

## Environmental Checklist

File

No.

### **Purpose of Checklist:**

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### **Instructions for Applicants:**

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### **Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:**

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "*does not apply*."

IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
  - Year Round Recreation Rink & Skyride Facility (Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility)
  - Central Meadow Temporary Event Location (Central Meadow)
2. Name of applicant:
  - City of Spokane Parks and Recreation
3. Address and phone number of applicant or contact person:
  - Berry Ellison, Riverfront Park Program Manager  
City of Spokane Parks and Recreation  
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd., 5th Floor  
Spokane, WA 99201
  - (509) 625-6276
  - [bellison@spokanecity.org](mailto:bellison@spokanecity.org)
4. Date checklist prepared:
  - March 2, 2016
5. Agency requesting checklist:
  - City of Spokane Planning Services Department
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
  - **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Construction Schedule: July 2016 – March 2017; Operational Schedule: to open Spring 2017
  - **Central Meadow:** Construction Schedule: Start July 5, 2016 and complete by August 15, 2016.
7. a. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This is part of the Riverfront Park Master Plan that was developed in 2014 and is being designed and constructed in phases. It will include replacement or repair of the 7 bridges in the park, construction of playground areas, trail reconstruction, reconstruction of the Imax/Pavilion area, the Theme Stream, the Loeff Carousel and other park landscaping and improvements.
- b. Do you own or have options on land nearby or adjacent to this proposal? If yes, explain.
  - The project is located within a portion of Riverfront Park which is owned by the City of Spokane.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to his proposal.
- Riverfront Park Master Plan, City of Spokane Parks and Recreation, 2014
  - Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Riverfront Park, GeoEngineers, 2014.
  - Draft Habitat Management Plan (HMP), GeoEngineers, 2015.
  - Riverfront Park Master Plan Traffic Impact Analysis & Design Study, Morrison-Maierle, Inc., August 2015
  - Spokane Riverfront Park Historic Property Inventory of Pre-1975 Resources, Spokane, Washington, CH2M, 2016
  - Preliminary Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Riverfront Park Proposed Ice Rink and Skyride Facility, Spokane, Washington, GeoEngineers, December 17, 2015.
  - Spokane Riverfront Park Ice Ribbon & Skyride Building – 3.4 Deliverables, Stantec, January 4, 2016
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
- Recently, shoreline exemptions were issued for the temporary Theme Stream crossing geotechnical investigations, the Recreation Rink and Skyride Facility geotechnical investigations, and the Howard Street South Channel Bridge Replacement Project.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
- Shoreline Conditional Use Permit, City of Spokane & Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
  - SEPA Environmental Checklist, City of Spokane
  - Critical Areas and Design Review, City of Spokane Planning
  - Cultural Resources Approval, City Historic Preservation Officer per Executive Order 05-05
  - Final Traffic Impact Analysis, City of Spokane
  - Grading and Building Permits, City of Spokane including approval of construction plans and specifications by:
    - Spokane Regional Health District for food service
    - Spokane Fire Department for Critical Materials and Fire Prevention
    - Spokane Utilities for connection to sewer and Riverfront Park Water Reclamation Facility
  - Fencing Permit
  - Demolition Permit
  - Signage

- Registration of any existing or proposed dry wells on-site, Ecology
- Construction Stormwater General Permit
- Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Plan, Planning and Development Services (City of Spokane)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

The proposed project is to construct the following as part of the Riverfront Park Master Plan:

- **Year Round Recreation Rink & Skyride Facility (Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility):** The new Recreational Rink and Skyride facility/building will be located at the Gondola Meadow and will replace the existing ice rink that is in the Pavilion. The recreational facilities will consist of a new ice skating ribbon of approximately 14,500 square feet with approximately a 3,500 square foot skating pond. The new ice ribbon will be utilized during the winter months and will be dry floor during the warmer months which may include use for walking, public displays, craft and food shows, farmer's markets, and music/artistic performances.

The existing Skyride ticket booth, control station, and queuing area will be removed but the ride and controls will remain. The existing public restrooms north of the existing Skyride will also be removed. Furthermore, demolition of the electrical duct bank north of the main vault near Spokane Falls Boulevard and abandonment of water lines will be done in the Gondola Meadow to facilitate the construction of the new ice ribbon. The power and control station will be moved into the Skyride Facility/building (up to 7,500 square feet). The new (year-round) building will have skate rentals, sales, restrooms, concessions/food service (with kitchen with Type 1 Vent Hood), a storage room, rental rooms, the ice ribbon controls, ice ribbon and ice grounds maintenance, and ice rink operational/mechanical equipment. Site redevelopment for the project includes new site lighting, stormwater facilities, utilities and landscaping. The landscaping surrounding and in the middle of the ice ribbon will be integrated into the over-all Riverfront Park Master Plan.

- **Central Meadow Temporary Event Location (Central Meadow):** This work will provide a space to temporarily accommodate vendors during park events. Temporary site modifications will be made to the Central Meadow (area of approximately 60,000 square feet). The work consists of replacing existing turf, removing trees, re-grading the site to make it more level in the interior of the bermed area, adding a new transformer

and electrical service, locating water lines on the west side of the meadow, and upgrading the irrigation.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information to a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit application related to this checklist.

- The projects are in Section 18, Township 25 North, Range 43 East Willamette Meridian.
- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The project is located at the southwest corner of Riverfront Park. It is bounded by Spokane Falls Boulevard on the south, Post Street on the west, the Spokane River South Channel on the northeast, the construction access road directly north, and by the Fountain Café and the Rotary Fountain on the east. See Figure 1 (Vicinity Map) and Figure 2 (Recreational Rink and Skyride Location Map). The project site is roughly 3 acres and is located in an area currently known as the “Gondola Meadow”.

Note: This construction access road from Post Street to the Sister Cities’ site provides access to the Howard Street South Channel Bridge Replacement Project. The northern boundary location shown on Figure 2 is approximate because this road is currently under design and a final location has not yet been determined.

- **Central Meadow:** The project is located in the center of the park, south of the IMAX building and just north of the Howard Street South Channel Bridge. See Figure 1 (Vicinity Map) and Figure 3 (Central Meadow Location Map and Grading Plan).

13. Does the proposed action lie within the Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? The General Sewer Service Area? The Priority Sewer Service Area? The City of Spokane? (See: Spokane County's ASA Overlay Zone Atlas for boundaries.)

- Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? Yes
- General Sewer Service Area? Yes
- Priority Sewer Service Area? Yes
- City of Spokane? Yes

14. The following questions supplement Part A.

- a. Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) / Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)

(1) Describe any systems, other than those designed for the disposal of sanitary waste, installed for the purpose of discharging fluids below the ground surface (includes systems such as those for the disposal of stormwater or drainage from floor drains). Describe the type of system, the amount of material to be disposed of through the system and the types of material likely to be disposed of (including materials which may enter the system inadvertently through spills or as a result of firefighting activities).

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Site stormwater from the northern side of the facility and from paved areas between the building and the ice ribbon will be conveyed to an infiltration area northwest of the recreational facility. A condenser located on the building's roof will also be conveyed to this infiltration area. If needed, another infiltration area may be located directly east of the facility.

Ice shavings collected when the ice sheet is smoothed off, and ice removed at the end of the season or during maintenance will be conveyed to a snow melt pit in the ice mechanical room that is then conveyed to the City's sewer on Spokane Falls Boulevard. The stormwater from everyday melt in the center of the ribbon will flow through vegetation then conveyed to the City's sewer on Spokane Falls Boulevard.

**Central Meadow:** Onsite drainage patterns will not change. Stormwater will be infiltrated into the grass and grassy swales before entering existing onsite drywells.

(2) Will any chemicals (especially organic solvents or petroleum fuels) be stored in aboveground or underground storage tanks? If so, what types and quantities of material will be stored?

No, chemicals will not be stored in aboveground or underground storage tanks. However, chemicals will be onsite as follows:

- The ammonia R-717 refrigerant (approximately 1,100 pounds) is contained within closed loops of a mechanical refrigeration system and reused year after year. An ammonia diffusion tank mixes water with ammonia that may discharge from the system in the event of a high pressure relief ammonia discharge. This water mixture is contained in a large water tank located in the mechanical equipment room.
- A 26 percent calcium brine (approximately 7,500 gallons) is the secondary coolant. It is pumped through cooling pipes in the ice ribbon slab. This is also a closed loop system that is contained in polyethylene fusion welded piping, and is reused year after year. The stabilizers for this fluid are specified as organic.
- Ice paint is applied to the ice surface in November when the ice sheet is being built for the skating system. At the end of the skating season

(about the first week in March), the ice paint is shaved off the ice sheet by the ice resurfer (Zamboni), and dumped into a snowmelt pit located within the recreational building, where it is discharged into the sanitary sewer. This pretreatment separates the paint solids from the melted ice. The solids would be collected and disposed of as needed at an approved landfill site with the liquid going to the City's sewer.

- A limited quantity of the primary refrigerant ammonia R-717 and the calcium chloride brine may occasionally be stored onsite to supplement the system if the system has undergone service. Ammonia R-717 is a gas at atmospheric pressure; therefore, it cannot leak into the ground. Ammonia R-717 is safe and environmentally friendly (Stantec, January 2016). The calcium chloride is delivered in sacks and can be placed within a plastic tub or container if necessary. During normal operations, ammonia 717 and the calcium chloride will not be stored at the site.
  - Approximately five (5) gallons of gasoline may be stored onsite for use in snow blowers.
  - 70-pound portable propane tanks will be stored in a secured outdoor location adjacent to the building. Propane will be used to fuel the ice resurfacing machine.
- (3) What protective measures will be taken to insure that leaks or spills of any chemicals stored or used on site will not be allowed to percolate to groundwater. This includes measures to keep chemicals out of disposal systems.

Management practices for material handling and disposal will be implemented according to rules and regulations. An operations manual with system operational procedures for equipment maintenance and operations will be provided to employees, along with training, to prevent leaks or spills onsite. A spill, countermeasure and control (SPCC) plan will be prepared and implemented. Spill kits will be onsite in case of accidental spills and secondary containment will be provided if required.

- (4) Will any chemicals be stored, handled or used on the site in a location where a spill or leak will drain to surface or groundwater or to a stormwater disposal system discharging to surface or groundwater?

No. Any chemical-laden waste will be conveyed to the City's sewer system. Wastewater from the ice ribbon will connect to the City's sewer on Spokane Falls Boulevard and wastewater from the building (restrooms, kitchen, and sand trap for ice melt) will connect to the City's sewer on Post Street and disposed at the Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility.

b. Stormwater

(1) What are the depths on the site to groundwater and to bedrock (if known)?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Groundwater is estimated at approximately 7 feet deep at this site. Depth to bedrock is approximately 5 to 10 feet (Geotech Engineers).
- **Central Meadow:** Subsurface conditions at the Central Meadow area are unknown.

(2) Will stormwater be discharged into the ground? If so, describe any potential impacts?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Stormwater collected from impermeable surfaces (roofs, pavers, and pads) will be directed to landscaped areas to the north and possibly east of the facility where the stormwater will be infiltrated to the ground. The access road area to the facility that will be used by maintenance vehicles and vendors will have stormwater from its surface directed to a sanitary sewer line and system. There should be no impacts due to stormwater. All stormwater runoff that may collect vehicular spills or drips from park roadways, and all water collected from the ice ribbon operations that could potentially contain chemicals will be conveyed to the City's sewer line and water reclamation system.
- **Central Meadow:** Stormwater will be infiltrated to the ground or pretreated before directed to existing dry wells onsite.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### EARTH

a. General description of the site (underline one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Generally flat with some gentle slopes, except for the steep river banks that are contained by vertical concrete walls. The existing meadow area contains a slight topographic high point near the center.
- **Central Meadow:** The existing site is generally a flat grassy area with trees and shrubs located on grassy berms on its perimeter. The site has gradual slopes with the highest grade on the east and low point near the center.



- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** 3.5 percent.
  - **Central Meadow:** 3.0 percent.
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Fill soils with basalt bedrock likely to be encountered 5 to 7 feet below site grade. The fill consists of loose to medium dense sand and gravel with variable silt, cobble and debris (brick fragments) content. (GeoEngineers, December 2015).
  - **Central Meadow:** Soils in this area are generally Urban land-Northstar, disturbed complex with extremely cobbly ashy loam to gravelly loam textures and well-drained. (USDA, Web Soil Survey).
  - There is no agricultural or prime farmland.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
- No.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The site will be graded for construction of the recreational rink and Skyride building. The elevation of the rink surface is yet to be determined but it is anticipated to be similar to surrounding ground elevations (Stantec, January 2016). Approximate excavations are 3,300 cubic yards for the ice ribbon and 1,100 cubic yards for the building.
  - **Central Meadow:** Quantities excavated to make the area interior to the berms more level should be approximately 2,500 cubic yards. No hauled-in materials for fills, onsite excavated materials will be used for fill material where needed.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
- Yes, there is potential for erosion during site clearing, grading and construction of these projects.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The project site will be covered with approximately 60 percent impervious surfaces after project construction.
  - **Central Meadow:** There will be no change in impervious surfaces at the Central Meadow site for this phase of construction.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be obtained and a SWPPP will be prepared. Best management practices will be specified to minimize erosion and prevent transport of sediment during construction activities. This may include erosion control seeding, installing silt fences or fiber wattles as needed.

## **AIR**

- a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Temporary emissions will occur from construction vehicles. Minor dust may be emitted during earth moving activities during construction.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Construction vehicles and equipment will be well maintained to minimize emissions. Vehicles will not be left idling unnecessarily. If necessary, dust control measures will be implemented that may include watering, truck washout areas, erosion control seeding and other soil stabilization. Disturbed soils will be vegetated or otherwise stabilized after construction according to the SWPP and plan sheets.

## **1. WATER**

- a. Surface:
- (1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, the Spokane River.

(2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, both projects will be within 200 feet of the Spokane River ordinary high water mark (OHWM). The Recreational Rink and Skyride building will be outside the 75-foot shoreline setback. However, a portion of the ice ribbon will extend into the 75-foot shoreline setback but will remain outside of the 50-foot shoreline buffer. That portion within the setback will have benches around the edge of the ice ribbon to integrate it into the shoreline buffer area. See Exhibits D and D1 for draft site plans that show proposed improvements in the 200 foot shoreline jurisdiction for the ice ribbon and building area and the landscaping outside of this area. Figure 3 shows the Central Meadow area.

(3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from the surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

(4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

No, the proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

(5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? If so, note the location on the site plan.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The majority of project construction will occur outside of the 100-year floodplain (The building and the ice ribbon is located outside of the 100-year floodplain). However, some minor construction activities related to a portion of the ice pond and site landscaping may be within the 100-year floodplain.
- **Central Meadow:** No, the Central Meadow area is outside of the 100-year floodplain.

(6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

(1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

Only stormwater will be discharged to the ground. See A.14.a.(1) above.

(2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sanitary waste treatment facility. Describe the general size of the system, the number of houses to be served (if applicable) or the number of persons the system(s) are expected to serve.

None, all waste water will be discharged to the City's sewer system. The number of persons using the recreational facility that are expected to be served by the City's water reclamation system are approximately 3-5 employees and approximately 35,000 participants (not including private rentals, hockey and curling).

(3) Describe any systems, other than those designed for the disposal of sanitary waste, installed for the purpose of discharging fluids below the ground surface (including systems such as those for the disposal of storm water or drainage from floor drains). Describe the type of system, the amount of material to be disposed of through the system and the types of materials likely to be disposed of (including materials which may enter the system inadvertently through spills or as a result of fire-fighting activities).

See response to item A.14.a.(1).

(4) Will any chemicals (especially organic solvents or petroleum fuels) be stored in aboveground or underground storage tanks? If so, what types and quantities of materials will be stored?

See response to item 14.a.(2).

(5) What protective measures will be taken to insure that leaks or spills of any chemicals stored or used on site will not be allowed to percolate to groundwater (this includes measures to keep chemicals out of disposal systems described in 3b(2) and 3b(3)?

See response to item 14.a.(3)

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Runoff will occur from the roof of the new Recreational Rink and Skyride building and hardscape surfaces. The completed site will be designed with a stormwater collection system using infiltration areas as part of the park-wide stormwater master plan. The design will comply with the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual and the City of Spokane Design Standards. Minimal slopes around the ice ribbon will direct surface water to the inside perimeter edge of the ribbon where a drainage system will collect the water and convey it to the City's sewer system.
- **Central Meadow:** Runoff will occur from the berms at the perimeter of the site. Water will flow into grassy infiltration areas before discharge to existing dry wells currently in use.

(2) Will any chemicals be stored, handled or used on the site in a location where a spill or leak will drain to surface or groundwater or to a storm water disposal system discharging to surface or groundwater?

See response to item 14.a.(4).

(3) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any (if the proposed action lies within the Aquifer Sensitive Area be especially clear on explanations relating to facilities concerning Sections 3b(4), 3b(5), and 3c(2) of this checklist):

- Wastewaters that potentially contain chemicals (e.g., ribbon ice) will be conveyed to the City's sewer system. Stormwater will be collected and treated in the areas of vehicle entry and exit along park access roads. Clean stormwater and condenser wastewater will be collected and conveyed to infiltration areas.
- Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction to control precipitation runoff and run-on. A SWPPP and SPCC Plan will be prepared and implemented during construction and operations.

#### 4. PLANTS

a. Check and underline type of vegetation found on the site:

X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, London plane, oak, locust, (other).

X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, Ponderosa pine, (other).

X shrubs.

X grass (grassy turf in meadow area).

\_\_\_ pasture

\_\_\_ crop or grain.

- \_\_\_ wet soil plants, cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other (wet soil plants may exist near the far east end of the site).
- \_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other.
- \_\_\_ other types of vegetation.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Approximately 74,000 square feet of vegetation will be removed with approximately 54,300 square feet of this area vegetated upon completion. Vegetation removed will be mostly turf with some trees, but the majority of existing trees will remain. Locust Lane trees will be thinned out where trees are stressed.
- **Central Meadow:** The existing grassy turf will be removed and replaced after the site is leveled to accommodate vendor vehicles. Tree removal is shown on Figure 3.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

- The water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) is the only federally listed threatened plant species in Spokane County within the project area reported by the USFWS's website on January 19, 2016. See Attachment A for Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) project report.
- There are no state-listed priority plant species listed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for this property.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The project area will be landscaped including the interior of the ice ribbon and around the recreational facility. The goal is to seamlessly integrate the design for the ice ribbon and recreational building into the larger overall park theme (Stantec, January 2016). An existing park vegetation inventory will be used to determine trees that exist on site. A detailed mitigation plan will be developed to replace the lost ecological function. These trees and turf will be replaced and may be located elsewhere within the City of Spokane park system if relocation is not possible within the Riverfront Park area. Trees lost by natural means (e.g., wind storm) need not be replaced.
- **Central Meadow:** The turf will be temporarily removed prior to site grading and replaced after grading at the Central Meadow site is complete. Similarly to the recreational rink and skyride facility, trees will be inventoried, removed trees will be calculated, and mitigation (both onsite and off-site) will be

proposed to replace the lost ecological function.

## 5. ANIMALS

a. Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- birds: hawk, heron, bald eagle, songbirds, other: Osprey and Peregrine Falcon
- mammals: white-tailed deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: marmots, voles, mice
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

- Federally listed species reported on the USFWS's IPAC report for the project area is Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), yellow billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), and Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*). Bull Trout habitat has been designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be limited to only those river areas upriver of the City of Spokane's Upriver Dam.
- There are no state-listed species listed in the project area based on the WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species List. However, under the City of Spokane's Habitat database, it includes the following birds for protection: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and Red-Tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*). There is a known osprey nest in Kendall Yards that is more than 0.25 miles from the Post Street/Spokane Falls Boulevard intersection.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes. Bald eagles and waterfowl migrate through the Spokane River corridor (see IPaC Report in Attachment A for migratory bird listing and USFWS Species Listing). Trout and other fish species may migrate within river segments on a seasonal or yearly basis.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Use best management practices during construction to minimize impacts to onsite wildlife. Avoid tree and shrub removal during the nesting season. Replace existing vegetation at a no net loss of ecological function within Riverfront Park or elsewhere in the City park system.

## 6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, wood stove, solar) will be

used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Natural gas will be used for the recreational building to heat water and the building, and to operate the fire pits and the chiller. Lights will be required throughout the park.
- **Central Meadow:** Only electric power will be used at the Central Meadow, connecting to an existing power source to the north of the meadow.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The recreational facility will meet the Washington State Non-residential Energy Code or better. The refrigeration plant will be comprised of industrial quality components for energy efficiency and 25 year life (Stantec, 2016).

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

- **Recreational Facility and Skyride Facility:** During operations, there is a low risk of fire and explosion whenever natural gas and gasoline is used as a power source. There is also a low potential for spills from the storage of calcium chloride and the gasoline.
- **Central Meadow:** During operations there is a low risk of spills from vendors that will use the meadow as temporary food establishments.
- **Both sites:** There is potential to encounter hazardous materials during construction activities, as the park was previously a railroad yard and an industrial complex where spills may have occurred. Also, debris from fires may have been deposited throughout parklands. There will be limited excavation below the surface due to old debris, structures (railroad pilings) and utilities.

(1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

A SPCC plan will be prepared that will outline the spill prevention and control best management practices. If hazardous materials or soils are encountered during construction, they will be properly managed and controlled per



local and state regulations. Appropriate agencies will be notified in this case and also should spills occur during facility operations.

- (2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Natural gas supply and connections will be provided to the facility by Avista in accordance to building code requirements. The amount of gasoline stored onsite is minimal (approximately 5 gallons stored in a 5-gallon container). The calcium chloride is delivered in sacks and can be temporarily stored in plastic containers if necessary. Operational staff will be trained in safe use of all chemicals stored or used onsite and will follow operating procedures as explained in a Standard Operations and Procedures (SOP) plan.
  - **Recreational Rink, Skyride and Central Meadow:** Workers will be observant for hazardous materials while performing construction operations. If unusual soil conditions are noticed (e.g., discoloration or oily materials), construction activities in the subject area will stop until soils are tested to either validate soil acceptability or identify soil chemical concentrations that require soil removal, disposal and replacement. Appropriate agencies will be contacted as necessary and procedures followed per local and state regulations. Construction and operations staff will be trained and will use proper protective equipment.

b. Noise:

(1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

No existing noise will affect this work.

(2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Noise will be generated by demolition of the existing Skyride ticket booth and construction activities. Construction activities will normally occur between 7 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday.
- The operating season for the rink is November 15<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>. Dry floor use normal season is April 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 1<sup>st</sup> each year for walking, craft shows, farmer's markets, and music/art performances.
- **Central Meadow:** Noise will be generated by site development

construction activities. Construction activities will normally occur between 7 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday, the same as for the recreational rink.

(3) Proposed measure to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

- Conduct construction activities during work hours mentioned above. Equipment will not be left idling for long periods.
- The condenser specified is a roof mounted evaporative condenser with a low noise and profile centrifugal fan (Stantec, January 2016).

## 8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The site is located in a public recreational park (Riverfront Park). City Hall is located to the west, the Riverpark Square shopping mall is south, and the park extends further to the east and to the north (north of the Spokane River).

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** Structures on the site include the metal sculptures (runners) on the southern boundary of the site near the southwest corner; the Skyride (gondola), and rest room buildings, the river channel is located to the north; and the Fountain Café, Rotary Fountain, and the Looff Carousel to the east.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, which?

- Yes, the existing public restrooms, Skyride ticket booth, control station and queuing area will be removed. The ride and controls will remain. Only the power and control station will move into the new recreational building. The metal sculptures of the runners on Spokane Falls Boulevard will remain (commonly known as the Bloomsday Runners).

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Downtown General (DTG-150 and DTG-70) is the zoning district.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Open Space. The City has a planned bikeway crossing the bridge.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Shoreline Environment in this area is Urban Intensive. Located in Shoreline Downtown Design District.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The site lies over the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Aquifer. The project is within the Spokane River protected shorelands.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Approximately 3 to 5 people would work at the recreational rink and Skyride.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measure to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not applicable.

## 9. HOUSING

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low- income housing.

Not applicable.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

## 10. AESTHETICS

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas? What is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The recreational rink building will not exceed 35-feet in height. The building will be designed to incorporate the use of common building materials found in the Riverfront Park area, such as basalt, glass, concrete, wood, and steel.
- **Central Meadow:** No structures are planned in the Central Meadow. The food truck vendors will be using this site on a

temporary basis.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The new Recreational Rink and Skyride building will change what is now just a small open meadow. Because of the building's low profile and corner location, it will maintain open views to the park beyond from most viewing points at City Hall and also from the Huntington Park plaza north of City Hall. From the new building, new park vista viewing points will be available towards the north, northeast, and east.
- **Central Meadow:** The Central Meadow site modifications will not change existing views in the portion of Riverfront Park.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

The recreational facility maintains a relatively low profile, uses the same building materials found elsewhere in Riverfront Park, and establishes new viewing points at the building and ice ribbon.

## 11. LIGHT AND GLARE

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** New site lighting will surround the ice ribbon park to provide night lighting. The lighting for the rink will be a catenary cable and light system and will be directly over the ice. Lighting levels are yet to be determined but will be downward facing (Stantec, January 2016).
- **Central Meadow:** There will be new site lighting within the vendor area to make this area more visible to the public at night.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No, lights will be downward facing where possible. The new lights in the Central Meadow area has a topography that forms a "bowl" and is surrounded by trees. Therefore, light will be directed to the vendor area vicinity and shouldn't be strongly noticed elsewhere in the park.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

## 12. RECREATION

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

A variety of recreational opportunities are available including riding the nearby carousel and the Skyride, recreational fishing, bird watching, playing in the fountain and at the children's playground, dining out, running/walking, bicycling, rollerblading, skate boarding, and train rides. The park is also used for seasonal festivals and events.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

- **Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility:** The new recreational rink and Skyride replaces the ice rink currently located at the Park's Pavilion. The existing Pavilion ice rink will be demolished as part of the over-all park re-design (do be done in the near future).
- **Central Meadow:** It will provide a temporary area for vendors to serve park events (e.g., Pig out in the Park), which is currently provided at the Gondola Meadow (site of the new Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility that displaces this site for park events and vendors). The Riverfront Park Master Plan shows the Central Meadow area being replaced or expanded to become the Central Plaza located on Havermale Island.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Detours will be in-place to safely direct the public around the construction areas and provide alternative access to recreational amenities. Parks will coordinate regarding scheduling events and will consider potential construction impacts on recreational opportunities. The purpose of the Central Meadow project is to provide an alternative vendor site because of the new recreational rink and Skyride facility location.

## 13. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on or proposed for national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

A recent historic inventory of the park has recommended the following nearby resources for preliminary NRHP listing:

<b>Riverfront Park Resource Name</b>	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>Inventoried</b>	<b>Preliminary NRHP Recommendation</b>
Theme Stream	1974	Yes	Eligible – part of Expo '74 thematic district
Upper Falls Gate Structure	1922	Yes	Eligible
Gondola or Skyride	1974	Yes	Eligible – part of Expo '74 thematic district
<u>Looff Carousel</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>NRHP Listed</u>
<u>Sculptures (throughout park including the one at the Theme Stream)</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Eligible – part of Expo '74 thematic district</u>
Howard Street South Channel Bridge	<u>1931</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Contributing resource to Expo '74 Historic District</u>
Howard Street Mid-Channel Bridge	<u>1916</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Eligible</u>
<u>Pavilion</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Contributing resource to Expo '74 Historic District</u>

Adjacent historic properties to the recreational rink and Skyride include Spokane City Hall, formerly Montgomery Ward Building (listed), Washington Water Power Buildings (eligible), and the Monroe Street Bridge (listed). Riverfront Park lies in the Spokane River Historic District that is within a span from Division Street to Maple Street.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
- A website search of approximately 1/3 mile radius of the southwest corner of Riverfront Park was conducted by a CH2M archeologist on Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP's) WISAARD database. Records show a prehistoric site that is 200 feet outside of the Area of Potential Effects (APE). See above for resources identified in a park-wide inventory of historic properties and structures.

- The Spokane Tribe will be conducting an archeological review, and may conduct a survey, evaluation and report for this project. Consultation is on-going with the Spokane Tribe of Indians.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
- An inadvertent discovery plan, as requested by the Spokane Tribe of Indians, will be prepared (See Attachment B for a copy of a project review letter from Randy Abrahamson, Spokane Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

#### 14. TRANSPORTATION

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

West Spokane Falls Boulevard, designated as a Type II Street, provides access from the south and Post Street, a Type I Street, provides access from the west. See Figure 2, Location Map and Site Plan.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Yes, Riverfront Park is served by public transit (up to 1,000 ft. to the nearest transit stop), depending upon the location within the project area). A new or improved transit station will be provided on Spokane Falls Boulevard.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not applicable.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak would occur.

It is anticipated that traffic will generally be the same. However there may be increased traffic on Spokane Falls Boulevard and Post Street to find parking.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Traffic control will be implemented if there will be equipment along the roadway. See Attachment C, *Riverfront Park Master Plan Traffic Impact Analysis & Design Study* for more information. Bicycle and pedestrian traffic will be rerouted to avoid construction areas.

## 15. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Not applicable.

## UTILITIES

- a. Underline utilities currently available at the site: (electricity), (natural gas), (water), (refuse service), (telephone), (sanitary sewer), septic system, other.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

### **Recreational Rink and Skyride:**

- Water: Available from the City Water Department. There is an 18-inch water main in Spokane Falls Boulevard and another in Post Street. Backflow assembly will be required for water service to the project.
- Sewer: Sewer lines are available to serve the Ice Rink/Skyride building.
- Electrical: Electrical service will be provided by Avista.
- Gas: Gas service from Avista is available in Post Street north of the pedestrian mid-block crossing.

### **Central Meadow:**

- Water and Sewer: Available from City Parks in Riverfront Park.
- Electrical: Electrical service will be provided by Avista.

## C. SIGNATURE

I, the undersigned, swear under penalty of perjury that the above responses are



made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the *agency* must withdraw any determination of Nonsignificance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please Print or Type:***

Proponent: City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Division Address: 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: (509) 625-6276 (Berry Ellison)

Person completing form: Marlena Guhlke, R.S.

Address: CH2M HILL, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Suite 500

Phone: (509) 464-7245

**FOR STAFF USE ONLY**

Staff member(s) reviewing checklist:

Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff concludes that:

A. There are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a Determination of Nonsignificance.

B. Probable significant adverse environmental impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance with conditions.

C. There are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a Determination of Significance.

**Figures**  
**Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility**

**Attachment A  
IPaC Report**

**Attachment B**  
**Tribal Correspondence**

**Attachment C  
Traffic Study**

## **Insert Figures**

### **Ice Rink/Skyride**

Figure 1 Vicinity Map

Figure 2 Recreational Rink and Skyride Facility Project Location

Figure 3 Central Meadow Location Map and Grading Plan

Exhibit D Berger Landscape Plan

Exhibit D1 Stantec Landscape Plan

Attachment A: IPaC Report

Attachment B: Tribal letter

Attachment C: Traffic Study