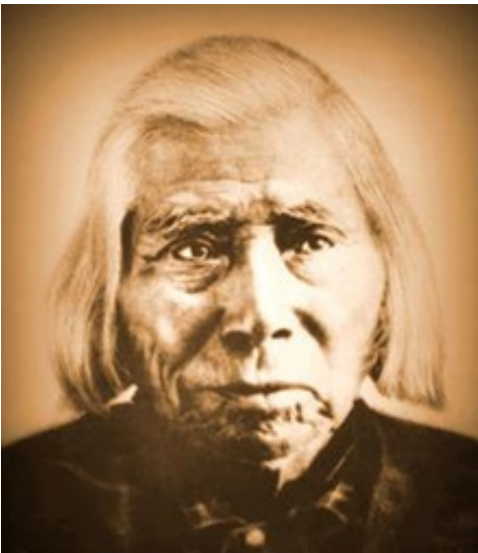




Northwest - Days of Yore

Local Native American tribes used the Spokane River on the west side of the neighborhood for fishing and winter camps for trading. On the east side of the neighborhood a thoroughfare crossed from springs located near Euclid Avenue and Maple Street to Indian Trail Road at Francis Avenue, carrying native people, trappers and early settlers between the large falls to the southeast and the Little Spokane River to the northwest. Plants with edible roots, bulbs and berries grew here. Gridded street subdivisions later replaced the native trail, but the area around the springs was purchased by the Eastern Washington Historical Society and became protected conservation park land. Rival streetcar companies extended street railways within Northwest and Driscoll Boulevards to serve the growing neighborhood.



During World War II the U.S. Army built the Baxter General Hospital, located between Assembly Street and Fairmount Memorial Park to care for wounded veterans returning to the region during World War II, with 300 buildings and 2,001 beds. Portions of this 200-acre site became the Veteran's Affairs Memorial Hospital in 1948 and Joe Albi Stadium, which originally opened as Memorial Stadium, in 1950. A nearby rope tow operated as City Ski Acres in the late 1950s.

Life in Northwest Today

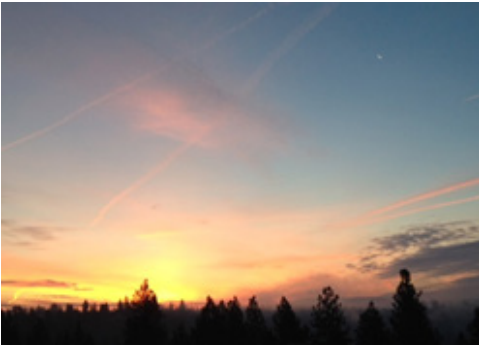
Good schools attract families, while professionals and retirees are attracted by well-built and relatively inexpensive housing along tree-lined streets, which are shady and hilly in some places. People are proud of well-kept yards. The neighborhood has tall stands of pines that articulate the horizon.

The neighborhood is described as friendly, stable, established and casual, full of hip, trendy, and established people and families. Many shop at nearby farmers' markets and get together for yard sales, block parties, and fall cider squeezes. Some neighbors proudly introduce themselves, welcome and accept newcomers, host barbecues, and generously help clear sidewalks and help with other tasks, such as lawn care, landscaping and moving furniture.



In their spare time, many people walk to Joe Albi Stadium or the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex. The stadium hosts football, Junior Bloomsday and other activities, while the sports complex features a BMX track, a skate court, soccer fields, softball fields and a perimeter walking trail. People go to parks to hike, bike, walk, and run on bike routes and trails—some of which offer terrific views of the river and city. Families visit parks, such as Loma Vista Park, to enjoy the open air or to fly a kite.

While the neighborhood is predominantly residential, there are many other isolated commercial pockets sprinkled throughout, mostly near old trolley lines, where residents go to find groceries, hardware, specialty pizza, great breakfast, cozy cafés, pubs, a bakery and an eclectic garden shop.



Northwest - Treasures

- Riverside State Park is a regional treasure. It was formed from 1933 to 1936 when the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Aubrey L. White Parkway, rock walls next to the roadway, trails, and several structures, including the swinging bridge across the river at the Bowl and Pitcher. The parkway is popular for running, bicycling and driving. A campground in the park offers real camping in the city along a beautiful river.
- Upriver from the Bowl and Pitcher, “Black Water” near the Downriver Disc Golf Course is a mellow spot with deep, dark water where folks can relax or swim in the river and view swallows burrowing in small tunnels dug into the soft, sandy riverbank.
- Along the river near Camp Seven Mile, Plese Flats is a beach suitable for easy river raft take out near parking and a picnic area.



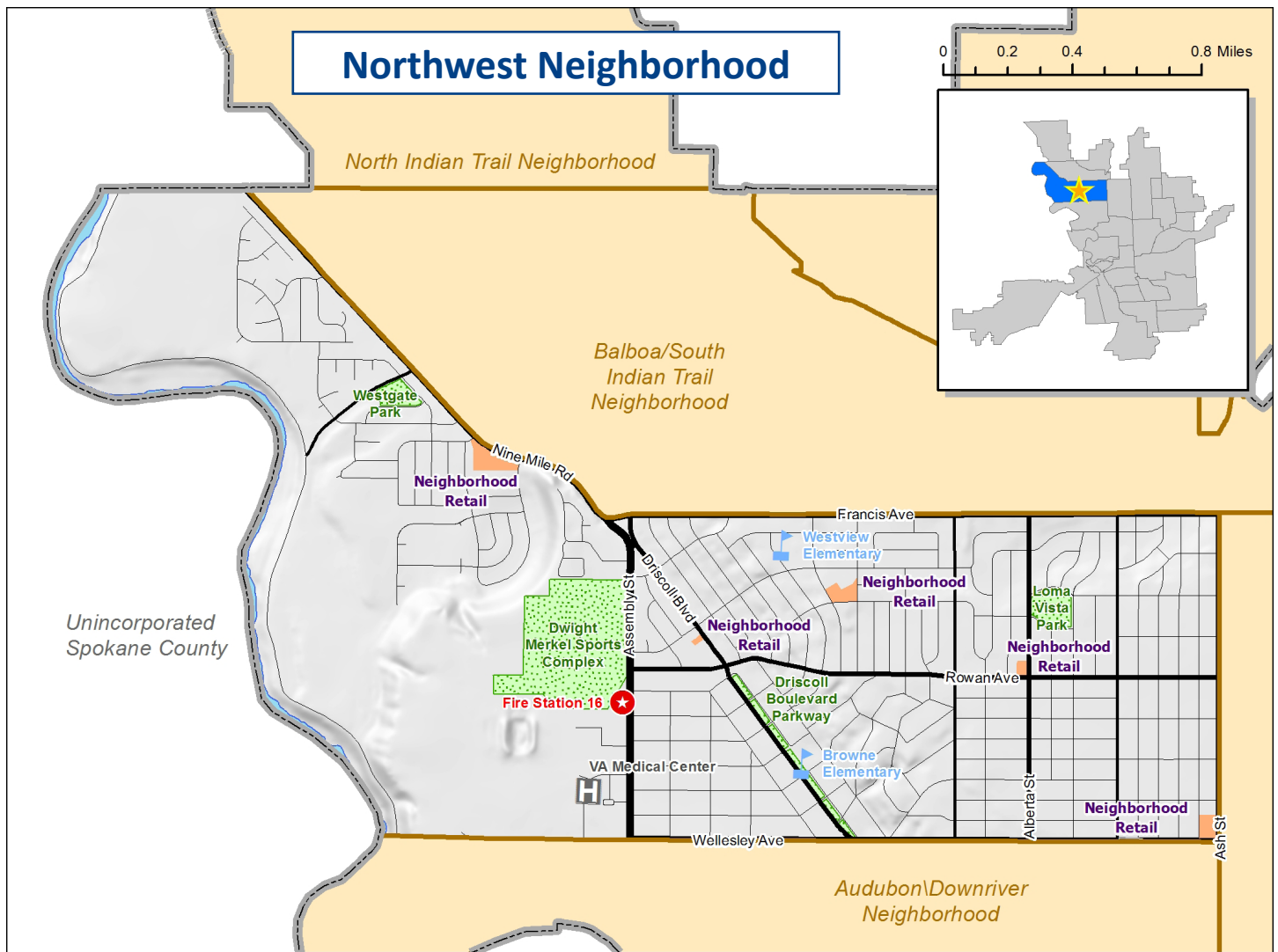
Northwest - Natural & Built Identity

- The Spokane River forms the neighborhood’s western boundary, contributing to a keen awareness of nature’s presence. River access, wildlife, hilly terrain and basalt rock define the natural environment.
- The interior of the neighborhood is characteristically flat with shaded streets.
- St. Charles Catholic Parish represents later-20th-Century architecture featuring a combined bell tower and fountain.
- Ranch style homes, brick materials, cottage style homes.
- Gridded streets give way to curvilinear pockets such as the Boulevard Park Addition near Driscoll Boulevard. Greenbelts and the bluff provide favorite destinations and great views for neighborhood walks.
- Fairmount Memorial Park contributes a quiet, peaceful location for contemplation.



Northwest - Neighborhood Tales

“On the day I moved in a neighbor brought over two bags full of fresh vegetables that he had grown in his garden.” – Justin Helm



SOURCES

- Becher, E.T. (1970). Tentative history of Drumheller Springs. Spokane Library Northwest Room.
- Belfiori, C. (2006). Spokane register of historic places nomination form: Shadle-Comstock House. Retrieved September 9, 2014 from http://properties.historicspokane.org/_pdf/properties/property-1933.pdf
- Davis, H. et al. (1989). First class for 100 years: Spokane public schools.
- Denfield, D.C. (2013). World War II Army hospitals in Washington. Retrieved August 25, 2014 from http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10111
- Drumheller Springs Conservation Area. Retrieved February 6, 2015, from <http://www.spokanecounty.org/parks/content.aspx?c=1916>
- Drumheller Springs, Spokane. Retrieved February 6, 2015, from <http://www.drumhellersprings.net/history-of-drumheller.html>
- Emerson, S.B. (2008). Shadle Park: Spokane's first "modern" school. Retrieved February 10, 2015, from <http://www.historylink.org>
- Olmsted, J.C. & Olmsted, F.L. (1908). Report of the board of park commissioners: Spokane, Wash.
- Porter, M. & Logan, C. (1998). Drumheller springs. Retrieved August 22, 2014 from <http://www.at7.us/nx/dsprings/>
- Rebstock, T.L. (n.d.). "Drumheller Springs," Spokane Historical. Retrieved August 21, 2014 from http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/102#.U_eia_IdXzg
- Riverside State Park Foundation. (n.d.). Park history. Retrieved August 22, 2014 from <https://sites.google.com/site/riversidestateparkwa/park-history>
- Surveys of neighborhood residents conducted fall 2014.