



Monthly Executive Summary August 2011

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
September 8, 2011

Department highlights for the month include:

- Leroy and Angel worked with Ted Danek and Dave Mandyke to develop a proposed increase in the stormwater rate to fund a portion of the Urban Forestry Budget and attended several City Council Public Works Committee meetings for discussion.
- August was Parks and Recreation Staff Budget preparation months as each Division developed budget alternatives with a preferred alternative for presentation to the Park Board.
- The monthly meeting with the Spokane Tribe of Indians regarding the Tribal Cultural Center took place on August 17th. The Spokane Tribe announced that they expect to present Spokane Parks and Recreation a draft ground lease in the immediate future.
- Leroy, Taylor, and Garrett continue to meet with representatives from Greenstone to discuss the Centennial Trail extension and Habitat Management Plan adjacent the Kendall Yards development.
- Leroy had the pleasure of cooking burgers along side City Attorney Howard Delaney at the all City Barbeque on August 25th in super cool chef's hats provided by Jacki Faught and Lisa VanZandt.
- On August 24th the Spokane Tribe held a moving and powerful dedication of the Chief Garry Monument in Chief Garry Park. The monument is an amazing design with lots of coordination efforts provided by Garret Jones, Taylor Bressler, and Al Vorderbrueggen of Spokane Parks and Recreation.
- Spokane Regional Sports Commission hosted the Field Allocations Advisory Committee on August 25 at their offices. They did a great job of facilitation and our staff did an excellent job of presenting the proposed fees and field use priorities. A discussion was also held right after the Advisory Committee meeting with youth baseball representatives where it was decided to wait until spring to play on the new fields.

Finance/Budget:

- Planned for parallel payroll testing on the new Human Resource Management System, which will take place during the first two pay periods in September.
- Conducted sessions with staff regarding submission of 2012 budget requests.
- Prepared 2012 Preliminary Budget Reports for Riverfront, Urban Forestry, and Recreation Board Committees.
- Prepared 10-year Financial History of Center funding.
- Resolved various accounting issues regarding new sports complexes.
- Prepared July update to capital Plan.
- Prepared update to 2012 Budget for City Budget Manager, including numerous personnel allocation changes.
- Continued to question workers compensation cost allocation method.
- Requested staff follows purchasing procedures and use purchase order to purchase goods.
- Ordered banking supplies in preparation for bank service provider change October 1.
- Coordinated with Management Information Systems Department regarding internet sales of Riverfront event tickets and current software integration.

Golf/Administration:

- Downriver, Esmeralda and Indian Canyon offered a discount on Sunday and Monday afternoons in an effort to fill the slow times and fill unused inventory. The rounds seemed to increase however it is too early to determine if there was a positive revenue increase.
- Esmeralda will be extending the "Free Junior with a paid Adult" special. Golf has not seen a great response to this special.
- Staff is working to get all the permitting agencies together to discuss the long term health of the creek meandering through Qualchan golf course. Getting all agencies together this time of year is proving challenging however they are willing to meet later in the year when their projects are closer to completion.
- The City Championship was a big success this year. The weather was extremely nice and the course conditions were great. Kudos to the maintenance staffs for continuing to provide the public and the course conditions were great. Kudos to the maintenance staffs for continuing to provide the public with fantastic golf courses.

- A.M. Landshaper received the contract for the YMCA restoration and has been working quickly to fill the hole and shape the area. Staff is working closely with the contractor to reduce costs in various areas and still maintain the design of the restoration as promised.

Marketing/Communications:

- 22 News Releases Issued July 26, 2011 – August 24, 2011 including: Two New Programs to Begin at the Park Bench Café; August Golf Special – Just \$15 – Call Pro Shops for Details; August Golf Special – WE’VE ADDED ANOTHER DEAL!; Former YMCA Site Restoration Contract Award; IMAX Limited Engagement Run – Pirates of the Caribbean – On Stranger Tides; Riverfront Park Offers Special Discount Rates for Groups of 15 or More; Sponsored Swim Days – August 3 and 6; There’s Lots to See and Do in Riverfront Park – Take Our Online SURVEY; VOTE FOR SPOKANE – Help Support The Lands Council Reforest Spokane Day; Community Canopy Accepting Landscape Excellence Nominations; FREE Preview – Friends of Manito Fall Plant Sale; First Annual Dwight Dash Takes Place August 27; Friends of Manito Fall Plant Sale August 27; Still Need Founding Members for Arboretum Group; First Annual Dwight Dash 5k & 10k – Save \$10 until August 26; Pools Close August 27th; Doggie Dips This Weekend.
- Walk in the Park programs are available online on City Cable 5. Park Board meetings are also available on the City’s online video page. Click on this link to view: <http://www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/>
- Staff Update – issued weekly – emailed to all staff.
- JOB News – issued monthly – emailed to all staff.
- Director’s Report – issued monthly – posted on website.
- Park Board Meetings – issued monthly – live, and streamed on-demand on Channel 5.
- Park Board Committee Meetings – issued monthly – minutes posted online.
- TV Show – Walk in the Park August program features fundraising for Mirror Pond in Manito Park with Steve Nittolo and Lee McIeron, and an overview of the new department-wide promotion called Win Big with Nancy Goodspeed.

Park Operations:

- There were a number of special events and lots of park use in August. The annual Hillyard Festival and Hispanic Festival were held in Harmon Park. There were also several neighborhood sponsored concerts and movie nights. The Spokane Symphony Labor Day Concert at Comstock Park is back again this year on September 5.
- There have been quite a few inquiries about fences still being up around the baseball field renovation projects. Unfortunately, it does take some time to establish the turf, which was started from seed, to a level that it can withstand foot traffic. The ball diamonds at Underhill and Liberty are progressing at a satisfactory rate but there are some concerns about how well the grass is coming in B A Clark and Chief Garry Parks. Staff are conducting some soil testing and consulting with other turf experts and looking for some solutions.
- The amount of vandalism we are seeing in parks this year has been challenging. Mayor Verner met with staff to offer her support and discuss some of our concerns. Over just the past weekend, the play equipment at Shadle was set on fire, the picnic tables at Logan were destroyed, a garbage can from Fairview was stolen and smashed in to neighbor’s cars and all the sprinkler heads were broken off. And the Police were called in to break up a large beer party in Manito, in addition to several more minor incidents.
- The Friends of Manito held their annual Fall Plant Sale on August 27. This is a significant fundraiser that helps with a variety of projects and improvements in Manito Park.
- Staff met twice with the design and engineering team on improving stairway access in Cliff Park.
- Interviews were held and a vacant Irrigation Specialist position was filled. Our new employee, Joseph Roloff, brings a lot of experience, enthusiasm, and skill to the job. Staff has been working with Civil Service on getting Eligibility Lists for Playground Specialist and Laborer I positions which became vacant due to transfers.
- Staff researched and purchased a new device to help deter vandalism. When strategically placed, this equipment will verbally warn people that they are in an area after hours and follows up by taking their picture.
- Two more meetings were held to help organize and name the Finch Arboretum support group.

- Engineering and design work for replacing heat systems and environmental controls at Manito greenhouses is nearing completion. This work will produce a more dependable and energy efficient system utilizing a nearly new boiler that was salvaged from our old swimming pools.
- Staff successfully obtained a permit exemption for re-establishing native shoreline vegetation along Canada and Havermale islands in Riverfront Park.

Planning/Project Management:

- Corbin Park lighting project is finished. Plans are being drawn up for the next phase which includes replacing four existing light poles and standards with the LED light sources and a thematic pole design. Dependent upon the budget, these will be ordered in the fall and installed in the spring.
- The Latah Neighborhood play equipment has been ordered and a bid package will be available soon. Plans are to build in September.
- The A.M. Cannon (West Central) Neighborhood has a designer for the Council Ring that is located just below the path ramp to the Sandifer Bridge. The plans are being reviewed for site impacts and archeological impacts. Construction will begin as soon as the plans are cleared.
- The architect has developed a railing system for the Blue Bridge in Riverfront Park compliant to existing building codes and the aesthetics of the Blue Bridge. The rail system will be an aircraft cable system stretched on aluminum frames. Both sides of the bridge will be contained with gates on each end for maintenance access.
- The Engineering/Landscape Architect Team presented plans for review by staff. Direction was given and plans will be reviewed with the information being applied to the survey plan of the site.
- The basketball court sign for Peaceful Valley has been approved and ordered.
- The basketball court slab at Mission has been completed and standards and benches will be installed this fall.
- Layout plans for the renovation for the volleyball court in Garry Park have been given to suppliers of court coatings to process and to renovate the concrete surface.
- The monument in Chief Garry Park is completed.
- Made plans for renovation of Stone Street Park to include top dressing, turf transition areas and construction of concrete ADA access paths.
- The dumpster screen at Thornton Murphy Park has been completed.
- The sculpture at Garry Park has been removed. It's site has been restored and maybe the displaced sculpture will be installed on the grounds at Ops.
- New area gate has been installed at the Merkel Complex.
- There is an ongoing review of the development of the Centennial Trail west from the Monroe Street Bridge from Veteran's Court. Topics include trail route, maintenance responsibilities and transition from Park land to the adjacent property.
- A site management plan that outlines native area usage at and around the Kendall Yards project is being developed between Greenstone and the Park Department. The plan will designate land areas that are considered environmentally fragile and will warrant limited and access the by public.
- Establishing a staff check system for coordination of projects both contracted and in house. The system will include plan checks, specification reviews and project supervision.
- We have hired an architect to plan a small shelter at 25th and Tekoa Street in Manito Park. Plans for the shelter will include electrical utilities. The shelter will compliment the popular attractions at the area and the shelter will be included in the department's facilities rental system. The shelter project is being funded by The Friends of Manito.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- The annual "Unity in the Community" event was held for the 4th time in Riverfront Park on Saturday, August 20th. The organizers, participants and general public enjoyed a day of cultural diversity and entertainment. A large component of the event is providing backpacks and school supplies to the youth in the community. They gave away 600 backpacks with supplies.
- Jeff Bailey has finished draft of a Riverfront Park Terrorism Readiness Policy that will be reviewed and implemented in time for Pig Out in the Park.
- Due to our current **Win Big!** Promotion, Spokane Parks & Recreation has just hit the 2000 Fans (Likes) on our page. This is up from 1200.
- Over 1000 participants in Skyhawks/SPRD sports summer camps in 2011 which is the highest ever with this partnership.

- Outdoor Recreation's Youth Adventure Summer Camps grew 20% over last summer.
- The Corbin Arts Center Kids Summer Program ended on Friday, August 26. There were over 1000 participants in workshops and camps for children ages 3-5 and 6-11 during the twelve week program incorporating art, crafts, drama, history, science and more.
- East Central Community Center's senior program had its annual Western Barbecue on August 18 featuring a hamburger lunch and beanbag baseball, along with country western music.
- Hillyard Senior Center hosted its Annual Membership Picnic in Franklin Park. The event welcomed over 130 members and included a BBQ Luncheon, White Elephant Bingo and great entertainment from Wayne and Marion Merridith.
- The Northeast Youth Center received a grant from Empire Health Foundation in the amount of \$9,000 for operations.
- Mid-City Concerns had its senior Birthday Party on August 12. The Timeless Trio came to entertain us. The seniors sang along with them. We had a birthday cake and ice cream. There were 53 seniors at the party.

Urban Forestry:

- 2012 UF budget proposal submitted to the Finance Department.
- Working with the CAC members and committees on these items: revised and update Approved Street Tree List; Conservation Land management plans; and Tree Benefits Campaign.
- NeighborWoods Month educational series schedule: **Urban Ecology & Native Tree Species in the Urban Landscape**, Saturday, October 15, 9am-11am at Finch Arboretum, Kat Hall of The Lands Council, presenter; **Proper Tree Planting**, Saturday, October 22, 9:30am-11:30am at Finch Arboretum, City Arborist Jeff Perry presenter; **Volunteers in Pruning (VIP) Training**, Saturday, October 29, 9am-12pm at Spokane Conservation District, Garth Davis, District Forester, presenter; and **Low Impact Development or LID**, Date and Time TBA, at Spokane Conservation District, presented by AHBL, Len Zickler and Alex Mann.
- Staff attended the James Urban *Up by Roots* seminar on August 17th.
- Staff is scheduled to attend and volunteer for the upcoming Pacific Northwest Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Training Conference, October 2-5, 2011, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.
- The Interlocal Agreement between UF and Spokane County Detention Services – Geiger Corrections has been signed. Geiger will provide land and labor to manage our nursery operations. The City will provide trees, mulch and technical assistance.
- Pruning: 22 trees pruned at various locations – Chief Garry Park, Finch Arboretum, 8th & Walnut, West 2nd Avenue.
- Permits: processed 27 street tree permits, representing 161 trees.
- Consultations: installation of 3 new steel containers on median trees near 29th & Grand Blvd.; Riverfront Park tree protection & air spade marking for construction projects; and 14th & Lindeke Stormwater Improvement project.