



## Audubon/Downriver - Days of Yore

Local Native American tribes used the Spokane River on the west side of the neighborhood for fishing and winter camps for trading. On the east side of the neighborhood a thoroughfare crossed from springs located near Euclid Avenue and Maple Street to Indian Trail Road at Francis Avenue, carrying native people, trappers and early settlers between the large falls to the southeast and the Little Spokane River to the northwest. The natural springs in the area (now known as Drumheller Springs) were an important gathering place for at least one band of the Spokane Tribe; natives made annual trips to stay in lodges above the springs until the 1930s. Plants with edible roots, bulbs and berries grew here. Gridded street subdivisions later replaced the native trail, but the area around the springs was purchased by the Eastern Washington Historical Society and became protected conservation park land.



Chief Garry, thought to be one of the first educated natives from the Pacific Northwest, returned from studies in what is now Manitoba in 1830 and taught agriculture and religion in a school near the mouth of the Little Spokane River. He established a second school in a longhouse near Drumheller Springs in the 1860s, which has the distinction of being the first school located within the city. In the 1880s, the springs provided clean water to Daniel M. Drumheller's slaughterhouse and the growing city.

Partners Frank P. Hogan and John A. Finch contributed to the growing neighborhood by donating Audubon Park in 1905 in exchange for the City providing landscaping, road and water improvements to the park and their nearby housing projects. The 33-acre park was named after famed naturalist John James Audubon because of "the number and variety of birds that are constantly to be seen in the locality." A school built in 1924 adjacent to the park bears Finch's name; he died in 1915, leaving a large portion of his fortune to local organizations. Near the time of Hogan's death in 1927, a newspaper article recalled how he and Finch changed "that northwest section of the city from a thinly settled prairie to a beautiful district of modern homes." Rival streetcar companies extended street railways within Northwest and Driscoll Boulevards to serve the growing neighborhoods.



An early "isolation hospital" owned by the City of Spokane was located on the river bank across Downriver Drive from what is now the Downriver Golf Course. This hospital treated acute infections in the early 1900s. Later, the U.S. Army built the Baxter General Hospital, located between Assembly Street and Fairmount Memorial Park, to care for wounded veterans returning to the region during World War II, with 300 buildings and 2,001 beds. Portions of this 200-acre site became the Veteran's Affairs Memorial Hospital in 1948 and Joe Albi Stadium, which originally opened as Memorial Stadium, in 1950. A nearby rope tow operated as City Ski Acres in the late 1950s.

To the east, straddling the old native trail, Josie Comstock Shadle donated land to the City in 1944 for a park to honor her late husband, Eugene A. Shadle.





Spokane's fourth high school, Shadle Park High School, was built in 1957 on the east edge of the park, to serve the large tracts of housing built during the 1940s and 1950s north of the school. Eugene Shadle was a business partner of Josie's father, James M. Comstock, and managed the Crescent department store downtown for 52 years.



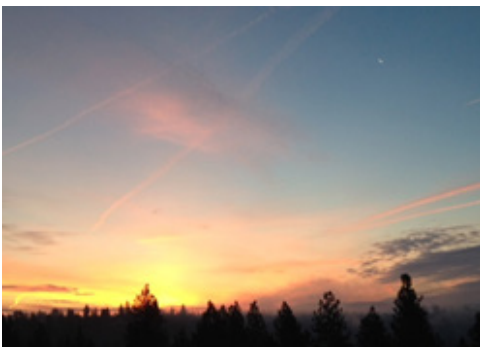
Nearby Glover Junior High School opened in 1958. It is named after James N. Glover, who established the city by filing the plat of Spokane Falls in 1878 in what is now downtown Spokane, three years prior to its incorporation. The Shadle Park Shopping Center was developed in the 1960s near these schools, offering the growing neighborhood its own department stores, grocery and drug stores, and restaurants.

**Life in Audubon/Downriver Today**

The neighborhood features all of life's conveniences – it is close to downtown and within walking distance of several parks and recreational facilities. Good schools attract families, while professionals and retirees are attracted by well-built and relatively inexpensive housing along tree-lined streets, which are shady and hilly in some places. People are proud of well-kept yards. The neighborhood has tall stands of pines that articulate the horizon. People go to parks to hike, bike, walk, and run on bike routes and trails—some of which offer terrific views of the river and city.



Two popular neighborhood parks stand out: Audubon Park, a family destination with its impressive stand of mature pines. Among the open spaces are picnic tables, a small basketball court and children's splash pad/play area. Shadle Park is known for its public swimming pool, tennis courts, baseball field, picnic shelter, and community library. Families also visit smaller parks, such as Loma Vista, to enjoy the open air or to fly a kite.



Shadle Shopping Center is a busy destination for groceries, fuel, household goods, or for a quick meal or coffee. While the neighborhood is predominantly residential, there are a few isolated commercial pockets sprinkled throughout, where residents go to find cozy cafés, and pubs for a great breakfast or specialty pizza, a hardware store, and an eclectic garden shop.

**Treasures**

- Christmas decorations light up the neighborhood in select hotspots such as Courtland Avenue around the holiday season.
- Finch Elementary School, built in 1924, is an example of a preserved historic exterior from the early 20th Century with architectural interest.
- Riverside State Park is a regional treasure. It was formed from 1933 to 1936 when the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Aubrey L. White Parkway, rock walls next to the roadway, trails, and several structures, including the swinging bridge across the river at the Bowl and Pitcher. The parkway is popular for running, bicycling and driving. A campground in the park offers real camping in the city along a beautiful river.
- Upriver from the Bowl and Pitcher, "Black Water" near the Downriver Disc Golf Course is a mellow spot with deep, dark water where folks can relax or swim in the river and view swallows burrowing in small





tunnels dug into the soft, sandy riverbank. Near TJ Meenach Bridge is a river beach where kayakers and river floaters can take turns jumping from a rope swing after an easy carry out.

- Farther downriver, near Camp Seven Mile, Plese Flats is another beach suitable for easy river raft take out near parking and a picnic area.

### Audubon/Downriver - Natural & Built Identity



- The Spokane River forms the neighborhood's southern and western boundary, contributing to a keen awareness of nature's presence. River access, wildlife, hilly terrain and basalt rock define the natural environment.
- The interior of the neighborhood is characteristically flat with shaded streets.
- The iconic green-and-yellow water tower visible across much of Spokane honors the spirited Shadle Park High School "Highlanders."
- St. Charles Catholic Parish represents later-20th-Century architecture featuring a combined bell tower and fountain.
- Ranch style homes, brick materials, cottage style homes.
- Gridded streets give way to curvilinear pockets such as the Boulevard Park Addition near Driscoll Blvd. and a western portion of the Audubon Park Addition. Greenbelts and the southern bluff provide favorite destinations and great views for neighborhood walks.
- The 18-hole Downriver Golf Course provides a defining feature of the neighborhoods. Adjacent to the course along the river is conservation land within Riverside State Park, including adisc golf course.
- Fairmount Memorial Park contributes a quiet, peaceful location for contemplation.



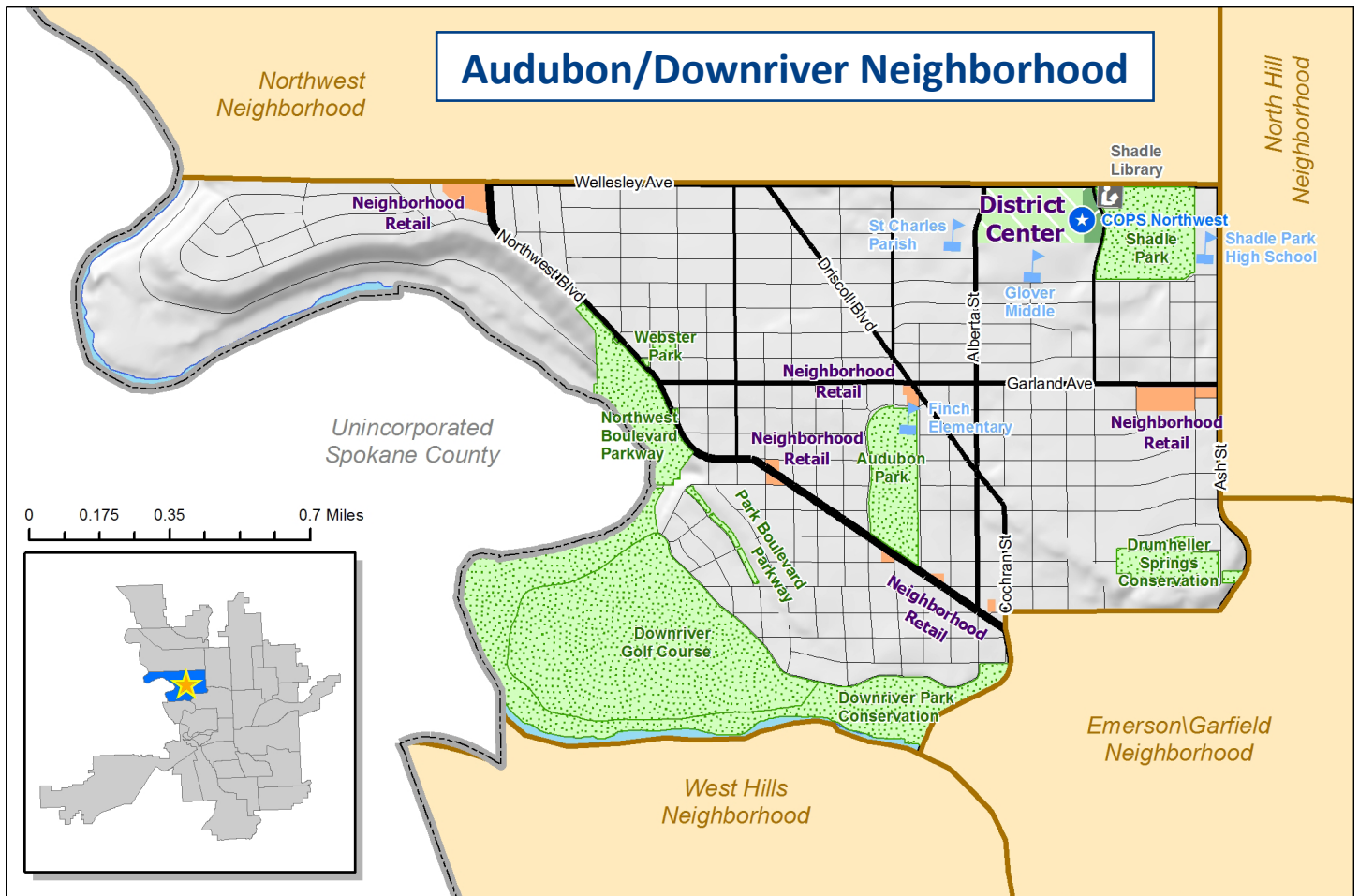
### Neighborhood Tales

*"On the day I moved in a neighbor brought over two bags full of fresh vegetables that he had grown in his garden."* – Justin Helm

### Annual Events or Activities

- Summer music concerts in Audubon Park and Shadle Park.





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Surveys of neighborhood residents conducted fall 2014.