

January 14, 2010 Monthly Highlights: Gary Lawton, President

Spokane Parks and Recreation is celebrating both the US Figure **Skating** Championships being held in Spokane and January as National Skating Month with all sorts of activities in the Ice Palace at Riverfront Park. On Saturday, January 18th, Group Health Cooperative is providing FREE rental skates from 9 – 11 am. All ages and abilities are welcome.

As we have previously reported, the Spokane Parks and Recreation department is currently conducting an ambitious, comprehensive organizational assessment process that varies from past planning efforts for the department. One of the intents of the process is to insure sustainable parks and recreation services for Spokane residents. In January our consultant will be meeting with members of the business community, city leadership, community assembly members and Parks and Recreation service users. The major outcome of this process will be a master plan that will help guide decision making in the coming years. You can find more information about this “**Roadmap to the Future**” planning process on our web site, www.spokaneparks.org

The first three trees in Spokane nominated to receive the designation “Heritage Status” are an American elm, an apricot, and a horse chestnut located in Pioneer Park in the Marycliff/Cliff Park Historic District. In December the Urban Forestry Tree Committee approved listing the trees as the first on the new **Heritage Tree Register**. This new recognition program reinforces the idea that trees are one of the key components of Spokane’s unique character and sense of place. Championing Heritage Tree Preservation and the Urban Forestry Program are positive steps for increasing awareness of Spokane’s valuable urban canopy. For more information on this program please see the Urban Forestry web site, www.spokaneurbanforestry.org

If fitness is part of your new year’s resolutions but you haven’t quite gotten started on a program, we’ve got a great idea for you. It’s called **ZUMBA Fitness** and you can try one session for free at one of twelve classes at six different locations in the city beginning January 16th. ZUMBA combines great music with a party atmosphere, but mostly the staff says it’s “exercise in disguise!” Everyone is welcome to attend the first day of these three-to-six week classes. No registration is required for the first day. Just show up and give it a try. For specifics on dates, times and locations please call 625-6200.

On the giant screen at the **IMAX Theatre** in Riverfront Park you’ll find a great family film called “Journey into Amazing Caves.” Follow along with two experienced caving experts as they explore unusual locales including ice caves in Greenland and underwater caves in the jungles of Mexico. This film shows Friday, Saturdays and Sundays with five showings each day. For a schedule or more information please go to the web site, www.spokaneriverfrontpark.com

Riverfront Park is now featuring a special “**Early Bird Discount Sale**” on 2010 Summer Season Passes. Just \$33.99 plus tax now through April 4th. The price goes up to \$41.99 plus tax after that. Some restrictions apply.

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