



Monthly Executive Summary September 2011

City of Spokane
Leroy Eadie
Director of Parks and Recreation
October 7, 2011

Department highlights for the month include:

- Leroy and Garrett continued to meet with Greenstone Development both on the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and design of Centennial Trail through Kendall Yards. A consultant has been chosen to complete the HMP.
- Several Park's Management Team members met with Bob Droll in early September for a walkthrough on all the youth baseball fields discussing tasks that needed to be completed to get the fields in the best shape for play next spring. A decision was made to sod the infields of B.A. Clark as the seeded grass was not coming in.
- The Riverfront Park Master Plan Team continued to meet on Monday's through September to refine the three alternatives to be presented to RFP Committee in October. Craig Butz has done a great job leading project and Garrett has provided excellent design and graphic support.
- Met several times over the month of September with the Mayor, Dorothy Webster, and Mike Adolphae to develop a process to evaluate the funding and organizational structure of the Community, Youth, and Senior Centers. The first stakeholder meeting is scheduled for October 26th.
- Leroy and Angel worked with the Waste Water Department and the City Council for Storm Water Utility support of the Urban Forestry Program. The result was the City Council approving use of Waste Water capital funding to pay for the tree inventory.
- Participated in several Hazel's Creek Storm Water Creek meetings that include properties adjacent to the Southside Soccer Complex. Leroy also met onsite with developers to discuss access options and soccer field improvements.

Finance/Budget:

- Presented Amended Preliminary Budget for second Park Board Budget Workshop.
- Installed and attended training for software that enables Internet Sales of Membership Passes.
- Prepared detailed budget report for Golf, Park Operations and Administration.
- Responded to questions from State Auditor regarding 2010 audit.
- Researched Gift Certificate potential with new banking services provider.
- Terminated 186 seasonal employees.

Marketing/Communications:

- 17 News Releases Issued August 25, 2011 – September 27, 2011 including: City Championship Tee Times Posted; 25 Witter Aquatic Center to Remain Open until September 10th; Be One of the First to See the Fall-Winter Program Guide; Last Month to View Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens for the Season; New Fall-Winter Activity Guide Available On-Line; Witter & A.M. Cannon aquatic centers - UPDATE ON HOURS; Pig Out Weekend in Riverfront Park; Free Presentations - Finch Arboretum & Its Trees; Open House for Citizen Input-2012 Parks & Rec Budget; Spokane Park Board to Convene Special 2012 Budget Workshop-update; Northeast Youth Center - Open House September 24 - Celebrating 40 Years; Seminar on Emerald Ash Borer; Sign up Now to Help Plant 10,000 Trees in One Day; Sign Up Today - 750 VOLUNTEERS WITH SHOVELS ARE NEEDED; Parks & Recreation Special Meeting to Discuss Proposed Budget; Put the Gardens to Bed Event – Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens; Spokane Park Board Meets TODAY for Special 2012 Budget Workshop
- Currently compiling information from all Divisions regarding 2011 Department Accomplishments to be used with the overall budget planning presentation.
- Walk in the Park programs are available online on City Cable 5. Park Board meetings are also available on the City's online video page. Click on this link to view: <http://www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/>
- 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 August currently taping September program – Budget overview and Fall attractions in Riverfront Park.

Park Operations:

- The month started out with the return of Spokane Symphony's Labor Day concert in Comstock Park. Several thousand people showed up to enjoy the park, music, and great weather.
- Several school cross country meets were held this month at Audubon, Comstock, Manito and Finch Arboretum and will continue into October.
- Replacing the asphalt on the west parking lot at Franklin Park was completed this month. This was one of the 2011 capital improvement projects.
- Park Operations staff worked with Recreation staff on weed spraying and fertilizing the new baseball fields at B.A. Clark and Chief Garry. The grass has responded to the extra care and staff will continue to monitor the growth through the fall and make every effort to have the new facilities ready for use in the spring.
- Painting of several buildings in Manito Park including the Japanese garden restrooms and maintenance yard buildings was completed.
- The newly formed Finch Arboretum support group has named themselves the Finch Arboretum Conservators and has continued to meet and sponsor educational programs.
- Car prowling in Manito parking lots has increased in frequency again. Staff is working with the Police department and looking into higher resolution security cameras.
- A concerted effort was put into filling low spots and re-seeding at Comstock Park. Staff has worked on leveling out the ground in several parks to make them easier to mow and safer for people walking.
- Irrigation staff has begun the six to eight week process of draining and preparing park water systems for winter weather.
- Horticulture staff made recommendations for a revised planting plan for restoring the YMCA site. The recommendations should be less costly and easier to establish and maintain.
- Design and engineering for a new stairway access in Cliff Park is complete. The project will be put out for bids soon. The new design will provide a safer, more pleasing access that will also help prevent some of the current erosion problems. This is another 2011 Capital Improvement Project.
- After conducting approximately 15 interviews, John Gould has been selected to fill a vacant Laborer I position. John has worked as a seasonal employee in the Golf Division and should be a great addition to our staff.
- Design work for installing a new boiler for Manito greenhouses is complete and being reviewed by staff prior to putting the project out for bids.

Planning/Project Management:

- The Corbin Park lights project is completed. Plans are being drawn up for the next phase of the project which includes replacing four existing light poles and standards with the LED light sources and a thematic pole design. The additional lights and poles will be ordered this fall for installation.
- The West Central Council Ring project plans have been reviewed. The plans have been cleared and will be given to select concrete and mason contractors for bids.
- 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 rail system will be aircraft cable system stretched on aluminum frames. Both sides of the bridge will be contained with gates on each end for maintenance access.
- The Manito Park Grand Avenue Irrigation Project design has been approved and is being made ready for bidding.
- The basketball court sign for Peaceful Valley has been approved and ordered.
- The basketball court slab at Mission has been completed and standards and benches will be installed this fall. Backboards and standards are also being installed at Garry Park's former volleyball court.
- Made plans for renovation of Stone Street Park to include top dressing, turf transition areas and construction of concrete ADA access paths.
- The sculpture at Garry Park has been removed, its site has been restored and the displaced sculpture will be installed on the grounds at OPS. It will be located at the landscape adjacent to the employee parking lot located north of the OPS Building.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- *Pig out in the Park* concluded a very successful and busy summer season at **Riverfront Park**. Riverfront Park revenues near-record breaking levels.

- September continued to be a busy month at the Park with *SpokeFest, Oktoberfest, Shriners Duck Race, AIDS Walk, Heart Walk, Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Seahawks Rally*, 4 weddings, 3 private Carrousel rentals, 4 Carrousel birthday parties and various groups.
- **Riverfront Park Terrorism Readiness Policy** was completed and distributed prior to Pig Out.
- The first annual *Dwight Dash* a 5k and 10k trail run at the **Merkel Sports Complex** took place on August 27 which showcased the new trails at the facility.
- The **Outdoor Program** hosted 19 privately guided outdoor trips this past month.
- The **Senior Program at ECCC** held a *Marshall Islands Day celebration* on September 15 and featured traditional island dancing, music, a flag ceremony and food. Senior volunteers dressed in hand-sewn costumes for the event.
- **TRS** took participants to Glacier National Park for 5 days.
- **Corbin Art Center** capital improvement funded projects were completed in September. The first and second floor rooms were painted as well as the floors in three of the classrooms. The basement walls and floors were painted. The linoleum was replaced in three rooms and the bathrooms. New carpet was installed on the basement staircase.
- **NEYC** reports that Community Development awarded us \$9,976.00 for their ASAP Program.
- **SSAC** held a very successful Fall Travel Fair on September 20 and brought in many reservations for overseas excursions as well as for the day and overnight trips.
- **Sinto** had four successful trips to Luke's BBQ, Bird Aviation Tour & Sandpoint, Prosser Balloon Festival and Kootenai River Casino in Bonners Ferry.
- **WCCC** fall youth programs are underway with attendance up from last year at this time. Finch Elementary was added to our transportation route and average attendance is 65 youth a day.

Urban Forestry:

- Preliminary findings of the Logan Neighborhood Pilot Project delivered September 14th.
 - Number of public trees: 3494
 - Total Asset Value: \$14,561,050
 - Total Annual Benefits: \$150,322 (\$53,964 as energy savings, \$1,562 in CO₂ sequestered, \$14,798 in stormwater mitigation, and \$78,946 in aesthetic/property value)
- Presented NeighborWoods program and answered UF questions at the Nevada-Lidgerwood neighborhood council meeting on September 14th.
- [NeighborWoods Month Workshop Series](#)
- **Low Impact Development or LID.**
 - *Saturday, October 8, 10am -12pm, at Spokane Conservation District.* Presented by AHBL, Len Zickler and Alex Mann.
 - **Urban Ecology & Native Tree Species in the Urban Landscape.** *Saturday, October 15, 9am-11am at Finch Arboretum.* Kat Hall of The Lands Council, presenter.
 - **Proper Tree Planting.** *Saturday, October 22, 9:30am-11:30am at Finch Arboretum.* City Arborist Jeff Perry, presenter.
 - **Volunteers In Pruning (VIP) Training.** *Saturday, October 29, 9am-12pm at Spokane Conservation District.* Garth Davis, District Forester, presenter.
- Jeff Perry and Mike Sanborn have spent 2 weeks participating in a tree inventory and assessment intensive training.
- Angel Spell and Johnna Woodruff attended a Continuous Improvement 101 training session on September 14th.
- Developed a new work flow for Pre-Dev conferences, plan review, and Pre-Con conferences using Beth Mort as the staff contact person.
- Participated in Division Street Gateway Project conference call.
- Meetings with Engineering Services regarding 2012 street and sidewalk projects.
- Reforest Spokane Day – 10,000 Ponderosa pine trees planted by 500 volunteers in 1 day – scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd. To volunteer please visit www.landscouncil.org.
- The Lands Council will launch *Urban Branches Spokane* as their UF donation vehicle. We expect their promotional package to emerge in October.