

April \_\_\_\_, 2017

Dear \_\_\_\_,

The city is deeply concerned by the construction of a road on the south hill bluff on April 10 and 11. We continue to gather information as quickly as possible to better understand the actions and we are reviewing policy and practice to ensure that such an action cannot occur again.

Our first priority is to assess and repair the damage. A restoration workgroup is being formed with experts and stakeholders to participate in restoration plan development. The plan will go through a permitting process with local and state agencies. Involved parties and an independent consultant are assessing the damage to inform the site restoration efforts and environmental mitigation plans. Interim measures to prevent further damage are under way.

While more time is required to determine exactly what happened, this is what we know so far:

In preparation for a three-hole youth golf course directly adjacent to the Creek at Qualchan Golf Course, the City Parks Department, Urban Forestry Department issued a permit to nonprofit The First Tee of the Inland Northwest on Jan. 20 for the removal of trees on a 6-acre site next to the driving range. The City of Spokane has no contract with The First Tee, however, a tree removal permit is commonly granted prior to a signed project contract, because it's important to know if a proposed project has tree removal permissions before finalizing.

Construction of a road, which was not discussed as part of the project, would have required permits issued by the City's Building Department. The Building Department did not receive or authorize a permit request for the construction of the road. The Parks Department did not have a bid or contract with the contractor to construct a road, or tree removals along the road. There was no plan, designs or contracts presented to approve for the road.

As we continue the discovery process I want to assure you that the original proposed three-hole youth golf course is on hold. We are committed to protect and enhance our treasured park lands within the City of Spokane.

Thank you for your passion for our parks. We will continue to provide updates on the project as more details become available.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Sanders  
City Administrator