



Monthly Executive Summary May 2010

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
June 4, 2010, Updated June 10, 2010

Department highlights for the month include:

- Leroy attended the annual King's Point Neighborhood Meeting. As neighbors to the soon to be completed Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, King's Point was happy about the project and how construction did not have a major impact on their neighborhood.
- Parks and Recreation Staff Appreciation Barbeque on May 21st was a nice success with good staff turnout and the Parks Administrative team serving up some good lunch. Thanks to the Administrative Team for paying for and serving lunch, Spokane City Credit Union \$100 sponsorship, the Golf Professionals for providing food, and Sam Song for working with his vendors to cover everything else. Mike Aho and Ryan Griffith thanks for the excellent brownies. The Parks Communication Committee also did a great job of helping plan the event.
- The Park Bond Citizen Advisory Committee (PBCAC) met on May 24th and toured the soon to be completed Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.
- May was ribbon cutting month with three ribbon cuttings: Witter Aquatic Center on May 12th, Fish Lake Trail on May 14th, and Children's Universal Playground at Mission Park on May 25th. Thanks to Nancy Goodspeed for organizing these events.
- Parks staff and Gail Mackie of SpokAnimal met several times to discuss the soon to be constructed dog park at High Bridge Park.
- The Park Board Bylaw Committee met several times during the month of May and will soon have an updated draft of the Board Bylaws.
- Leroy had a successful meeting with the Downtown Spokane Partnership and the Downtown Ratepayer Advisory Board on May 26th. One of the main discussion items was Riverfront Park and its relationship with the success of downtown Spokane.
- The Park Board held a special board meeting at the Corbin Art Center and the toured the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens. Many thanks to the Friends of the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens for providing lunch and Lynn Mandyke for an informative presentation. Thanks to all the board members who attended and toured the gardens in the rain.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- The **Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens** opened for the season on Saturday, May 15. The Gardens will be open weekends through May from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Summer hours begin Wednesday, June 2nd. During the summer the gardens are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Riverfront Park served 72 School Groups in the **IMAX Theater** with a total of 3292 students.
- Recreations *Special Interest Program* operated the **Wine, Ride and Dine** activity. This popular wine tasting, *SkyRide over the Falls* and dining experience was held at both *Clinkerdagger's* or *Anthony's* restaurants and served 120 people.
- Buy your ticket to the **All City Senior Center Fundraiser**, at the Spokane Civic Theater to see *Annie Get Your Gun*, Wednesday, June 16th, 6:00 p.m.; \$35 per person.
- The second annual "*You've been Caught Doing Something Great*", a staff recognition program at Riverfront Park, was held over Memorial Day weekend.
- Manito's *Park Bench Café* opened for the season on May 22 complete with a brand new floor, new cash registers and its usual excellent menu and service.

Golf/Administration:

- Report not available.

Finance:

- Held two sessions for Aquatics payroll sign-ups and have had a constant stream of sign-ups for the summer season for all Park and Recreation areas.
- Prepared procedure manual for Aquatics cashiers.
- Worked with MIS on preparing the Point of Sale system for the new aquatic season.
- Worked with Purchasing and finalized Value Blankets for fertilizer and concession purchases.
- Conducted staff training and documented procedures in areas where job responsibilities will be shifted due to the Clerk III hiring.
- Golf computer re-built, but still unable to resolve all connection issues for the Golf Point of Sale system.

Marketing/Communications:

- Twelve news releases including: Springtime Elegance at the Corbin Senior Activity Center; Seeking Summer Camp Counselor for Recreation Programs; Fourth of July Fireworks-Riverfront-Larry H. Miller is New Sponsor' Invitation to Witter Aquatics Center Ribbon-cutting; Witter Ribbon-cutting with Mayor Verner; Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens Open May 15th; Riverfront Park Fourth of July – Sponsorships Available; Bridge Walk 2010; Park Bench Café Opens May 22; Splash Pads Open May 29; Disc Golf Association Public Meeting May 27; Riverfront Memorial Day hours of Operation.
- Work continues to work out the bugs in all four web sites. Near daily additions and edits to the sites are being made by staff in all divisions, with marketing efforts aimed at increasing participants to sign-up for programs and classes via the web and our Active program.
- The final Urban Forestry logo disc should be available this week.
- The June TV show “Walk in the Park” program will feature Golf and Aquatics.
- Key upcoming dates: May 26, Bosch Lot RFP Issues; May 29, Splash pads open city wide; June 5, 2nd annual Bridge Walk; June 4 – 6, ArtFest-Make it Art (replaces Community Appreciation Day); June 9, Liberty Aquatics Center Ribbon cutting ceremony and tour; June 14, All six aquatic centers open to the public; August 7, Dwight Merkel Sports Complex grand opening.

Park Operations:

- Park use has been high and staff has been busy keeping up and getting ready for even more use through the summer season. Park raking has been completed, water systems have been turned on, mowing and weed spraying are in full swing, and park restrooms are ready to open for the Memorial Day weekend.
- A contract was negotiated and approved by Park Board for transferring leftover LID funds to the Downtown Spokane Partnership for street tree care in the central business district. We have been working on this for many years to it is good to see it finalized and be able to put the funds to work addressing the many needs in the downtown area.
- Contacts for security and fire alarm system monitoring at Manito, Finch Arboretum, and Park Operations were finally completed. Contracted work for sidewalk repair on the south side of Comstock Park was also finished up this month.
- Staff has been working with Spokane Public schools and their design firm on a new irrigation system for athletic fields at Shadle Park. This project will start in June with construction and future maintenance funded by the School District.
- There has been considerable discussion with City Utility Billing and the Water Department on separating some water accounts for Shadle Park. This will allow for better monitoring of water consumption by the splash pad, aquatic facility, and park irrigation system and have things billed to their appropriate area.
- Special events continue to take significant staff time, particularly the large events or those that seem to have some issues in cooperating with park use regulations. Park staff assisted with preparations for the Lilac Festival parade. There have also been a number of meetings and conversations with the organizers of Art Fest, which will be at Coeur d'Alene Park the first weekend in June.
- Staff has been researching fire assessment fees that are paid on various park properties. Although it does not amount to a large sum of money, it appears we have been paying fees on properties that do not belong to us for a number of years. We are working on getting this corrected.
- Park Operations staff has been helping review the RFP for maintenance at the Merkel Sports Complex. There is some continued concern that there will be significant issues with repair and maintenance of this new facility that we have not provided any resources to handle. Unfortunately, we have continued to stretch existing resources to the point that the level of service we can provide does get impacted.
- Staff has been working with the Purchasing Department on getting quotes for fertilizers and other horticultural chemicals. We use a variety of produces that wind up being a significant purchase when everything is combined.

Planning/Project Management:

- Working on the following Eagle Scout projects:
 - Recreation area at the Hydro plant below the dam.
 - Clearing and rehabilitating trails at the Arboretum.

- Rehabilitating the Softball Diamond at Mission Park.
- Placing mile markers on the Fish Lake Trail.
- Bench and sign construction at Upper Lincoln Park walking and biking trail.
- Interpretive sign and map for the High Drive trails.
- Work continues on the Logan Peace Park community development projects.
- The plans have been completed and supplies have arrived for the Fairview Park Furniture installation.
- Plans have been completed and a site has been selected for a Mission Park basketball court to be built with Community Development funds to Hoopfest specifications.
- The shelter at A.M. Cannon Park has been completed. Two barbeques will be installed.
- Commemorative plaques for the new Aquatic Centers have been ordered.
- New location signs for the Aquatic Centers have been ordered.
- The commemorative benches have been installed at various locations.
- The pancake shelter for Polly Judd Park has been funded and is in the design stages.
- The Corbin Park Lights have been ordered. Staff is working on establishing costs and finding a price for cable installation to prevent root damage and irrigation problems.

Urban Forestry

- Outlined staff roles and responsibilities as first step towards a comprehensive work plan.
- Vegetation Management Plan update is in progress. The next meeting will be held on June 17th, 2:00 p.m. at the Spokane County Conservation District.
- Customer Service Survey results are in, report forthcoming. The primary result is resounding confirmation that the permitting process needs overhaul; earnest effort on the overhaul will begin immediately. An ancillary result is the perception of many that they are not customers of Urban Forestry when in fact they are receiving our products or services.
- Still waiting for delivery of Urban Forestry logos from Klundt-Hosmer.
- Urban Forestry was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Washington Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service for a one year Public Education Project. An additional \$30,000 grant is also available, application deadline is July 1, 2010.
- Collection of Urban Forestry donations through Utility Billing is scheduled for a July launch. Implementation costs have been estimated and approved for continuation of the project.
- Through and RFQ process, an On –Call Arborist was selected by Engineering and Urban Forestry staff for use on future construction projects.
- Interdepartmental Discussions with Planning, Engineering, Streets and Urban Forestry resulted in policy statements in response to the Citizen Advisory Committee recommendations.
- Attended and spoke at the Cliff Cannon Neighborhood Council meeting. Scheduled to meet with the Logan Neighborhood Council in June.
- Thank you to Sally Sullivan and her crew at Finch for planting 50 trees this spring including: Aspen, Birch, Red and Black Alder, Sassafras, Tulip tree, Tuleo and others.
- Planted many wonderful trees: Liberty Park (2 English Oak 6” cal., 1 Champion Green Ash 3” cal.); Whitter (1 Bur Oak 2”); Cannon Hill (1 Beech 2”, 1 Champion Red Ash 3”, 1 Hardy Rubber tree 2”(SF)); Lincoln Park (1 Accolade Elm 3”, 1 Blue Ash 2”, 1 Champion Red Ash 3’, 1 Hardy Rubber Tree 2”); Finch (1 Tulip Tree 3” Memorial, 1 Bristlecone Pine 3”); Grant (1 Champion Red Ash 3”, 1 White Oak 2”, 1 Hardy Rubber Tree 2”); Hill and Dale (1 Bur Oak 2” (SF), 1 Champion Red Ash 3”); CDA Park (1 Bur Oak 2”(SF)); Corbin Park (1 Champion Green Ash 3”, 1 White Oak 2”, 1 Blue Ash 2”); Byrne Park (1 Dawn Redwood 2”, 1 Yellowwood 2”, 1 Hardy Rubber Tree 2”, 1 Champion green Ash 3”); Pacific Park (1 White Oak 2” Memorial); Roosevelt sch. (1 Sweet gum 2” donated by Cliff Canon Neighborhood (SF)); 3803 S Grand (1 Ginkgo 2”(SF)); South Side Senior Center (1 Blue Ash 2”(SF)); 533 S Ray (1 Dawn Redwood 2”(SF)); 827 W. Augusta (1Golden Raindrops Crab 3”replacement). **Total trees planted this spring as of May 26, 2010 = 32. Total Appraised Value = \$18,580.** We have 7 more trees to plant this spring.