



Chief Garry Park - Days of Yore

The Chief Garry Park neighborhood is one of Spokane's oldest neighborhoods and includes the city's oldest home. In 1879, U.S. District Court Judge Lucias B. Nash and his family arrived in Spokane. In 1886 he built a home near the intersection of Tilsley Place and Iowa Street. Designed by Nash's wife, the Queen Anne mansion overlooked the Spokane River. It boasted 24 rooms and was one of the first homes in Spokane to utilize indoor plumbing.



Nearby, a row of small bungalows was built along Tilsley Place in the early 1900s. Streetcar lines that ran along Boone to Nelson and along Nora to Green connected the neighborhood to the rest of the city and many homes along and south of Mission Avenue were built between 1900 and 1930. Stevens Elementary School was originally a two-room school; then in 1908-09, an eight room brick building was constructed. From 1901 to 1916, Stevens was also a night school for Swedish and German immigrants.



During the same uring period from 1900 to 1930, homes and a school were built in the Parkwater area located at the extreme eastern edge of the neighborhood. Built in 1913 at Fancher Street and Commerce Avenue, the Parkwater School served the neighborhood until it closed in 1933.

Aviators began using Parkwater Aviation Field in 1913. In 1919, the Northwest Aircraft Company of Spokane leased 1,000 acres at Parkwater from the Spokane Park Board with the intention of installing hangars and starting an airline service. By 1920, the City of Spokane designated the field as its municipal airport, making it one of the first officially recognized airports in the United States. During the 1920s, Charles Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis at Parkwater. In 1927, Parkwater was renamed Felts Field to honor Lt. James Buell Felts who was killed in a crash there.



Chief Garry Park dates back to 1912 when seven acres of land were purchased and set aside as a neighborhood park. In their 1913 Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, the Olmsteds refer to the land as "well adapted to a park and playground" and noted that "there is no immediate call for improvements, as the district is as yet sparsely populated." In 1932 it was named to honor Chief Garry with an official dedication ceremony.

During the decade after World War II and following the breakup and subdivision of the Nash estate, most of the homes north of Mission were



The Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Council meets every 3rd Thursday of the month - 6:30 p.m., 2103 E. Mission, except in July, August, and December.

chiefgarrypark.spokaneneighborhoods.org



constructed, as was the 1946 building that now houses Cassano's. Napa and Mission has long been the primary convenience shopping area for the neighborhood.

In 1957 Spokane Public Schools began operation of the Spokane Technical and Vocation School at Mission and Greene. This school became Spokane Community College in 1963.

Between 1970 and 1980, many of the multi-family structures along South Riverton were constructed and between 1980 and 1990, the neighborhood spent over \$44,000 of community development funds on site improvements at Stevens Elementary as evidence of the importance of the school to the community. In 1994, a new building replaced the 1908 structure.

Life in Chief Garry Park - Today



This neighborhood includes a diverse population of first time home buyers, students, retirees, and others of all ages with an active Neighborhood Council. The majority of Chief Garry Park neighborhood is a residential community. In addition, it has a significant portion of light industrial zoned land and businesses along the southern section and to the east, where Felts Field is located. A few small commercial areas with local businesses are located along Mission Avenue and the airport complex serving the community and the greater Spokane region. The location of Chief Garry Park offers good access to much of Spokane for employment commutes, education, and other needs.



Affordable, single and multi-family housing is available, both owner occupied and leased. Neighbors enjoy nice residential gardens and a few little free libraries. The neighborhood recently started a "Welcome to the Neighborhood Letter" given to all new residents. Chief Garry Park has a Facebook page and maintains an active email distribution list. Recent community-lead projects include improvements to existing parks, new benches-waste receptacles along East South Riverton Avenue, sidewalk improvements, and a new bus shelter.



The growing Spokane Community College at Mission and Greene Streets keeps the neighborhood youthful and energized. A number of large regional and community events are also held on the college campus. The City of Spokane's Street Department Facility is located within the neighborhood and the new Central Service Center, Solid Waste & Fleet Maintenance Facility is located in the neighborhood. Planning is ongoing for the Spokane Transit Central City Line as well, which will link the neighborhood with downtown and Browne's Addition.

"My favorite place of all is Cassano's Italian Deli & grocery, great people, fantastic food, great prices and just a fun place to visit or share lunch with a friend."

-Colleen Gardner



Chief Garry Park - Treasures

- Chief Garry City Park, Stone Park, Parkwater Park
- Felts Field Historic District
- Site of Spokane’s oldest home, Nash Residence, 1886, Tilsley Place & Iowa Street

Chief Garry Park - Natural & Built Identity



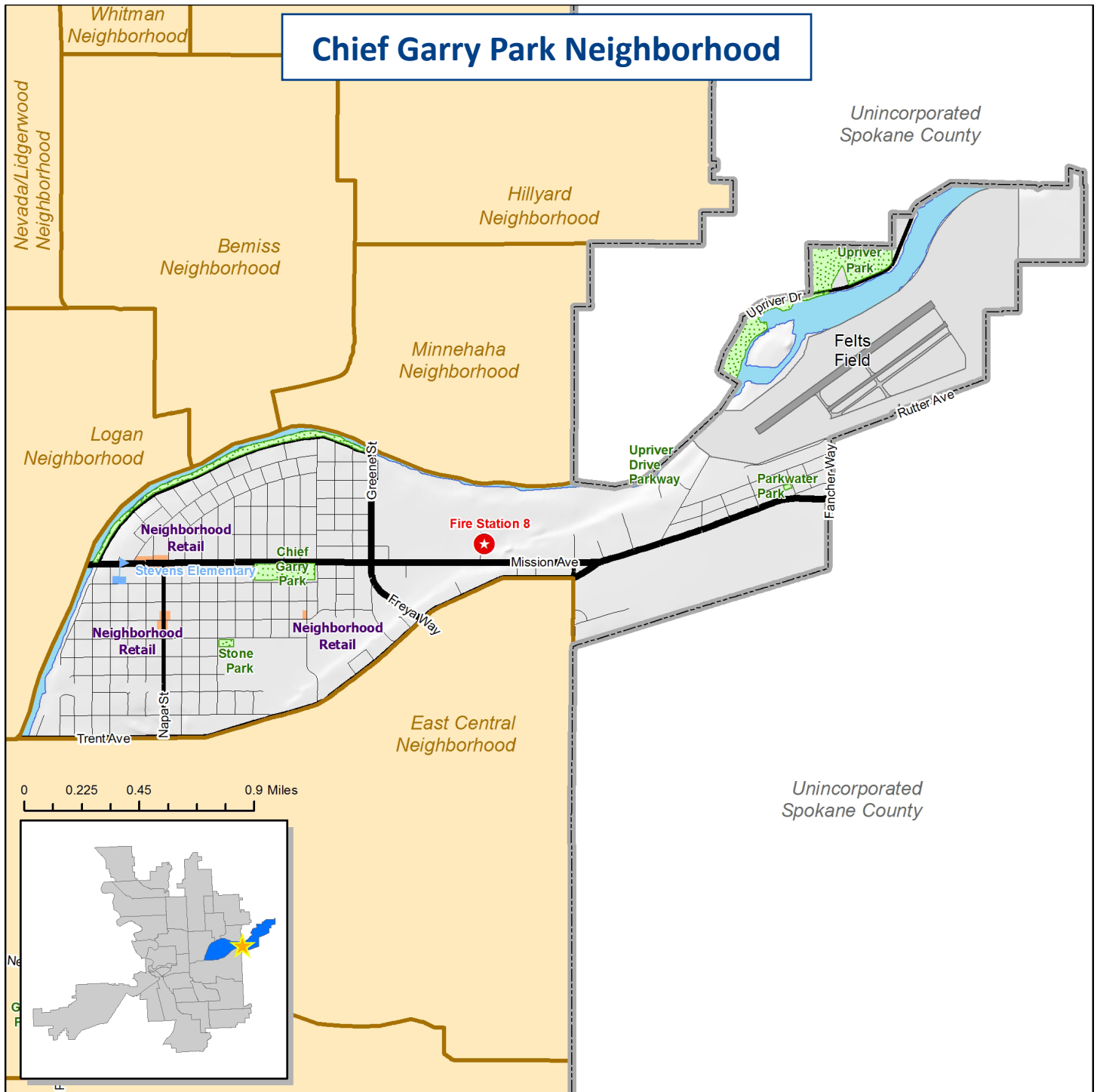
The Spokane River serves as the neighborhood border to the north with preserved native open space along the River. Tuffy’s Trail, a paved shared-use trail, is located along East South Riverton Avenue. Most of the neighborhood has gentle, rolling terrain and is well developed, except for the low-lying river front areas. Chief Garry Park Neighborhood has a long and narrow shape, traversing west to east over three miles. Mission Avenue is the primary east-west arterial street providing access through the neighborhood’s center, including public transportation routes. Felts Field is still an active small airport, and has been designated as an historic district. Chief Garry City Park is in the center of the neighborhood’s residential area and celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2012 with a grand event. The Park is still popular today with three ball fields and other facilities for all ages. Although well established, parts of the neighborhood are in transition with redevelopment, increasing improvements to homes and properties, and more small businesses. The neighborhood recently completed major cleanups at all three parks as well as along Riverton Avenue.



Chief Garry Park - Annual Events or Activities

- Night Out Against Crime
- Kidicalmass Bike Rides
- Three neighborhood clean-ups annually





SOURCES

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Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Specific Plan, January 21, 1991. Tracy L. Rebstock, “Chief Garry Park,” Spokane Historical, accessed October 14, 2014, <http://www.spokanehistorical.org/items/show/108>.

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Parkwater Aviation Field (later renamed Felts Field) as its municipal airport by 1920. HistoryLink.org Essay 8898 Accessed Oct. 14, 2014.

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