local pride.*

**Policy:** PR-6.1, Up-To-Date Management Practices

*Employ state-of-the-art techniques in the park and recreation profession by providing staff training, labor-saving equipment, automatic systems, durable materials, effective facility design, and responsive leisure services.*

**Policy:** PR-6.2, Standards and Policies

*Address areas of the city where parks and recreation facilities and opportunities are less prevalent, maintaining open communication and utilizing collaborative planning processes that help define service levels based on good management practices while providing quality service to the public.*

**Policy:** PR-6.3, Volunteers

*Encourage and recruit volunteers to serve on advisory boards for program and facility design, leadership in program offering, and community service stewardship.*

**Policy:** PR-6.4, Evaluations and Monitoring

*Conduct periodic monitoring of the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department services, facilities, and programs through staff, participant, and public evaluations.*



In essence, Goal 6 (originally goal 7) and the first policy (now removed) had the same effect. The policy is unnecessary and was combined into the goal.



**Policy:** PR-6.5, Master Planning

*Continue to develop and implement periodic updates to the park master plan to ensure effective maintenance and operation of existing parks while exploring needs for new and updated parks and recreational opportunities.*

**Goal:** PR-7, Maintenance and Funding Programs

*Recognize and update Spokane's existing park resources by continuing preventative maintenance and exploring various funding possibilities for both construction of new parks and maintenance of the City's existing facilities and resources.*

**Policy:** PR-7.1, Maintenance Management Program

*Implement an ongoing maintenance management program that will include preventative and ongoing maintenance, efficient and comprehensive facility management, and funding for replacement facilities and equipment.*

**Policy:** PR-7.2, Park Sign Plan

*Implement and maintain a park sign plan that standardizes all park signs, including entrance, direction, and rules signs, excluding historic park signage where appropriate.*

**Policy:** PR-7.4, Park Funding

*Consider all potential funding sources to maintain the adopted level of service standards for parks.*

**Policy:** PR-7.5, Opportunity Fund

*Create an "Opportunity Fund" to protect open space or acquire parkland, which would be lost if not immediately purchased, targeting valuable open space lands that would otherwise be swallowed up by development of other uses, ensuring that funding is sustainable for long-term stewardship of these areas as well.*

**Policy:** PR-7.6, Funding for Open Space and Shoreline Land Acquisition

*Ensure that any funding for the purchase of open space and shoreline land maintains sufficient balance and flexibility to nimbly and rapidly acquire and protect land when it becomes available, as delays may mean that the land is lost to other uses and development.*



The policies here are not new—they have been moved into this topic from various other goals in the existing chapter. Some language has been updated.



While not strictly new, policies 7.5 and 7.6 were reworked in consultation with the Chapter Review Subcommittee to be more robust and to better consider their original intent.

Consultation with the Parks and Recreation department is needed to ensure these are achievable as worded.



## POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:

The following policies have been removed from the text, largely due to redundancy, unclear goals/success, and similar factors.

### **Policy:** PR-7.3, Capital Improvement Program

*Prepare and update annually a six-year capital improvement program for implementation of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan.*

### **Policy:** PR-7.1, Quality of Service

*Provide high quality service to the community in all parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities.*

### **Policy:** PR-7.7, Public Participation

*Ensure that decisions regarding the city's park and open space system encourage the full participation of Spokane's citizenry.*



A CIP is a requirement of state law for all capital projects by the City. Repeating it here adds nothing to the process and is redundant.



Policy 7.1 was incorporated into its overarching goal, as it provided no additional detail in its original form (see Goal 6)



Policy 7.7 is already covered substantially by the Governance Through Civic Participation Chapter.