

Park Board September 8, 2011



These are the President's Highlights for September 8, 2011.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011

YMCA Site Restoration



Let's start out with the former YMCA restoration project.

We are happy to report that everything is tracking right on schedule.

In this photo you see the site with City Hall (center) in the background.

A.M. Landshaper received the contract for the restoration and has been working quickly to fill the hole and shape the area.

The slopes are near final grade and work will begin next week on pathways and rock placement .

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Trees & Shrubs for Former YMCA Site



And there's good news regarding trees and shrubs for the site.

Urban Forester Angel Spell has received a commitment from The Lands Council to plant a variety of native trees and shrubs at the YMCA restoration site this fall, at no cost to the Parks Department. The Lands Council trees are seedlings and will have greater success when planted in the fall, especially the Ponderosas.

Also, Nancy MacKerrow of The Susie Forest has committed to plant trees next spring, paid for through donations. The Susie Forest trees will be 2-inch caliper or larger landscape tree stock from the City's nursery.

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Our Win Big promotion is continuing through September 24 with lots of great prizes.

If you're a trivia buff or good at scavenger hunts this could be right up your alley.

See our web site or our Facebook page for details.

Prizes include a mountain bike, iPads, and gift certificates.

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10,000 Ponderosa Pines.
500 Volunteers.
1 Day.

“The Lands Council-
Reforest Spokane Day”

One of 20 Finalists in Tom’s Of Maine’s
50 States For Good Challenge



VOTE TODAY!

See our web site for
details.

“The Land Council’s - Reforest Spokane Day project is one of 20 finalists in the Tom's of Maine's “50 States for Good” challenge.

We need everyone to vote for the project for it to win.

Spokane deserves this - and Spokane CAN win this!

You can vote once a day through September 13. See the link on our web site and on our Facebook page. Please keep on voting!

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Moose on the loose at Qualchan

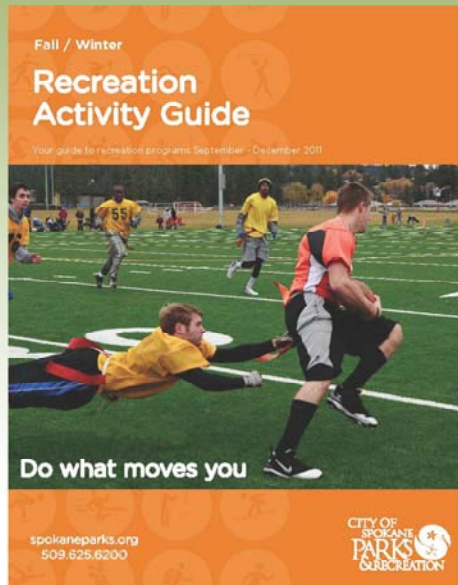
Here's something you don't see everyday.

This picture was taken August 5th in the pond between the 11th green and 12th tee box at Qualchan Golf Course.

The photographer, **Justin Kuhlmann**, works as a seasonal in the Pro Shop.

Wow - What a photo, Justin!

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Sign up on-line now
www.spokaneparks.org

We are ready to sign you up!

The 2011 Fall/Winter Activity Guide has arrived and is now available on-line.

You'll find a whole new line-up of activities and classes for you and your family to enjoy in the upcoming months.

And if you don't see what you're looking for be sure to check back regularly as new classes continue to be added.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011

Taxpayers:

We need your help to protect your parks.

Precious budget dollars that could be going into new features and maintenance are being channeled into significant vandalism repair and graffiti removal.

This year is one of the worst.

We also want to provide information that we typically don't think about when planning budgets and determining new projects.

It's vandalism and graffiti.

Precious budget dollars that could be going into new features and maintenance have to be channeled into significant vandalism repair and graffiti removal.

This year is one of the worst.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011

Specifically this year in Riverfront

Carrousel windows smashed: \$3,000 to replace.

Sugar Shack has been broken into 3-5 times this year and needed repairs, as did the Carrousel Grille.

The Red Wagon is a near daily graffiti target.

SkyRide cars and bathroom stalls have been etched into at a cost of \$700 a year.

Flowers pulled out the day after they are planted at a cost of \$300 a year.

Additionally there are prevention costs such as security systems, cameras and the Park's own security officers.



Mayor Verner met recently with Parks staff to discuss what could be done to help curb the destruction.

In Riverfront Park alone an estimated \$30,000 a year is spent for staff and materials to repair vandalism and remove graffiti. On the screen you can see the 2011 list so far:

- **Carrousel windows** smashed: \$3,000 to replace.
- **Sugar Shack** has been broken into 3-5 times this year and needed repairs, as did the Carrousel Grille.
- **The Red Wagon** is a near daily graffiti target.
- **SkyRide cars and bathroom stalls** have been etched into at a cost of \$700 a year.
- **Flowers pulled out** the day after they are planted at a cost of \$300 a year.
- **Additionally** there are prevention costs such as security systems, cameras and the Park's own security officers.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Graffiti removal at the Hillyard Skate Park

Park Operations estimates \$50,000 a year in materials and supplies related to vandalism with money also spent on security systems and patrols.

That figure could also be substantially higher as we are now being more diligent in tracking staff time related to vandalism.

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Shadle Park Play Structure – August 28th

This burnt-out playground structure at Shadle Park was discovered the morning of Sunday, August 28. Police and Fire are investigating.

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Just in the last few days in August

That play equipment at Shadle destroyed by fire could cost an estimated \$50,000 to replace

Picnic tables at Logan were destroyed

A garbage can from Fairview was stolen and smashed into neighbor's cars and ALL the sprinkler heads in the park were broken off

And... Police were called in to break up a large beer party in Manito, in addition to several more minor incidents.

Just to give you some more examples -- in the last few days in August:

That play equipment at Shadle destroyed by fire could cost an estimated \$50,000 to replace

Also that weekend....

Picnic tables at Logan were destroyed

A garbage can from Fairview was stolen and smashed into neighbor's cars and ALL the sprinkler heads in the park were broken off

And... Police were called in to break up a large beer party in Manito, in addition to several more minor incidents.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Here's what the public can do to help

Be aware & report suspicious behavior

The Spokane Department of Emergency Management coordinates the "See Something, Say Something" Campaign.

Report suspicious behavior:
(509) 477-2204

Report a crime:
(509) 456-2233

Crime Check 456-2233
Need to report a CRIME?

Here's what the public can do to help:

Be aware & report suspicious behavior

The Spokane Department of Emergency Management coordinates the "**See Something, Say Something**" Campaign.

Report suspicious behavior:
(509) 477-2204

Report crimes to Crime Check:
(509) 456-2233

Also.....

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Report park vandalism and graffiti to Parks Operations so the Parks and Recreation Department can do its job in keeping our facilities safe and clean.

(509) 363-5455

Report park vandalism and graffiti to Parks Operations so the Parks and Recreation Department can do its job in keeping our facilities safe and clean.

Here's the number to call: (509) 363-5455

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Mirror Pond in Manito Park

Turning to a more pleasant subject...

This is a beautiful time of year to take a stroll in any of our parks.

Here you see Mirror Pond in Manito Park.

As tempting as it may be, we are again encouraging the public NOT to feed the wild ducks on the pond.

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Birds on this pond are wild.

Please help us keep them that way.



Signage at the pond explains why bread is not a good thing for ducks.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Learn more about the ducks and other birds that inhabit Mirror Pond

We encourage you to learn more about the ducks and other birds in the park, and we've installed signs that provide additional information.

So, PLEASE don't feed the ducks!

Become a "duck watcher," not a "duck feeder."

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



It seems just yesterday that we were promoting summer activities in Riverfront Park. Now the Park is offering a new Fall Special.

Just \$15 per person for a great package of attractions including showings on the Giant Screen IMAX, Carrousel rides, mini golf and much more!

See the web for details.

And a reminder that the **Ice Palace** opens for the season **October 19th**.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



The New Gathering Place Monument in Chief Garry Park

On August 24th the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the City of Spokane dedicated the new Chief Spokane Garry Monument in Chief Garry Park.

Those in attendance included Spokane Tribal Council members, descendents of Spokane Garry and the Mayor of Spokane.

The monument was designed by Land Expressions with significant input from Spokane Tribe members of all ages.

The project was funded with help from the Spokane Park Board, the Parks Foundation, a variety of private donors and significant in-kind support from labor unions and neighborhood volunteers.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 2011



Youth Baseball

“What’s the status and when can we play on those fields?”

Here’s an update on our Youth Baseball fields

We know there are lots of kids and teams eager to use these new fields.

Typically it takes a year or more to establish a new field. Our grass was planted in late summer and early fall of last year.

The good news is that we believe that some of the fields have grown enough to tolerate light foot traffic and are ready for casual play, but no scheduled game play.

The two fields that fit that profile are Underhill and Liberty. And so in the next few days we will be removing the fencing from those two fields.

We plan to take the remaining fences down later this fall and to start allowing **scheduled use at all fields next spring.**

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Where are the fields located?

Two new youth baseball fields at Underhill Park

One at Liberty Park

Three at Chief Garry Park

Two at B.A. Clark Park

One at the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex

We will be scheduling all of these fields for play in the spring.

We appreciate the public's patience in helping us continue to build and maintain great facilities for everyone.

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