



# Monthly Executive Summary July 2011

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

### **Department highlights for the month include:**

- July was a busy month for events in Riverfront Park and I thank all the staff for the hard work in preparing for, supporting, and cleaning up for those activities. In particular 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a great success due to all the event organizing accomplished by Duane Hille.
- Leroy, Taylor, and Garrett have worked closely with Jamie SiJohn of the Spokane Tribe to assist in the installation of the new Chief Garry Monument in Chief Garry Park to be completed in early August.
- There has been positive feedback to Parks and Recreation for helping make happen the Community Garden at Grant Park. Garrett Jones has taken an excellent leadership role in working with the gardeners.
- Mike Aho has done a great job in supporting the Summer Parkways. The last event was held on July 24<sup>th</sup> in the Northhill Neighborhood.
- Leroy continues to meet with representatives of the Friends of the Falls to determine the next steps in funding the development of the Whitewater Park Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Golf/Administration:**

- We are working on the City Championship Tournament, which will be held August 26, 27, & 28 at Esmeralda, Downriver and Qualchan respectively. The brochures are available at each golf course, City Hall as well as online. Posters will be distributed to the local golf courses in the region.
- We were able to secure In-Kind advertising opportunities with Metro Magazine. We received approximately \$1,400 worth of advertising for 16 play passes.
- GeoEngineers will begin testing in the area north of the Indian Canyon entrance to determine if we can construct a swale. If it perks we will pursue redirecting stormwater to a new swale rather than the driving range.
- Conducted a Pre-Bid conference with potential YMCA Site Restoration bidders. Representatives present included: Cameron-Reilly; Schimmels Construction; AM Landshaper; Kirby-Hunt Construction; Half Moon Constuction; and CSGI. Bidders were concerned about getting the project done before inclement weather and asked for Notice to Proceed be given as quickly as possible.
- Bid opening will be Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. We hope to approve the contract and give the Notice to Proceed by August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Finance/Budget:**

- Responded to State Auditor requests for 2010 fiscal year audit.
- Presented Budget Workshop at Park Board Study Session.
- Continued Cashier Training for Aquatics Staff.
- Presented information about indirect costs and preliminary methodology.
- Set up registration system to handle taxable recreation services per new Department of Revenue guidelines.

### **Marketing/Communications:**

- 22 News Releases Issued June 27, 2011 – July 26, 2011 including: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival in Riverfront Park; 4<sup>th</sup> of July FREE Kids Activities; Flyer on Hassie Club Meet in Spokane; International Antique Car Show & Meet; Fourth of July Reserved Seating & Fireworks Display; Mike VanZee wins at Special Olympics in Athens; The Olmsted Legacy Now Online; Fourth of July Entertainment; Are Your Sycamore Trees Suffering – what to do; Donors Help Make Dog Park a Nicer Place to Play; Update – Planting of Trees at Dog Park; Work in Riverfront to Repair Turf from High Usage; Fourth of July Sponsors Thank You; Traffic Advisory for Northwest neighborhood & Motorists in that Area; Summer Health & Wellness Fair at Southside Center; Dog Park Needs Docents; The Friends of Manito Rose Program; Enjoy These FREE Concert Series in Your Parks; Sponsored Swim Days – August 4 and 6; Urban Forestry Restorative Work Gets Underway this Month; Two Day Japanese Floral Exhibits Benefitting Mirror Pond Restoration; Day Passes Available for Riverfront Park.
- 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 July/August program will feature fundraising for Mirror Pond in Manito Park and an overview of a new promotion called Win Big.
- Walk in the Park programs and Park Board meeting available on the City’s online video page <http://www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/>

**Park Operations:**

- Irrigation staff have been busy making adjustments and repairs to park irrigation systems now that warmer summer weather has finally arrived.
- Construction of a new masonry dumpster enclosure at Thornton Murphy Park is nearly done. The enclosure was designed and constructed by Park Ops staff and intended to serve as a model for more enclosures at other parks.
- Bids were received and approved for replacing the asphalt on the west parking lot at Franklin Park and the purchase of three new park mowers.
- Quotes were solicited for a new automated environmental control system for Manito Greenhouses. The controls will provide for more precise control of temperatures as well as some energy savings.
- An above ground electric vault was eliminated in Lincoln Park and work began on installing two light poles at Franklin Park. The light poles were salvaged from our old swimming pools and will help illuminate a dark area within the park.
- Staff has had a busy month dealing with vandalism, graffiti, and illegal camp sites.
- Irrigation booster pump repairs and replacement were completed at Lincoln Park and B.A. Clark Park.
- A second meeting for the formation of a support group for Finch Arboretum was held and work has begun in developing a mission statement and name for the organization.
- Interviews were started and will continue for filling a vacant Irrigation Specialist position.

**Planning/Project Management:**

- Harman Park: The Hillyard Days Committee request for additional power is an awarded bid given to Electric City. The Project is being completed in time for Hillyard Days which will be held the first weekend in August. The new electrical system will also support the Hispanic Gathering to be held the third weekend in August.
- The Corbin Park lights project is held back until the new light poles arrive. The conduit is being pulled and the bases for the poles are being constructed. The below ground work will be ready next week and the poles will be installed as soon as they arrive.
- The Latah Neighborhood has selected play equipment and a bid package will be available soon with the structure built in August.
- 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 developed plans are being reviewed for site impacts and archeological impacts. The plans will be ready to build as soon as the plans are cleared.
- An architect for the railings on the Blue Bridge in Riverfront Park has developed a railing system that will be compliant to the existing building codes and the aesthetics of the Blue Bridge. The plans need work to accommodate budget and compliance issues for the railing heights and spacing.
- The Engineering/Landscape Architect Team for the development of plans to renovate the stairs in Cliff Park has completed a survey of the stairs and their immediate area. Conceptual drawing and alternative drawings will be available for review next week.
- Laid out and asked for quotes for the basketball court memorial in Peaceful Valley Park.
- Received a low bid for the construction of a concrete slab for Mission Park.
- Laid out plans for renovation for the volleyball court in Garry Park. Bid plans will be available next week.
- Reviewed location and orientation of the Chief Garry Memorial prior to construction. The monument for Chief Garry in Garry Park is about half way finished and will be completed, according to the current schedule, within the next two weeks.
- Made plans for renovation of Stone Street Park to include top dressing, turf transition areas and construction of concrete ADA access paths. Requests for bids are out next week.

- Completed construction of CMU dumpster screen at Thornton Murphy Park.
- The basketball court construction will be started next week at Mission Park.
- Trying to find a home for the displaced sculpture at Garry Park. It might be installed at OPS to compliment our existing artwork.
- Construction layout at Harmon for irrigation system.
- Pre-con meeting for Mission basketball court.
- Checking on progress of the new area gate being installed at the Merkel Complex.
- Reviewed South Gate Neighborhood Plan and commented.
- Bid documents for Stone Street Park renovation. Will be top dressing and installing ADA pathways connecting existing Park feature.
- Establishing a staff check system for coordination projects, both contracted and in house, to include plan checks, specification reviews and project supervision.

#### **Recreation/Entertainment Services:**

- The Riverfront Park team with help from many in the Parks and Recreation Department handled Hoopfest (June 25-26) closely followed by the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration with enthusiasm and professionalism.
- Riverfront Park hosted (1) Served 1000 Women of the ELCA the evening of July 14<sup>th</sup> who were having their Tri annual convention in spoken the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>, Served 1000 Gonzaga University Employees and Family members for their annual Summer Employee event. Event included dinner catered by Riverfront Park Food Service and all Riverfront Park Attractions.
- Mike Vanzee came home from Greece with a bronze medal, two fourths and one fifth place. He lifted about 10-15 pounds more overall than he did at state competition this past June.
- Corbin Senior Activity center had a most interesting presentation on Brazil which was followed by a Brazilian lunch.
- Jerry Unruh provided live music for the East Central Senior Activity Center's Patriotic Party on June 30, a celebration of our nation that featured historical trivia and games.
- Hillyard Senior Center hosted a new special event "Summer Senior Jamboree" at Ross Point Retreat center on the Spokane River in Post Falls. The event hosted seniors from various senior centers for an afternoon that included a BBQ Luncheon, Entertainment, Lawn Games, Canoeing, and nature walks along the Spokane River.
- The Spokane Preservation Advocates awarded a \$1,000 grant to prepare the nomination to list the Spokane Public Bath House in Mission Park on the Spokane Register of Historic Places. Linda Yeoman, Historic Preservation Consultant, has been hired to complete the historic research of the property and prepare the nomination.
- The Northeast Youth Center received a grant from Hollister-Steir for operations in the amount of \$3,800.
- On July 11<sup>th</sup> thirteen seniors from the Mid-City Concerns Senior Center attended a Spokane Indians Baseball game.
- Southside hosted their Summer Health & Wellness Fair on Friday, July 15. Some 250 people attended; plus 49 vendor booths, a café/deli for lunch and snacks provided by Southside's kitchen manager/chef, raffle prizes such as a golf package, six monetary sponsors, and rave reviews from attendees and vendors to do it again.

#### **Urban Forestry:**

- Hired Johnna Woodruff, a graduate of SCC with an AAS in Landscape and Turf Management, as a volunteer intern to work on UF planning, programs, and customer service.
- Engaged another volunteer to work for UF; Edward Mann has over 10 years experience as a forester for the Spokane Tribe. He will focus on forest health management plans and measuring a range of ecosystem and aesthetic benefits using *i-Tree* and other software tools.
- Planning a 4 session educational workshop series for October NeighborWoods Month including proper planting, pruning, native trees in the urban landscape, and low impact development for the homeowner. Collaborators include: Spokane Conservation District, The Lands Council, Community Canopy, Alliance for Community Trees, and our NeighborWoods stewardship groups.
- The MOU between UF and The Lands Council has been finalized and signed. The partnership will focus on shared urban forestry goals around: education, advocacy, fund-raising, grant-writing, and volunteer recruitment and engagement. Media promotion of the partnership is forthcoming.

- Consulted or commented on Rogers High School, Hazel's Creek, median trees at 29<sup>th</sup> & Grand Blvd., Riverside Extension/MLK Way, and Nevada Magnesium/Holland swale rehab.
- Met with Capital Programs regarding potential WDOE grant projects for stream bank/water quality improvements along Garden Springs Creek at Finch Arboretum.
- Pruning: 49 trees pruned at various locations – Harmon Park, Finch Arboretum and Riverfront Park.
- Removal: Over 100 trees, primarily sumac, removed at Albi Stadium (view thinning). Over 120 trees, primarily Ponderosa pine, removed at Thomas Mallon water tank (fuels reduction). Over 50 trees, primarily Ponderosa pine, removed at Thorpe Water Tank. 3 trees removed from Finch Arboretum.
- Permits: Processed 18 street tree permits.