



Grandview-Thorpe - Days of Yore

In 1941, a newspaper reported that from Grandview Avenue, one could see the many mountains north of Spokane in neighboring counties and east to Montana. Although several residential additions were laid out by 1900, the Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood remained sparsely populated. One of Washington Water Power Company's streetcar lines connected the Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood with downtown Spokane, crossing the Latah Valley over the first high bridge in that location, a long wooden trestle built in 1904.



The Washington Water Power Company also operated the Medical Lake Railroad line, an interurban line connecting Spokane to Medical Lake. The rail line climbed from the bridge to the Garden Springs station and around the edge of the Grandview bluffs, hugging the hillside, then rising to meet Thorpe Road, west of Assembly Road, and crossing the west plains beyond. It operated as an interurban line from 1905 to 1922. In 1907, passenger service increased with an added connection to Cheney. The Garden Springs, Dodd, Reimer, Lincoln, Washington Park, and Windsor stations in and near the neighborhood were wooden platforms with small buildings for storage. Bundled newspapers were delivered daily to each station, to be distributed by delivery employees to area residents.



Eleven passenger trains ran each day at the inter-urban trolley line's peak. It transported as many as 4,000 people on busy days, such as the Fourth of July. In 1909 and 1910, both Medical Lake and Cheney were voted "dry" towns, while Spokane remained "wet." The last train from Spokane became known as the "suitcase special" because of the tendency of someone returning to Medical Lake or Cheney to board in Spokane with a suitcase heavily laden with alcoholic beverages. By 1916 Washington State had voted to go dry, and the 18th Amendment, prohibiting the manufacturing, sale and transport of alcohol for beverage purposes, was passed in 1919.



Several real estate developments were promoted near the interurban line. One within the Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood was called Stirling Heights. The west portion of Stirling Heights included a park on the north side of 27th Avenue with the slightly altered spelling of Sterling Heights. Mrs. Rebecca Stirling granted the park to the City of Spokane for \$1.00 with the restriction that there be no liquor or dance pavilion located there.



The Grandview-Thorpe Neighborhood Council meets quarterly at various locations. Contact the neighborhood council Chair for the meeting location.

grandviewthorpe.spokaneneighborhoods.org/



Like many other trolley systems in the United States, the passenger numbers on the Medical Lake line began to decline with the development of roads. The underpasses on Thorpe Road, once known as the Medical Lake Road, were built in 1913 and 1917. From 1918 to 1921, more travelers made use of the improving roads, forcing Washington Water Power Company to discontinue operation of the line in 1922. Some of the interurban cars were reused in another streetcar line in Arkansas. To the east of a trailhead at Assembly Road, a one-mile segment of the railroad bed was preserved in public ownership as the Reimer Trolley Trail in 2001 and became managed by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Division.



Noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army occupied houses built in the vicinity of 14th Avenue and "D" Street from 1941 to 1945. The development was later bisected by the construction of Interstate 90.

Grandview and 17th Avenues were paved in 1963 and sewer lines were installed in the 1970s. Grandview Park was developed between 1990 and 2007 with support from the Grandview/Thorpe neighbors on a portion of 23 acres the City of Spokane acquired from a land foreclosure on a debt owed for a local improvement district.



Life in Grandview-Thorpe - Today

Grandview/Thorpe is set apart from other neighborhoods on the edge of the city, perched above sweeping views of Spokane and the Latah Valley and separated by steep bluffs and regional highways. Some think of the neighborhood as Spokane's "other South Hill." The quiet, wooded surroundings contribute to routine wildlife sightings of deer and moose on residential streets and in back yards near natural habitat areas. Residents consider the neighborhood one of Spokane's little-known secrets, enjoying a serene lifestyle and walkable streets only a few moments' drive—or a three-mile walk—from downtown.



The people of Grandview/Thorpe are often long-term residents, contributing to strong friendships across several blocks. Families with young children play in Grandview Park with neighbors. Throughout the year, neighbors get together to celebrate holidays with parties and barbecues, and newcomers are often welcomed with food. People also pitch in to help with regular community maintenance and cleaning events.



For exercise, many residents walk dogs on the quiet streets or head down to walk or ride the Fish Lake Trail, a popular paved trail on a former railroad line. The Trolley Trail is another well-used soft pathway, also on a former rail line. Walking, running, biking and hiking are popular activities.

Residents must drive to shopping centers or bike or walk to downtown. Employees typically drive vehicles to work because there are few



workplaces and no transit in the neighborhood. Children must take the school bus to other neighborhoods.

Grandview-Thorpe - Treasures

- Grandview Park is a favorite destination with a splash pad, playground and barbecue grill. It is popular for meeting neighbors for a play date or dinner.
- Residents like to exercise on the Fish Lake Trails.
- People love the Reimer Trolley Trail, an unpaved neighborhood trail also within an abandoned rail line. It is a great place to walk, bicycle, ride horses and enjoy nature.



Grandview-Thorpe - Natural & Built Identity

- Trees and streams
- Hilly terrain
- Undeveloped property
- Quiet, natural habitat with common wildlife sightings



Grandview-Thorpe - Neighborhood Tales

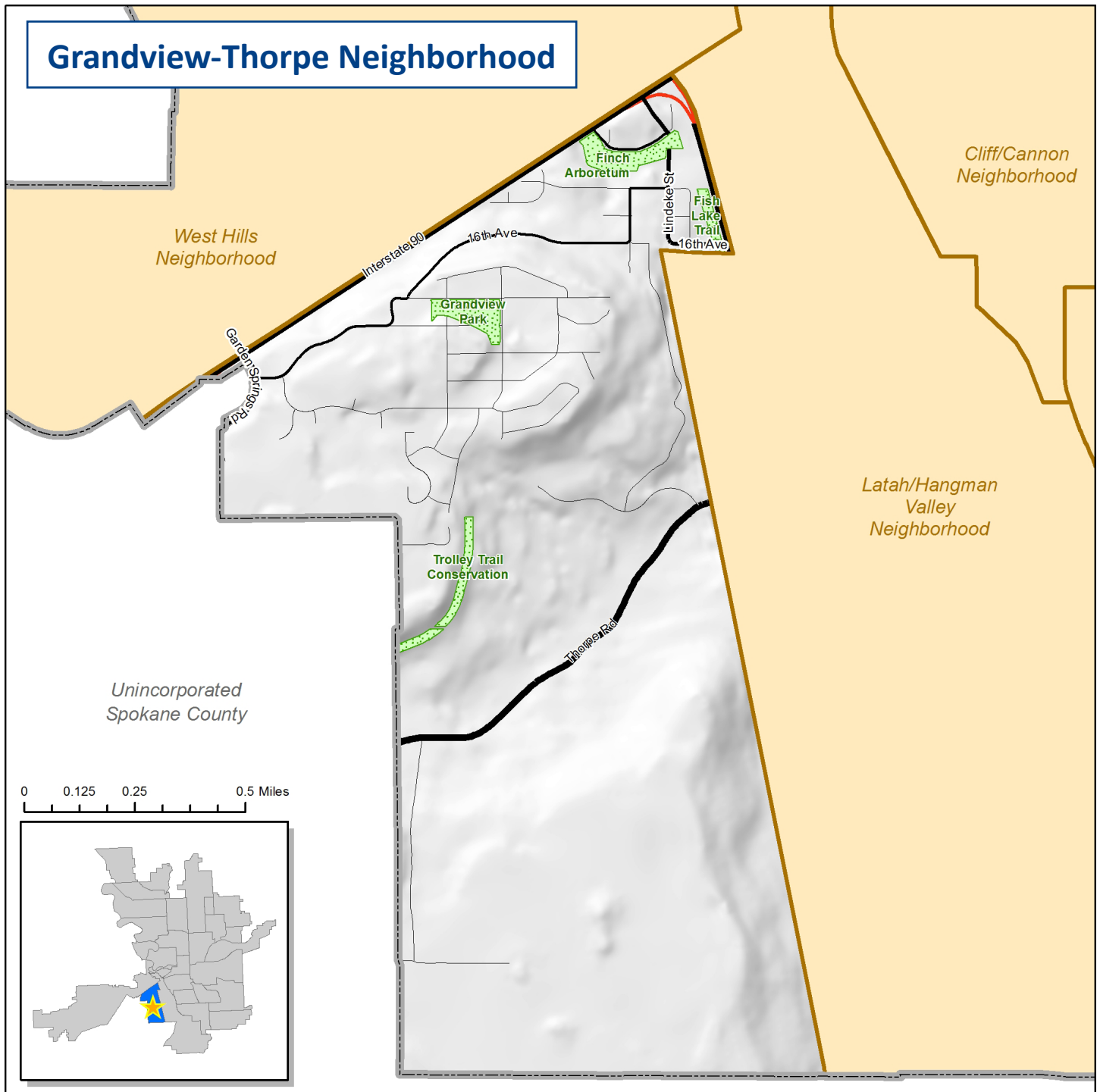
"The new 'Swale' on Lindeke street has created a beautiful ecosystem incorporating part of Finch Arboretum creek. The wildlife, birds, etc. love it."

– Mary Wilber

Grandview-Thorpe - Annual Events or Activities

- Yard Sales
- Block Watch
- Two annual cleanup events, typically in June and September
- Night Out against Crime





SOURCES

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