



# Monthly Executive Summary June 2010

City of Spokane  
Leroy Eadie  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
July 12, 2010

### **Department highlights for the month include:**

- On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Park's staff had the opportunity to participate in the A.M. Cannon Park ribbon cutting for the new picnic shelter. The West Central Neighborhood voted to use their Community Development Funds to build the shelter. Other park improvements include repair of the tennis courts, a new basketball court, and barbecue pits.
- Park's staff held a pre-submittal conference for the Bosch Lot Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of the meeting was to answer questions from potential RFP responders. It appeared there were at least three interested groups, including the Spokane Tribe.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> Park's staff reconvened the Under the Freeway Skateboard Park Stakeholder Committee. The goal of the Committee is to determine what to do with the existing facility.
- The Parks Bond Citizen Advisory Committee met on 29<sup>th</sup> to get an update on the Bond financials and the August 7<sup>th</sup> Dwight Merkel Sports Complex Grand Opening.
- Dwight Merkel Sports Complex is coming along nicely, with most of the major improvements completed. Bouten Construction is now focused on the finishing touches.
- Construction has begun on the 9 youth baseball fields (1 @ Dwight Merkel, 2 @ B.A. Clark, 3 @ Chief Garry Park, 2 @ Underhill Park, and 1 @ Liberty Park) that are being funded by the Park Bond. Those fields will be available for play in spring 2011.

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

- *ArtFest 2010* "Make It Art" activities were held Friday, June 4, Saturday, June 5 & Sunday, June 6 at Coeur d'Alene Park. The gross revenue received for the department from the children's activities was \$2,935.45.
- *Hoopfest 2010* went off very smoothly. It was perfect weather for the event. Park revenue was down from last year but up compared to the previous two years. Last year's Hoopfest weekend revenue was skewed due to higher-grossing revenue from a new "Hollywood" IMAX film and an uptick in parking revenue from an Arena event.
- Mike Aho organized a trail build day on June 12 that 50 people attended to help on the trail from Dwight Merkel to Riverside State Park. Next trail work days will be July 10 and August 1 as we get ready for the August 7 opening.
- The city senior fundraiser, the Spokane Civic Theater performance of *Annie Get Your Gun* was a great success. 200+ attended the event. Park Place Retirement Community was a major sponsor the evening providing the food and door prizes. Staff from all the city senior centers helped out with the event.

### **Golf/Administration:**

- Due to the exceptional rainfall in June and the last part of May our great start had a slight hiccup. Overall our rounds are still better than this point in 2009. We need to be cautiously optimistic however as our June numbers have not posted and will no doubt be behind June of 2009. If the weather turns and we have a great July and August we should be able to maintain our average rounds.
- We had a very unexpected event at Downriver. The high winds on two separate occasions brought down a total of twelve very large pine trees. The entire root system was torn from the turf. With some help from Tree Specialists the downriver staff did an excellent job of clearing the course so play could resume. The dedication of this staff saved the department thousands of dollars in removal costs. We are working with SNAP and hoping to donate the wood to families in our community.
- We have completed a number of projects and moving forward with a few others. The bridge by #17 green at Qualchan had been repaired as well as new curbing installed on hole #13 and hole #18. The new steps and railing project was completed at Esmeralda as well as a new south entrance to the clubhouse. Staff is working with potential contractors for the reconstruction of the sand traps at Indian Canyon. Although the planning and potential purchase of the sand is taking place now the construction will not take place until fall.

**Finance:** Report not available.

**Marketing/Communications:**

- Twenty news releases including: All Community Center Fundraiser; Name the Mascot Contest; ArtFest – Art for Kids; Live Music – Park Bench Café on Fridays; Help Build Trail from NW Spokane to Riverside State Park; Centennial Trail Designated a National Recreation Trail; Fund for Kids at ArtFest; Invitation to Liberty Aquatic center Ribbon-cutting; Friends of Manito Plant Sale; Summer Hours of Operation-Riverfront Park; Trail Work Party – to connect Merkel & Riverside state Park; Liberty Aquatic Center Art; Riverfront Summer Hours Begin This Weekend; Reminder – Friends of Manito Plant Sale on June 12; How to Apply for Sponsored Swim Passes; Bosch Lot Bidders Conference; Youth Baseball Update – Construction Underway; Summer Parkways; Say Hello to Parker Our New Mascot; Fourth of July in Riverfront Park.
- Due to a very tight budget we are cancelling the Bright Cove service which is not being used to its full potential at this time. Bright Cove is used to add and play video clips on the web. We would hope to bring this service back in the 2011 budget when more time can be devoted to video production for the web sites. We continue to work out bugs in all four websites. Near daily additions and edits to the sites are being made by staff in all divisions, with marketing efforts aimed at increasing participants to sign-up for programs and classes via the web and our Active program.
- “Save the Date, August 7” postcards have been emailed and snail-mailed to 309 businesses and individuals who have had a hand in the development of the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.
- We are beginning work on site signage and donor recognition.
- Printed invitation to the August 7<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening will be distributed July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The July “Walk in the Park” program will feature “Summer in Riverfront Park” (Craig Butz interviews Dale Larsen) and Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens (Lynn Mandyke interviews Richard Hartlage, the landscape designer for the restoration who plans to submit the gardens for a national award).
- Key Upcoming Dates:

Fourth of July Celebration	Jul 3 & 4
Sekani Adventure Day	10-Jul
Summer Parkways-1 (also on August22)	11-Jul
Rosauers Open (golf)	Jul 14 & 15
Splash Pad at Merkel Neighborhood Park opens	1-Aug
Activities at Merkel	August 1 - 7
Dwight Merkel Complex Grand Opening & Celebration	7-Aug

### **Park Operations:**

- There are a lot of people utilizing Spokane parks this summer. Finding space on open dates to schedule events has been challenging. This has also been impacted by large construction projects at popular parks including Shadle, Liberty, Chief Garry, BA Clerk, Underhill and Merkel. We are also getting more complaints about congested parking, especially around Shadle Audubon, High Bridge and parts of Manito.
- Park Operations staff assisted with some set up for Artfest and Hoopfest. These organizations are good about reimbursing the department for the cost of these services. Artfest was held in Coeur d’Alene Par the first park of June on an expanded site.
- It seems that we are experiencing higher than normal levels of vandalism in parks this year. There has been lots of graffiti to deal with along with damage to restroom fixtures, irrigations systems, signage and turf.
- Staff has been working with contractors on locating and isolating water lines and other utilities to allow for the ball diamond construction projects to proceed.
- Spokane Public Schools has started construction of their athletic fields in Shadle Park. Along with other improvements, this project will automate and separate irrigation from the rest of the park. Restoration of the Water Department’s reservoir in Shadle Park has been completed. Park staff repaired damage the irrigation and turf caused by the construction and will be reimbursed by the contractor for the cost of the repair work.
- After a successful educational campaign a couple of years ago, there are some problems with people feeding the ducks at Manito surfacing again. Unfortunately, some people choose to ignore

- the obvious signage and reasons for trying to stop this activity. Hopefully some renewed efforts at educating the public on this issue will help.
- There have been some concerns about protecting wildlife in and around Cannon Hill Pond as well. Some recently installed signage seems to be helping some.
  - We are receiving lots of complaints about irresponsible dog owners at many park locations. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any enforcement for leash laws or cleaning up after pets and citizens are getting very frustrated. There are hopes that a new dog park will lessen this problem some.
  - Staff assisted with finalizing and RFP and equipment purchases for maintaining the Merkel Sports Complex. This is a very significant addition to our park inventory with some very specialized maintenance needs.

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

- Currently working the following Eagle Scout projects:
  - Recreation area at the hydro plant below the dam.
  - Clearing and rehabilitating trails at the Arboretum.
  - Rehabilitating the softball diamond at Mission Park.
  - Placing mile marker on the Fish Lake Trail.
  - Bench and sign construction at Upper Lincoln walking and bike trail.
  - Interpretive sign and map for the High Drive Trails.
  - Trail work at Ben Burr Park.
- The park furniture installation at Logan Peace Park has been completed. A recessed area has been cast into the new concrete for a school/neighborhood art project.
- Waiting on delivery of park furniture for the Fairview Park furniture installation.
- The site has been selected for the basketball court to be built with Community Development funds at Mission Park. The court will meet HoopFest specifications and the plans are being drafted from the HoopFest court format.
- Commemorative plaques for the new Aquatic Centers have been ordered. Price quotes have been received for installation of the pool dedication plaques from the demolished pools which will also be installed alongside the commemorative plaques at the Aquatics Centers.
- Two commemorative benches have been ordered for installation at Comstock Park and the High drive view pullout. The benches were donated. The installation is being done by private individuals.
- The pancake shelter for Polly Judd Park has been funded. An architect has been contracted to design and supervise construction of the shelter.
- The lights have been ordered for Corbin Park. Contractors who submitted construction proposals are concerned about the possibility of long term damage of tree toots and the responsibility for damage that may show at the following growth season.
- Site walked the Dog Park to determine a level route for the fence line surrounding the dog area. There was a slight reduction of the area set out by the master plan but plenty of area for a workable enclosure. Plans now include a driveway into the area from Government Way at an existing gate. We are developing content for a standard rule sign that reflects the existing rules at other public dog parks.
- Prepared purchase orders and Park Board agenda sheets for the purchase of park furniture at the ball complex, construction soil for the BMX track and turf equipment for the Merkel Complex.
- Ushered two Community Development contracts to Legal and Community Development for the projects on the Ben Burr Trail and the River Walk in Peaceful Valley.
- Conducting weekly consultations with the Disc Golf enthusiasts about future course development.

### **Urban Forestry**

- Revision of the Vegetation Management Plan is on an aggressive schedule. We are intending to have the final draft completed and approved by the Urban Forest Tree Committee and its Citizen Advisory Committee by December. The Plan then goes to Park Board, Plan Commission, and City Council for adoption.
- Presented City Council with an introduction to the Urban Forestry Program and information about public tree roles and responsibilities at their June 17 Study Session.

- Expanded our social media reach beyond the website to include Facebook, Twitter, and a quarterly newsletter. Visit us at [www.spokaneurbanforestry.org](http://www.spokaneurbanforestry.org) and <https://twitter.com/SpoUrbanForest>. Our Facebook page will be active next week.
- Funding sources for 2010 include: General Fund, Park Board contribution, grants through WDNR, donations through Reforest Spokane and Utilities (Evergreen Communities Act).
- Designed a new Street Tree Permit Application, now posted at [http://spokaneurbanforestry.org/uploads/forestry\\_page\\_content\\_body/New\\_2010\\_StreetTreePermit.pdf](http://spokaneurbanforestry.org/uploads/forestry_page_content_body/New_2010_StreetTreePermit.pdf).
- Involved in the RFQ process and selection of consultant for the Division Gateway Project.
- Concluded the West Central Vaulted Sidewalks Tour with Engineering Services and finalized recommendations.
- Participated in the Youth Baseball Pre-Construction meeting.
- Attended and spoke at the Logan Neighborhood Council meeting.
- Attended and spoke at the Grant School Father's Day Assembly and Tree Planting event.
- Attended an assembly at St. Aloysius for a promotion of Read for Trees. The tree that the children pick will be planted this fall.
- Finished planting for the spring. Total trees planted in spring 2010 – 48.
  - Comstock – 2 replacement Katsura, 1 Scarlet Oak, 1 Forest Green oak
  - 603 S Arthus – 1 Sweetgum for Father's Day Planting (SF)
  - Grant Elementary – 1 White Oak (SF)
  - 2617 S. Tekoe – 2 Sweetgum
  - Audubon – 1 Tulip Tree (SF), 1 Scarlet Oak
  - 35<sup>th</sup> & Ray – 1 Bur Oak (SF)
  - Friendship – 1 Championship Red Ash (SF)
  - South Side Senior Center – 3 Yews in Front of new reader board
  - 417 W. Gordon – Persian Parrotia
- Evaluated several trees at the North Side Landfill for removal. Evaluated the entire site for stand health. It is an exceptional stand and is maintained will by Solid Waste Staff.
- Inspected/root pruned trees on the Broadway Surge project, the A St. project, and Thurston Porject relating to clearance pruning.