



Monthly Executive Summary May 2011

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

Department highlights for the month include:

- Attended the 12th Annual Inland Northwest Tourism Awards put on by the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau where Dave Randolph was nominated for the Heart of the House Award. Although Dave didn't win the award being nominated shows just how much the tourism community recognizes the great work he does. Well done Dave!
- The dedication for the renaming of Edwidge Woldson Park was great success on May 13th thanks to Lynn Mandyke, Nancy Goodspeed and the Friends of the Moore/Turner Heritage Gardens.
- On the evening of May 18th Taylor Bressler and I met with West Central neighborhood representatives at lower crossing to locate a council ring that they propose to build using Community Development funds.
- Thursday evening on May 19th I made a Spokane Parks and Recreation presentation to the Chief Garry Neighborhood at their request. This is a very active neighborhood that has a good relationship with Spokane Parks and Recreation and I appreciated the opportunity to speak with them.
- Friday May 20th was our Staff Appreciation BBQ and the highlight of my month. It was great to serve Parks and Recreation Staff lunch alongside the entire Management Team. Thanks to the Mayor and Ted for attending and special thanks to those who sponsored and paid for the food; SPRD Management Team, Bob Droll Landscape Architect, Bouten Construction, and Schimmels Construction. We also had someone donate funds that choose to remain anonymous. Well done everyone!
- On May 24th we made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on the YMCA Restoration Plan.
- May 25th I presented the YMCA Restoration Plan to the Riverside Neighborhood at their request and then later that evening participated in the presentation of the same to the Spokane Design Review Committee.

Golf/Administration:

- We continue to be challenged by the cool wet spring. It is encouraging however when the weather is even a bit dry we are getting very good play. We hope to continue this trend and see our numbers begin to track a little closer to normal.
- We are looking for additional advertising opportunities to help increase play.
- Demolition is near complete on the YMCA.
- We have submitted initial restoration plans for the Board of County Commissioners approval and will give them tours of the site this week in hope to get their approval at their June 7th meeting.
- We completed the design review process and received their approval on May 25th.
- The public comment period for the Substantial Shoreline Development permits ends June 1st.

Finance/Budget:

- Held cashier training for Riverfront, Merkel and Aquatics staff.
- Prepared Aquatics Point of Sale system for opening of Witter Pool.
- Prepared and distributed procedures for purchases over \$20,000.
- Completed Fleet and Property inventories for Risk Management.
- Hired 160 Temporary Seasonals during April.
- 127 Urban Forestry donations were made in April via utility bill payments for a total amount of \$392.99.

Marketing/Communications:

- 13 News Releases Issued April 27 – May 31, 2011 including: Bloomsday Runner Repair; Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens Open May 14; New Season Starts Now at Riverfront Park; Edwidge Woldson Park Dedication is May 13; Time to Stop Temporarily for Clocktower; WRPA Award for Merkel Sports Complex Design; Update on BMX Spokane at Merkel; Camps for 2011; Live Music - Park Bench Cafe - Fridays This Summer; TFM Free Presentation - Plants That Deliver; Park Bench Cafe Opens May 20; Friday Fun Nights in Riverfront Park; Bridge Walk 2011.
- Upcoming topics for the Walk in the Park include: June/July – First Tee & Golf Update, TFM for Mirror Pond and Aquatics Update; August/September – Budget, Youth Baseball Fields Update; October/November – Dog Park, Marketing Summary. Programs are now available online on City

Park Operations:

- Staff met with engineering and design firms about rebuilding the stairway access and retaining wall at Cliff Park. Funds are available for making improvements in the 2011 capital budget.
- Park Ops has taken over responsibility for mowing and establishing grass on the new baseball diamonds. Fencing will be kept in place until the grass can tolerate public use. The new sports facilities and complexes have added significantly to our work load.
- Kevin Kilgore was hired as Gardener I and started on May 16. He will be assigned to Moore Turner Heritage Gardens and Manito greenhouse.
- Staff has been working with the Fire Marshall on fire pits in parks and requirements for design and use.
- There has been a lot of staff time put in on graffiti removal this month. This is a frustrating task for staff as it often comes back and there are so many other things we could be doing.
- Corbin Park had a new drinking fountain installed, a set of ball diamond bleachers replaced, and Hoopfest started work on renovating the basketball court.
- Staff has been working with the Purchasing department on getting Requests for Bids out for repaving the west parking lot at Franklin Park and replacing the three park mowers used at Manito, Finch Arboretum, and other park areas. These are funded in the 2011 capital budget.
- A new rock retaining wall at Liberty Park was completed. The retaining wall will help prevent erosion from undermining the foundation for the picnic shelter that sits on a hillside.
- Staff assisted with set up for the Lilac Festival's Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. The lilac Festival Association reimburses the Park Department for the cost of this assistance.
- Irrigation staff installed water connections for the new community garden in Grant Park.
- Fall surfacing material was replaced on five park playgrounds. This is an ongoing activity as budget allows and we are able to purchase sufficient quantities of "engineered wood fiber".
- Park Operations staff has done a great job of having our parks looking good and ready for public use in spite of the weather (although the natural source of water is always appreciated). We are lucky to have many people who have worked for us in previous years back for another season. Weed spraying and turf aeration got started along with park restroom opening. Manito's Duncan Garden got planted this month and promises to be a spectacular view again this year. We have lots to keep us busy.

Planning/Project Management:

- The Polly Judd Pancake Shelter will be roofed next week and opened for the first pancake feed the third week of June.
- The Hillyard Days Committee's request for additional power availability in Harmon Park has been turned over to the Building Department for review and suggestions for acceptable underground housings for power receptacles. The design will go out for bid next week.
- The Latah Neighborhood is selecting the type of play equipment for the installation and access project. The playground project will go out for bid mid July.
- The River Walk planting project in Peaceful Valley has been completed. The new plant material looks good and the irrigation system has been extended to the new planting areas and to the Community Garden area. The paperwork is being completed and we will bill the Department of Natural Resource next week for the total grant reimbursement of \$20,000.
- The A.M. Cannon (West Central) Neighborhood has relocated the building site for the Gathering Ring that had been planned over the bank closer to the river. The new location was selected to more easily meet permit and building regulations. It takes advantage of a natural clearing in the existing tree cover that affords a good view of the river.
- An architect has been selected for the railings on the Blue Bridge in Riverfront Park. He has developed a railing system that will be compliant with the existing building codes and the aesthetics of the Blue Bridge. The solution will be visibly unobtrusive and will reduce the static weight limits set on the bridge.
- The Disc Golf group is happy with things at People's Park, Downriver and High Bridge. It is anticipated that when the season warms up and pay gets crowded at all the courses we will hear about potential expansion plans at People's Park. Preliminary permission has been given to the

- Some bumps with the Community Garden groups have been solved. Grant Park Community Garden has opened the sod and is constructing the raised beds off site. The River Walk Community Garden has opened the soil and placed a couple of raised planting beds. Both sites have water spigots.
- Commissioned an existing contract with DEA for the determination of Mirror Pond as it's status as a wetland. This is a result of ongoing conversations with the Department of Ecology.
- Drafted a contract with Landscape Architect and an Engineer firm for the construction of replacement access stairs at Cliff Park.
- Reviewed current status of Community Development 2011 projects with Community Development staff.
- Laid out and asked for quotes for the basketball court memorial in Peaceful Valley Park.
- Contacted and Engineering firm for a design review of the 12 foot iron hoop that is part of the Chief Garry Memorial to be located in Garry Park.
- Negotiating with Geiger Correction Crews regarding clean up at UTF.
- Laid out the location of the gate to be moved at the north end of Rimrock Drive.
- Evaluated the relocation of the Mission Park basketball court due to discovery of missing sewer lines that were found a little to the south, parallel to the Centennial Trail bend that heads into the Mission Neighborhood.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- Event season began at Riverfront Park with a great weekend for Bloomsday (revenue up 25% pver 2010 due to perfect weather), Junior Lilac Parade and Lilac Parade with Cruzin' the Falls Car Show keeping staff busy.
- The IMAX new feature "Legends of Flight" beginning My 20 has developed strong interest and has potential for being an outstanding feature this summer. It will compliment "Lewis and Clark" and "Roar" for the beginning of summer.
- Youth Adventure Camps are underway with staff and activities ready to go for school to be out for summer! Signups are already up from last year by 50%.
- Wine, Ride and Dine was a great success for Recreation & Riverfront Park. 168 people enjoyed great wines, the Sky Ride, and a fabulous meal at Anthony's and Clinkerdagger's.
- TRS awarded \$4,500 form the Spokane Parks Foundation for purchase of adaptive ski equipment.
- Corbin Senior Activity Center's Black & White Affair (Dinner and Auction) was a fun event which netted over \$17,000.
- Hillyard Senior Center hosted a Mother's Day Tea & Luncheon on Saturday May 7th which provided nearly 100 mothers, Grandmothers, and Grand Daughters with a unique celebration. Lunch, speakers, contests, and entertainment highlighted the day's event.
- Merkel Softball concessions had a great inaugural weekend with \$5,000 in sales.
- Manito Park Bench Café opened for the season on May 20.
- The Edwidge Woldson Park Dedication was held on Friday, May 13, 2011. Speakers included: Ross Kelley, Park Board President; Joe Shogan, City Council President at Large; Bridget Piper, President, Friends of the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens; and Leroy Eadie, Director of the City of Spokane Park and Recreation Department. A reception, followed the sign unveiling and was held in the Corbin Art Center, sponsored by the Friends of the Moore Turner-Heritage Gardens.
- On April 22nd Mid-City Concerns held an Easter Party and had prize eggs and special prizes for the seniors. 51 seniors attended the party.
- Southside Senior Activity Center held its annual "High Tea and Hats" event on May 17 in partnership with Harvard Park who provided the chef and the "true" English fare. Ninety-nine people were in attendance.

Urban Forestry:

- Presented an overview of the Spokane Urban Forestry program at the Washington Community Forestry Council meeting – May 11th.
- Beth Mort and Mike Sanborn have been out of the office the last two weeks of May. Beth will return to work on June 1st. Mike is obligated to a 3-month seasonal lay-off period, returning mid-August.

- Staff attended the Gordon Mann seminar “Sidewalks & Trees: How to repair and maintain the structural Integrity of Both” on April 28th.
- A Tree Protection Training workshop has been scheduled with Public Works’ staff including Streets, Water, & Wastewater department – June 8th.
- Held a Staff Development Training Session on May 13th addressing motivation, purpose, communication, and time management. In attendance: Kacey Burke, Jeff Perry, Miles Cooley, Mike Sanborn, and Beth Mort. Presented by Angel Spell.
- Education Grant – 2,000 bookmarks have been printed and distributed. Advertisements are appearing in the Spokesman Voice, Inlander, Down to Earth, and Out There.
- Spokane Conservation District planted native species at the natural drainage near Sky Prairie Park. Approximately 395 plants installed: 100 quaking aspen, 100 red osier dogwood, 10 rocky mtn maple, 20 mtn ash, 25 white pine, 25 Engelmann spruce, 50 ninebark, 25 water birch, 25 snowberry, 15 golden current.
- Continuing conversation with The Lands Council to partner on shared goals in the areas of: education, advocacy, fund-raising, grant-writing, and volunteer recruitment and engagement.
- Built GIS database and delivered handheld computers to Downtown Spokane Partnership for their staff to collect data on tree well integrity within the central business district.
- Attended the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council meeting on May 11th to discuss the NeighborWoods program and the Grand Blvd re-paving project and associated tree work.
- Planted 21 trees – 14 street locations plus 7 park locations.
- Pruned 1 tree – Spruce at Hays Park.
- Processed 30 Street Tree Permits.