



Monthly Executive Summary October 2010

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
November 11, 2010

Department highlights for the month include:

- The Park Board Rules & Bylaws Committee has completed their work in updating and amending the Park Board Rules in October and has forwarded their recommendation to the entire Park Board. Many thanks to Gary Lawton, Pat Dalton, and Jacki Faught for their leadership and hard work in completing this task.
- Parks and Recreation Staff working with City Engineering continue to explore the most cost effective strategy for fixing the leaking Cannon Hill Pond. At this point Parks Staff has decided to contract with a leak detection company to see if the location of the leaks can be determined.
- Parks and Recreation Staff have requested an extension on the White Water Recreation and Conservation Office State Grant which is due to expire at the end of the year. If the extension is granted a Request for Proposals will be released in order to hire a consultant to develop and Environmental Impact Statement for the Whitewater Park.
- Parks and Recreation Staff continue to meet with citizens who are interested in creating community gardens in at least three park locations. At this time staff is working on potential Park Board policy for community gardens which will included a memorandum of understanding template.
- Discussions continue with SpokAnimal for the development of a dog park at High Bridge Park.

Finance:

- Presented Recommended budget to Park Board and it was approved. Budget sent to Budget Office for inclusion in the Mayor's Budget.
- Finished Testing to enable Purchase documents to be scanned into the Purchase Order module of the Financial Management System.
- Made final preparations for installation and training on Golf Point of Sale upgrade.
- Continued information responses to State Auditor.
- In conjunction with the Legal Department, conducted Contract training for 30+ Park Department employees.
- Tracked and recorded income from first month of Urban Forestry donations via utility bills.
- Developed and presented recommended volunteer policy and program ideas to the Administrative Team.
- Reconciled aquatic center vouchers.
- Prepared pro-forma worksheet to calculate various rates and usage at Merkel Sports Complex.
- Prepared for winter activity and Haunted House accounting at Riverfront.
- Began preparing for on-line Riverfront ticket sales.
- Conducted cashier training for new/returning hires at Riverfront.

Golf/Administration:

- Started Bank Stabilization at Qualchan. The contractor believes he can have all the barbs constructed and in place prior to the November 15th deadline set by WDFW to be out of the water. We have remained in constant contact with that agency and believe we can get an extension if need be and if the water table does not rise. Once the barbs are in place most of the remaining work will be above the high water mark. If the weather cooperates all work will be complete this year with the exception of plantings. That work should not have an impact on the playability of the golf course.
- All four golf courses are being sprayed this week to prevent snow mold. Indian Canyon has closed for the season and once the spraying is complete they will begin to blanket the greens for the winter. Downriver's last day will be November 7th. Qualchan and Esmeralda are running on a day by day basis and will remain open as long as we are not seeing turf damage and as long as weather permits.

Marketing/Communications:

- Twenty three Releases Issued September 25 – October 21, 2010 including: Conservation Futures Meeting October 12; Riverfront Frights & Haunted Pavilion; Fans Sought for VIP Tree Program; Friends of Manito-Day in the Garden; Problems at Japanese Garden; Fall Leaf Festival at the Arboretum; Party in Pink Zumbathon to Benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure; Recreation's Historic Cemetery Tour; Fall Leaf Festival Activities; Merkel Trail Work Day & Open House; Open Houses for Citizen Input-fees for Merkel-Franklin & Aquatics; Ice Palace info; Ice Palace

Opens on the 20th; MEDIA NIGHT - Riverfront Fright; Injured Geese in Riverfront to be Transplanted; Workshop - Expectations of Arborists Working on Public Trees; WORKSHOP UPDATE - Expectations of Arborists Working on Public Trees; Coed Halloween Capture the Flag Tournament for Adults; Holiday lights - tree in RFP; Riverfront Haunted Pavilion - 3 more days; Riverfront Haunted Pavilion BIRTHDAY PARTIES; Spokane Park Board Considers Higher Pool Fees; Veteran's Day Camps at Corbin Art Center.

- 11 e-Newsletters were issued in October including: Oct 5 Outdoor e-Newsletter – Outdoor Fun with Spokane Parks and Recreation; Oct 8 Adult & Family e-Newsletter from Spokane Parks & Rec – Dance, dance, dance!; Oct 15 Fitness & Wellness e-Newsletter from Spokane Parks & Rec – Try Our Bootcamp Express.
- The November “Walk in the Park” program will feature an update on Urban Forestry with Angel Spell and Craig Butz and Carl Strong discussing the latest on Dwight Merkel fields and youth baseball fields renovation city-wide.

Park Operations:

- Park staff has shifted into fall maintenance activity. Most park water systems have been drained and prepared for freezing weather. Maintenance equipment has been brought in for winter servicing and repair. Raking crew has been doing what they can although the leaves are slow to drop again this year. They will fall eventually and hopefully there is still time to remove much of them before winter hits.
- There were over 25 school cross country meets held in parks this fall, some that brought in more than 1,000 people. Audubon, Comstock, Manito, and Finch are popular locations for these events.
- The Fall Leaf Festival was held at Finch Arboretum on October 16. The trees were not showing their fall colors as much as in some years and staff had to really search to find enough leaves on the ground to create the giant leaf pile for children to play in. The event was well attended and many people continue to visit the arboretum through these fall days.
- The grounds maintenance staff at Riverfront replaced over 6,500 square feet of sod that had been damaged by Pig Out and other events and heavy use. Park Ops staff had to once again re-attach a Bloomsday runner statue that had been broken off by vandals. Several other statues were also starting to crack and break off and had to be repaired.
- Work began on replacing the asphalt in the east parking lot for Grant Park. The new paving should be completed in the next few days.
- A contract has been completed for installing new metal roofing at the Park Ops Complex. This has been an ongoing project completed in phases over the last ten years. Much of our building had poor quality asphalt shingles on it when the building was purchased and there were numerous leaks. This project will finally complete replacing all the old roofing with a much more durable metal roof product.
- Staff worked with Engineering Services and their contractor to get 13 trees replaced at the Fish Lake Trail Head. The trees had been improperly planted and many died prematurely.
- Staff met with Civil Service to create an eligibility list for a vacant Craft Specialist – Plumber position. Interviews will probably begin soon.
- There has been quite a bit of time spent working with Environmental Programs on stormwater management plans for park facilities. Staff training was also completed as required by the management plan.
- Discussions continue on the best strategy for addressing water loss in Cannon Hill Park pond. We are currently seeking a proposal for trying to identify and pinpoint the source of the leak. Engineering Services is also working on the issue.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- The Dwight Merkel Perimeter Trail which goes around Merkel and Albi Stadium was nearing completion by using Volunteers from Geiger Prison.
- Riverfront Park Ice Palace opened its 2010/2011 season on Wednesday, October 20.
- The SkyRide over The Falls underwent its 5 year maintenance with Dopplemayr CTEC out of Salt Lake City leading RFP Technicians.
- Riverfront Park partnered with Ignite Community Theatre for the 3rd year to produce a haunted house attraction in the old Spokane Story building. The “Haunted Pavilion” is open and runs through October 31st. A “Haunted Pavilion” package includes the Haunted House, Ghostly Golf, SR2 Ride Simulator and a new Straw Bale Maze.

Urban Forestry:

- Chris Hilgert, WSU Urban Horticulture Extension Educator, was appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee as a Member-at-Large. One vacancy remains for a Member-at-Large.
- *Guidelines for Infilling Street Trees in Spokane's Residential Areas* is still undergoing legal review and graphic design before publication.
- Participated in Community Canopy's *Volunteers in Pruning (VIP)* training program: October 9th.
- Participated in *Fall Leaf Festival*: October 16th, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Finch Arboretum.
- Presented *Spokane's Urban Forestry Program – What is expected of arborists working on public trees – Green Industry Series*: October 22nd.
- Participating in the Community Canopy workshop *Trees in the Landscape 101*, October 29th.
- Starr webinar training in TreeWorks software, October 8th.
- Basic Chainsaw Operations class scheduled at Finch Arboretum on December 2 from 8:00 a.m. – Noon. Registration is available on the ishare (Training Calendar) or by calling Darren Statgeberg, Safety Coordinator at 625-6221.
- Taped *A Walk in the Park* for Cable 5 broadcast. Garth Davis, Chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee, interviewed Angel Spell about the Urban Forestry program.
- Initiated a Coffee Hour with the Urban Forester inviting anyone to drop in to visit on Monday mornings, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. at Atticus Coffee, 222 N. Howard.
- Met with WDNR and Spokane County Conservation District to discuss the Cost-Share grant for Palisades Forest Health project and 2 more potential CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) projects: High Drive Bluff and Sans Souci/Summit Blvd.
- Attending LID (Low Impact Development) Breakfast & Workshop hosted by The Lands Council and AHBL, October 29th.
- Consulted on Water Main project, North Five Mile Prairie Reservoir, and Five Mile Road project.
- Met with Wastewater Dept regarding trees planted in swales along Nevada Rd. Secured verbal agreements from Avista and SCCD to pursue replacement of the maple trees with utility appropriate species.