

December 13, 2010

Contact:
Angel Spell
Urban Forester
509.363.5495

SELECT TREE REMOVALS IN RIVERFRONT PARK WILL HELP IMPROVE OUR URBAN FOREST

This week Spokane Urban Forestry and Riverfront Park crews will begin removing 26 selected trees in Riverfront Park as part of an ongoing renovation project that includes pruning, planting, and removals. Because Riverfront Park was intentionally overplanted after Expo '74, this canopy renovation project aims to restore the park trees to a sustainable density and age diversity.

The initial trees to be removed are near the Red Wagon. Work there will take about two weeks to accomplish. The next step will involve pruning trees in the southwest corner of the park, the primary staging area for Pig Out and other high use activities. Additional removals will then be selectively made in the center of the park.

Improving the City of Spokane's urban forest will take continuous effort and careful planning, as much as 100 years into the future when planting and removing large trees. City arborists carefully evaluate the condition of each tree before selecting it for removal. All of the trees being removed are either dead, dying, diseased, and/or structurally defective.

About Urban Forestry

City of Spokane Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. City arborists help manage the urban forest by planting and maintaining trees throughout the

City. The thinning of trees in some areas is also done to improve the overall health of various stands of trees in the City's park system. In 2010 Spokane received its seventh year in a row designation as a Tree City USA. That program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. For more information please call 509.363.5470 or go online to www.spokaneurbanforestry.org

###