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ONE OF SPOKANE'S MOST BELOVED ASSETS IS LITERALLY IN DANGER OF BEING TRAMPLED TO DEATH

This is an appeal to the public regarding the condition and usage problems at the
Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden in Manito Park.

The Japanese Garden is there for all to enjoy, but PLEASE REMEMBER, it's a small, reflective and meditative space that is now seeing over use that is harming the entire Garden.

On weekends attendance has grown to what staff characterizes as "wall to wall" people. This last weekend alone more than 2,000 people visited the Garden between 12:15 and 8 pm. And if they'd stayed on the paths and were respectful of others it wouldn't be a significant issue.

But many don't heed the signs, and some definitely aren't following the rules as turf and foliage is trampled and despite signage indicating dogs are not allowed even on a leash, some are still bringing their pets. Some visitors are getting quite aggressive to park staff, basically viewing the Garden as theirs to do in and with as they please.

How you can help

- Please stay on the paths and off the turf
- Don't go into areas that are fenced
- Please - no photography tripods
- Please - dogs are NOT ALLOWED, even on a leash
- No food is allowed

- Please remind your children and others who are not following the rules that they need to help keep this Garden a place for all to enjoy

About the Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden

The Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden was completed in 1974 and symbolizes the friendship of Spokane for its sister city, Nishinomiya, Japan. A well-known Japanese landscape architect, Nagao Sakurai, who at one time was in charge of the Imperial Palace grounds, was enlisted to design the garden in 1967. Construction of the waterfall and pond began in 1970. Late in 1973, after Nagao Sukurai suffered a stroke, two landscape architects from Kobe, Japan, Shosuke Nagai and Hirohiko Kawai, were contracted to complete the garden, which was dedicated by both cities on May 17, 1974. In December 2007 the Garden was renamed to honor Ed Tsutakawa, founder of the Spokane Nishinomiya Sister City relationship and a champion of the Sister City movement in Spokane for 45 years until his death in October 2007.

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, the many city-wide gardens, and Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor aquatic centers. For more information please visit www.spokaneparks.org

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