



North Indian Trail



North Indian Trail - Days of Yore

The North Indian Trail neighborhood is located in the northwestern corner of the Spokane city limits. Its name is derived from the Indian Trail Road, an arterial that runs in a northwest direction through the neighborhood from Francis Avenue to the south and to undeveloped County land to the north. The neighborhood is mostly developed, with a few remaining open spaces. Stands of Ponderosa Pine trees remain in many parts of the neighborhood.



Indian Trail Road, once referred to as Pioneer Road and then formally named Sturman Road during the early part of the 1900s, connected the Columbia River to the Little Spokane River and was used for centuries by Native Americans who lived in the territory to the north. Trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company post that was built in the 1800s at the confluence of the Spokane River and Little Spokane River also used the road, as did pioneers, prospectors, and troopers en route to Spokane. A stagecoach ran from Spokane to Colville. It was the popular and shortest road to the northwest country.



Samuel C. Sturman was an early settler who arrived at the Little Spokane River area from North Dakota in 1885. The school that once stood at the junction of Rutter Parkway and Indian Trail, to the north of the present-day neighborhood, was known as Sturman School, and a bridge three miles above the confluence of the Little Spokane and Spokane rivers was also named after him.

The area remained rural in nature with large tracts of undeveloped land until the City annexed the area north of Francis Avenue in the 1950s, followed by extensive development of mainly single-family homes on relatively large city lots. The area grew rapidly northward over the next two decades and in the 1970s, the North Indian Trail neighborhood began its initial development with single-family homes, which continues to the present day. In 1981, the new Woodridge Elementary School opened its doors to North Indian Trail students. All of the students who attend the school are within walking range; no students are bussed.



The western edge of the neighborhood features homes overlooking the Spokane River Gorge. Residential development also features some duplexes, and apartments were built close to the 32-acre Sundance Plaza shopping complex, developed at the intersection of Indian Trail Road and Barnes Road in 2002. The shopping center serves surrounding communities including Five Mile Prairie, Rutter Parkway, Seven Mile and the rural areas beyond.



The North Indian Trail Neighborhood Council meets regularly at 7:00 PM at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8441 N Indian Trail Road

<http://www.nitnc.com>



Life in North Indian Trail – Today

This neighborhood has become a popular area for Spokane citizens to call home. It has steadily been developed, retaining much of its open, scenic appeal. A mix of citizens- families with children, singles, retirees, and professionals live here, many in newer single family homes. Many residents make the daily work commute into central Spokane on weekdays. Indian Trail Road is the major transportation corridor providing access to the area, connecting to local streets and subdivisions. A large neighborhood commercial center serves the community, located at North Indian Trail Road and West Barnes Road. Restaurants, banks, grocery, and a variety of retail stores are found here. The Indian Trail Public Library and Providence Health Care Clinic are other popular and convenient facilities. Adults and kids enjoy Pacific Park with its playground, splash ponds, and open space.



“I think the best features are the nearby open spaces like the power line corridor which goes up to the north end of Five Mile Bluff and Riverside State Park. Also close and connected to Indian Painted Rocks and the Little Spokane River Natural Area”.

-Ed Bowers

“Family oriented community.”

-Linda Gervais-Falkner



North Indian Trail - Treasures

- Pacific Park
- Vistas from ridgelines above the Spokane River Gorge to the west.

North Indian Trail - Natural & Built Identity

A diverse natural environment exists in the North Indian Trail Neighborhood. The neighborhood has an ever-changing landscape with mature pines, native grasses, hilltops, valleys and ridges. The topography and natural features have dictated where development has occurred over the last few decades. This variety of terrain brings an added distinctiveness and separation to many of the subdivisions located within the neighborhood. Some subdivisions have open views on a plateau, several exist within a forested valley, and others are built on broad, gentle side-slopes. The built environment consists primarily of single family residential developments with suburban characteristics of larger building lots, front and backyards, with mid-sized to larger homes. A variety of other housing choices exist as well including apartments, duplexes, and condominiums, all with different features and amenities. Residents here enjoy tree-lined streets and an abundance of open space and natural vegetation. The North Indian





Trail neighborhood is on the “edge”, both geographically from the City, and above the scenic river gorge below.

North Indian Trail - Neighborhood Tales

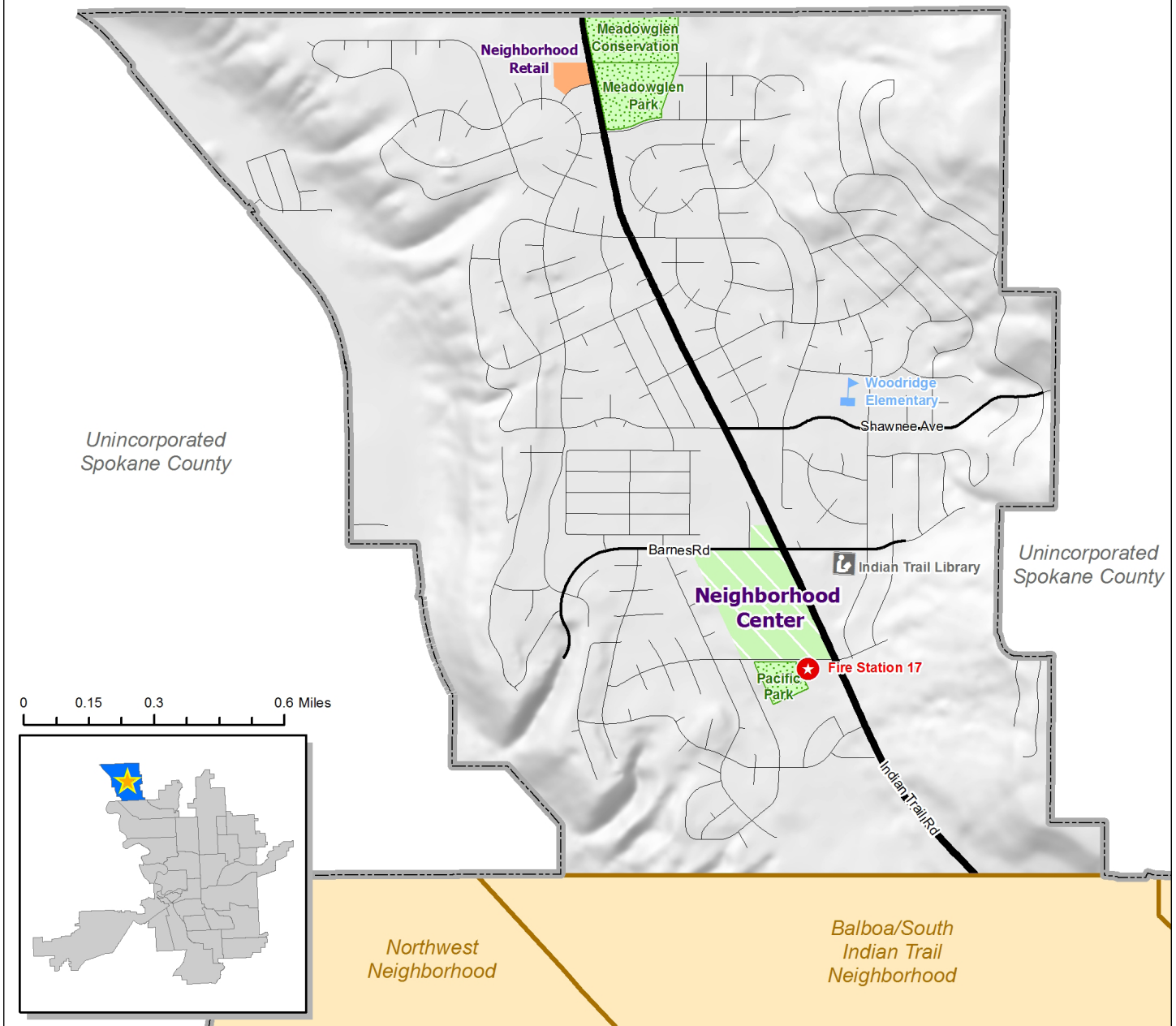
“When I was a kid Indian Trail was not half as developed as it is now. It was still out in the country, but now it has many commercial establishments and is a great place to live. You still feel somewhat outside the city but have the convenience of grocery stores, restaurants, etc.”

-Corey Blair

North Indian Trail - Annual Events or Activities

- Annual organized neighborhood yard sales.
- Wednesday night summer community picnics with live music.

North Indian Trail Neighborhood



SOURCES

"County Pioneer Recalls Early Days," Spokane Daily Chronicle, Rowland Bond, July 4, 1968.

"Pioneer Trail Is Now Scenic Country Road," The Spokesman-Review, Aubrey L. White, December 10, 1927.

"First Class for 100 Years, Spokane Public Schools, School District No. 81, 1889-1989," Spokane Public Schools, Nov. 21, 1989.

