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PARK BENCH CAFÉ IN MANITO PARK OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

The very popular Park Bench Café in Manito Park will open for the summer season this coming Friday, May 20th. The Café will operate on limited hours (9 am – 3 pm) until June 17th when it will then expand its hours to 8 am – 7 pm, seven days a week, including holidays.

Friday night FREE music kicks off on June 3rd with three musical artists. Enjoy wine, beer, discounts, free coffee, and popcorn. We are also planning a Bingo program as well as the Wednesday quartet performance. Also, look for the usual FREE dog treats, water and as always, FREE smiles.

Originally opened in 1923, the Park Bench has always featured light meals and this season it will continue to offer delicious sandwiches and other light foods and beverages including:

- Southwest Pork Tacos (a new feature this year)
- Pastries from Rocket Bakery
- Sandwiches and soup
- Wraps
- Salads
- Hand dipped ice cream
- Smoothies
- Lattes and espresso
- Pepsi bottled drinks
- FREE treats for dogs and dog water

The Park Bench will be open through Labor Day and then, based on demand and Mother Nature, will open select days and hours with beverages and food items appropriate to the season.

About Manito Park

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains Manito Park's 78 acres of native and cultivated landscape and 20 acres of world class botanical gardens. Comprised of five major garden areas, the Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden, Duncan Garden, Rose Hill, Lilac Garden and Ferris Perennial Garden, Manito Park is nationally recognized for its diverse horticultural displays. Established in April 1904, the Park has evolved from an undeveloped recreational area with a few flower beds, picnic spots and a zoo to one of Spokane's primary showplaces. Other Manito Park features include Mirror Pond, a favorite of children who enjoy watching the ducks; the Park Bench Café, open in the summer months for light meals; Loop Drive and Bridge offering majestic views of the Rose Garden; Upper and Lower Playgrounds – a favorite gathering spot of children; and the large basalt rock office building built in 1912. Central to the Park is the Gaiser Conservatory where beautiful flowing displays change seasonally.

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 and the many city-wide gardens, and the 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 including the Spokane Falls SkyRide, the Looff Carrousel and IMAX Theatre, 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.

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