Situated close to the heart of Spokane, the Logan Neighborhood has developed as one of the oldest residential neighborhoods in the community. Platted and developed between 1884 and 1889 by Sylvester and Ida Heath and the Jesuits of Gonzaga College, the area developed as a “suburb” of downtown Spokane. The pattern of wide streets and boulevard landscaping was introduced by the priests as a reflection of popular trends in Europe and cities of the eastern United States. The wide streets, in particular, served the function of parade grounds for college men enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corp. These were horse and buggy days and the generous platting accommodated the mix of pedestrian, horse and occasional “horseless” carriage with only minor conflict.

Gonzaga College was established with a land purchase in 1887. In 1892 Gonzaga College, later Gonzaga University, started to receive electricity and city water. The University has continued to grow and now is a nationally recognized, liberal arts university with an enrollment of more than 7,800 students. The Logan neighborhood has a strong tie with Gonzaga University and continues to serve as the home for faculty, staff, and students.

The McGoldrick Lumber Company was the city’s largest employer for many years. J.P. McGoldrick purchased the mill from A.M. Fox in 1905 and relocated here from Minnesota. Although the business no longer exists, the company had a strong influence on the neighborhood. The company was located adjacent to Gonzaga and on the Spokane River. Logs were floated on the river to the lumber mill. Gonzaga’s present day baseball field and Lake Arthur were all once part of the company’s operations. Mr. McGoldrick made it a point to see that all of his employees were able to own a home and was one of Spokane’s most beloved employers. A devastating fire in 1945 caused the mill’s closure the following year.

The Model Pharmacy, owned by the Armstrong family, was once featured as the first drive-through pharmacy in the United States in an industry magazine. They sold malts, nuts, and candies at the counter along with filling prescriptions and retailing other sundry goods. The family later sold the pharmacy, which then became the legendary Donut Parade.

The Logan neighborhood has evolved to contain a mix of residential structure types. Two Historic Districts lay within the neighborhood boundaries: the Mission Avenue Historic District and Desmet Avenue Warehouse District, both of which are listed on the National Historic Register. Logan Elementary is one of the founding schools of School District 81.

Life in Logan – Today

Logan boasts verdant canopies of overarching trees, four parks, three major retirement centers, the Hamilton Street Business District, two elementary schools, a high school, a university and a law school.

The Logan Neighborhood Council meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are held at Fourth Memorial Church at 2000 N Standard Street.

logan.spokaneneighborhoods.org
A competitive cost of living and close proximity to universities and downtown attract people to the Logan neighborhood. It is an established neighborhood where many enjoy peace and quiet in daily life. People sometimes bike or walk to meet their shopping or travel needs.

**Logan - Treasures**

- Many historic homes and other buildings from the early 1900s possess distinguished architectural character in the Queen Anne and Craftsman styles. These add cherished value to the Logan neighborhood.
- “The Crosby House” Bing Crosby museum at 508 East Sharp Avenue
- The Donut Parade was featured in the film Different Drummers (1993).

**Logan - Natural & Built Identity**

- The Spokane River is the most outstanding physical feature of the neighborhood. Recent development has taken advantage of showcasing the river’s qualities. The river defines the neighborhood’s south and east boundaries.
- The Division-Ruby Street corridor along the west boundary hosts regional commercial destinations in the neighborhood’s backyard.
- The Hamilton Street corridor serves as the neighborhood’s central mixed-use district, including several historic industrial and commercial buildings. Pedestrian streetscape amenities such as special paving, street lighting, street signs, and art are important components of this corridor.
- Gonzaga University is a major educational institution with many iconic structures, such as the Administration Building and St. Aloysius Church
- The Centennial trail is a favorite destination for recreation in the neighborhood, providing river views and a link between Mission Park and Gonzaga University. It crosses above Hamilton Street on an overpass that allows distant views both ways along Hamilton.
- The Iron Bridge provides a spur from the Centennial Trail and river crossing that offers a different view of the river.
Logan Neighborhood

SOURCES


Davis, H. et al. (1989). First class for 100 years: Spokane public schools.

Gonzaga University webpage, 125th Anniversary History, accessed at www.gonzaga.edu/beinspired/125/tradition.asp


Surveys of neighborhood residents conducted fall 2014.