



Monthly Executive Summary March 2011

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
April 1, 2011

Department highlights for the month include:

- Presented the Land Committee and the Park Board with Community Garden Memorandums of Understanding and Garden Rules for the River Walk and Grant Park Community Gardens. Both documents were approved by the Park Board.
- Completed staff draft changes to the Joint Facilities Use Agreement between Parks and Recreation and School District 81. After final review these changes should be adopted soon.
- Met with the Northeast Youth Center Executive Board to finalize discussions on their Service and Transportation Contracts.
- Had an excellent meeting with the Parks and Recreation Communication Committee (made up of representatives from a variety of work areas) on March 15th to discuss strategies for improving communication with the department.
- Facilitated the second monthly meeting with the Spokane Tribe to discuss the development of a Tribal Cultural Center on the Bosch Lot property. The primary discussion was around the basic tenets of a draft ground lease.
- Attended the Landmark Commission meeting on March 16th with Lynn Mandyke who gave an excellent presentation on and received approval for the revised planting plan for the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens.
- Along with Parks Operations, met with representatives from Risk Management and Human Resources on the safety of playgrounds in our Parks. Risk confirmed that our playgrounds are safe.

Finance:

- Completed year end Golf Financial Reports by deadline.
- Continued update of Aquatics Point of Sale system.
- Worked with City Finance Department to address credit card processing questions.
- Completed yearend financial report on Joe Albi Stadium and reviewed with Albi Committee.
- Worked on various utility billing account changes, including new sports complexes.
- Hired 188 temporary/seasonal employees and 2 permanent employees.
- Prepared analysis of Compensation costs over last ten years.

Golf/Administration:

- Three of the four golf courses opened Friday, March 18th, which is the latest opening in memory. Downriver and Esmeralda opened on two temporary greens however Qualchan was able to open on all permanent greens. Indian Canyon still has snow on 5 holes and one green that is nearly covered with snow. We are hopeful with the warmer temperatures the course will open Saturday, March 26th.
- Season discount cards are selling fast.
- The YMCA project is progressing. Demolition has begun on the Fire Dispatch building which will give the contractor more room to work on the Northwest corner of the YMCA. This area is closest to the river so the additional room will be helpful in ensuring a safe project.
- We are taking the initial steps in the Restoration process. We have submitted to design review and are close to starting the permitting process.

Marketing/Communications:

- Eight news releases issued March 1 – 28, 2011 including: Friends of Manito Tropical Plant Sale; Riverfront Park Spring Hours of Operation; Dog Park Etiquette; City Golf Courses to Open; Dog Park Pros and Cons; Tree Removal on Downriver Drive; Indian Canyon to Open Saturday; Old Fire Dispatch Building to be Demolished Friday Morning.
- Walk in the Park for broadcast in April includes: Mike Aho along with Ryan Griffith and Lynn Mandyke talking about the Camp Programs available this year followed by the City's Urban Forester, Angel Spell, talking with Nancy MacKerrow about her life-long commitment to planting trees to honor her daughter via the program, Susie's Forest. Other subjects include Arbor Day and the recognition of Spokane as a "Tree City USA" for the 8th Consecutive year in a row.
- We have launched the spring advertising campaign with the new TV and radio spots, billboards, transit signage and a bus wrap, to go along with our ongoing electronic and social media channels including news releases, eNewsletters, Facebook and Twitter.

Park Operations:

- Activity levels in parks have picked up significantly with the changing weather. Sprint sports have also started and citizens seem anxious to get outdoors.
- Some seasonal staff have been hired to help maintain parks for public use and additional interviewing and hiring will continue.
- A crew has begun raking all parks and hauling off debris. There are lots of leaves and branches that did not get cleaned up before winter or came down during the winter months.
- Staff has started preparing park water systems for operation. Litter patrols and trash pick up has been stepped up. Tennis nets are getting put back up and playground inspections have increased in frequency.
- New signage for park restrooms was purchased and is being installed.
- Park Equipment Specialists have been very busy getting park and golf course equipment serviced and repaired and ready to start the season.
- Manito greenhouse staff are busy propagating plants for the coming season.
- Some of the native areas in Manito Park are getting cleaned up and native vegetation re-established. Manito staff are also working on re-grading a hill side near Tekoa St.
- Welcome to Ed Anderson who started March 21 as our new Craft Specialist- Plumber. He brings some valuable skills and knowledge to our operations.
- Eligibility lists for filling vacant Gardener I and Irrigation Specialist positions were received from Civil Service. Interviews will get scheduled soon.

Planning/Project Management:

- Working with the Peaceful Valley Neighborhood and Traffic Department about getting reduced vehicle parking along Water Street at the emergency boat launch.
- The contractor will take possession of the Polly Judd Pancake Shelter kit at the end of April. Construction should take three weeks.
- The Hillyard Days Committee's request for additional power availability at Harman Park has been turned over to an electrical contractor/engineer for evaluation and design drawings. There have been additions to the scope of the project but the completion date remains August 1st.
- Latah Neighborhood: Refining plans for Wentel Grant Park pathway and entrance from Inland Empire Highway. The intention to construct a playground at High Bridge Park has been expanded; the Neighborhood has yet to review the plans.
- Peaceful Valley Neighborhood: The River Walk planting project is being reviewed and bid for construction. The returned prices needed to be refined and the scope has changed regarding the construction of the new water sources along the River Walk. These new meters would supply a temporary drip irrigation system for native plants (Ponderosa Pine) and as a water source for the planned Community Garden to be constructed east of the Maple Street Bridge.
- The A.M. Cannon (West Central) Neighborhood has put in a large order of tables, BBQ's, trash can holders and benches to be purchased and installed by Community Development funds.
- The Woldson Park signs have been received and will be installed next week.
- The Dog Park is being heavily used and already is showing signs of overuse that can be corrected by access relocations. We are going to create a Fire Lane at the access leading to the existing gate.
- Working on a map for vehicle parking layout at Three Springs park area for potential segregation of commercial boat trailers. The plan will include potential rock relocation at the existing parking lot and drive below the TJ Meenach Bridge. This might accommodate easier turn around for large vehicles. There will be no changes in the existing access points to the River. Exploring these ideas as this is expected to be a very busy River season.
- Reviewed the preliminary construction plans for the aesthetic rechanneling of the Spokane River at Riverfront Park. Will present the final plans when they are completed by Avista next month.
- Staff reviewed potential location for a shelter at upper Manito Park. No decision has been made.
- Permanent Park ID signs for the Southeast Sports Complex and the Dog Park have been ordered. Permanent Dog Park rule signs and Park Rule signs have been ordered and will be installed next week. Two temporary (half sized) Park ID signs for the Dog Park have been ordered and will be installed next week.
- Negotiating a solution for the protective fence on the Blue Bridge on Howard Street. Have prices up to twelve thousand (not including install). The Bridge Department is willing to "help out" but their requirements will have the price exceeding 22K. The barrier needs to be chain link 54" high

and very securely mounted on a fragile deck. Riverfront Park wants the barrier up by Bloomsday and wants to see no chain link.

- Contacting Disc Golf Group to get a weather report on what's going on with their expectations to make a permanent course in People's Park. Little steam at this point but will be different when the warm weather hits.
- Have scheduled a community garden review session with the River Walk group for next week.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- Aaron Champagne was hired as the new Athletic Field and Facility Maintenance Foreperson who will oversee maintenance at Merkel, Franklin Park Softball and Southeast Sports Complex as well as the youth baseball fields, Albi Stadium and the Aquatics Centers. Also, Chad Keefer was hired as the new Field and Events Coordinator (seasonal position) to tackle the facility scheduling responsibilities for those and other facilities.
- The Riverfront Park Technicians and Facility Maintenance teams are installing the rides after a last minute withdrawal of the company who has installed the rides for 30 years. Steady progress is being made and are currently still on track for an on time opening of almost all the rides.
- Carrousel restoration and maintenance continued with a delayed opening of March 12. Poles were replaced, horses restored, shoring the deck, bathroom floors and lights redone, deep cleaning, installed with the goal of enhanced guest service and generating additional revenue.
- The Outdoor/Special Interest Programs are working with Inland Imaging to provide fitness classes for their Biggest Loser Competition. Many more programs will be arising from this partnership.
- Therapeutic Recreation Services put on their 9th Annual Hoop A Rama basketball tournament for people with and without disabilities. 10 teams and volunteers held the tournament at the East Central Community Center.
- The Corbin Senior Activity Center held its 7th annual Movin' & Groovin' Fair on March 5 offering free admission and screenings for vision, glucose, and cholesterol as well as free information about various topics. Over 60 exhibitors were at the Center, and we had more than 400 visitors.
- Lynn Mandyke, Corbin Arts Center Director presented the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens 2007-2011 As-Built Planting Plan and Plant Lists to the Spokane Landmarks Commission on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Originally approved in July 2006, the revised planting plan and plant lists incorporate plant substitutions; historic plants that remain on the site; and bulbs and natives added to the site. The commission unanimously awarded a Certificate of Appropriateness for the project.
- Sinto Senior Activity Center had five successful and successful and full trips to: Ham on Regal, Mariners Spring Training, Spangle Dungeness Crab Feed, A Whale Watching Tour to Lincoln City, and an Out to Dinner to Wolf Lodge in Cd'A. Our trips have seen a jump in attendance for the 1st quarter of 2011.
- Northeast Youth Center held the 13th Annual Barbie Party at the Masonic Center on March 6th. 210 girls were entertained with a style show, nail/beauty salon, limousine rides, purse decorating and pink cupcakes!
- Mid City Concerns had a St. Patrick's Day Party on March 18. Marc Postelwait dressed as a leprechaun and played the accordion. We also had a scavenger hunt and played St. Patrick's Day trivia for prizes. There were 22 people at the party.

Urban Forestry:

- Save the Date – April 14th, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Chase Gallery City Hall – Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark will present our 2010 Tree City USA Award.
- Received grant award from WDNR & US Forest Service to conduct a public tree inventory of Logan Neighborhood. A contractor has been selected and work is expected to be completed this year, likely this summer.
- Launched a new program – Employee of the Month Tree Planting. As each City employee of the month is selected, Urban Forestry will assist them in selecting and planting a tree in one of our parks. Nancy MacKerrow of The Susie Forest will dedicate the tree as a Susie Forest tree and provide her usual ceremonial services.
- Taped Walk in the Park program with Nancy MacKerrow of The Susie Forest on March 8th.
- Established first official NeighborWoods group at St. Aloysius School.
- Jeff Perry presented "Planting for Success" at the March 11th Community Canopy workshop.

- Visited 10 Neighborhood Council meetings to discuss their canopy concerns and present the NeighborWoods program opportunity.
- Angel Spell spoke at the Spokane chapter meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association on March 22nd.
- Partnered with The Lands Council on their Ponderosa Pine Project which currently engages local high school students in the planting of native species.
- Reengaged in the Division Street Gateway Project team meeting.
- 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 and Francis Ave.
- The first Susie Forest tree of the year was planted on March 21st at Minnehaha Park. Multiple site meetings with the Water Department on Bridgeport Ave. and Grand Blvd. projects to determine necessary tree protection measures.
- Felled 7 trees at YMCA demolition site.
- Temp/Seasonal employees attended safety training on March 14th.
- Trees pruned for flag clearance at Riverfront Park’s Canada Island.
- Hazardous tree removal of Downriver Drive.
- Completed tree removals at Albi Stadium.