



# Chapter 9 - Natural Environment

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## Purpose

The purpose of the Natural Environment Chapter is to:

- Provide a series of goals and policies to identify, protect, and enhance the natural environment in and around the City of Spokane.
- Recognize the connection between a thriving natural environment and the quality of life of its residents and visitors.
- Highlight the link between the natural world and the City's economy.

## What values guided the Natural Environment chapter?

The values that are important to Spokane's future, as identified by the Citizens during preparation of the original Comprehensive Plan remain. Those include:

- Protecting and replanting street trees, trees in parks, and private trees.
- Guaranteeing good clean air and water.
- Preserving the natural environment outside the city.
- Maintaining a close connection to the outdoors, recreation, and nature areas.
- Using alternatives to personal automobiles to save energy and protect the environment.
- Recognizing the uniqueness of the four seasons and the climate.
- Recycling.
- Being responsible stewards of the environment.
- Keeping areas where wildlife live.
- Maintaining the availability of open space, golf courses, and trails.
- Maintaining tree-lined streets and the natural beauty.
- Preserving the Spokane River and Latah Creek.

## What's New?

- This chapter was reviewed by staff and minor changes were made to streamline the chapter and remove redundancies.
- Eight policies that repeated policies in other chapters were removed.

## What are the goals of the Natural Environment chapter?

### NE 1 Water Quality

Protect the Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and other water sources so they provide clean, pure water.

### NE 2 Sustainable Water Quantity

Ensure all aquifers and water sources are not diminished below sustainable recharge or flow levels.

### NE 3 Shorelines

Protect the natural state of shorelines while providing community access that does not negatively impact riparian habitats, fragile soils, and native vegetation.

### NE 4 Surface Water

Provide for clean rivers that support native fish and aquatic life and that are healthy for human recreation.

### NE 5 Clean Air

Work consistently for cleaner air that nurtures the health of current residents, children and future generations.

### NE 6 Native Species Protection

Protect and enhance diverse and healthy native species, such as plants, trees, animals, and fungi, for present and future generations and respect the ecological necessity of biodiversity.

### NE 7 Natural Land Form

Preserve natural land forms that identify and typify our region.

### NE 8 Agricultural Lands

Preserve land and provide opportunities for farming that generates produce for local markets and supports the farming economy.

### NE 9 Sustainable Economy

Enhance the natural environment to support a thriving sustainable economy.

### NE 10 Natural Environment and Employment

Create employment that enhances the natural environment.



### NE 11 Natural Areas

Designate a network of natural areas (natural areas and connecting corridors) throughout Spokane that supports native habitats and natural land forms.

### NE 12 Urban Forest

Maintain and enhance the urban forest to provide good air quality, reduce urban warming, and increase habitat.

### NE 13 Connectivity

Create a citywide network of paved trails, designated sidewalks, and soft pathways that link regional trails, natural areas, parks, sacred and historical sites, schools, and urban centers.

### NE 14 Plaza Design with Natural Elements

Develop or revitalize plazas using local nature elements, including water, vegetation, wildlife, and land forms.

### NE 15 Natural Aesthetics

Retain and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and historic sites that define the Spokane region.

### NE 16 Quality Of Life

Compile social, natural environment, and economic indicators of a healthy Spokane community on an annual basis, and compare them to prior years in order to assess Spokane's progress.

### NE 17 Natural Environment Education

Educate children and the community on how to improve Spokane's natural environment.

### NE 18 Energy Conservation

Promote the conservation of energy in the location and design of residential, service, and workplaces.

### NE 19 Flood Hazards Management

Protect life and property from flooding and erosion by directing development away from flood hazard areas.

