



Monthly Executive Summary April 2011

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
May 11, 2011

Department highlights for the month include:

- Park's and Recreation Director joined Mayor Verner for her monthly channel 5 series "Your City with the Mayor." Check out the Mayor's webpage in the near future to view that show.
- Met and had pizza with the Park's and Recreation Department's Communications Team on April 19, 2011. This is a team headed up by Nancy Goodspeed and made up of SPRD employees who are motivated in improving the communications within the department. This was my favorite meeting of month – great group of people.
- Facilitated the monthly meeting with the Spokane Tribe on the Tribal Cultural Center. The Spokane Tribe is motivated to complete the ground lease by this fall.
- Joined Pamela McKinzie, Mark Gardner, Rex Schultz at the Creek at Qualchan to see a demonstration of the new Point of Sale system and discussed what needs to be improved to maximize the potential of the system.
- Met with Spokane Youth Sports Association and the Spokane Amateur Softball Association to discuss the formation of a Field Allocation Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is going to facilitate and assist in the annual field allocation process.
- Met with Jamie Sijohn of the Spokane Tribe to discuss the logistics of installing the Chief Spokane Garry Monument at Chief Garry Park. It looks like this project is on track to be installed this summer.

Golf/Administration:

- The Golf courses had a great weekend of play due to the warmer temperatures.
- Sand trap project is progressing very well with the great assistance from Geiger.
- Esmeralda completed a very successful aerification to improve the green conditions.
- We are experiencing vandalism at Downriver and Esmeralda. Vandals are mostly after batteries from golf carts and equipment as well as fuel.
- The two week agency comment period for the YMCA permitting process ended April 21st. The 30 day public comment period will begin next week.
- Our demolition contractor has asked for an extension due to two issues: one, the additional week to demolish the fire dispatch building and second, the delay caused by a significant amount of additional asbestos identified which need to be removed prior to the start of demolition.

Marketing/Communications:

- 22 News Releases Issued March 24 – April 27, 2011 including: Old Fire Dispatch Building to be Demolished; Riverfront Park Special Price – Season Pass just \$39.95; Tree City USA & State of the Urban Forest Presentation; NEYC Flashlight Egg Hunt; Youth Baseball & Fields FAQ; Get Lit! 2011; Spring Break Hours of Operation for Riverfront Park; Spring Breakaway at Riverfront Park; Ben Burr Temporary Trail Closure; Born to Be Wild Opens at the IMAX; Corbin Art Center Spring Programs Start Soon; Pricing promo – Riverfront & Aquatics; Friendship Park Tree Removals; Spring-Summer Program Guide Available online; Update on Demolition of Former YMCA Building in Riverfront Park; Tree Plantings to Follow Grand Boulevard Re-Paving Project; Tree City USA Presentation CANCELLED; Tree Work began today on the Grand Boulevard Re-paving Project; Don't Abandon Easter Pets in Park Ponds or Feed Wild Ducks; Pony Rides Now Available in Riverfront Park; Arbor Day – What Is a City Sprite Zeldova; SkyRide Open 7 Days a Week Beginning April 28.
- May Walk in the Park TV show will feature: YMCA Project Update – Pamela & Harvey Morrison; Aquatics & Merkel – Craig, Mike & Carl; RFP Special Events – Craig & Debby.
- Previous Park Board meetings are now available on the City's online video page. The March 2011 meeting has just been posted at <http://www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/>.

Park Operations:

- Interviews were held to fill the vacant Gardner I position that is assigned to Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens and Manito greenhouse. References are being checked and a decision should be made soon. Staff also continues to fill seasonal positions.
- Staff met with Civil Service to review and revise tests for Irrigation Specialist and Park Equipment Operator. There is an Irrigation Specialist position currently vacant due to a promotion that will hopefully get filled soon.

- Manito staff has been busy with plant propagation in the green houses, getting the park cleaned up and replanting some native areas.
- At the request of the neighborhood, Corbin Park has gotten some new signage, a set of bleachers near the ball diamond, and work done toward installing a new drinking fountain.
- Staff has been busy scheduling and answering questions on special events, reservations, and other park activities for the coming season.
- The spring raking crew has finished cleaning up and hauling off leaves and other debris from parks. These employees get reassigned to park caretaking, mowing and other duties. Although spring seems a little slow in arriving, mowing has also been started up.
- Taking over responsibility for sports facilities has added significantly to our Work Order volume for facility repairs.
- A rock fall adjacent to Ben Burr Trail has been cleaned up and the trail reopened.
- Irrigation staff continues to prepare park water systems for the season. The weather has been wet, however, and there has been no need to have any additional water going so far.

Planning/Project Management:

- Polly Judd Pancake Shelter: Having a preconstruction meeting on May 2 resulting in a construction timeline and duration of the Parking Lot at Polly Judd for staging and material storage.
- Harman Park: The Hillyard Days Committee request for additional power availability has been turned over to the Building Department for review and suggestions for acceptable underground housings for power receptacles. Have made arrangements with a contractor to bore the conduit 3.5 below grade and recover all entry holes.
- Latah Neighborhood: Reining presentation plans for work at Wentel Grant Park pathway and entrance from the Inland Empire Highway. A meeting has been set for both the High Bridge projects and the Wentel Grant projects.
- Peaceful Valley: the River Walk planting project has been started with plant material being located and purchased. One new meter has been installed at the west end of the project. The second water meter will be installed and support the east end of the project and the new community gardens.
- The A.M. Cannon (West Central) Neighborhood has put in a large order of tables, BBQs, trash can holders and benches to be purchased and installed by Community Development funds. Have not heard back for the actual order. Working with several people on West Central North Bench development. Last suggestion was to relocate the gathering areas at the top of the riverbank off of Ohio Street. Better view and no 200 foot set back.
- The Woldson Park signs have been installed and will be dedicated in May.
- The Dog Park is being heavily used and rules and temp ID signs are in place. The parking areas have been defined and eliminated near the entry corridor. Have created some plans to rearrange the entry gates and holding pens to make the entries separate between the small dogs and large dogs. Park users have brought lawn chairs and some picnic tables, which I think, were installed as part of an Eagle Scout project.
- Have set up a meeting with residents on Water Street next to the emergency access to the river. The intention is to post residential driveways 10 feet along on both sides of the drive with No Parking signs.
- Commissioning a design for the required safety rails on the Blue Bridge. I have contacted fence and metal shops and have received a high price of \$60,000. The plans will have to be reviewed by the Building department via the City's Bridge Office. Waiting for a written recommendation from Risk Management as they are to weigh in on the design requirements. Next week the Riverfront Park Barricades can be removed to be replaced with chain link portable panels. Not the wanted look but it will save some money as a temporary solution.
- The Disc Golf folks are happy with things at People's Park, Down River and High Bridge. I would guess when the season warms up and the play gets crowded at all the courses, we will hear about potential expansion plans. Camp Sekani is the logical fall back site. We have compatibility of uses and sort of a parking area and it might force an answer to the utility question.
- Having some bumps with the Community Garden groups. Meeting with both groups next week to see if there is a common solution to too much work and sticker shock.
- Designed some prototype signs for Aquatics Center operation information and for The Friends of Manito designation plaques.

- Aquatics Center Signs are laid out for installation. The Witter sign will be redone and converted to a two sided display that will work best along Mission Ave.
- Completed plans for: Merkel Complex Gate installation; Community garden fence and bed layout; utility hookup planning and direction for location of new water meters; plan for boulder layout at Underhill, Liberty and Merkel locations; wall repair solution for failing retaining wall at Liberty Park; produced required maps for permit mitigation for Design Review portion of the review process; design of Mirror Pond donor and project description monument; researching solution for dilapidated star access to the Cliff Park Overlook.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- Online sales for RFP Summer Season passes proved to be a very popular option with 27% of the 4,000+ passes purchased online. This not only saves in labor but also significantly improves guest service as lines are not nearly as long. Day Passes and IMAX tickets will be next to go online.
- “Born to be Wild” opened at the IMAX Theatre on Friday, April 8th. A close to full house attended the promotional screening on Wednesday, April 6th with the help of 6 ClearChannel Radio stations.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt took place in Riverfront Park on Saturday, April 23rd. Hosted by KIX 96, the event was well attended and the weather cooperated. Boy Scouts from troop #22 helped with the setup. They have been helping for a number of years.
- Food & Beverage Services opened the Merkel Soccer complex concession stand on April 15th.
- ESD 101 (Educational Service District 101) is hiring the Personal Interest Program to provide private fitness classes to their 150 employees in Spokane. This contract has great potential!
- On April 20, Corbin was a part of Japan Week. The Center offered a seminar on Japanese miniature figurines and a Japanese lunch. 38 people attended.
- Hillyard Senior Center combined its monthly Birthday Celebration event with a last chance silent auction made up of leftover items from last month’s Dinner Auction. The event raised over \$400 for the center and its operational needs.
- Corbin Art Center held one-day camps during Spring Break, April 4 – 8, 2011. The camps for ages 6 – 11 included adventure, fine art, crafts, cooking and sewing. There were 197 registrations. Six interest in the programs. Revenue increased 15% from 2010.
- Sinto Senior Activity Center will be holding a Ballroom Dedication, Luncheon and Dance Event on Friday, May 20th. The ballroom will be named the Kaye H. Herzer Ballroom in honor of Kaye who was a Parks & Recreation Dept. employee from 1969-1975 working as the Sinto Director as well as the Senior Programs Supervisor for the Dept. Kaye was instrumental of expanding the ballroom at the center due to the large turnouts for dances held at the center. The center was expanded 12 ft. wider and increased the size of the room by 30%.
- Southside Senior Activity Center hosted its annual Spring Extravaganza dinner/auction fundraiser on April 16 with this year’s theme “The Royal Wedding.” The event was sponsored by Harbor Crest Retirement Community and their award-winning Chef Elijah Dalager was on hand to prepare an exquisite cuisine.

Urban Forestry:

- Tree city USA award presentation rescheduled for Wednesday, May 11th, 2:20 p.m. at the Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum. Members of the WA Community Forestry Council will make the presentation to Mayor Verner.
- The Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Finch Arboretum.
- Four official NeighborWoods groups have been established with more pending application.
- The NeighborWoods Launch Party is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, 5:00 p.m. at the Spokane Public Market, 24 W. 2nd Avenue at Browne.
- Cindy Deffe and Matt McCain staffed our booth at the Earth Day celebration on Main Street on April 23rd.
- Design completed for bookmarks, brochure, and print advertising for our education campaign funded by a WDNR grant. TV and radio ads are nearly complete.
- Spokane Conservation District planted native species at the natural drainage near Sky Prairie Park. Species detail and plant numbers forthcoming.

- Received verbal commitment from the Lands Council to plant Ponderosa pines at the Merkel Sports complex for the purpose of establishing and enhancing the perimeter buffer and single-track natural trail. Target date for first planting is fall 2011.
- Developing database and providing handheld computers to Downtown Spokane partnership for their staff to collect data on tree well integrity within the central business district.
- We are very grateful to all our NeighborWoods Launch Party partners – Spokane Public Market, The Lands council, The Susie Forest, Spokane Conservation District, and ABHL – for extreme coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.
- Continue permitting & consulting on street bond projects – 11 active projects.
- Met with Public Works staff to discuss active and potential projects – Sky Prairie Park, Hazel’s Creek, Garden Springs Creek, Division Street Gateway, MLK Way, Francis Ave., and Playfair Commerce Park.
- Planted 8 trees – 1 SF ash at 24th & Garfield; 3 (elm, 2 oak) at Friendship Park; 1 elm at 35th & Ray; 3 SF (dogwood, oak elm) at Corbin Park (*SF signifies a Susie Forest tree).
- Pruned 28 trees – 3 cottonwood at Polly Judd Park; 18 at Riverfront Park, 1 at Fire station 15; 2 Ponderosas at Finch.
- Removed 76 trees – 1 cottonwood at C-Trail; 2 at Fire Station 15; 40 poplars at Polly Judd for thinning/dead; 25 Ponderosas at 41st & Cuba Wastewater for thinning/fence clearance; 8 Austrian pines at Friendship.
- Prepared for Arbor Day Celebration including tree climbing demonstration, tree planting, and vendor activities.