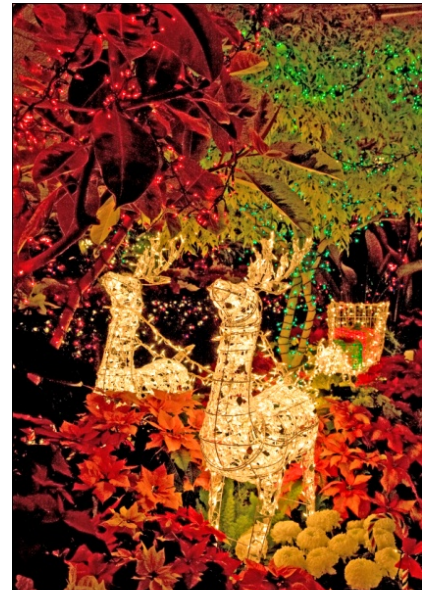




December 1, 2011

Contact: Steve Nittolo, 509.625.6692

FREE HOLIDAY LIGHTS DISPLAY AT MANITO PARK'S GAISER CONSERVATORY



Spokane Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Manito invite you, your family and friends to the spectacular 2011 Holiday Lights display at Manito Park's Gaiser Conservatory.

Along with more than 30,000 twinkling lights, there are dozens of seasonal poinsettias, mums and spectacular floral displays.

When: December 9th - December 18th, 12:00 noon - 7:30pm with best viewing after 4:00 pm.

Where: Gaiser Conservatory at Manito Park

Who: General Public (All Ages)

Cost: FREE

Friends of Manito Open House December 10th and 11th

The Friends of Manito will host a two-day Open House in the Manito Meeting Room (just east of the Gaiser Conservatory), December 10th and 11th. Join the Friends for refreshments from 4 – 7:30 pm both days.



About the Friends of Manito

Founded in 1990, The Friends of Manito (TFM) is a non-profit group that works to support Manito Park by providing funds for improvements for the general enhancement of Manito Park. Three major plant sales are given each year with approximately 100 volunteers working for months before to prepare the plant material - making the events the premier plant sales for Spokane gardeners. Throughout the year, TFM also offers educational programs to further promote the community's use and enjoyment of Manito Park. Since their beginning, The Friends of Manito has contributed over \$525,000 to Manito Park. For more information www.thefriendsofmanito.org

About Manito Park

The Spokane 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. In 2007, Rose Hill was named number one in the nation by All-America Rose Selections (AARS), a nonprofit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Manito Park was officially established in April 1904, and 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 those who enjoy watching ducks and other water fowl; the Park Bench Café, open in season for light meals;

the 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 constructed in 1912. Central to the Park is the Gaiser Conservatory where beautiful flowing displays change seasonally.

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