



Photo: BethAnn Long

Lincoln Heights - Tales of Yore

Lincoln Heights' main east-west connector, 29th Avenue, was established as a county road through the neighborhood in 1885. A period of economic recovery following Spokane's fire and the Panic of 1893 fueled competition between Spokane's street railway companies for selling home sites, driving the extension of the Standard Traction Company's Rockwood street car line east within 29th Avenue, from Southeast Boulevard to Myrtle Street, to serve the new developments. Two other Standard Traction streetcar lines terminated in the neighborhood: one at 12th Avenue and South Altamont Boulevard, and the other at 17th Avenue and Ray Street. The landscaping consultant John C. Olmsted, of Brookline, Massachusetts, favored the name "Rockwood" for the emerging neighborhood, but instead it came to be called Lincoln Heights.



A major landowner of this period was Charles F. Adams, Jr. of Boston, who represented his family's real estate trust and who was a trustee and major stockholder in the Washington Water Power Company. Adams was a Civil War veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg and grandson of the sixth U.S. President. His father, Charles F. Adams, Sr., was President Lincoln's foreign minister to the United Kingdom during most of the Civil War, a position the elder Adams held until 1868. Adams Elementary School, built in 1908 adjacent to the Lincoln Heights Addition, bears this famous family's name.



North of the Lincoln Heights Addition, the Olmsted Brothers' firm recommended creating a park in order to provide benefits to the surrounding area as it grew. At the time of the Olmsted Brothers' 1908 report, there was little development in the vicinity, including only one street, Southeast Boulevard. The new park would contain 78 acres of developed and undeveloped areas connected by winding drives and walks, with a wading pool and other children's recreation amenities, and swamps converted to "charming little lakes" by way of supplying additional water to compensate for Spokane's dry summer climate.



Charles Adams, Jr. visited Spokane personally to close the sale of his family's 900-acre property on the eastern edge of the city, three months prior to local development company partners William Kiernan and Jay Lawyer's filing of the Lincoln Heights Addition in 1909. Although the development opened with strong sales and streets and sidewalks were installed, many of the long lots remained vacant for several decades. The area retained a semi-rural character as the boom subsided.

Meanwhile, prominent philanthropists Levi W. and Mary (May) Arkwright Hutton advocated for city parks and partly realized the Olmsted Brothers' vision by donating some 31 acres of land in 1912 to establish Lincoln Park.

The Huttons then moved from their building downtown to a large house they built adjacent to the park at 17th Avenue and Crestline Street in 1914. May Hutton was nationally known as an activist in the women's suffrage movement. She died in 1915 from a kidney condition at the age of 55, having inhabited the



new home for only 15 months. Levi Hutton, who served as a member of the park board and donated funds to construct the wading pool and playground equipment in Lincoln Park, continued to live there until his death in 1928, at age 68. The park eventually grew to 51 acres by 1942. The wading pool existed until at least 1963, when the first swimming lessons for the city's children under 7 were offered there. It was later replaced by a ball field.

The Lincoln Heights Shopping Center was constructed in the 1950s and expanded in the 1970s on 29th Avenue, near the northern terminus of Regal Street.

Life in Lincoln Heights - Today

Residents live in Lincoln Heights because it is quiet, with a reasonable cost of living and nearby shopping and services. Parks and residential streets are shaded with abundant Ponderosa Pines, Spokane's designated city tree. Nearby wetlands provide open space for filtering storm water and providing habitat and recreational opportunities. Nice days bring many neighbors outdoors to walk, exercise their dogs, bicycle, or run in the streets, on the Ben Burr Trail or in Lincoln or Thornton Murphy Parks. Children primarily walk to school.



The Lincoln Heights Shopping Center along 29th Avenue is home to a wide range of professional and personal services, as well as small retail stores, supermarkets, and a variety of restaurants. 29th Avenue provides Lincoln Heights with a bustling center, providing frequent transit connections for nearby retirement communities. Many residents can walk here to shop for groceries, books, and hardware—or eat at diners, pubs and coffee shops. The Southside Senior and Community Center, near the shopping center and adjacent to Thornton Murphy Park, is very active with programs, classes offered with Community Colleges of Spokane and other partners, and health-related and recreational activities.



The neighborhood contains a mix of older and newer homes, primarily owner-occupied. Styles of homes range from early 1900s Craftsman to mid-century ranchers and newer split-levels. Many residents keep attractive yards and gardens. Neighbors introduce themselves to newcomers and some even offer home-grown vegetables during plentiful seasons.



Lincoln Heights - Parkland Treasures

- Fifty-one acre Lincoln Park is a favored destination for walkers and runners with a biking path circling a pond, a natural area, and great views of the city.
- Eight-acre Thornton Murphy Park is connected via bike lanes to Lincoln Park.
- Five-acre Froggy Pond, 30th & Havana, has wetlands that absorb storm water runoff, as well as provide nature trails.
- The Ben Burr Trail connects Liberty and Underhill Parks, one mile apart, sports beautiful views of Spokane and is a great place to spot deer.
- Thirty-Fifth Avenue is a favorite neighborhood street with a tree-lined





median. The median was originally railroad right-of-way, but the railroad was never built.

- Glenrose Prairie, to the east of the neighborhood, offers local roads that are popular with bicyclists. Glenrose connects Lincoln Heights to 2 ½ mile hiking trails winding through Dept of Natural Resource and Dishman Hills land.

Lincoln Heights - Natural & Built Identity

- Altamont Hill is a defining feature that contains many beautiful historic neighborhood homes, and has been the site of a Mother's Day historic home tour. Altamont Circle was once a horseracing track. The carriage house still stands.
- Lincoln Heights shopping center anchors the neighborhood with a service and retail district, including a hardware store, drug store, bakery, craft store, restaurants, bookstores with new and used books, and movie rental stores. There are numerous places to eat in Lincoln Heights.
- There are 9 churches in Lincoln Heights and 5 schools.
- Haase's Greenhouse, a hidden treasure along 34th Avenue, is a locally owned nursery.
- Proud residential gardeners have been featured on city garden tours.
- Basalt rock outcroppings on uneven terrain provide open space for pine trees and wildlife habitat. The many rock features and ridgelines create winding or dead end streets. Ridgelines provide homes with great views.

Lincoln Heights - Neighborhood Tales

"The first night we were in our new home, we decided to go outside and sit on the front porch to enjoy the quiet night after a long day. After a few minutes chatting, we heard a rustle and looked over to see two deer about 40 feet down the sidewalk eating crab apples off our neighbor's tree. We were stunned! And that cemented the love of our new home right then and there."

– Gini Nowitzki

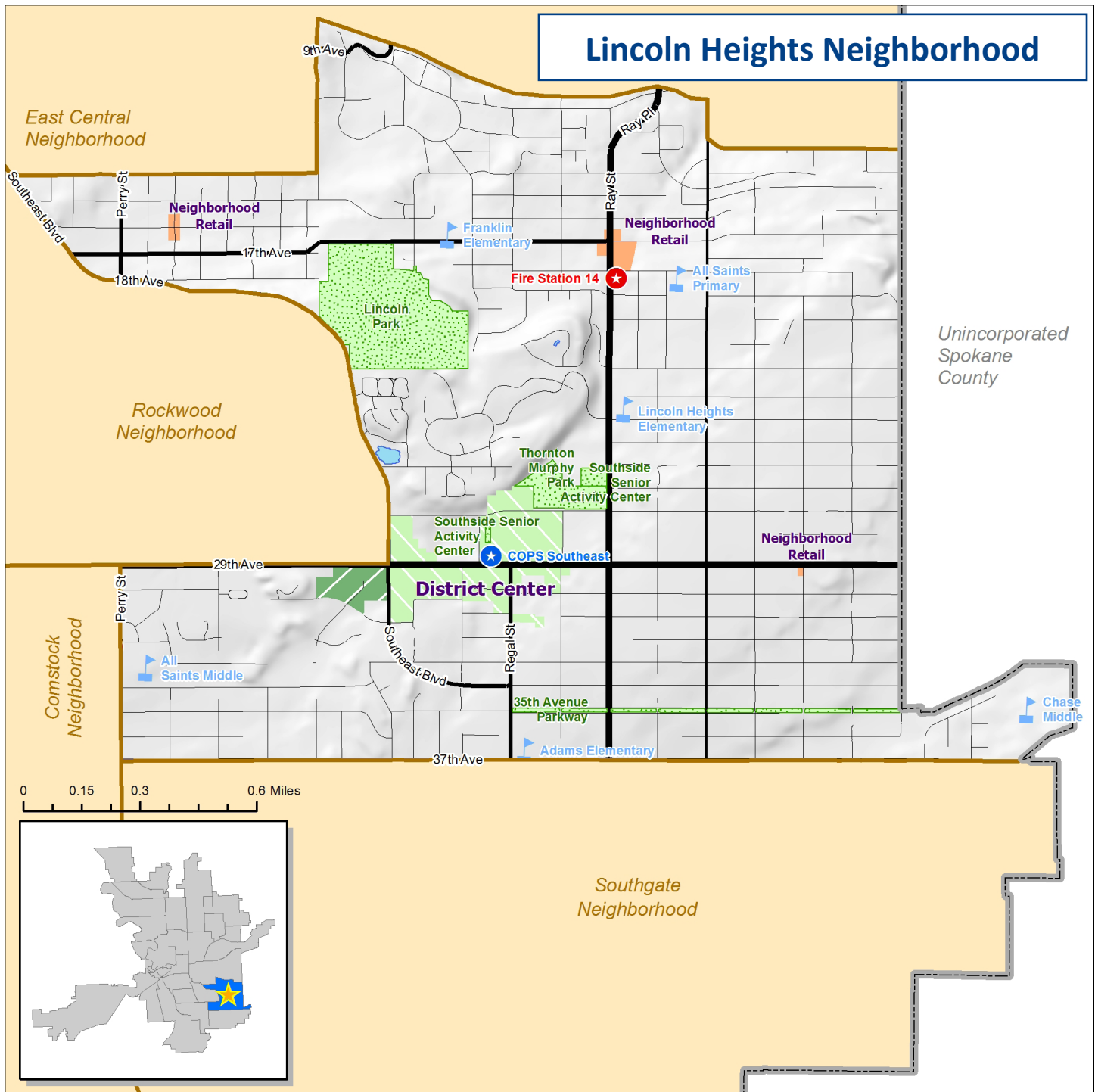
"Sharing a laundry room has allowed me to meet interesting people. The stories people share with me when doing laundry are both interesting and startling."

– Alvaro Figueroa

"We have great neighbors that look out for each other."

– Marilyn Lloyd

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood



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