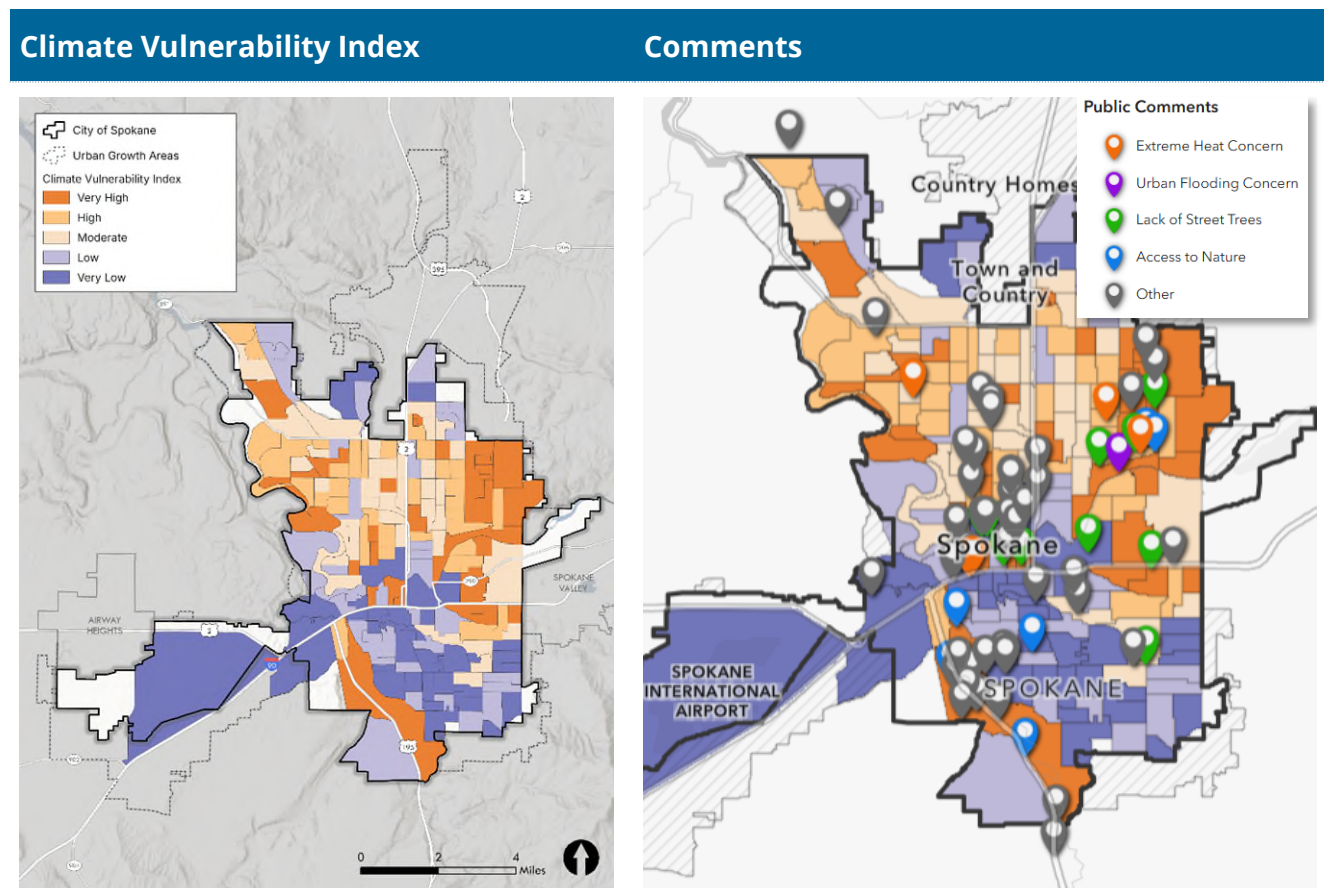


Climate Vulnerability Index Comments

Date: June 2025

The City of Spokane developed a Climate Vulnerability Index which includes over 30 indicators regarding exposure to climate hazards, environmental or health sensitivity to impacts of climate hazards, and the potential to adapt to climate hazards depending on socioeconomic factors, housing and open space/tree conditions, transportation, and others. It can help community members and decision-makers identify areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The index was available at the City's climate planning website, <https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/climate-planning/>. Commenters could share concerns about extreme heat, urban flooding, lack of street trees, access to nature, or other.

Exhibit 1. City of Spokane Climate Vulnerability Index and Blocks with Very High Vulnerability



Source: BERK Consulting, Inc. 2025. See Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, June 2025 for details.

About 73 persons participated with 70 identifying a concern, and 69 providing comments. The comments are shared below sorted by Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment focus areas.

Exhibit 2. Climate Comment Concerns

Acronym	Description	Count
O	Other	48
ST	Lack of Street Trees	10
N	Access to Nature	6
EH	Extreme Heat Concern	5
UF	Urban Flooding Concern	1
Total		70

Source: BERK Consulting, Inc. 2025.

Exhibit 3. Additional Elements in Comments under “Other”

Description	Count
Other with Extreme Heat Concern Comment	4
Extreme Heat and Smoke Comment	1
Street Trees and Extreme Heat Concern Comment	7

Source: BERK Consulting, Inc. 2025.

Comments by Focus Area

The City of Spokane’s Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment includes a number of focus areas and detailed topics or sectors.

Exhibit 4. City of Spokane Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Focus Areas and Sectors

Focus Area	Sectors Included
Human Well-being and Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Social Services Emergency Management
Cultural and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Resources Food Systems Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

Focus Area	Sectors Included
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Forests Energy Transportation Waste Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Stormwater
Ecosystems and Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Areas Water Supply
Community Design, Land Use, and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings/Major Facilities Businesses Neighborhoods Housing

Comments were sorted by focus areas and most addressed infrastructure-related topics, followed by cultural and natural resources.

Exhibit 5. Comments Sorted by Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Focus Areas

Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Focus Areas	Comments
Human Well-Being and Emergency Management	9
Cultural and Natural Resources	20
Infrastructure	27
Ecosystems and Water Resources	2
Community Design, Land Use, and Economic Development	11
Total	69

Source: BERK Consulting, Inc. 2025.

Comments are shared below by focus area.

[Human Wellbeing and Emergency Management](#)

Comments regarding Human Wellbeing and Emergency Management addressed concerns over access to cooling or filtration, availability of emergency services, and potential effect on vulnerable populations.

Exhibit 6. Comments Related to Human Wellbeing and Emergency Management

Topic	Neighborhood	Comment:
EH	Bemiss	My wall unit AC can't keep up in the summer and there are no incentives that help me get central AC. When the smoke comes in the summer, the window AC lets all the smoke in my house too
O	Bemiss	Bus passes should be made free for low-income folks like it is for youth
EH	Cliff-Cannon	Very hot or cold location for homeless begging
EH	Cliff-Cannon	Very Hot or very Cold location for Homeless begging.
O	Comstock	Breathing car exhaust when riding on bike trails on busy streets makes it difficult
O	Latah/Hangman	we should clinics down here since high blood pressure and heat risk
O	Latah/Hangman	No fire department out here is a major issue
O	North Indian Trail	Evacuating this area is difficult
O	Northwest	More fire wise education!

Cultural and Natural Resources

Comments regarding Cultural and Natural Resources included access to access to food, parks and trails, schools as well as improvements to or adaptive management of city lands, trails, and parks, and locations for urban forests/trees.

Exhibit 7. Comments Related to Cultural and Natural Resources

Topic:	Neighborhood	Comment
O	Cliff-Cannon	Unpleasant for pedestrian gauntlet to access Grocery Stores closest to West End Cliff Cannon
O	Cliff-Cannon	Unpleasant for pedestrian gauntlet to access Grocery Stores closest to West End Cliff Cannon
O	Comstock	Need to address the long term viability of the tree canopy to continue to plant the next generation.
O	Comstock	Parks need more bathrooms, especially ones that I can bring my bike into
O	Comstock	Pets need watering options at more parks too
O	East Central	No grocery stores, the rest are up a large hill making it difficult to access

Topic:	Neighborhood	Comment
ST	East Central	Low tree canopy along I-90
ST	Hillyard	No shade along Market makes walking to the grocery store and food options here difficult in the summer
N	Latah/Hangman	There used to be a lot more areas to walk and hike through lands here before development
N	Latah/Hangman	Multi-distance looping trails would be helpful to have more options for people of different skill levels and time
N	Latah/Hangman	Hikes along the creek are more enjoyable than dry trails
O	Latah/Hangman	Need a school out here instead of bussing them far distances and increasing VMT
O	Latah/Hangman	Dangerous and overly congested. Hard to get to kids schools on the South Hill
O	North Hill	No grocery stores at all in my area
O	Riverside	Bathrooms at parks are never open. Being downtown is challenging to find a publicly available bathroom often too
O	Riverside	Great resource for Low Income Groceries even Organic foods
O	West Central	There should be more farmers markets, like one per day at different places around the city
O	West Central	would buy more local if cheaper and there were options shown at grocery stores
ST	West Central	No shade on this part of the trail makes it difficult to enjoy at times
O	West Hills	More fire fuel reduction throughout all of the City's land

Infrastructure

A number of comments related to transportation including traffic, need for safer pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and transit and lack of bus shelters.

Exhibit 8. Comments Related to Infrastructure

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
EH	Audubon/Downriver	Concentration of asphalt at this intersection from it being a wide road, a 6-way intersection, and having a gas station. In addition, this intersection is dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians to cross. .
N	Bemiss	Getting to the Andrew Rypien Field across this road is scary and makes it hard to go from the church to that nearby park

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
UF	Bemiss	It always floods along my street making it hard to get in and out, especially with no bus transit stops along this entire area
O	Cliff-Cannon	Needs pedestrian overpass over I-90 for Grocery shoppers
O	East Central	Understand highway impacts to climate in East Central
ST	East Central	Waiting for the bus during the summer is awful along this stretch of Sprague
O	Emerson/Garfield	High Traffic shared street is terrifying to ride bikes
O	Emerson/Garfield	Hard to bike to this grocery store due to dangerous roads and lack of bike parking
O	Hillyard	Bus rapid transit to other City commerce centers would be good
O	Hillyard	Hillyard in general needs more stops signs, feels dangerous to drive or ride bikes
O	Latah/Hangman	Too congested here for traffic
O	Latah/Hangman	More transit to this area to reduce single occupant trips
O	Lincoln Heights	This is the most gradual way to get up to the South Hill and Lincoln Heights shopping, need to make this an easier bike path network
O	Lincoln Heights	Need biking corridors that connect parks to Lincoln Heights for shopping too
ST	Lincoln Heights	Very hot in summer, compounded by poor walking and bus infrastructure
O	Logan	Sidewalks too close to fast traffic
O	Logan	no shade on the Division/Ruby when I ride the bus to this area for all the shopping
ST	Logan	There are little plazas at the end of each of the sides of this trail along the cliff. There is no shade at all though. The sitting areas would be nice to have a solar canopy that people can charge devices at too
N	Manito/Cannon Hill	Need a bike corridor that connects parks to parks, like Comstock and Manito
N	Minnehaha	Not easy to get to the river from this area on foot or by bicycle
O	North Hill	Hard to bicycle commute to the South Hill from the North Side
O	North Hill	This hill is the easiest way to get up the elevation near Maple, make this a bicycle corridor
O	Riverside	ONE Spokane stadium STILL does NOT have adequate water refill stations

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
O	Riverside	Downtown parking lots should be required to have solar carports and EV charging support
O	Riverside	Needs pedestrian Overpass for Grocery Shoppers
O	Rockwood	Bicycle assist/gondola system to help commuters get up this hill on bikes etc.
ST	West Central	No shade and is so hot on the trail and this is how I commute to work

Ecosystems

Ecosystem comments addressed wildlife corridors and habitats.

Exhibit 9. Comments Related to Ecosystems

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
O	Latah/Hangman	More moratoriums for building here since it is removing critical forest and habitat
O	Outside City Limits	A wildlife corridor that lets the creek go under the under the road and animals would be better by expanding the tiny tunnel now

Community Design, Land Use, and Economic Development

Community design, land use, and economic development comments addressed strategies for cooling and energy reduction with buildings, location of development being more compact and in already developed areas.

Exhibit 10. Comments Related to Community Design, Land Use, and Economic Development

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
EH	Bemiss	Incentives for installing Cool Roof materials could help reduce urban heat
ST	Bemiss	My neighbors have all been cutting down their trees because it is a lot of upkeep
O	Emerson/Garfield	Solar carport for school parking lots to keep them in the shade, produce energy
O	Emerson/Garfield	shaded and covered bike parking to protect from heat and rain
O	Latah/Hangman	We need denser development and not sprawling out here into the forest

Topic:	Neighborhood:	Comment:
O	Outside City Limits	UGA shouldn't be expanded, we need to do infill that we can support with our current infrastructure
O	Riverside	Buildings with nothing above the main floor need more infill and incentives
O	Riverside	Plants on the roof and other cool roofs and help create shade and cool housing
ST	Riverside	No shade
ST	Riverside	Massive Avista substation development without any street trees?
O	West Central	We should be building on empty lots not on our edges

Neighborhoods

Comment pins were placed in a wide variety of neighborhoods across the city. Many comments were placed in Latah/Hangman, Riverside, West Central, and Bemiss neighborhoods. Two pins were placed without comments.

Exhibit 11. Comment Pins sorted by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	Count
Audubon/Downriver	1
Bemiss	6
Cliff-Cannon	5
Comstock	4
East Central	4
Emerson/Garfield	4
Hillyard	3
Latah/Hangman	11
Lincoln Heights	3
Logan	4
Manito/Cannon Hill	1
Minnehaha	1
North Hill	4
North Indian Trail	1
Northwest	1
Riverside	9
Rockwood	1
West Central	7
West Hills	1
Outside City Limits	0

City of Spokane Climate Planning: Community Presentations and Tabling Events

Type	Event	Date	Estimated #	Recording
Tabling	Expo '74 Tabling Event, City Block	May 18, 2024	10	N/A
Tabling	Fall Leaf Festival Tabling Event	Nov. 19, 2024	>150	N/A
Presentation	District 2 Neighborhood Council Workshop	Dec. 17, 2024	2	[Link]
Presentation	District 3 Neighborhood Council Workshop	Dec. 18, 2024	0	[Link]
Presentation	District 1 Neighborhood Council Workshop	Dec. 18, 2024	5	[Link]
Tabling	Council Chambers Tabling	Jan. 27, 2025	15	N/A
Presentation	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern WA Presentation	Mar 28, 2025	11	N/A
Tabling	Riverfront Spring Market Tabling	Apr 9, 2025	50	N/A
Presentation	Growing Neighbors Presentation	Apr 14, 2025	7	N/A
Tabling	Lilac City Live Tabling	Apr. 17, 2025	48	N/A
Tabling	Eastern Washington University Earth Day Tabling	Apr. 23, 2025	10	N/A
Tabling	Friends of the Library Book Sale and Plant Swap Tabling	Apr 26, 2025	25	N/A
Tabling	Arbor Day Celebration Tabling	Apr 26, 2025	100	N/A
Tabling	ReCraft Fair and Earth Day Block Party	Apr 26, 2025	15	N/A

City of Spokane Climate Planning: Presentations

Meeting	Date	Recording
City Council Study Session	Aug. 29, 2024	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	Dec. 12, 2024	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	Jan. 9, 2025	[Link]
Spokane Plan Commission Workshop	Jan. 22, 2025	[Link]
Urban Experience Committee	Feb. 10, 2025	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	Feb. 13, 2025	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	Mar. 13, 2025	[Link]
Public Infrastructure, Environment, & Sustainability Committee	Mar. 17, 2025	[Link]
Spokane Plan Commission Workshop	Mar. 26, 2025	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	Apr. 10, 2025	[Link]
Public Infrastructure, Environment, & Sustainability Committee	Apr. 21, 2025	[Link]
Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board	May 22, 2025	[Link]
Public, Infrastructure, Environment, and Sustainability Committee	June 16, 2025	[Link]
Spokane Plan Commission Workshop	June 25, 2025	[Link]