



Riverside - Days of Yore

The Riverside Neighborhood is located at the center of the City in downtown Spokane. At its heart is the central business core - the retail, cultural, visitor, and entertainment hub of Spokane and the inland northwest. The many amenities found in downtown Spokane provide Riverside neighbors with an abundance of options for living, working, and playing within their own neighborhood. The name "Riverside" is most appropriate, as it sits by the side of the scenic Spokane Falls tumbling dramatically through the downtown area.

The Spokane Falls were originally a gathering place and focus for settlement for the area's indigenous people for thousands of years, due to the fertile hunting grounds and abundance of salmon in the Spokane River. The first American settlers to the Spokane Falls arrived in 1871, and by 1881, the Northern Pacific Railway was completed, bringing major European settlement to the area and making Spokane a transportation and commercial center for the Inland Northwest region.

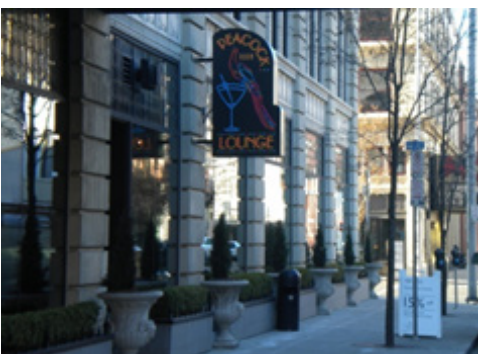


In 1889, a fire destroyed the city's downtown commercial district. In the fire's aftermath, 32 blocks of Spokane's downtown were destroyed. However, Spokane continued to grow; the fire set the stage for a dramatic building boom.

Mining, agriculture, and logging were the primary economic influences to Spokane and the downtown core over the next several decades. Spokane became home to many entrepreneurs, companies and managers. However, following World War II, downtown Spokane experienced a depression. The retail stores lost customers to the new shopping malls in the suburbs. Downtown buildings fell into disuse and disrepair. In 1959, downtown business leaders decided on a strategy to revitalize the downtown - hosting a world's fair. Expo '74 transformed the Spokane's riverfront and downtown and reinvented the urban core. The Expo site became the 100-acre Riverfront Park, containing, among other features, the United States Pavilion, the INB performing arts center, the turn-of-the-20th-century Loeffel Carousel, and the Great Northern Railway clock tower, the last remnant of the vast rail depot that was demolished for Expo '74.



The opening of the River Park Square Mall in the 1990s initiated another major downtown rebirth that included new apartments and condominiums, the building of the new Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena and expansion of the Spokane Convention Center. Other major projects include the renovation of the Davenport Hotel after being vacant for over 20 years, and the Fox Theater, now home to the Spokane Symphony. Downtown is also home to Spokane's city and county government offices and the United States Courthouse. The Monroe Street Bridge, originally built in 1888 to span the Spokane Falls, is a notable symbol of the city, long featured in the city logo. Retail stores, restaurants, pubs, theaters, and the park contribute to a lively downtown core and neighborhood life.





The downtown hosts numerous events that attract Riverside neighborhood residents, Spokane citizens, and visitors. The Arena is home to the Spokane Chiefs Hockey Club and Spokane Shock Arena Football Club. The Arena has hosted the NCAA March Madness, numerous big-name concerts, and in 2007 and 2010, the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Other downtown events include the 8-mile Bloomsday run, Hoopfest, the world's largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and Pig-Out in the Park, celebrated in Riverfront Park over the Labor Day weekend.

Life in Riverside - Today



Riverside is a Spokane neighborhood, but it's certainly not typical. It's also the historic and current heart and center of the City, including downtown Spokane. The people who live here experience concentrated, dynamic urban living. Numerous attractions for Spokane citizens and visitors alike are found here. The area is a regional center for entertainment, retail, government, cultural events, and business. In addition, over 15,000 people come and go daily, working within the Riverside Neighborhood. For those who like to be in the center of activity, this is the place to live. Spokane Transit Authority's central plaza is here serving transportation needs for the region. The growing Spokane University District and the region's major medical centers are located nearby in the adjacent neighborhoods of Logan and Cliff Cannon and both impact the Riverside Neighborhood. Life for residents in Riverside can be as diverse as they choose. Retirees can live a relatively quiet life in an apartment building or new condominium close to most of their needs, or a working professional can live and work in Riverside enjoying the proximity of the many amenities and activities throughout the week.



Riverside - Treasures

- Riverfront Park (site of 1974 World's Fair, "Expo 74") Looft Carousel, Historic Clock Tower
- Downtown Spokane; business, entertainment, cultural, and governmental center of Spokane and the region
- Spokane River/Spokane River Falls, historical beginnings of the City
- Fox Theatre
- Davenport Hotel
- Bing Crosby Theatre
- Spokane Convention Center, INB Performing Arts Center
- Centennial Trail (popular regional shared-use trail)
- Masonic Temple
- Catholic Diocese of Spokane
- Spokane Athletic Club
- Monroe Bridge
- Central Steam Heat Plant





- Review Building
- River Park Square Mall

Riverside - Natural & Built Identity

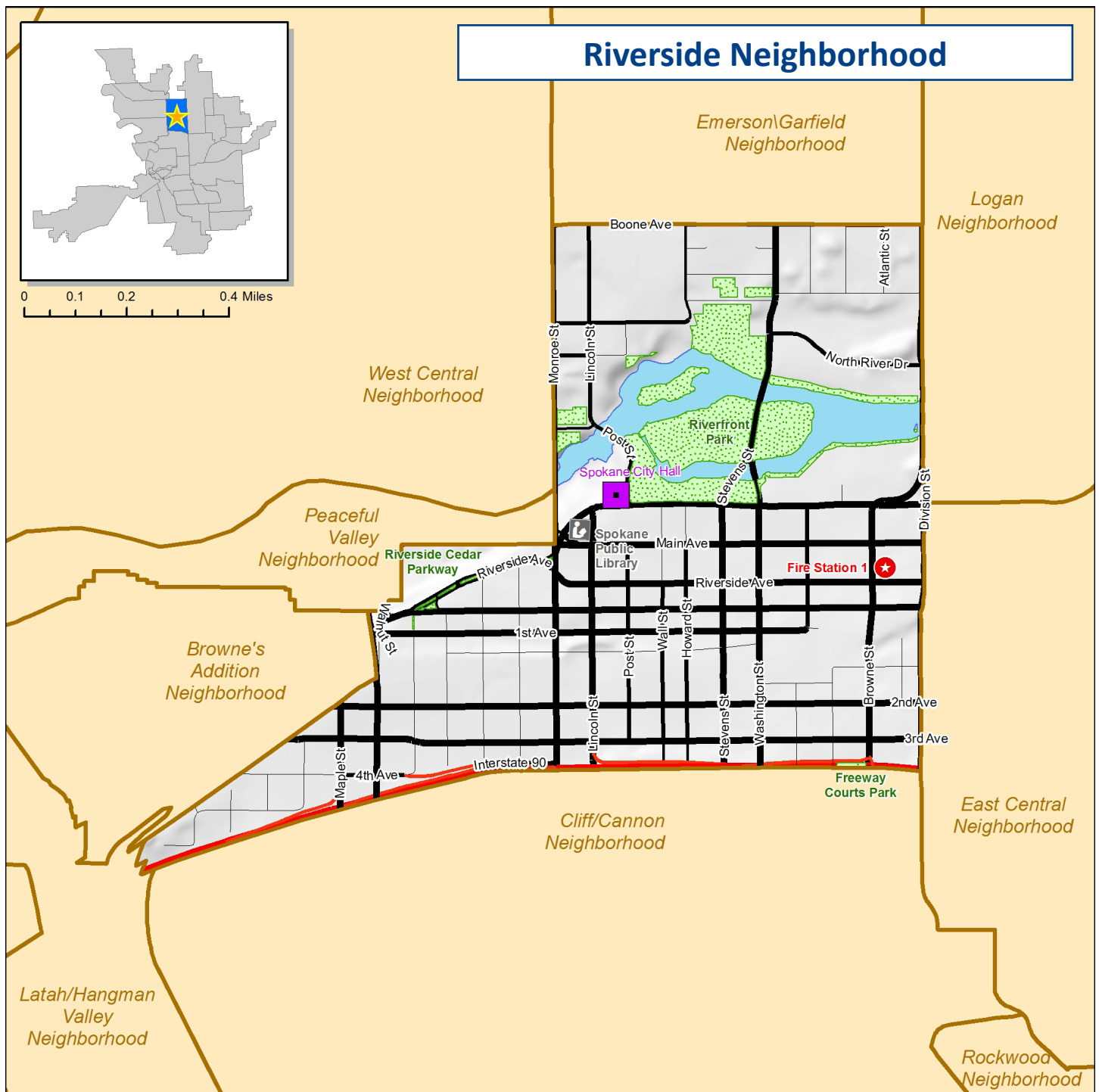
The prominent natural feature is the Spokane River and most noteworthy is the timeless, cascading Spokane River Falls above the Monroe Bridge. This includes Canada Island, bisected by the river, which is also the primary site of Expo 74. Long ago the falls section was untouched by human development. Without a bridge crossing the expanse, it was a natural barrier separating the north and south banks with a significant gain in elevation from the river below. The character of the falls remains much the same as centuries ago with great amounts of watershed runoff from the east traversing over huge rock slabs within the river bottom. Atop the river's edge is the historical beginnings, and present day heart of the City of Spokane. This epicenter, including downtown Spokane, has changed dramatically over time with concentrated, dense development, and continues to evolve and change for the future. Today, a blending of historical and modern architecture with everything in between of large-scale buildings in Riverside defines the city's core and skyline. The area now includes the Riverside Historic District, West Downtown Historic District, and the East Downtown Historic District. The riverfront edge on the south side has seen many changes from human hands. Once a Native American gathering place and prime fishing area for salmon, it became a hydropower generating location, later a major railroad transportation hub, and more recently in the 1970's was reclaimed as an extensive riverfront public open space (Riverfront Park). Spokane remains a vital rail transportation center. The elevated rail lines built in the 1930's travel through the center of Riverside carrying trains day and night. Transportation changes also included the construction of Interstate 90 on the southern boundary of this neighborhood. Built in the late 1960's during the escalation of automobile travel in the US, the elevated high speed roadway required the demolition of the corridor and many historic buildings.



Riverside - Annual Events or Activities

- Spokane Lilac Festival
- First Night Spokane
- Bloomsday
- Hoopfest
- Spokefest
- Pig Out in the Park
- Broadway plays, national touring events
- Spokane Symphony events





SOURCES

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