



# Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces

# CHAPTER CONTENTS

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*The Chapter Contents have not been updated here. They will be updated with the correct subsections and page numbers at the end of the approval process, as page numbers can change due to formatting and other factors.*

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Changes that remove or modify language from the existing Comprehensive Plan will be shown in **RED**. This includes those instances where an identical policy exists in other Chapters and the redundant Policy has been removed from this chapter.

Instances where a Policy has been moved, or when two or more policies have been combined into one in this Chapter, the text will be identified with a **GREEN** color. Any changes to the original language will be shown in the final location of combined/moved Policies. The original location will be shown in ~~striketrough~~ to indicate the language is no longer located there. The reader is advised to look at the language in the final location to see any changes that may have been made to the original text after the move/combination.

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## 12.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the City of Spokane's Comprehensive Plan summarizes the ~~Spokane Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan~~ Spokane Parks and Recreation "Roadmap to the Future" master plan document. The complete ~~Spokane Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan~~ 2010 Roadmap to the Future master plan, or as amended, is available on the internet at [spokaneparks.org](http://spokaneparks.org). ~~The Spokane Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan is an update to Spokane's 1989 Park and Open Spaces Plan.~~

*The introduction was updated for currency.*



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 past, the citizens of Spokane have encouraged and supported the development of a park system superior to that of most other cities. Today, changing recreational pursuits and changes to the demographic characteristics of our population make the provision of parks and open spaces even more challenging and important.

For the future, different work schedules, income levels, and lifestyles will have a profound impact on the way that parks and open space are provided. Because of reduced public budgets, many more recreational facilities and programs traditionally provided by public agencies are now being offered by private organizations. Scarce land has resulted in recreational facilities being located over and under freeways, on top of buildings, and in underground locations. Additionally, recreation planners are taking a much broader look at the way recreational opportunities are provided. Open spaces and park facilities are being integrated with other types of land uses rather than being provided as an isolated set of spaces or experiences.

This plan is intended to guide the public and private decisions that relate to the scope, quality, and location of leisure opportunities that meet the needs of the city's residents and visitors. It is not intended to be a blueprint for the acquisition and development of specific parks and recreation land or facilities. The Spokane Park Board, composed of ~~eleven-ten~~ members appointed by the mayor and a Council Liaison appointed by City Council, meets monthly and provides policy direction to the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department.



## ~~12.2 GMA GOAL AND REQUIREMENTS AND COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES~~

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### ~~GMA Open Space and Recreation Planning Goal (RCW 36.70A.020)-~~

~~The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) encourages the retention of open space and the development of parks and recreational opportunities. The following is the GMA Open Space and Recreation goal (Goal 9):~~

~~“Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.”~~

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*For all chapters, the GMA Goal and Requirements and Countywide Planning Policies have been moved to Volume V, Appendix A.*

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### ~~Countywide Planning Policies~~

~~Within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), the GMA requires open space corridors to be identified and authorizes their purchase for use as greenbelts, parks, or wildlife habitat. Although the GMA does not expressly require Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) on parks and open space, the Steering Committee of Elected Officials chose to include it as a Countywide Planning Policy topic and address it in other CWPP topics. Policy topics include: Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development, Parks and Open Space, and Fiscal Impacts.~~

~~For the text of these policies, consult the CWPPs document, Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County, adopted December 22, 1994.~~

## 12.32 VISION AND VALUES

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Spokane ~~Horizons~~ volunteers working on the Comprehensive Plan identified important themes in relation to Spokane's current and future growth. A series of visions and values was crafted for each element of the Comprehensive Plan that describes specific performance objectives. From the Visions and Values document, adopted in 1996 by the City Council, the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies were generated.

### Vision

"Spokane will acquire, operate, enhance, and protect a diverse system of parks, boulevards, parkways, urban forest, golf courses, and recreational, cultural, historical, and open space areas for the enjoyment and enrichment of all."

### Values

"The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ◆ Providing and maintaining parks to serve all neighborhoods.
- ◆ Maintaining open spaces, golf courses, and trails.
- ◆ Being close to the outdoors, recreation, and nature.
- ◆ Providing recreation facilities and programs.
- ◆ Maintaining linkages between parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces."

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*All references to the "Horizons" process were deleted throughout the chapter, given the length of time that has elapsed since that process occurred – reducing the name recognition. The Comprehensive Plan now references the efforts of volunteers, including those that helped with "Horizons."*

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*The Visions and Values of the "Horizons" process remain virtually untouched.*

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## 12.43 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.



### PRS 1 PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

**Goal:** Assure the preservation and conservation of unique, fragile, and scenic natural resources, and especially non-renewable resources.

#### Policies

#### PRS 1.1 Open Space System

*Provide an open space system within the urban growth boundary that connects with regional open space and maintains habitat for wildlife corridors.*

**Discussion:** The city should work with other park and open space ~~planners and~~ providers to create a regional open space and green belt system. This may include coordination with local utilities for joint use of utility corridors for passive recreational uses.

#### PRS 1.2 River Corridors

*Protect river and stream corridors as crucial natural resources that need to be preserved for the health, ~~and~~ enjoyment and responsible use and access of the community, consistent with the Shoreline Master Program.*

#### PRS 1.3 Funding for Open Space and Shoreline Land Acquisition

*Purchase open space and shoreline land when they become available using funding sources available.*

~~**Discussion:** The city shall attempt to access funding from local (annual park budget, city general fund, gifts, Conservation Futures funds, local improvement districts, bonds, dedications, and impact fees), state (IAC grants), and federal sources (Community Development Funds). A more equitable distribution of conservation futures funding between the city and the county should be pursued. The Parks and recreation department should develop an evaluative process to identify parcels of land for potential purchase.~~

*This discussion was removed because it's not necessary in order to understand the policy.*

#### PRS 1.4 Property Owners and Developers

*Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve open space areas within or between developments, especially those that provide visual or physical linkages to the open space network.*

**Discussion:** This should be a consideration during the approval process for subdivisions, planned contracts, and shoreline permits. The city should explore the use of regionally consistent incentives to protect open space. Incentives may include bonus densities, transfer of development rights, and tax abatement or deferment.

#### PRS 1.5 Green-Open Space Buffers

*Preserve and/or establish areas of green-open space buffer to provide separation between conflicting land uses.*

#### PRS 1.6 Opportunity Fund Funding to Acquire Critical Lands

*Create ~~Maintain~~ an "Opportunity Fund" contingency fund (Park Cumulative Reserve*

*The Focus Group modified this policy to bring more focus to the chapter topic*

~~Fund) dedicated to protect open space or acquire parkland-the acquisition of critical area lands, which would be lost if not immediately purchased.~~



## PRS 2 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Goal: Provide a park system that is an integral and vital part of the open space system and that takes advantage of the opportunities for passive and active recreation that a comprehensive open space system provides.

### Policies

#### PRS 2.1 Amenities Within ~~Each Neighborhood City~~ Boundaries

~~Provide open space and park amenities within each neighborhood that serve all residents-appropriate to the natural and human-environment of the neighborhood, as determined by the neighborhood and the Spokane Park Board level of service standards.~~

The Focus Group broadened this policy to concern city-wide amenities, not just neighborhoods.

**Discussion:** Amenities such as center plazas, playground equipment, restrooms, shelters, backstops, trails, trees, and plant materials.

#### PRS 2.2 Access Proximity to Open Space and Park Amenities

~~Provide for linkages and connectivity of open space and park amenities. Provide open space in each city neighborhood.~~

The Focus Group strengthened the “access” portion of this policy to be more in line with the goal of providing opportunities for the enjoyment of these spaces.

Discussion: To maintain the viability and health of the city, residents should have equitable access to open space and park amenities-proximity to open space. Design for the development of new or redevelopment of existing open space and park amenities should include consideration of sidewalks, trails, bicycle paths, and mass transit linkages.

#### PRS 2.3 Urban Open Space Parks and Recreation Amenities

~~Continue to develop urban open space-parks and recreation amenities that enhance the local economy.~~

The Focus Group modified this policy to focus more on parks. Urban open space is more of a Land Use concern and better addressed elsewhere in the document.

**Discussion:** Urban open space-Parks and recreation amenities ~~include including~~ trails, interpretive areas, plant materials, public squares, view-points, sports complexes, golf courses, sports fields, recreation opportunities, public gardens, entertainment venues, and interpretive signage, ~~and~~ provide benefits to both residents and visitors.

#### PRS 2.4 Urban Forestry Program

~~Develop and sSupport a comprehensive urban forestry program.~~

This policy and part of the discussion was moved here from Chapter 8, Policy DP 3.5.

**Discussion:** An urban forestry program includes an inventory of existing trees and all available tree locations and establishes goals for new and replacement tree planting and total canopy cover. The program and could serve as a means to educate the public regarding the benefits of trees and their necessary maintenance. Needed are eCitywide regulations and street standards that require



establishing and maintaining plantings in traffic islands and planting strips and that allow large canopy street trees are recommended.

The City of Spokane should continue to work with the Spokane County Conservation District, which is a state-chartered agency established to promote education and preservation of natural resources. This cooperation avails the city of greater funding opportunities, encourages the sharing of staff expertise, and promotes tree planting programs on a countywide basis.

## **PRS 2.45 Park Funding**

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

~~**Discussion:** Potential funding sources include: impact fees, Park budget, General Fund, gifts, dedications, LIDs, bonds, Community Development funds, Conservation Futures funds, and grants.~~

## **PRS 2.56 Capital Improvement Program**

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

## **PRS 2.67 Cultural and Historic Parks**

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

~~**Discussion:** Many of Spokane's parks have great cultural and historic character that should be identified, preserved, and showcased during park development.~~



## **PRS 3 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION**

**Goal:** Work with other agencies to provide a convenient and pleasant open space-related network for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation throughout the City of Spokane.

### **Policies**

### **PRS 3.1 Trails and Linkages**

*Provide trails and linkages to parks ~~that make minimal use of streets in accordance with city adopted plans, especially arterial streets, in order to maximize the recreation experience and safety of all users.~~*

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*The Focus Group modified this policy to connect it to adopted plans rather than a standalone requirement.*

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### **PRS 3.2 Trail Corridor Development**

*Include landscaping, revegetation, and reforestation in trail corridor development where appropriate and desirable to provide a pleasant trail experience, ~~and visual separation from private-compatible with~~ adjacent uses.*

~~**Discussion:** Low Impact Development (LID) techniques should also be incorporated into trail corridor development when feasible. Land compatible design, natural drainage patterns, native landscaping, protection of natural features, and porous pavement are merely a few of the techniques that should be considered during trail corridor development.~~

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*The Focus Group added discussion of low impact development, as it can guide the actions required by this policy.*

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### **PRS 3.3 People Movement Through Riverfront Park**

*Develop a pedestrian friendly, attractive mode of moving people through Riverfront Park using the Howard Street Corridor from North Central High School to Lewis and Clark High School.*

**Discussion:** The Spokane Park Board, the Downtown Spokane Partnership, and various partners along the route have begun informal discussions of a yet to be defined “people mover.” The people mover should have stops to service new and existing facilities and activities.

The Focus Group removed this policy because it does not reflect current plans for Riverfront Park.



### **PRS 4 PARK PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

**Goal:** Recognize and ~~upgrade~~ update Spokane’s existing park resources by continuing the park preventative maintenance program.

#### **Policies**

#### **PRS 4.1 Maintenance Management Program**

*Implement a maintenance management program that will project maintenance, facility, and replacement costs.*

**Discussion:** The current Park Operations budget is part of the Park Fund budget ~~within the City of Spokane’s two year budget~~. The maintenance management program should include six-year projections of maintenance and capital needs in addition to facility and equipment replacement costs. Typical elements include playground equipment, community buildings, pavilions, shelters, restrooms, park furniture, irrigation systems, turf/tree/shrub areas, ~~wading pools, spray pools~~ aquatics centers, splash pads, swimming pools, and sports facilities and infrastructure.

Changes to this goal and its policies were minor and for clarification purposes.

#### **PRS 4.2 Park ~~Traffic~~ Circulation Patterns**

*Improve park ~~traffic~~ circulation patterns for motorists, bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians.*

#### **PRS 4.3 Park Sign Plan**

*Implement and maintain a park sign plan ~~throughout the City of Spokane~~ that standardizes all park signs, including entrance, direction, and rules signs.*

**Discussion:** This policy does not pertain to ~~affect~~ historic signs.



### **PRS 5 RECREATION PROGRAM**

**Goal:** Assure an indoor and outdoor recreation program, which provides well-rounded recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities.

#### **Policies**

#### **PRS 5.1 Recreation Opportunities**

*Provide and improve recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to all citizens of Spokane.*

**Discussion:** Continue to support community-oriented special interest programs that are responsive to expressed demands, ~~and that~~ foster community support, and improve the health of the community.

## PRS 5.2 Private Partnerships

Create public-private partnerships and develop incentives for ~~a~~ community-oriented ~~sports and special interest~~ programs, ~~which that are is~~ responsive to ~~expressed demands needs~~ and fosters participant support of all ages and abilities.

**Discussion:** A potential partnership could include a sixteen-court indoor sports complex that is developed through public-private partnerships with Hoopfest and the Greater Spokane Sports Association.

The Focus Group broadened this policy to allow for all types of community-oriented recreation programs. The discussion was removed because it wasn't necessary.

## PRS 5.3 Special Programs

Support special population participants in Spokane Parks and Recreation Department programs.

## PRS 5.4 Community ~~Outreach Information System~~

Promote parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities through an effective community ~~outreach program, utilizing a variety of communication methods. information system, including the media, mail, telephone, and on the internet.~~

## PRS 5.5 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.

**Discussion:** ~~Indoor recreational activities may include fine arts, historical appreciation, performing arts, arts and crafts, fitness, swimming, and indoor athletics. This includes one or more additional indoor swimming pools, which are conveniently located and provide swimming for all age groups and abilities.~~

## PRS 5.6 Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Provide facilities and programs that allow the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities.

**Discussion:** ~~Having an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities enhances the quality of life for existing residents as well as a draw for those who are considering moving to Spokane.~~

## PRS 5.7 City Golf Courses

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

## ~~PRS 5.8 Recreation for Youth~~

~~Provide a diversity of recreation opportunities, in a safe, healthy manner that meet the interests of the community's youth.~~

**Discussion:** Support recreation and leisure alternatives for young people by involving youth in parks and open space planning and decision-making.

This policy was removed by the Focus Group because it's already covered by Policies PRS 5.3 and PRS 5.6.



## PRS 6 ~~AGENCY~~ COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Goal: 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.

### Policies

## PRS 6.1 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.*

## PRS 6.2 Cooperative Planning and Use of Recreational Facilities

*Conduct cooperative planning and use of recreational facilities with public and private groups in the community.*

## PRS 6.3 Joint Park and Open Space Planning

*Ensure that parks, open space, and ~~greenbelts-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.*



## PRS 7 PARKS SERVICE QUALITY

**Goal:** Provide a parks and recreation system that is enjoyable, efficient, financially responsible, and a source of civic pride.

### Policies

#### PRS 7.1 Quality of Service

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

#### PRS 7.2 Modern 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.*

#### PRS 7.3 Standards and Policies

*Maintain open communication and collaborative planning processes that help define service levels based on good management practices while providing quality service to the public.*

**Discussion:** Open communication with all citizens is important to the Spokane Park Board. Open monthly committee and board meetings are held for this purpose. Service levels are defined through this process that may also include neighborhood, community, and special interest group meetings.

#### PRS 7.4 Volunteers

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

#### PRS 7.5 Evaluations

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

#### PRS 7.6 Strategic Action Plan

*Develop ~~a strategic an action~~ plan to ensure elements of the ~~Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan~~ Roadmap to the Future master plan are implemented.*

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*The Focus Group updated this policy to name the specific master plan.*

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**Discussion:** ~~The Strategic Plan should include the top priority projects and dedicated funding sources of the Spokane Park Board in a six year action plan format.~~

#### PRS 7.7 Public Participation

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

~~**Discussion:** The citizens of Spokane are passionate about their park system. When changes or additions are proposed for the park system, citizens should be given every opportunity to comment and participate. This policy is intended to apply to all councils, boards, commissions, and committees.~~

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*The Focus Group removed this discussion because it wasn't necessary in order to understand the policy.*

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