



# Monthly Executive Summary July 2009

City of Spokane  
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Director of Parks and Recreation  
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### **Department highlights for the month include:**

The biggest highlight of the month has to go to the opening of the Shadle and A.M. Cannon swimming pools. They have not disappointed. The community has really taken to them and the 12 Splash Pads scattered throughout the City. They have been great respites from the hot weather we have been having. Everyone involved has to be proud of these accomplishments and in some ways the Park Board has to feel vindicated in their decision to build six pools and 12 Splash Pads at the same time.

The Department also held 6 workshops associated with the planning process for the Department's Master Plan, "A Roadmap for the Future". The consultants are happy with the results and are analyzing the information and are now preparing for the next phase which will begin at the end of September.

Fish Lake Trail construction has started and has generated much excitement through the biking community. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Loeff Carrousel generated a number of side stories that made the event an unforgettable experience.

And once again the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend was fantastic, one to write home about by visitors to our community. Well Done.

Under extreme heat conditions that followed us all month, the crews at Parks Ops, Riverfront Park, Manito, Finch, Moore Turner, Urban Forestry and the Golf courses produced a great product in all of our parks and provided a great green experience for our residents.

A number of local businesses and individuals stepped up and provided financial support for the swimming scholarship program. As a result there has not been a single child left behind that need support. Everyone that supported this program needs to be proud that we take care of our own.

### **Golf/Administration:**

- On July 16, 2009 Esmeralda Golf Course hosted the Golf Clinic for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Veteran's Wheelchair Games, the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. Esmeralda staff gave lessons and hosted athletes playing a few holes of golf. To see videos visit <http://www.pva.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=12183>.
- There was a vandalism incident at Downriver Golf Course this month. The initial damage estimate was approximately \$15,000 for golf carts. Some minor damage was done to the course however nothing the general public will see.
- On Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> there was an attempted robbery at Esmeralda. Two men with a sawed off shot gun entered the Pro Shop as three employees were getting ready to leave for the night. The assailants attempted to get money out of the safe, the employees did not have the combination so the assailants left with some loose change out of the cash drawer. The police took the drawer for prints. According to the police our employees handled this difficult situation extremely well. No one was physically harmed however we are attempting to deal with the emotional impact.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rosauers Open, July 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, was a big success. We received extremely positive comments about the course and the event.
- Junior lessons and tournament series are going well. Numbers remain consistent with previous years even though the economy is struggling.
- We are getting ready for the Spokane City Championship August 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at Esmeralda, Downriver and Qualchan respectively.
- Overall the courses remain in excellent shape and are doing well.

### **Finance:**

- Went live with the new membership pass and point of sale system at the first two aquatic centers. It was a concerted joint effort with the MIS Department and Aquatics staff which resulted in a very successful implementation. As with all new systems, adjustments need to be made, but it is working well for us.
- Purchase Orders/Accounts Payable Stats – June: \$5,092,069 in payments processed; 248 invoices paid; 90 purchase orders issued
- Payroll Stats – June: 68 temp/seasonal hired; 13 temp/seasonal terminated; Payroll – 90 permanent, 584 temp/seasonal; 35 pay changes; 42 Pending Personnel Action Authorizations; 3 OTJ injuries.

- Cash Receipts Stats – June: 100 deposits made; \$80,727.77 on-line registration; \$17,440.04 front desk registration; \$574,366.82 RFP deposits; \$15,714.27 NEYC deposits; \$7,975.00 Park Operations deposits; \$388,628.00 Golf deposits; \$2,350.00 Albi deposits; \$69,437.97 Misc. deposits.
- Budget Transfers – 5
- Contracts Processed – 13
- City Utilities \$154,000.00
- Accounts Receivable Invoices – 18
- NSF Check Processing – 3

#### **Marketing/Communications:**

- Sixteen news releases including: Applications Available for Sponsored Youth Pool Passes; AutoRow Dealers to Contribute \$15 per Vehicle Sold; Foundation Still Needs Funding for Swim Fees, Suits, & Lessons; Jason Mraz to Play Lilac Bowl; Rosauers Open July 15 – 19; Avista Helps Kids Swim; Corbin Kids Archaeology Camp; Camp Sekani Adventure Day; Transformers Continues Strong in IMAX; Carrousel Celebration in Just Five More Days; More Lifeguards Needed for Pools; Need Attendees for Parks Master Plan Sessions; Carrousel Grand Celebration & Dedication; Riverfront Park Ongoing Specials for Summer; Southside Center BBQ on Friday; SWAT Team Demo in Riverfront Park August 4<sup>th</sup> – JUST A DEMO.
- Continuing to work with BHW1 and departmental divisions on web site redesign.
- Completed taping of program #4 Urban Forestry; 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Carrousel of the TV show “*Walk in the Park with Barry Russell*”. Other planned segments include: Program #5 (August) Golf; Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens. Program #6 (September) Duncan Gardens at peak; Dog Park. Program #7 (October) Therapeutic Recreation; Friends of the Centennial Trail. Program #8 (November) Fish Lake Trail Update; Sekani Update. Program #9 (December) Holiday Lights at Conservatory; Program #10 (January) TBD.

#### **Park Operations:**

- Parks have been very busy this month. This included a number of large events including the Perry Street Fair, Hillyard Festival, softball tournaments, and concerts at Manito, Audubon, and Coeur d’Alene Parks. Picnic Shelters and splash pads have also seen very heavy use.
- Staff has been working on a number of equipment replacement purchases. Most of these are mowers and park utility vehicles. Contracts for janitorial services and alarm system monitoring have also been renewed.
- The fiber optic communications link to Manito Park has been completed. Surveillance cameras have also been installed and monitoring has begun. A section of the asphalt road in front of the Park Bench Café has also been replaced. The road repair got more complicated than expected due to underground water and clay and an insufficient gravel base beneath the asphalt.
- Staff has been working with FEMA representatives on damage to Park Operations buildings from the heavy snow and ice this past winter. Damages are mostly cosmetic and not terribly expensive but it will be nice to get reimbursed for repairs.
- Urban Forestry staff has been doing some tree pruning in various park areas. Tree removal and pruning permits and consultation have also had a lot of activity this month.
- The Comstock irrigation project is nearly complete. The park has been getting watered from the new system although it is not yet fully automated and booster pumps are not yet functional. There has been a great deal of public concern about this project and protecting the trees in the park. Outside of this concern, the irrigation system is well constructed and will be a great addition to the park for many years to come. Site restoration has begun and, once some electrical connections are completed, the system should be fully functional sometime in early August.

#### **Planning/Project Management:**

- The Fish Lake Trail project was bid and awarded this month. The contractor got the project underway immediately starting with grading the trail at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the existing paving

completed to Scribner Road. The railroad bridge over Milton Street has been removed and the area is being graded up to where the existing rail bed crosses the freeway and the next active rail line. Both abandoned bridges will be refurbished with new decking and safety railing. The trail head portion of the project located at Melton will feature a restroom, parking lot, drinking fountain, bike rack and landscaping. An information kiosk will be provided that will display a map of the Fish Lake Trail and other related areas that are located nearby.

- The A.M. Cannon picnic shelter is underway with columns and slab being installed. The shelter will be a nice addition to the park. The shelter will feature a potable water hydrant and security lighting. BBQ stands will be placed on the parameter of the shelter and the shelter roof will match the existing restroom's roof. The project will be completed by the end of August.
- The picnic tables have been installed in Audubon Park. The benches will be in next week as well as the trash can holders.
- Tables and benches will be place in Whittier Park as part of neighborhood fund raising effort that is being matched with a grant from the Spokane Park Foundation. This work will be completed by the end of August.
- A new scout project is being proposed by a young man on the south side. In his proposal, the young man wants to map the existing bike trails that are located off of High Drive. The information will be placed in a kiosk and a related series of signs will provide trail etiquette, trail use and prohibitions such as cutting off of the existing trails and any new trails construction.

#### **Recreation/Entertainment Services:**

- All-City Senior Center Picnic at Manito Park hosted over 200 seniors and featured entertainment, white elephant bingo, and tours to the Manito gardens and Japanese gardens.
- Park and Recreation is on Twitter and Facebook.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Sekani Adventure Day was hosted at Camp Sekani. Spokane Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition and Outthere Magazine allowed over 150 people of all ages to try outdoor activities and explore local outdoor areas close to home.
- "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" opened at the IMAX Theatre on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Riverfront Park produced the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration for a second year. This was a two day event with activities, music, food booths and fireworks. New activities included an outdoor movie, a comedy theatrical production along with limited reserved seating on the Opera House steps.
- On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Riverfront Park hosed the Carrousel Centennial Celebration, a Thunderbird Car Show, the Spokane Indians 8K race and the Veteran's Affairs Wheelchair Games Motorized Relay.
- Corbin Art Center added a new Paleontology Camp this summer to focus on popular dinosaur projects and prehistoric fossils.
- "Outdoor for All" came from Seattle with adaptive bikes and kayaks as part of a "No Child Left Inside" grant for kids in Therapeutic Recreation Services' Funshine Day Camp.
- Therapeutic Recreation Services had 30 unified teams in Hoopfest.