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## **WAS IT THE GRINCH WHO DESTROYED THE LIGHTS ON THE RIVERFRONT PARK HOLIDAY TREE?**

**We don't know who did it but thanks to the Downtown Spokane Partnership  
and the City's Urban Forestry Division the tree is again illuminated**

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Through a generous \$3,000 donation from the Downtown Spokane Partnership and more than 20-hours of difficult and cold work by the City of Spokane Urban Forestry division, the Riverfront Park's traditional Holiday Tree is once again illuminated.

Most years the lights remain on the tree through the four seasons in the Park. And most years there is little damage to the lights because they are rigged high enough off the ground to be less of a temptation to vandals.

But this year when Riverfront Park maintenance staff checked the tree they found all of the individual strings of lights had been cut and all of the extension cords from inside the tree had been removed for what we assume to be salvage of the copper wiring. Many of the cords had been cut into smaller sections to make them easier to strip.

Fortunately the Downtown Spokane Partnership stepped forward to provide the funding needed to replace all of the lights and cords. The equipment and labor to restring the 30,000 lights was provided by the City's Urban Forestry staff.

Thanks to all these efforts the holiday lights will stay on around the clock through New Year's Eve. Riverfront Park staff is proud to help brighten the holiday season with the traditional community tree and other decorations in Riverfront Park. Parks and Recreation is sincerely appreciative of the Support provided by the Downtown Spokane Partnership and by Urban Forestry staff.

(Photos follow)



2010 Holiday Tree in Riverfront Park



### **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 swimming pools. For more information please visit [www.spokaneparks.org](http://www.spokaneparks.org)

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