

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

  X   New Submission                      \_\_\_\_\_ Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

City of Spokane Parks and Boulevards (1891-1974)

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

None

**C. Form Prepared by:**

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date: August 17, 2015

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## **E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following contexts provide a framework for assessing the significance of the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards designed or developed during the period of 1891–1974. The City of Spokane was founded in the late nineteenth century and grew extensively during the twentieth century. Donations made by developers who began including city parks in their residential developments in the late nineteenth century provided funding for what is now the city's parks program. During the Progressive Era, the parks program matured into an independent effort under the leadership of Aubrey L. White and the Board of Park Commissioners, with the help of a parks plan designed by the Olmsted Brothers' landscape architecture firm. The following contexts detail the development of the city's parks program and highlight the significant people, events, and landscapes that defined it during the period of significance.

### **TEMPORAL CONTEXT (Periods of Significance)**

The period of significance for this Multiple Property Document covers the years 1891 to 1974, and is divided into three distinct periods.

#### ***Early Parks, 1891–1906:***

The period in which private developers and an early iteration of civic management laid the foundations of the city's future park system, which was heavily influenced by the nationwide City Beautiful movement and early municipal housekeeping efforts of the Progressive Era. 1891 marks the year Spokane City Council officially accepted the gift of the city's first official park.

#### ***The Board of Parks Commissioners and the Olmsted Influence, 1907–1959:***

The period in which real-estate developers, civic leaders, and the Board of Park Commissioners implemented many of the recommendations of an Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects' report, which the city commissioned in 1907 and released to the public in 1913.

#### ***Parks in the Modern Period, 1960–1974:***

The period in which many of the final recommendations of the Olmsted Report were implemented, culminating in the 1974 World's Fair, which provided the catalyst for many new park projects as well as the opportunity to develop the much-earlier Olmsted recommendation for a large park in the central city along the banks of the rivers near the falls, known today as Riverfront Park.

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**GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT**

The geographic boundaries of the Multiple Property Document encompass the entirety of the City of Spokane, Washington.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

***Background***

Over time, human land-use patterns have changed with and adapted to the dynamic nature of environmental variables such as topography, geology, climate, and the availability of floral and faunal resources. Examining these key factors is necessary to understand utilization of the environment by past and present human populations.

***Topography and Vegetation***

The Spokane River valley occurs at the boundary of granite bedrock that makes up the Okanogan Highlands (north of the river) and basalt bedrock that dominates the Columbia Basin (south of the river). Although some evidence of earlier, glacially induced flooding episodes does exist, the most recent and well-known geological events to drastically affect the sediment profile of the project area were the draining of Glacial Lake Missoula and the formation and draining of Glacial Lake Columbia. The upland areas are characterized as having level to steep slopes, with soils formed in glacial loess ideal for growing grains, such as wheat and barley.<sup>1</sup> The City of Spokane sits within the ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) vegetation zone, which also includes grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menzeisii*), western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*). Commonly associated grasses and shrubs within the region include snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), mallow ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*), and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*).<sup>2</sup>

***Prehistory and Ethnography***

The Spokane Tribe of Indians' territory centered on the Spokane River, extending eastward from its mouth at the Columbia River to the Idaho border, and from the Okanogan Highlands and Colville River in the north, to beyond Rock Lake in the south. The Spokane are composed of three ethnographic bands: the Lower Spokane, whose territory centered around a principal settlement near Little Falls; the Middle Spokane, who centered around Hangman (Latah) Creek; and the Upper Spokane, who lived upstream of Hangman (Latah) Creek, and on the Little Spokane River. The principal Middle Spokane village was a year-round encampment where

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<sup>1</sup> Norman C. Donaldson and Laurence D. Giese, *Soil Survey Spokane County, Washington* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1968).

<sup>2</sup> J. F. Franklin and C. T. Dyrness, *Natural Vegetation of Oregon and Washington* (Portland, OR: USDA Forest Service, 1973), 169, 172-73.

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Hangman Creek joins the Spokane River, on the west end of present-day Spokane.<sup>3</sup> The Middle and Upper Spokane considered themselves “all one people,” distinct from the Lower Spokane.<sup>4</sup>

Several ethnographic villages are known to have existed along the Spokane River. Both banks of the Spokane River around the falls, for example, were occupied by a large, permanent village.<sup>5</sup> A second village, known as *simina'tculks* (“place where many crows are found”), was located on the north bank of the Spokane River, south of present-day Hillyard.<sup>6</sup> An unnamed village was reported on the south side of the Spokane River on Hangman (Latah) Creek, reportedly 3 mi upstream from its confluence with the Spokane River.<sup>7</sup> Prior to direct contact with European Americans, the Spokane population was estimated at 3,000 people, spread across the three bands mentioned.<sup>8</sup> As happened to many Plateau tribes, myriad epidemics over a 100-year period, including smallpox and measles, killed roughly two-thirds of the people. The Spokane lost entire bands of people to smallpox alone.<sup>9</sup> Such devastating events must have had serious repercussions on many cultural practices, including basic social organization, subsistence practices, and religious beliefs.<sup>10</sup>

*The Development of Spokane, Washington*

The City of Spokane grew up north and south of the Spokane River, a tributary of the Columbia River that flows west and plunges over dramatic waterfalls near the current site of downtown Spokane. Fur traders began to explore what would later become eastern Washington State in the early nineteenth century, including George Simpson of the Hudson’s Bay Company. In 1825, Simpson called a meeting with local chiefs and told them he would like to send some young tribal members east to the Red River Settlement to be educated in a missionary school near Winnipeg. Two chiefs sent their own sons, one of whom died at the Red River Settlement in 1829. The other, Spokane Garry, was educated at the mission between 1825 and 1830 and then returned to his tribe as an English-speaking Christian who acted as an interpreter and go-between for his people until his death in 1892. Garry also formed a school on the site of what is now Drumheller Springs Park to teach his fellow tribesmen what he had learned, including Western agricultural practices, and how to read and write.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>3</sup> John Alan Ross, "Spokane," Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 12, Plateau. William C. Sturtevant, editor. Washington, Smithsonian Institution: 1998. 271.

<sup>4</sup> Ross, "Spokane," 271.

<sup>5</sup> Verne Ray, "Native Villages and Groupings of the Columbia Basin," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 27 (1936); and John Alan Ross, "Ethnographic and Ethnohistorical Investigations along the Spokane River," referenced in *Archaeology of the Middle Spokane River Valley: Investigations along the Spokane Centennial Trail* (Project Report Number 17, Center for Northwest Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, 1991).

<sup>6</sup> Ray, "Native Villages and Groupings," 136.

<sup>7</sup> Stuart A. Chalfant, "Historical Material Relative to Coeur d'Alene Indian Aboriginal Distribution," *Interior Salish and Eastern Washington Indians*, I (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1974), 25.

<sup>8</sup> R. T. Boyd, "The Introduction of Infectious Diseases Among the Indians of the Pacific Northwest, 1774–1874" (PhD dissertation, University of Washington, 1984).

<sup>9</sup> James A. Teit, "The Salishan Tribes of the Western Plateaus," *45th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology for 1927–1928* (Washington, DC: n.p., 1930), 315.

<sup>10</sup> Ross, "Spokane."

<sup>11</sup> Jim Kershener, "Chief Spokane Garry (ca. 1811–1892)," Historylink.org Essay 8713, August 1, 2008, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=8713](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8713).

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Fur traders continued to travel through the Spokane valley in the early nineteenth century, and a small number of missionaries settled in the region in the mid-nineteenth century, but the region was largely left to the Spokane Tribe while conflicts in other parts of Washington Territory raged. The legislature first created Spokane County during the 1858–1859 session, but later annexed it to Stevens County.<sup>12</sup>

The tribes at Spokane Falls were generally peaceful even as European American settlers continued to encroach on traditional hunting and fishing grounds in Washington throughout the nineteenth century. In 1871, James J. Downing and Seth R. Scranton came to the future site of Spokane and built the first sawmill on the south bank of the Spokane River at Spokane Falls. Ambitious pioneers like James N. Glover, now referred to as the “Father of Spokane,” were also attracted to the Spokane Valley and the powerful falls. Glover and his partner Jasper N. Matheney came to the site in 1873 and soon bought Downing and Scranton’s mill and their land. The pair took on a third partner, C. F. Yeaton, and the three began to construct a settlement near the falls. Glover bought out his partners in 1876, opened a store, and remained at what he called Spokane Falls while the others moved elsewhere.<sup>13</sup>

While Glover managed trade with native tribes and a small number of European American settlers, war broke out between European American pioneers and the Nez Perce tribe in 1877. Although the Spokane tribes were not initially hostile to Glover, the Nez Perce came to the falls seeking support from their neighboring tribesman. Concerned, Glover convinced U.S. army troops to winter at Spokane Falls in 1877. In 1878, soldiers built Fort Coeur d’Alene 28 miles away.<sup>14</sup> In 1879, Spokane County was reestablished with Spokane as the temporary county seat, an honor it would retain in spite of a rivalry with nearby Cheney.<sup>15</sup>

As European American settlement increased throughout central Washington, the Spokane Tribe began to resist further encroachment. As native resistance increased, the U.S. government established the Spokane Indian Reservation in 1881, and the lower band of the Spokane Tribe was resettled there. In 1887, the middle and upper bands of the Spokane Tribe were resettled at the Coeur D’Alene Reservation. Spokane Garry, who refused to relocate, was eventually kicked off his farmland by a white settler and spent his last years with a small group at Indian Canyon, west of Spokane, where some native tribespeople continued to live into the twentieth century.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Early Parks, 1891–1906***

Spokane was still a young settlement in 1878, with a population of only 54, when two businessmen arrived and purchased a large portion of Glover’s land.<sup>17</sup> Lawyer, banker, educator, and businessman John J. Browne began

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<sup>12</sup> Jonathan Edwards, *An Illustrated History of Spokane County, State of Washington* (n.p.: W. H. Lever, Publisher, 1900), 44.

<sup>13</sup> Nelson Wayne Durham, *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County, Washington: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (Spokane: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912), 2: 50.

<sup>14</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:51.

<sup>15</sup> Laura Arksey, “Spokane Board of Parks Commissioners Begins Its Duties on June 1, 1907,” Historylink Essay 9387, last updated April 5, 2010, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=9387](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9387).

<sup>16</sup> Kershener, “Chief Spokane Garry.”

<sup>17</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:757.

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developing large business blocks downtown and founded the Browne National Bank. His business partner, Anthony M. Cannon, was also involved in banking, rail, real estate, and many other business ventures. As Spokane began to grow, the two began to envision a wealthy neighborhood for Spokane's elite south of the growing city core.

Throughout the 1870s, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company had struggled to finance and build a northern transcontinental railroad to connect the west to the rest of the nation. The track heading east from Wallula to Spokane Falls was finally opened in 1881, connecting inland Spokane to the West Coast. Soon, gold and then other ores, were discovered in Washington and in Idaho's nearby Silver Valley. In 1883, the Northern Pacific's east and west tracks were connected in Gold Creek, Montana, securing the northern transcontinental route through Spokane.<sup>18</sup> By then, the rush was on. The city's proximity to nearby mines and its rail connection to eastern markets helped fuel a citywide building boom.<sup>19</sup> Soon, the Great Northern, Union Pacific, and other railroads joined the Northern Pacific, crowding the city's riverfront. Authors Sally B. Woodbridge and Roger Montgomery described the view: "a great plate of steel spaghetti along with trestles and support structures for the railroads occupied the river banks in the geographic center of the city."<sup>20</sup> Throughout the end of the nineteenth century, the city grew into the hub of a great Inland Empire with markets in the east and west for its agriculture, its timber, and its mined ore.

As the city began to grow, Spokane's first parks were planned by real-estate developers like Browne and Cannon, who came to Spokane as business partners. Early in the city's history, they purchased a portion of the lower and middle falls from James Glover and Frederick Post, and became increasingly important business developers as Spokane grew and the value of their lands increased. Together, business partners Browne and Glover founded, with A. J. Ross, the city's first street rail line. They also founded one of the city's first newspapers, the *Spokane Chronicle*.<sup>21</sup> Browne founded the Browne National Bank, and Cannon founded the Bank of Spokane Falls.<sup>22</sup> Together, the pair platted contiguous residential districts, known as Browne's and Cannon's Additions. Designed to attract wealthy families, the plats offered well-designed neighborhoods close to the center of the city, with shared amenities like beautiful park lands and trolleys to take residents to their shops and offices downtown. As early as 1883, the *Spokane Falls Review* reported that Browne and Cannon were preparing to design a shared public park of 15 acres at the future site of Coeur d'Alene Park in what is now Browne's Addition. The park, noted the article, "will be inclosed [*sic*], laid out with walks, pavilions, etc., and will fill a want perceptively felt by the community."<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Donald R. Robertson, *Encyclopedia of Western Railroad History*, Volume 3. *Oregon, Washington* (Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1995), 236–37.

<sup>19</sup> Sally B. Woodbridge and Roger Montgomery, *A Guide to Architecture in Washington State* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980), 393.

<sup>20</sup> Woodbridge and Montgomery, *Guide to Architecture*, 392.

<sup>21</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:756–59.

<sup>22</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:244

<sup>23</sup> "Browne's Addition to the City of Spokane Falls," *Spokane Falls Review*, July 21, 1883.

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A follow-up article on Cannon's Addition noted that within a few years, many a man "escaping after the toils of the day, from the giant factoryed city's gloom" will be thankful he bought a house on the hill.<sup>24</sup> Although the newspaper articles of this era sometimes read more like advertisements, they did highlight the public's yearning for a place to relax and recreate away from the gloomy city, a desire that was growing as Spokane industrialized. In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, both Browne's and Cannon's Additions grew into popular residential neighborhoods with a mix of housing styles and a number of prominent, architect-designed residences constructed for wealthy families.

Browne and Cannon were not the only ones who saw Spokane's development potential. Francis H. Cook arrived in the early 1880s and purchased 40 acres two blocks north of present-day Manito Park to start a farm.<sup>25</sup> Cook was a journalist first in Olympia and Tacoma before moving his printing press to Spokane and founding the city's first newspaper, the *Spokan Times* [sic].<sup>26</sup> He was also a farmer, an ice maker, a miller, and a budding real-estate developer. By 1884, Cook was planning a real-estate development on 680 acres, including lands that he had acquired south of his original holdings, as noted in the *Spokane Falls Review* in February 1884:

Mr. Cook owns today one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the vicinity, and it will continue to increase. He will cut the ridge and crown of the hill into building lots at some future day and find a ready sale for the same. The locality is healthy and beautiful. Take for instance the wild flowers of spring and summer and this section will produce a greater variety than can be found elsewhere in the Union. . . . Spokane Heights will yet be the fashionable resident center in this city, perhaps not in one year, nor five years, but in a decade hence we'll see it so.<sup>27</sup>

In 1886, Cook hosted the city's first agricultural fair, with an exhibition building, a horseracing track, and a full program of events featuring horses and stock.<sup>28</sup> It is not known whether Cook held the fair on the current site of Manito Park, but the park soon became a popular recreational spot. The following year, when Cook partnered with lawyer T. J. Dooley to form a land development partnership to plat the new Montrose Addition, the design included a public park, residential lots, and grand boulevards.

Browne and Cannon, apparently looking for ways to fund neighborhood improvements, offered in 1887 to donate their park, which included a portion of both their plats, to the City of Spokane. Stories in the *Spokane Falls Review* noted that Browne offered the park to the City Council at meetings in March and April that year, provided the city would fence the location and pipe water to the site in support of development.<sup>29</sup> City Council

<sup>24</sup> "Cannon's Addition: One of the Choicest Spots in the City," *Spokane Falls Review*, September 1, 1883.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (USDI BLM), General Land Office, Francis H. Cook Patent Details, Accession WACAA 007034, May 20, 1884, <http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=WACAA007034&docClass=SER&sid=lwbbjgma.j2x>.

<sup>26</sup> The city of "Spokan Falls" was officially incorporated in 1881. The "e" was added in 1883 and the "Falls" dropped in 1891.

<sup>27</sup> "Spokane Heights: The Future Building Spot for Wealthy Spokaneites," *Spokane Falls Review*, February 16, 1884.

<sup>28</sup> Doris J. Woodward, *The Indomitable Francis H. Cook of Spokane: A Man of Vision* (Spokane: Tornado Creek Publications, 2010), 36–37.

<sup>29</sup> "Council Proceedings," *Spokane Falls Review*, April 16, 1887. A. M. Cannon was mayor of Spokane from 1885 to 1887.

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officially accepted the gift in 1891, and Coeur d'Alene Park became the city's first official park.<sup>30</sup> The City entrusted the park to the City Engineer, who made only modest improvements initially, allowing the park to retain its natural look and its native Ponderosa pines.<sup>31</sup> Not simply a gift to city residents, the park was designed to increase the value of the residential lots in its vicinity. Paired with a 4.5-mile-long horse trolley to move residents between home and town, the park distinguished this neighborhood as a close-in residential destination for Spokane's elite.<sup>32</sup> The neighborhood has since become a beautiful residential district with some of the city's grandest, architect-designed homes.

Cook foresaw that he would need to develop a means of bringing residents up the bluff to his development, which he called Montrose Park. Cook and Dooley funded and constructed a narrow-gauge trolley with two coaches. Local historians believe the Spokane & Montrose Motor Railroad Company, the first motorized trolley in Spokane, made its first journey south to Grand Boulevard at about Nineteenth Avenue along the eastern boundary of present-day Manito Park in 1888.<sup>33</sup> The line was electrified in 1892 with power purchased from the Washington Water Power Company.<sup>34</sup>

With his motorized trolley in place, Cook promoted Montrose Park as a "mountain of roses." An April 1888 advertisement from the *Spokane Falls Review* claimed that the Montrose Park Addition would be laid out with three parks, drives and walkways, miniature lakes, and fountains: "Wherever one finds wild roses the soil where they grew is sure to be rich and strong. Scattered about on the gentle slopes and the pretty open plazas wild roses bloom in great profusion—hence the name—'Mountain of Roses!'"<sup>35</sup> Cook's three park vision was not to be.

Developers like Cook, Browne, and Cannon devised Spokane's small, early parks as jewels in the centers of expensive residential developments, but a movement for large urban parks and connected park systems had begun in the eastern United States and was steadily moving west. Some of these parks were being developed by independent boards of commissioners, as opposed to city governments or real estate developers. In the 1850s, for example, New York placed the development of its large central park in the hands of a board of commissioners who proved to be efficient, effective, and popular.<sup>36</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., writing about the Central Park commission in 1914, noted that the construction of Central Park, which his father, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., designed, had inspired New Yorkers to imagine a more aesthetically pleasing city. In 1860, when the Central Park commission proposed adding other parks and parkways to the

<sup>30</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, Spokane, Washington, 1891–1913* (Spokane: n.p., [1913]), 7.

<sup>31</sup> Patsy M. Garrett and Elisabeth Walton Potter, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form for Browne's Addition Historic District," January 1976, listed July 30, 1976, on file at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.

<sup>32</sup> John Fahey, *Shaping Spokane: Jay P. Graves and His Times* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1994), 25–28.

<sup>33</sup> Woodward, *Indomitable Francis H. Cook*, 38.

<sup>34</sup> Woodward, *Indomitable Francis H. Cook*, 41.

<sup>35</sup> "Montrose Park!" *Spokane Falls Review*, April 21, 1888.

<sup>36</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "The Town-Planning Movement in America," *Housing and Town Planning: The Annals 51* (January 1914): 172–81.

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city, they were given increased power to envision a design for the undeveloped northern tip of Manhattan Island. Suddenly, the Commission's power was not limited to parks planning but expanded to include all the elements of city planning. Olmsted called the effect of such planning efforts "widespread and powerful":<sup>37</sup>

Public parks were undertaken very generally; and particularly in Boston, to which Mr. Olmsted removed in 1880, the conception of a comprehensive system of inter-related parks, parkways and local recreation grounds was rapidly developed. The first local recreation ground, equipped with running track, apparatus, field houses and trained attendants, was developed in Boston in the '80s and slowly the idea took root elsewhere, bringing forth its most notable fruit in Chicago some twenty years later.<sup>38</sup>

The movement for large urban parks and connected park systems continued to spread, and public commissions took the helm. Chicago established independent park boards for its three early parks as early as 1869.<sup>39</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., along with his sons and Charles Eliot, designed a park system for Boston between 1878 and 1895 that linked five parks through a system of parkways, creating what has been called the first "urban greenway in the world."<sup>40</sup> The residents of Kansas City established an independent park board in 1892, and by 1893, George Kessler had prepared a parks report calling for a system of connected parks and boulevards, as well as for playgrounds in the parks.<sup>41</sup>

In 1890, a year after a devastating fire burned much of the downtown, the City of Spokane residents passed a new city charter that, among other things, established the city's first parks commission, composed of three members: the mayor, the president of the city council, and the city engineer.<sup>42</sup> The 1890 charter was the first to call for a parks fund supported by the sale of bonds and to establish a commission to manage all park surveys, improvements, and construction activities. The charter also established the commission's right to appoint a superintendent.<sup>43</sup> Although the exact date of his initial position with the parks is unknown, John W. Gilson is

<sup>37</sup> Olmsted, "Town-Planning Movement," 172–81.

<sup>38</sup> Olmsted, "Town-Planning Movement," 172–81.

<sup>39</sup> Susan S. Benjamin, Gwen Sommers Yant, Courtney Gray Resnick, Jean Follett, Jo Ann Nathan, Yolanda Escoto, and Unna Julia Bachrach, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Chicago Park Boulevard System Historic District," July 6, 2011, 70, [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp\\_info/chicago\\_park\\_boulevardssystemhistoricdistrict.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/chicago_park_boulevardssystemhistoricdistrict.html).

<sup>40</sup> Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Emerald Necklace," accessed February 9, 2015, <http://tclf.org/landscapes/emerald-necklace>.

<sup>41</sup> Cydney Millstein and Paul Novick, "National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document Form for the Kansas City System of Parks and Boulevards, Kansas City, Missouri," November 1, 2013, <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/docs/moachp/The%20Kansas%20City%20System%20of%20Parks%20and%20Boulevards%20MPDF.pdf>.

<sup>42</sup> City of Spokane, *Charter of the City of Spokane, Washington, Approved by the People at an Election Held March 24, 1891* (Spokane: W. D. Knight Company, 1896), sections 210–16.

<sup>43</sup> City of Spokane, *Charter*, 1891, sections 210–16. It appears that the superintendent's position was filled on an as-needed basis until 1902, when John W. Gilson appears in payroll records as park superintendent. He must have served only briefly, as news of his discharge also dates to 1902.

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believed to have been Spokane's first full-time Superintendent of Parks, though park records indicate that others filled the position for short periods on a part-time basis before Gilson.<sup>44</sup>

With the establishment of a commission, parks acquisition, management, and improvement could begin in earnest, and Spokane joined the list of cities actively expanding their public park systems. One of the commission's first efforts was to improve the city's only donated park at that time, Coeur d'Alene Park. The commission instructed the city engineer to lay out a park design and construct a pavilion that could be built for less than \$700.<sup>45</sup> Work did not stop there. A June 1, 1893, letter from City Engineer J. W. Strack to the park commission described other improvements that had been completed, including the addition of 4 acres of lawn and the reseeding and fertilizing of older lawns; construction of 3,000 feet of drives and walks; and plantings of new trees, shrubs, and vines, for a cost of \$2,260.45.<sup>46</sup>

Several private parks were also under development at this time. Ingersoll Park, for example, had been founded in 1887 as a picnic spot accessed by trolley; its name was changed to Twickenham Park in 1889, reflecting its close association with the Twickenham Addition. Attractions were regularly added to increase Twickenham's popularity, including a baseball diamond in 1890. In 1892, the park was improved by a large swimming pool and rechristened Natatorium Park, which remained a popular attraction into the mid-twentieth century.<sup>47</sup>

By 1893, Cook was still developing the Montrose Park addition. His plans were dashed that year when financial collapse drove the nation into a debilitating economic depression. Cook forfeited his trolley line, his lands, including his park lands, and the family's large home in the Montrose Addition to avoid bankruptcy.<sup>48</sup> The collapse was especially hard on men like Cook, the long-established leaders of Spokane. According to historian John Fahey, "The panic swept aside a legion of ruling pioneers in Spokane. Cannon's bank failed in June, followed within weeks by Browne's, Glover's, and four others, seven of ten in the city."<sup>49</sup>

Not all of Spokane's businessmen were ruined by the panic of 1893, however. A new generation of wealthy civic leaders followed, including many who snatched up real estate at bargain prices during the panic. Some of these businessmen later served on the city's park board or donated park lands, including Daniel Chase Corbin, Jay P. Graves, and F. Lewis Clark.<sup>50</sup>

Although a bitterly hard year on cities across the nation, perhaps ironically 1893 was also the year of the World's Columbian Exposition, otherwise known as the Chicago World's Fair. The fair sparked the imagination

<sup>44</sup> Lynn Mandyke to Natalie Perrin, personal communication, January 12, 2015, regarding payroll ledgers for the City of Spokane and other records held at the Washington State Archives, Eastern Regional Branch, at Eastern Washington University, covering the years 1891–1902.

<sup>45</sup> "Park Commission: The First Meeting Held Yesterday, Mayor Fotheringham Elected Chairman," *Spokane Review*, June 21, 1891.

<sup>46</sup> City Engineer J. W. Strack to Chairman and Park Commission, June 1, 1893, Washington State Archives, Eastern Regional Branch, Eastern Washington University (hereafter WSA-ERB). Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>47</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Spokane's Amusement Park: Natatorium Park," Spokane Historical, accessed January 6, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/106>.

<sup>48</sup> Woodward, *Indomitable Francis H. Cook*, 47–48.

<sup>49</sup> Fahey, *Shaping Spokane*, 38.

<sup>50</sup> Arksey, "Spokane Board of Parks Commissioners."

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of Americans with its profusion of neoclassical designed buildings, all painted white and placed strategically in a harmoniously designed landscape conceived by the father of landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. The World's Fair took place at a time when citizens and wealthy businessmen were becoming increasingly engaged in big, civic improvement campaigns. The beautification of dirty, noisy cities fouled by industrialization became the subject of popular magazine articles, including Charles Mulford Robinson's series "Improvement in City Life," the third installment of which ran in the *Atlantic Monthly* in June 1899. Robinson claimed,

During the summer and autumn of the world's fair at Chicago, when the country was carried away by the exposition's unexpected beauty, it was common to hear it spoken of as "the white city" and "the dream city." In these terms was revealed a yearning toward a condition which we had not reached. To say that the world's fair created the subsequent aesthetic effort in municipal life were therefore false; to say that it immensely strengthened, quickened, and encouraged it would be true. The fair gave tangible shape to a desire that was arising out of the larger wealth, the commoner travel, and the profusion of the essentials of life. . . . The happier people of the rising City Beautiful will grow in love for it, in pride in it. They will be better citizens, because better instructed, more artistic, and filled with civic pride.<sup>51</sup>

The resulting civic movement, stirred by optimism and boosterism, became known as the City Beautiful movement. Public demands for clean streets; better air quality; gracious parks, playgrounds, and boulevards; street trees; and open vistas had a profound effect on city planning efforts across the nation and would drive a powerful parks movement in Spokane. The City Beautiful movement fit well with growing Progressive Era concern with "municipal housekeeping" and actively engaging citizens to work for the common good. Historian William H. Wilson described the Progressive Era as one in which middle- and upper-class Americans spread their ideals by uplifting the poor and bringing them into the cultural fold. Progressives optimistically promoted efficiency, philanthropy, and civic pride. "They wished to tame the apparently disorganized, wildly growing city and to establish or restore a sense of community—that is feelings of civic responsibility, of commitment to a common purpose, and of municipal patriotism. The progressives exuded hope, optimism, and a conviction of their own rightness."<sup>52</sup> The City Beautiful movement was a strong unifying force in Spokane and the United States, even as other political issues of the Progressive Era, such as women's suffrage, temperance, eradicating poverty, and workers' rights—which led to explosive fights between the International Workers of the World and Spokane's timber industry—continued to fuel debate.

In Spokane, as the Depression that had begun in 1893 began to ease, new business leaders with available funds sought opportunities to increase their land holdings. In 1895, Jay P. Graves, who was involved in Spokane real estate and some mining interests, took over the ownership of two newly discovered copper deposits in Canada. He put his young boarder, Aubrey Lee White, to work selling shares. White had relocated first to Canada in the

<sup>51</sup> Charles Mulford Robinson, "Improvement in City Life, III. Aesthetic Progress," *Atlantic Monthly* 83, No. D, June, 1899, 771–85.

<sup>52</sup> William H. Wilson, *The City Beautiful Movement* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press: 1989), 41.

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mid-1890s, and then to New York City in service of Graves's interests and his own. It was in New York that White, later to be known as the "father of Spokane parks," first became involved in the committee for parks and boulevards.<sup>53</sup> In a city like New York, where park commissions had held unusual power since the 1850s, White became intimately familiar with the challenges a big city may face when it wants to carve large urban parks out of its developed areas.<sup>54</sup>

While White was away working in New York, Spokane's parks commission continued to acquire property. Funding remained an issue, however, and the city depended primarily on the gifts of wealthy landowners such as F. Lewis Clark, who in 1897 donated the 21 acres that would become known as Liberty Park.<sup>55</sup>

That same year, parks were a common topic for articles and editorials all summer in the *Spokesman-Review*. One editorial called for a series of smaller parks within easy access of all citizens rather than one large park, "for the reason that the latter would require the perpetual payment of tribute to the street car companies."<sup>56</sup> A public comment from Charles Liftchild called for parks to be placed where they would beautify otherwise "unsightly sections." Liftchild stated that "If in any quarter there are rough or rugged spots, unfit for building upon, there the parks should be placed, for they generally can be inexpensively adorned and beautified, and always far cheaper than a like area of level land."<sup>57</sup> Another editorial called for landowners to donate much larger tracts of land, hundreds of acres apiece, insisting that the most desirable quality of parks, "is a sense or remoteness from city life, and this cannot be had with a small park."<sup>58</sup> On August 31, another editorial suggested that without public parks, Spokane could not call itself a progressive city:

The city without public parks is not up to date. It is deficient in one of the modern attractions which men of means and taste consider in choosing their places of residence. Progressive cities compete with each other in their park systems as in their systems of public schools, and thus it has come to pass that all the prominent cities have five to 50 parks each, with a combined area in many cases mounting up into the thousands of acres.<sup>59</sup>

Throughout the city, landowners were considering the future of their holdings. D. C. Corbin had been hosting fairs and races on his land. In 1899, Corbin razed the grandstand, platted the land, and offered the city 13 acres, which became Corbin Park in 1900.<sup>60</sup> By 1902, Spokane had three parks under its care: Coeur d'Alene Park, Liberty Park, and Corbin Park. Also in 1902, the Lidgerwood family donated 6 acres to the city for the

<sup>53</sup> Fahey, *Shaping Spokane*, 12.

<sup>54</sup> Laura Arksey, "White, Aubrey Lee (1869–1948)," HistoryLink.org Essay 9366, last updated March 21, 2010, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=9366](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9366).

<sup>55</sup> Mandyke to Perrin, January 12, 2015.

<sup>56</sup> "Public Parks," *Spokesman-Review*, August 15, 1897.

<sup>57</sup> "The F. Lewis Clark Park Site: Charles F. Liftchild Points Out Its Varied Attraction," *Spokesman-Review*, August 22, 1897. Litchfield was named a member of the parks commission in 1907.

<sup>58</sup> "City Parks," *Spokesman-Review*, August 28, 1897.

<sup>59</sup> "City Parks," *Spokesman-Review*, August 31, 1897.

<sup>60</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Corbin Park," Spokane Historical, accessed January 7, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/104#.VK1wXu2Ivw>.

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Lidgerwood Parks.<sup>61</sup> The City started improvements to the donated parks right away. Correspondence from 1902 between Spokane and the Walla Walla Home Nursery Company identified the trees, shrubs, and flowers purchased to improve the city's earliest parks. The city purchased dozens of maple, locust, and elm trees, along with a smaller number of poplar, ash, linden, and peach, among others. Popular flowering shrubs included hydrangea, Cydonia Japonica, lilac, and almond. The city also ordered over 32 varieties of roses.<sup>62</sup> A list of plants to be delivered to Corbin and Coeur d'Alene parks in 1903 included large numbers of asheverien, begonias, geraniums, heliotrope, althernanthera, stevia, and gladiolus, ensuring that the parks would be floral showplaces.<sup>63</sup>

Although the park system was growing, relations among parks commission members and Park Superintendent Gilson appear to have soured by 1902, and Gilson was discharged.<sup>64</sup> A list of staff and tools under Gilson's control at the time of his departure noted that Coeur d'Alene Park employed E. C. Balzer, who later became Spokane's next superintendent of parks.<sup>65</sup> As a former city florist, Balzer would use his skills to create a number of specialized, whimsical plantings for Manito Park and helped to install a zoo that would remain a popular attraction there until the Great Depression.<sup>66</sup>

Also in 1902, the Spokane City Council began to actively urge the public to consider donating park lands to the city. An article in the *Spokesman-Review* noted that there was little budget to improve new parks at that time, but that the city "is ready to entertain all propositions placed before it" as "members anxious that other parks should be established."<sup>67</sup> While some landowners responded by donating parks to the city, Montrose Park, once envisioned as a park and residential neighborhood by Francis H. Cook, remained relatively undeveloped. Cook's plans for Montrose Park had stalled when he lost his land in the Panic of 1893, but the vision he held for Montrose Park continued to interest others. In 1902, mining and railroad magnate Jay P. Graves purchased a total of 787 acres atop Cook's Hill from banks, trust, and mortgage companies. An article in the *Spokesman-Review* quotes Graves saying that "the ground lies most charmingly, with basalt cliffs rising in picturesque knolls, and in laying out the land we shall take full advantage of its scenic possibilities by following the contour of the ground and putting in winding roads. A park system will be a feature to which we shall pay particular attention."<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> A. L. White to the Board of Park Commissioners, "Preliminary Reports of the Secretary and City Forester," June 1, 1908, WSA-ERB.

<sup>62</sup> Memorandum of agreement, Walla Walla Home Nursery Company and the City of Spokane, February 19, 1902, WSA-ERB. Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>63</sup> Memorandum of agreement, the City of Spokane and H. M. Sanders, February 19, 1902, WSA-ERB. Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>64</sup> Typescript, unaddressed and unsigned, June 2, 1902, WSA-ERB.

<sup>65</sup> Superintendent of Parks, Jn. W. Gilson to the Honorable Board of Parks Commissioners, May 22, 1902, WSA-ERB. Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>66</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners. "Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Park Board: October 13, 1932," Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, Minute Book 4, WSA-ERB.

<sup>67</sup> "Will You Give a Park?," *Spokesman-Review*, May 23, 1902.

<sup>68</sup> "Big Park Plan for Cook's Hill," *Spokesman-Review*, February 27, 1903.

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Graves also received a franchise from the city to develop Cook's original streetcar line and to grow the franchise wherever he chose. Graves sold lots along the former line and expanded into other areas of the city. He converted the rail line to standard gauge and renamed it the Spokane Traction Company. Graves also followed some of Cook's original plans for what he then developed as the Manito Addition. Like Browne and Cannon before him had done for their own additions, Graves negotiated with the city to donate 80 to 90 acres of parklands if the city would build a boulevard and bring water to the site.<sup>69</sup>

In 1903, Montrose Park was renamed Manito Park and began its evolution into the city's most beloved public park. The park was officially dedicated in 1904. Since that time, Manito Park has developed into the city's playground, with sledding in the winter and ice skating on what is now known as the duck pond, play areas, and lawns and shelters for picnicking. The park also features the city's greenhouses, formal gardens, and walkways through the landscape's dramatic basalt ledges.

Throughout the early years of the twentieth century, numerous clubs and citizens groups in Spokane worked toward their vision of an ideal city. The Spokane 150,000 Club, begun in 1905 under the Chamber of Commerce, worked to promote Spokane and raise its population to 150,000 by 1910. Unlike the Chamber of Commerce, however, the club was democratic in nature, open to all for annual dues of one dollar. Aubrey L. White, who returned from New York in 1906, was an active member. A 1906 article noted that the organization supported a "City Beautiful campaign" that cleaned and beautified streets and open spaces and advocated that "it is not sufficient to bring the strangers to the gates of the city, but also to hold his interest and bid him welcome once he is here."<sup>70</sup> Taking up the kind of work that would later fall to parks commissions, the club planted over 80,000 trees, secured playgrounds and equipment, and raised \$60,000 to complete a YMCA building.<sup>71</sup>

Soon after returning to Spokane in 1906, White helped found and then was named president of the city's new City Beautiful Club. By this time, White had become a successful businessman involved in large railway projects, but he was also dedicated to creating a park system for Spokane while it was still possible to secure the land. He is credited with launching the city's playground movement and helping establish a nonpartisan parks commission in 1907.<sup>72</sup>

***Spokane Board of Park Commissioners and the Olmsted Influence, 1907–1959***

By 1906, it was clear to some that parks were becoming a political issue.<sup>73</sup> Spokane's commission was made up of city appointees who could be replaced with each new election. In a 1932 article summarizing the history of Spokane's parks, White claimed that "it was evident that a political group, existing only as long as the

<sup>69</sup> Fahey, *Shaping Spokane*, 38.

<sup>70</sup> Ren H. Rice, "Spokane 150,000 Club," *The Coast* 11, no 4 (April 1906), 160–61, <https://play.google.com/books/reader?printsec=frontcover&output=reader&id=KLIRAAAAYAAJ&pg=GBS.PP1>.

<sup>71</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 1:609.

<sup>72</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:145.

<sup>73</sup> "To Take Parks out of Politics," *Spokesman-Review*, April 11, 1906.

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administration remained in office, could not be expected to take a constructive attitude toward park affairs.”<sup>74</sup> A *Spokesman-Review* editorial echoed this sentiment. The article contrasted Spokane’s system with that of Hartford, Connecticut, which had a ten-member board that served terms of ten years apiece, providing some stability regardless of political leadership.<sup>75</sup>

According to the *Spokesman-Review*, the City Beautiful park committee, “soon came to the opinion that the creation of a nonpartisan commission was the best way of solving our troubles.”<sup>76</sup> Voters agreed. In 1907, an amendment was approved that established the ten-member, independent Spokane Board of Park Commissioners.<sup>77</sup> White was named president, and the board’s first members were named from the city’s list of leading businessmen, including mining magnates Amasa B. Campbell and F. P. Hogan, former mayor Dr. P. S. Byrne, F. E. Goodall, A. W. Jones, banker E. B. Hyde, J. W. Wentworth, developer Charles Liftchild, and A. M. Winston.<sup>78</sup> The newly appointed commission took control of 173.1 acres of park land, two-thirds of which had yet to be improved. They also took over \$20,000 in debt. With the help of the city council, the board borrowed \$12,000 and then received a \$100,000 bond.<sup>79</sup>

To begin the work of designing a complete park plan for Spokane, White invited John Charles Olmsted of the Massachusetts landscape architecture firm, the Olmsted Brothers, to visit Spokane. John Charles was one of two brothers who took over the work of revered Olmsted Sr. after the firm’s popularity was solidified by such high-profile projects as Central Park in New York and the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. The firm was known for producing designs that complimented the natural highlights of any given landscape, incorporated winding paths, views, and open spaces.<sup>80</sup> As part of the City Beautiful movement of the early twentieth century, the Olmsted family and its firm were admired for creating oases of peace in busy urban settings. The Olmsteds—John Charles, in particular—were also well known for their work in the Pacific Northwest. John Charles had designed the site for the 1903 Lewis & Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon, and had prepared the city’s parks plan that same year. He then went from Portland to Seattle, Washington, where he prepared that city’s park plan. He returned to Seattle in 1906 to plan the site of the Seattle World’s Fair, also known as Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which was held on the present-day campus of the University of Washington.<sup>81</sup>

Consultant Sally Reynolds noted in a survey of Spokane’s parks:

Under John Olmsted, the concept of the large, natural park remained a focus of park system design, offering variety in both scenery and activity to the largest number of people. These park areas typically include the most interesting natural features, the land areas considered too

<sup>74</sup> Aubrey L. White, “The Spokane Parks,” *The Quarterly* 20, no. 3 (June 1932): 25–26, quotation on 25.

<sup>75</sup> “To Take Parks out of Politics.”

<sup>76</sup> “To Take Parks out of Politics.”

<sup>77</sup> Arksey, “Spokane Board of Parks Commissioners.”

<sup>78</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 7.

<sup>79</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 8.

<sup>80</sup> “The Accomplishments of Frederick Law Olmsted,” accessed January 7, 2015,

<http://www.fredericklawolmsted.com/workframe.htm>.

<sup>81</sup> Joan Hockaday, *Greenscapes: Olmsted’s Pacific Northwest* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2009), 13–37.

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environmentally damaging or expensive to develop. The social reform movement was underway, however, and playgrounds, conveniently located, were now recognized as an accepted and necessary element of the urban setting. His park system plans were comprehensive, recognizing the benefit of natural areas and developed recreational facilities, addressing access, accommodating engineering needs, all set in the framework of city function and design.<sup>82</sup>

Olmsted accepted White's invitation and visited the city a number of times in order to prepare a plan for Spokane's parks.<sup>83</sup> In 1908, White wrote to the parks board, "I feel that it would be impractical for us to undertake this new work without some assurance that we are getting off on the right foot each time. I think we acted wisely in having our general plan made by the best firm of landscape architects in this country."<sup>84</sup> Although the plan was completed that same year, White hesitated to release it to the public, using the years between its completion in 1908 and 1913 to acquire land for the city before real-estate developers and landowners could raise prices based on the plan's recommendations. By doing so, White oversaw the acquisition of hundreds of acres of new parks for Spokane.<sup>85</sup>

Writing in 1912, early Spokane historian Nelson Wayne Durham noted that when his work with the parks board began, White "regarded Spokane as in its formative stage and believed that acreage for park purposes should be secured at that time—breathing places for the people to be purchased while land was comparatively cheap instead of waiting until the price was almost prohibitive."<sup>86</sup> Writing of this period of growth in later years, White claimed that "the fact that only once was it necessary to resort to condemnation proceedings and that the board received over 900 acres of land in gift, and had to pay for only half a mile of the thirty-five miles of boulevard in Spokane indicate conclusively the popularity of the parks movement among the citizens of this city."<sup>87</sup>

In 1908, while keeping the Olmsted plan close to his chest, White released a summary of the commission's first year's work. In his letter, White detailed the city's existing parks: Manito Park (85.6 acres), Coeur d'Alene Park (9.76 acres), Liberty Park (24.5 acres), Corbin Park (13 acres), Lidgerwood Park (6 acres), Stadacona Park (1.5 acres), Audubon Park (31.2 acres), and Mission Avenue Parking Strip (1.77 acres), totaling 173.33 acres, or roughly 1 acre to every 450 residents of Spokane. He also noted a number of new donations that were yet to be approved or improved.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Sally Reynolds and Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, "Olmsted Park Survey Report/Plan," September 1999, City of Spokane. Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>83</sup> It is unclear if Olmsted's associate, J. Frederick Dawson, accompanied Olmsted on his trips to Spokane, though Dawson would co-author the results and recommendations of those trips in the so-called Olmsted Report (see below).

<sup>84</sup> A. L. White to the Board of Parks Commissioners, Spokane, Washington, June 1, 1908, WSA-ERB. Provided to HRA by Lynn Mandyke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission.

<sup>85</sup> John Fahey, "A. L. White, Champion of Urban Beauty," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 72, no. 4 (October 1981): 170–78.

<sup>86</sup> Durham, *History of the City of Spokane*, 2:145.

<sup>87</sup> White, "Spokane Parks," 26.

<sup>88</sup> White to Hon. Board of Parks Commissioners, June 1, 1908.

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White and the commission determined that the city would need the help of not only the Olmsteds but a skilled parks superintendent. In 1909, Superintendent Balzer resigned and was replaced by White's choice, John W. Duncan, who had been Boston's assistant parks superintendent. That same year, Spokane passed a \$1 million bond for the acquisition and improvement of parks, playgrounds, and parkways.<sup>89</sup>

Duncan spent his first couple of years familiarizing himself with Spokane's park system and focusing on the improvement of Manito Park, already beloved, but haphazardly developed by Balzer. In a letter from 1910, Duncan noted progress in cleaning up the city's parks, replacing or demolishing dilapidated buildings, the planned construction of new ball fields (including one at Manito Park), and replacing greenhouses in Manito Park, which he claimed were too deteriorated to survive another winter. One of Duncan's proudest early achievements was the accumulation of stock that could be cultivated in the city's Manito Park greenhouses and then planted in the city's parks.<sup>90</sup> In a 1910 letter to A. L. White, Duncan noted that he would use existing geraniums already in the greenhouse for propagation, and that he planned to raise a large lot of herbaceous plants from seed for planting throughout the city's parks.<sup>91</sup> He later noted that with a small budget of \$100, he collected over 4,500 native shrubs to be cared for in the nursery. "I cannot express too strongly the importance of this work as plants planted in the parks from our own nursery will do much better than from any other nursery which at the best is many miles away."<sup>92</sup>

Duncan also oversaw the 1912 construction of the tool house and work room at Manito, a dramatic Arts & Crafts-style building with walls of a blind mortar method of local basalt rubble construction that provided working and storage space for the greenhouses. Mirror Lake, which was already a popular water feature, was contained in 1912 with concrete walls on its north and west ends that regulated the water level so it could remain a year-round attraction.<sup>93</sup> Also in 1912, Duncan began one of his most popular attractions. In Manito Park, he transformed a sunken spot that had provided excellent soil for other plantings into a formal sunken garden. Exquisitely designed in a formal, classical style with bilateral symmetry and a central fountain, the garden, now known as Duncan Garden, is one of Manito Park's most photographed elements.<sup>94</sup>

*The Olmsted Report*

One of the most comprehensive records regarding the history of parks up to this point was released in 1913. In that year, the Board of Park Commissioners drafted a summary of all that had been completed since the first park commission was formed in 1891. In that report, White noted that the park commission was entering into a "period of construction and development."<sup>95</sup> He released the Report of the Board of Park Commissioners,

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<sup>89</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 9.

<sup>90</sup> J. W. Duncan to A. L. White, June 1, 1910, Folder 26, Box 1, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

<sup>91</sup> J. W. Duncan to A. L. White, March 7, 1910, Folder 26, Box 1, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

<sup>92</sup> J. W. Duncan to A. L. White, June 1, 1910, Folder 26, Box 1, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

<sup>93</sup> Tony Bamonte and Suzanne Schaeffer Bamonte, *Manito Park: A Reflection of Spokane's Past Centennial Edition* (Spokane: Tornado Creek Publications, 2004).

<sup>94</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Duncan Gardens," Spokane Historical, accessed February 9, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/25>.

<sup>95</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 17.

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including what is commonly known as the Olmsted Report, which contained the guidance and recommendations that would shape future growth of Spokane's park system.

Prepared by John Charles Olmsted and his associate J. Frederick Dawson, the Olmsted Report provided guidance for the city's ten existing parks as well as advice for twenty proposed parks and boulevards. Drawn plans were included for three parks: Cannon Hill (Adams Park at the time), Liberty, and Corbin Parks.<sup>96</sup>

The Olmsted Report recommended that the city focus on achieving a park system devised of a number of park types, including large, destination parks; medium, local parks; parkways and boulevards; playfields; and a number of viewpoints and beauty spots. The city had "remarkable opportunities for preserving big and strikingly picturesque landscape features for its large parks," according to the plan, and these spaces should be secured and designed as oases from the noise, sights, and smells of a busy city: "The greatest good parks can do in the direction of exercise for the mass of the visitors, is to offer inducements for the people to walk reasonable distances amid agreeable, nerve-resting surroundings. In this respect, large parks are much more worth while [*sic*] than small parks, because in them the attractions can be more numerous and varied and can be scattered as to lead to nerve-soothing walks amid pleasant surroundings."<sup>97</sup>

The Olmsted Report also noted that large parks were for the benefit of the middle and lower classes, those who could not leave the city to visit "lakes and mountains or . . . beautiful country residences" for the summer.<sup>98</sup> Recommended locations included sites upriver and downriver of the city center, as well as a site along Latah Creek, although the Olmsteds did not recommend a park at the current site of Riverside Park, as the location was already considered too developed. The plan refers to the four recommended large parks as the Gorge Park (now High Bridge Park and the Herbert M. Hamblen Conservation Area) near city center; Upriver Park (now Felts Field, Upriver Park Conservation Land, Camp Sekani Park, and Minnehaha Rocks) northeast of city center; Downriver Park (now Downriver Park Conservation Land and Downriver Golf Course) northwest of the city; and Latah Park (now Qualchan Hills Park and the Creek at Qualchan Golf Course, High Drive Parkway, and Hangman Park) south of the city, which shows the Olmsted preference for large parks scattered throughout the city to provide all people from all locations easy access.<sup>99</sup>

For smaller parks, the Olmsted firm recommended playfields, water features, sandboxes and swings for younger children, and if ball fields were included, screens of trees and bushes to partially shield the park from the view of nearby residences.<sup>100</sup> The Olmsted plan also made detailed recommendations for informal parkways and formal boulevards. The plan noted that "as residence streets commonly have two rows of trees, a boulevard should have at least four rows, and should be wide enough to accommodate them properly. A width of 150 feet

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<sup>96</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*.

<sup>97</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 72.

<sup>98</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 72.

<sup>99</sup> Jim Kershner, "Olmsted Parks in Spokane," Historylink.org essay 8218, last updated July 18, 2007, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=8218](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8218).

<sup>100</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 80.

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would generally be a minimum for a boulevard.”<sup>101</sup> Some proposed parkways ran between existing parks; others extended existing boulevards; and still others provided “pleasure drives” along the river, such as High Drive Parkway along the cliffs east of Hangman (Latah) Creek.<sup>102</sup>

Furthermore, the plan called for some parks to be devoted primarily to recreation, focusing on playfields and greenswards. The plan suggested parks at least 500 feet square, but preferably as big as four city blocks, in order to accommodate a number of amenities, including ball fields, some of which should be sunken so that they could be flooded in the winter for ice skating, as well as lawns and walks, men’s and women’s outdoor gymnasiums, shelters, “little folks’ playgrounds,” and hard gravel surfaces that could accommodate crowds listening to music or children playing hopscotch without damaging lawns. Wading pools were also recommended.<sup>103</sup>

In general, the Olmsted firm’s approach to park design during the early twentieth century leaned away from formal gardens and toward a city’s natural and unique topography and flora. The Spokane plan highlighted the “prominent ledges” of Manito Park, for instance, noting that they were “decidedly valuable as picturesque landscape features.”<sup>104</sup> The plan recommended that the basalt be carefully preserved and covered, if necessary, with vines or sedum, rock gardens, or even drives for carriages, almost anything but grass, which the plan found inappropriate and costly to seed and maintain in these locations.<sup>105</sup> Olmsted and Dawson lamented that there was no adequate playfield in Manito Park and recommended an addition on the park’s northwest corner.<sup>106</sup> They also found the meadow unsatisfactory as it included a copse of trees in the center rather than around the boundary. The drives, concluded the Olmsted Report, were too narrow. Manito Park’s zoo, the plan said, should be moved to a larger park, be incidental, and not take up too much space. Olmsted plans typically also discouraged numerous indoor attractions, as they were counter to a park’s goal of getting people out into the fresh air.<sup>107</sup>

The Olmsted plan for Spokane also took special note of Coeur d’Alene Park, which it considered in need of little improvement, except the addition of amenities such as a wading pool and bandstand and greater variety in trees and shrubs.<sup>108</sup> Liberty Park was considered uniquely picturesque but difficult to develop because of its steep slopes and ledges. The Olmsted plan for Corbin Park envisioned an open shelter with separate sections for boys and girls and possibly “swimming tanks” also divided by gender. Because the land was level and devoid of “marked beauties of nature,” the Olmsted Report recommended that it be completely devoted to recreation for children. Hard gravel yards would be ugly, the report claimed, but “can be almost wholly concealed by beautiful planting. There is no reason why a high, fine-mesh, wire netting fence, covered with flowering vines, may not

<sup>101</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 77.

<sup>102</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 79.

<sup>103</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 80–81.

<sup>104</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 82.

<sup>105</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 83.

<sup>106</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 83.

<sup>107</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 82–84.

<sup>108</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 84.

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be as beautiful as a bed of colored foliage plants or other gardening decorations.”<sup>109</sup> Similarly, Adams Park, now Cannon Hill, was recommended to include a shelter and shallow wading pool for small children.

The Olmsted firm also responded to the city’s request for advice on its city plan. The Olmsted plan recommended that Spokane design its mass-transit system immediately and that the city establish ornamental squares in the central city, systematically plant street trees, limit building heights, regulate billboards, and maintain a municipal arts commission. Finally, the Olmsted plan called for an acquisition campaign, noting that Spokane needed to secure park space throughout the city while the land could be cheaply purchased, a recommendation that the park board and White were eager to follow: “Study of the subject of park areas led experts to announce as a handy ‘rule of thumb’ that the subdivided portions of cities ought to have neighborhood parks if possible no more than half a mile from any residence and that this area ought to equal to 5 per cent of the area of each division of the city.”<sup>110</sup>

Growing the Parks System

The 1913 report included more than just the Olmsted plan. Park Superintendent Duncan noted the extensive projects that had been completed since the plan was received, which included new drives, greenhouses, and flower gardens in Manito; grading and planting in Cannon Hill Park, Cliff Park, Interstate Fair Grounds, Hay’s Park, Audubon Park, Franklin Park, Lincoln Park, Minnehaha Park (the site of a former amusement park with existing buildings including a dance hall), and Mission Park; as well as the redesign and planting of slopes at Liberty Park; remodeling and planting of Corbin Park; grading, planting, new walks, new lake, and new tennis courts at Mission Park; and new tennis courts at Coeur d’Alene Park. Drives were graded at Down River Park, Indian Canyon Park, Palisades Park, and High Drive Parkway. Furthermore, amenities like ball fields, tennis courts, wading pools, shelters, swings, and other recreational apparatus had been added to the city’s playgrounds, including U. S. Grant Playground, A. M. Cannon Playground, Glass Playground, Ruth Playground, Interstate Fair Grounds, Manito, Underhill Playfield, and Sinto Triangle.<sup>111</sup> The report further details each park, noting the natural features prized in places like Indian Canyon and celebrating the new outdoor natatorium at the Sinto Triangle (later known as Mission Park) that was nearing completion and would come to be known as the Spokane Public Bath House.<sup>112</sup>

Playground Supervisor B. A. Clark also contributed to the report, noting the popularity of wading pools and folk dancing in the summer. He added that a combination of handball courts, running tracks, wading pools, and shelters should be added to playgrounds in the coming years, and that since the parks were so popular at night, they should be lighted.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 86.

<sup>110</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 8.

<sup>111</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 21–22.

<sup>112</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 43. See also Linda Yeomans, “Spokane Public Bath House,” Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination, April 16, 2011. On file at City of Spokane Historic Preservation Office, Spokane.

<sup>113</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 57.

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Other noteworthy contributions to the growing parks system came from the staff of architects and engineers working with Duncan. These included Rowley J. Clarke, an early officer of the Board of Park Commissioners and the park engineer. Clarke's name, along with Duncan's, is found on many of the early park plans, including the Plan of Hays Park, dated March 19, 1910; drawings for the A.M. Cannon Playground, dated March 1913; and the plan for High Drive Parkway; dated the April 1, 1913.<sup>114</sup> Born in Rochester, New York, in 1880, Clarke graduated from Spokane High School in 1900. He spent two years at the mining school of the University of California from 1900-1902, and worked for the Spokane International Railroad Company from 1905-1908. He was appointed Park Engineer for the City of Spokane in 1910, an office he held until 1916.<sup>115</sup>

C.A. Houghtaling is another example of an early parks contributor, though his exact role for the Spokane Parks Department remains unclear. Houghtaling, born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1882, made quite a name for himself in the Pacific Northwest, especially following his move to Portland in 1913. His architectural firm, Houghtaling and Dougan, was very successful, as was his solo career following the partnership's dissolution in 1926. His experience in Spokane, however, is less well known. He was employed with Cutter & Malmgren, Architects, in 1906, but moved to Idaho and, later, Canada within a couple of years of his appointment.<sup>116</sup> His name, however, graces a watercolor rendering of the Sanitary Building for Cliff Park, dated September 9, 1912. The restroom facility, clad in blind mortared rubble basalt, appears to have been the prototype for numerous comfort stations built throughout the park system, including those at Manito, Lincoln, and Underhill parks, among others. However, the watercolor is one of two drawings for the Cliff Park Sanitary Building, the second of which is undated but bears John Duncan's name. The "Duncan" drawing is an obviously earlier iteration, with almost no detail and simple massing. It is likely that the building's footprint and plan were designed within the park system, the drawings then delivered to Houghtaling to formalize and render. Houghtaling signed his watercolor with a "Det." following his name, an abbreviation often used by architects to indicate "detail." The rendering, regardless of attribution, was the obvious model for buildings constructed throughout the park system.

Between 1896 and 1907, the park commission had overseen maintenance and improvement expenditures of \$139,599.96. From 1907 to 1913, with the help of bonds that total, with the addition of land acquisitions, had risen to \$1,570, 384.77.<sup>117</sup> According to the 1913 parks report, the park system, in spite of a lack of funds, had grown between 1907 and 1911 to include Up River Tract, Hangman Park, Summit Boulevard area, Sterling Heights tract, High Bridge Park, U. S. Grant Playground, Down River Park, Audubon Playfield, Cliff Park,

<sup>114</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, graphic inserts.

<sup>115</sup> "Candidates for Membership: Rowley J. Clarke, Spokane, Wash.," *Bulletin of the American Institute of Mining Engineers*. Monthly Bulletin No. 128, August, 1917. xxxvii. [https://books.google.com/books?id=4DYFAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PR37&lpg=RA2-PR37&dq=Rolley+J+Clarke,+spokane&source=bl&ots=H9DDSI-6X3&sig=TW0-dt2cMdUG3UnM3H6Mwem4L6Y&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAWoVChMIImKee5\\_umxwIV0yuICh3yUgBF#v=onepage&q=Rolley%20J%20Clarke%20%20spokane&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=4DYFAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PR37&lpg=RA2-PR37&dq=Rolley+J+Clarke,+spokane&source=bl&ots=H9DDSI-6X3&sig=TW0-dt2cMdUG3UnM3H6Mwem4L6Y&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAWoVChMIImKee5_umxwIV0yuICh3yUgBF#v=onepage&q=Rolley%20J%20Clarke%20%20spokane&f=false)

<sup>116</sup> Richard Ellison Ritz, *Architects of Oregon* (Portland, OR: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002), 193.

<sup>117</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 65.

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Hay's Park and Cannon Hill Park (formerly Adams Park), for a total of approximately 826 acres.<sup>118</sup> By the time the park board report was released in 1913, this number had increased to 1,934 acres.<sup>119</sup>

After the release of the report, White continued to guide the board toward the implementation of the Olmsted plan. Once lands were acquired, bond funds were used to improve the parks. The city continually strived to create playgrounds and recreational opportunities in all parts of the growing city. The City purchased land in Peaceful Valley on the southern bank of the Spokane River and built an athletic stadium at what is now Glover Field in 1912.<sup>120</sup> A wading pool was constructed in Franklin Park in 1914.<sup>121</sup> In 1916, Spokane opened the first nine holes of Downriver Golf Course.<sup>122</sup>

City planning was evolving as a discipline during the early twentieth century, and Spokane soon took a more formal approach to its own city plan. Just as Spokane's Board of Park Commissioners and its city parks plan had followed on the heels of similar programs in larger, eastern cities, so did its city planning efforts. According to a biography of White, "Hartford organized one of the earliest planning commissions in 1907; Chicago in 1909; Baltimore and Detroit in 1910; Newark, Saint Louis, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Lincoln in 1911. . . . Spokane established its planning commission in 1918, but for its first six or seven years, it seemed merely an adjunct of the park board."<sup>123</sup>

Although parks improvements were ongoing, the years of World War I led to fluctuation in the use of Spokane's parks. In 1918, the parks and their amenities, including tennis courts and baseball fields, were used less than usual, a fact noted in a 1919 *American City* magazine article.<sup>124</sup> However, in 1919, attendance throughout the city's parks nearly doubled its best-ever totals, especially at the city's Sinto Triangle Playground, which was the only city-owned playground with a pool at the time.<sup>125</sup>

At this time, Spokane was also diversifying its recreational opportunities and advocating for public play. In 1921, Superintendent Duncan wrote about the value of golf courses in public parks for the *American City*, noting that, like parks, they should be open to everyone's use. He advised other planners that courses should be simple, the greens level, and the park designed with an eye to getting the greatest number of people out into the fresh air, not training experts.<sup>126</sup> By 1923, Downriver Golf Course, designed by Seattle golf enthusiast Robert

<sup>118</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 7–8.

<sup>119</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 9.

<sup>120</sup> Danielle Mujica, "Glover Field," Spokane Historical, accessed January 20, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/46>.

<sup>121</sup> "Hail Destroys Tulips in Park," *Spokesman-Review*, May 11, 1916.

<sup>122</sup> Reynolds and Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, "Olmsted Park Survey Report/Plan."

<sup>123</sup> Fahey, "A. L. White," 170–78.

<sup>123</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 7–8.

<sup>124</sup> Benjamin A. Clark, Superintendent of Playgrounds, "Playground Attendance in 1919 near Double Spokane's Best Previous Total," *American City* 21 (July–December, 1919): 443–44.

<sup>125</sup> Clark, "Playground Attendance in 1919," 444.

<sup>126</sup> John W. Duncan, "Golf in Public Parks," *American City* 25, no. 5 (November 1921): 376–78

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Johnstone, would be expanded to 18 holes, further increasing the explosive popularity of the sport in Spokane.<sup>127</sup>

Also in 1921, White moved his family to an estate outside the city limits and began to transform the property's 15 acres into elaborate gardens. Some who felt White was demanding too many resources for the city's parks used the move as an opportunity to remove White from the board, claiming that he was no longer a Spokane resident. The city engineer replaced him as president. Duncan continued on as superintendent, overseeing a number of new construction projects, including a new wading pool (1920) and new café for zoo visitors (1923) in Manito Park.<sup>128</sup> In 1926, White joined the staff of the *Spokesman-Review* as the paper's garden editor. For the next 26 years, he continued to write as an advocate for gardens and parks.<sup>129</sup>

The uses of Spokane's parks were also evolving in the 1920s. For instance, in 1925, Spokane hosted the first National Indian Congress at today's Glover Field. Teepees appeared in July as representatives from various Northwest tribes convened. In 1926, the congress convened again, this time with more attention paid to political and economic issues suffered by native tribes of the northwest. As historians Robert Ruby and John Brown claimed, "Indians figured prominently in the program, discussing social and economic matters, with the elders generally wanting the government to help them remain Indians, and youth talking of freedom and emancipation."<sup>130</sup>

In 1929, the park board voted to expand Manito Boulevard to connect with High Drive, one of the most picturesque stretches of road in the Spokane park system.<sup>131</sup> However, with the end of the 1920s, the United States witnessed the crash of the stock market and slid into another disastrous depression. The High Drive expansion was shelved.

*The Great Depression*

As did most other cities across the nation, Spokane suffered high unemployment, business failures, and severe poverty during the Great Depression. The city's unemployment rate rose to one in four.<sup>132</sup> In 1931, Lawrence Hamblen, who had served on the park board since 1912, was elected president. He would serve until his death in September 1956.<sup>133</sup> In 1931, Hamblen prepared a summary report of the parks board that provided a snapshot of the city's efforts during the Great Depression. His summary report noted that it was discouraging to face such budget shortfalls for parks when the board wanted to further develop existing parks and begin to improve "areas

<sup>127</sup> Fahey, "A. L. White," 177.

<sup>128</sup> Bamonte and Bamonte, *Manito Park*, 98–109.

<sup>129</sup> Fahey, "A. L. White," 178.

<sup>130</sup> Robert H. Ruby and John A. Brown, *The Spokane Indians, Children of the Sun* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006), 275.

<sup>131</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, "Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Park Board: March 14, 1929," Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, Minute Book 3, WSA-ERB.

<sup>132</sup> Arksey, "Spokane—Thumbnail History," Historylink.org Essay 7462, September 4, 2005,

[http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=7462](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=7462).

<sup>133</sup> "Laurence Hamblen Dies; Resident Here 69 Years," *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, September 4, 1956.

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heretofore adding nothing to the beauty of the city.”<sup>134</sup> Hamblen then thanked Spokane River Parkways Association, the Spokane-Review Civic Development Department, and local citizens for donating Deep Creek Canyon, “one of the most beautiful and interesting natural parks in the Northwest,” as well as “parkways along the river extending easterly from the city and westerly toward Deep Canyon Creek.”<sup>135</sup> He also applauded the work of single men living in the East Trent Billet, what he later referred to as “unemployed labor,” on the Indian Canyon Golf Course and Washington Water Power Company for transporting the men to the work site:

It furnishes ideal employment for the men, enabling them to keep fit physically. By the cutting of the trees on fairways the billet has been furnished with ample wood for heating purposes. The work done by the men is of real value and does not put them in the position of doing a useless thing or accepting charity in the usual meaning of the word, and is securing for the city an asset which when completed will pay a very handsome return to the city in the way of a net revenue over and above the cost of maintaining and operating the course.<sup>136</sup>

Hamblen also put forward a number of wishes for the city’s park system. He hoped parkways would eventually stretch “east of the city on each side of the river as far as the Argonne Bridge, and extending westerly along the river as far as Deep Creek Canyon.”<sup>137</sup> He also hoped rights-of-way could be secured to extend Manito Boulevard south to High Drive. Furthermore, he hoped water could be brought to the Indian Canyon Golf Course, along with a clubhouse, and that the course would open within a year. He completed his recommendations with the note that “with all improvements which cost money eliminated from the 1932 budget, and a material cut in the cost of maintenance, our only hope for park development is in the continued use of the unemployed labor.”<sup>138</sup> Hamblen noted that Spokane’s residents paid twenty-two cents per capita for all play activities, including golf, in 1931. By comparison, they would pay less than fifteen cents per capita in 1932. “When you think that for this cost per capita during the year 1931, 1,806,841 children played on the playgrounds of the city, there would seem to be no question that in the operation of this department the city is getting full value for the money expended.”<sup>139</sup>

Federal programs, such as the Works Progress Administration (1935–1939) and Work Projects Administration (1939–1943), known collectively as the WPA, put local people to work on public projects. In Spokane, the WPA provided an assistant to the director of playgrounds who supervised playground leaders and attendants.<sup>140</sup> WPA labor also provided street improvements along North Riverton and Downriver Park Drive that equaled

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<sup>134</sup> Lawrence Hamblen to the Spokane Park Board, n.d., 1, Folder 29, Box 2, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB. This letter is undated, but references reports from park staff to the board of park commissioners covering the period between 1913 and 1931.

<sup>135</sup> Hamblen to Park Board, n.d., 2.

<sup>136</sup> Hamblen to Park Board, n.d., 2.

<sup>137</sup> Hamblen to Park Board, n.d., 2.

<sup>138</sup> Hamblen to Park Board, n.d., 3.

<sup>139</sup> Hamblen to Park Board, n.d., 3.

<sup>140</sup> J. J. O’Donnell, District Supervisor of Education and Recreation Projects, Work Projects Administration, to L. B. Hamblen, President of Spokane Park Board, May 7, 1940, Folder 16, Box 10, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

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\$22,854.<sup>141</sup> WPA projects throughout the City were extensive and, among others, included park improvements at Manito, Liberty and Down River parks, as well as Indian Canyon where “the residents of Spokane were provided... a complete park including a bath house, field house, two shelter houses and a garage.”<sup>142</sup> The partnership between parks and relief agencies went two ways. A 1932 letter from the Woman’s Emergency Relief Depot thanked the park board for supplying the benches and tables that helped them provide assistance to a total of 20,942 people.<sup>143</sup>

As the Great Depression deepened, the expense of keeping a zoo became increasingly difficult to justify. An August editorial in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* asked, “Is the Manito Zoo Worthwhile?”<sup>144</sup> In October 1932, park board minutes captured the simple result: “On motion of Commissioner Mahoney, the Park Superintendent was instructed to dispose of the animals now at Manito Park Zoo to the best advantage without cost to the city, prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1933.”<sup>145</sup>

Other casualties of the Great Depression included grand private houses and gardens, including the 1889 house designed for Frank Rockwood Moore by one of Spokane’s favorite architects, Kirtland Cutter. The 5-acre parcel on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue had been landscaped in the Arts & Crafts style during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, the gardens began to deteriorate when the house could not find a new buyer during the Depression and was eventually demolished in 1940. The property was purchased by the Parks Department in 1945 and became part of Pioneer Park (now Edwidge Woldson Park), but the gardens (now known as the Moore-Turner Gardens) were not discovered until the early twenty-first century and were restored in 2007.<sup>146</sup>

In spite of financial difficulties, the park board continued to expand the city’s park system. In 1934, the Spokane board appointed Stanley G. Witter Recreation Director. Under Witter, the definition of “recreation” in the parks would expand to include cultural events, drama, and music for children in the city’s parks.<sup>147</sup>

World War II and the Mid-Century

Spokane, like many other American cities, began to rebound economically as the nation first geared up to support its allies during World War II and then responded to the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7,

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<sup>141</sup> A. D. Butler. “Improvements on Streets Graded by WPA Labor for Park Department,” September 26, 1939, typescript, Folder 16, Box 10, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

<sup>142</sup> “Spokane County – WPA Accomplishments,” April 1940. 5. Washington State Library, electronic document, accessed August 13, 2015,

[http://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/images/publications/SL\\_wpawapressrelease\\_no801to1299/SL\\_wpawapressrelease\\_no801to1299.pdf](http://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/images/publications/SL_wpawapressrelease_no801to1299/SL_wpawapressrelease_no801to1299.pdf).

<sup>143</sup> R. E. Ahlquist, Chairman of the Woman’s Emergency Relief Depot, to City of Spokane Park Board, April 12, 1932, Folder 15, Box 10, Parks Records Collection, WSA-ERB.

<sup>144</sup> “Is the Manito Zoo Worthwhile?” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, August 2, 1932.

<sup>145</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners. “Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Park Board: October 13, 1932.”

<sup>146</sup> Sally R. Reynolds, “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for The Moore-Turner Garden,” October 31, 2003, on file at Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.

<sup>147</sup> Harold T. Abbott, “A Brief History of the Spokane Park System,” Spokane: n.p. ca. 1955, 4, Spokane Parks Pamphlet Files, Spokane Public Library.

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1941. Nearby military installations, including Velox Naval Supply Depot, Galena Army Air Corps Supply Depot (later Fairchild Air Force Base), Geiger Field, Fort George Wright, and Baxter Army Hospital, ramped up to support the war effort.<sup>148</sup>

Duncan retired as superintendent of parks in 1942 and was honored with the title Superintendent Emeritus. The city hired Harold T. Abbott, a park board member and Harvard trained landscape architect, to replace him. Abbott began his career with the parks department as the landscape architect and foreman of Comstock Park, where he designed the landscape and grounds and supervised the project's construction in 1936. In 1940, he wrote an article on conservation and the landscape architect, which heralded his role as a national leader in the conservation movement. Abbott rose through the ranks of the parks board, serving as secretary and president, and finally parks superintendent until 1959.<sup>149</sup> During his tenure, he followed up on a number of Duncan's original ideas, completing Duncan's rose gardens in Manito Park and establishing the Finch Arboretum, for example.<sup>150</sup>

In 1947, the family of John A. Finch, a wealthy miner, released \$250,000 for the establishment of an arboretum on the site of Queen Anne Park, a location the Olmsted Report had earlier identified as ideal for a beautiful small park.<sup>151</sup> In 1948, the site was graded and remnants of an undeveloped railroad grade removed. The site was then planted with trees from Manito's greenhouses, as well as seedlings from the University of Washington.<sup>152</sup> The arboretum is now a 65-acre woodland with plants and trees labeled for study.<sup>153</sup>

Abbott also oversaw a new collaboration between parks and public schools. The school board and the park board formed a joint Park-School Committee in 1945 to avoid building duplicate facilities. According to Abbott, writing in 1955, "At the present time there are 28 indoor centers, mostly in schools. Of those, seven are developed school and park facilities with multipurpose units connected with the school buildings. Four more are under development. In such an agreement, the park facility is available to the school and the school and the multipurpose unit is open for park activities."<sup>154</sup> Abbott called the arrangement "exceedingly satisfactory."<sup>155</sup>

The board continued to expand and diversify the city's recreational opportunities in the mid-century. A summary of park board efforts for 1951 noted a variety of successes: a section of the Spokane River bank had been leased from the Union Pacific Railroad to provide future public access; the Washington Water Power company had completed a Spokane Falls overlook, and the city had provided the plantings; the Indian Canyon Golf Course had been opened to winter use; the municipal rose garden had been planted; existing golf courses

<sup>148</sup> Arksey, "Spokane—Thumbnail History."

<sup>149</sup> "Harold Abbott," *The Spokesman-Review*, April 4, 2002.

<sup>150</sup> "Harold Abbott."

<sup>151</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 84.

<sup>152</sup> Laura Arksey, "Gift to Fund Establishment of Finch Arboretum (Spokane) Is Announced on February 9, 1947," HistoryLink.org Essay 10009, February 1, 2012, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=10009](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10009).

<sup>153</sup> City of Spokane, "John A. Finch Arboretum," accessed January 2, 2015, <https://beta.spokanecity.org/urbanforestry/programs/fincharboretum/>.

<sup>154</sup> Abbott, "A Brief History," 6.

<sup>155</sup> Abbott, "A Brief History," 6.

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had been improved and new ones envisioned; and new athletic fields and other improvements had been constructed at Shadle Park, Stadacona Park (later incorporated into Grant Park), Franklin Park, Chief Garry Park, and the Whittier and Audubon playgrounds. Furthermore, “the nursery at Manito park [had been] entirely replanted.”<sup>156</sup> Abbott prepared a history of Spokane parks in 1955 and claimed that “within the last 20 years, the Spokane park system has had its greatest expansion in the way of services to the public. It has been a period in which supervised recreation has been given prominence.”<sup>157</sup> In the same report, Abbott also noted that the park board had formed a Park and Recreational Foundation in 1951 to help fund the city’s growing recreation program, and to publicize the need for more recreational facilities.<sup>158</sup>

In spite of these successes, some parks deteriorated in the mid-century. One of Spokane’s earliest parks, Liberty Park, began to decline in the 1950s after the park board elected to fill in its popular skating pond. According to President Hamblen, “It’s too bad we couldn’t preserve that but it really presented a dangerous situation because, in the winter, there was water enough to permit skating there and the bottom was just muck. We never did find out how far that muck went down but we were always afraid that some youngster would fall in through the ice and cause a fatality.”<sup>159</sup> The city then dumped waste into the former pond, and in 1956, plans for Interstate 90 were prepared that claimed 14 of the park’s 21 acres.<sup>160</sup> Today’s Liberty Park was constructed east of the original site, which was located between Arthur and Perry Streets and Third and Fifth Avenues.<sup>161</sup> The modern park partially overlaps the original footprint, but otherwise is a new park that simply shares the name of the historic. Features remaining from the original Liberty Park, such as stone walls and other structures, straddle both the north and south sides of Interstate 90 are essentially abandoned, and are slowly falling to ruin.

In 1956, the parks board lost its leadership when President Hamblen died. His obituary claimed that “the Downriver, Indian Canyon and Esmerelda golf courses and Finch arboretum were financed and developed under this leadership. He was credited with raising more than \$250,000 for purchase and construction of Comstock playground and swimming pool. More recently, he helped raise \$500,000 for purchase and construction of the Shadle park playground.”<sup>162</sup> Only three years after Hamblen’s death, Abbott retired as superintendent in 1959. With the loss of Abbott’s and Hamblen’s leadership, the park board lost much of its last remaining connection to the era of parks development under White and the Olmsted Report.

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<sup>156</sup> Spokane Park Board, “Your Parks Are Being Improved,” 1951, brochure, Spokane Parks Pamphlet Files, Spokane Public Library.

<sup>157</sup> Abbott, “A Brief History,” 4.

<sup>158</sup> Abbott, “A Brief History,” 6.

<sup>159</sup> L. R. Hamblen, in conversation with J. E. Ferris, oral history, 1955. Provided to HRA by the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, Washington.

<sup>160</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, “Making Way for the Freeway: Liberty Park,” *Spokane Historical*, accessed January 20, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/114>.

<sup>161</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Spokane, Washington, volume 4, 1910, <http://sanborn.umi.com.ezproxy.spl.org:2048/wa/9331/dateid-000016.htm?CCSI=2565n>.

<sup>162</sup> “Laurence Hamblen Dies.”

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***Parks in the Modern Period, 1960–1974***

However the development of parks in Spokane in no way ended with the loss of its early pioneers. The city continued to expand its parklands, improve its parks, expand its playgrounds and recreational opportunities, and evolve with new trends in park design in the modern period under the direction of Parks Superintendent William S. Fearn (appointed in 1965). He was the first formally trained parks director, having received a master's degree in community recreation in Chicago.<sup>163</sup> Previous directors had risen through the ranks of the department and/or were landscape architects by training. Manito Park evolved to include a number of additional amenities, including a picnic shelter donated in 1960 by the Downtown Spokane Rotary Club, as well as specialized gardens, including the popular Japanese Garden in Manito Park.<sup>164</sup> Naturalistic parks with a long history like Drumheller Springs, once home to Spokane Garry's school and later purchased by the Eastern Washington Historical Society in 1968 and donated to the City in 1970, are prized for their naturalistic qualities and Native American history.<sup>165</sup>

Development initiated by private donations and state and federal funds were among the chief accomplishments of the City Park and Recreation Department in the modern period.<sup>166</sup> Private donations spurred improvements at Hamblen, Manito, Franklin, Whittier and Webster parks; enabled the Corey Glen at Finch Arboretum; funded the remodel of the clubhouse at Indian Canyon; as well as numerous other projects. Even the beloved Japanese Garden in Manito Park received its start via the aid of private donations. Developed slowly over more than a decade, the garden officially opened in 1974 during the World's Fair.

Federal and state funds were also vital to park development in the modern period. In 1965, a parks and open spaces study was completed, which served as a guide for park development in addition to helping the city qualify for state and federal funds.<sup>167</sup> The city received state funding to reestablish Liberty Park east of the original site in the early 1970s, as well as a \$402,600 grant from the US Housing and Urban Development Department for both Liberty and Grant parks. The new Liberty Park was designed with a smaller pond, lighting, and numerous recreational amenities, including tennis and basketball courts, a baseball diamond, and horseshoe pits. At the same time, Stadacona Circle was added to Grant Park.<sup>168</sup>

There were also losses during this period. In the 1960s, Natatorium Park, a private park not affiliated with the City of Spokane park system, no longer attracted big crowds and was closed for good.<sup>169</sup> A 1970 park report noted the lack of financial support to relocate the merry-go-round from Natatorium Park as one of its biggest

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<sup>163</sup> "Funding Cuts Push Parks Into Holding Pattern," *Spokesman Review*, July 29, 1979.

<sup>164</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Picnic Shelter," Spokane Historical, accessed January 23, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/48>.

<sup>165</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Drumheller Springs," Spokane Historical, accessed January 21, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/102>.

<sup>166</sup> "Park Report: Gains, Problems Listed." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

<sup>167</sup> "Park Report: Gains, Problems Listed." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

<sup>168</sup> Rebstock, "Making Way for the Freeway: Liberty Park."

<sup>169</sup> Tracy L. Rebstock, "Spokane's Amusement Park: Natatorium Park," Spokane Historical, accessed January 21, 2015, <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/106>.

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failures.<sup>170</sup> Bond-issue failures in both 1967 and 1968 and “the continued problems of adequate maintenance and maximum use of facilities” also plagued the parks department. By this time Oregon State graduate, Richard Courtney had been hired as the in-house landscape architect for the park system. He worked on the Japanese Gardens at Manito Park and on Riverfront Park during the 1974 World’s Fair, retiring after 30 years of service.<sup>171</sup> Also by 1970, four full-time staff were employed in recreation programming, managing the “difficult” opportunities involved with allowing citizens direct influence in planning programs and facilities.<sup>172</sup>

Although the park system continued to evolve, one of the most significant events occurred in the 1970s, when Spokane completed one of the Olmsted Report’s most important remaining recommendations by creating a riverfront park near the falls in downtown Spokane. In 1907, the Olmsted Report encouraged the City of Spokane to follow in the footsteps of New York City, whose Riverside Park and Drive extended for miles along the Hudson River and represented millions of dollars’ worth of public investment.<sup>173</sup> One of four large parks recommended in the Olmsted Report, “Gorge Park” was meant to reclaim the “partially ‘improved,’ as one might ironically say” river gorge from the commercial development that had claimed the banks in the central city.<sup>174</sup> The realizing of a riverfront park, however, was many years away.

Throughout the 1950s, Spokane’s downtown had attracted new development, including major department stores and a new coliseum, a wave of what Dr. Willis B. Merriam referred to as “replacement building.”<sup>175</sup> In January 1961, the *Spokesman-Review* published a number of articles detailing the plans of a new organization of businessmen called Spokane Unlimited who were dreaming of a revitalized downtown and funding studies with their own money. News reports harkened back to the days of the City Beautiful: “Their dream was a Spokane that would display to the world a plunging river of unsurpassed natural beauty in the heart of a metropolitan setting.”<sup>176</sup>

The team’s consultant, EBASCO, recommended reclaiming Spokane’s waterfront through such mechanisms as urban renewal funds and bonds. Ultimately, Spokane Unlimited was unable to garner voter support for the bonds required to get their urban renewal project off the ground. However, the idea captured the city’s imagination. In 1968, a new twelve-member planning board, supported by the City Plan Commission and the city manager, began researching the acquisition and reuse of the river islands near downtown.

In the 1970s, as some of the final remaining railroads into Spokane merged, it was suddenly possible to accomplish some of the envisioned improvements to the city’s riverfront, to remove tracks and depots and

<sup>170</sup> “Park Report: Gains, Problems Listed.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

<sup>171</sup> Obituary – Richard Courtney. *Spokesman-Review*, July 21, 1999.

<sup>172</sup> “Park Report: Gains, Problems Listed.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

<sup>173</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 72.

<sup>174</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 72.

<sup>175</sup> Willis B. Merriam, “Spokane: Background to Expo 74” (Pullman: N.p., 1974), 11, brochure, Special Collections, Washington State Library, Olympia, Washington.

<sup>176</sup> “City’s Redevelopment Plan Moving Swiftly,” *Spokesman-Review*, January 29, 1961.

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convert the waterfront to a city park. At the same time, City Hall realized that Spokane's centennial was swiftly approaching.<sup>177</sup>

With the support of Spokane Unlimited, a city consultant, King Forrest Cole, convinced Spokane leaders to throw out the idea of a local centennial and instead to pay for its new park by hosting the World's Fair in 1974. Although Spokane was the smallest city to ever host a world's fair, Expo '74 was considered a success, and it provided the impetus needed to clear land around Spokane Falls and prepare the landscape as a future park site. The Expo's theme was the environment, and a small number of countries, including Canada, Japan, and the Soviet Union, erected grand pavilions on the site's 100 acres. Elements of Spokane's history were also incorporated into the Expo, including a much-loved 1909, hand-carved carousel from Natatorium Park that remains in the park today. The fair, while it attracted fewer visitors than did Seattle's 1962 World's Fair, averaged about 35,000 visitors per day and left a lasting mark on the city's downtown core. The Washington Pavilion became the city's opera house and convention center; walkways made the waterfront's and river islands' viewpoints accessible; and the City of Spokane gained a beautiful public park in the heart of the city—which likely would have pleased the early parks board and other supporters of the original Olmsted plan.<sup>178</sup>

Today, parks developed from 1891 through the historic period are managed by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. They continue to provide the city with a network of naturalistic parks, community parks, recreational parks and facilities, and parkways and boulevards.

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<sup>177</sup> Merriam, "Spokane: Background to Expo 74," 12.

<sup>178</sup> Kershner, "Expo '74."

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## F. Associated Property Types

The 1907 Olmsted Report gave four classifications for types of parks: *large parks*, loosely defined as “reservations of country scenery”; *local parks*, medium-sized parks not clearly defined but presumably surrounded by residential neighborhoods; *parkways and boulevards*, the connection between parks suitable for pleasure driving and walking; and *playfields*, minimally sized at 600 feet square, surrounded by a beltway of trees or shrubbery, and containing children’s play areas, picnic shelters, gymnasiums, and recreational ball fields.<sup>179</sup> Unfortunately, of the four large parks recommended by the Olmsted Report, none have persevered as the large swaths of scenic lands envisioned in 1907.<sup>180</sup> Furthermore, the Olmsted Report did not recommend the types of recreational uses, such as art and community centers and golf courses, which are so popular today. Also, the differentiation between playfields and local parks has been blurred as parks and the needs of the community have merged and changed over time.

Presently, the City of Spokane maintains eight classifications for parks: *major parks*, large expanses of open land designed to provide natural scenery with both active and passive recreation; *community parks*, those that offer diverse recreational opportunities; *neighborhood parks*, intended to provide both active and passive recreational opportunities for residents enjoying short breaks for daily leisure or more intense use by groups; *neighborhood mini-parks*, designed to serve specific groups, such as children or senior citizens, where land is at a premium; *trails*, paved or unpaved surfaces used for running, biking, walking, and skating; *parkways*, arterials that have scenic features, landscape treatments, and/or connect parks; *conservation land*, open spaces designed to protect environmentally sensitive features that are generally maintained in a natural state; and *other facilities*, such as art and community centers, golf courses, and aquatic centers. Within each category, the City provides definitions for the physical size, built assets, natural environment, programs, and geographic range of users.<sup>181</sup>

The city’s prescriptions are based on management and funding needs, and are subject to change based on those factors. Conversely, the Olmsted property types are loosely defined. As such, neither the Olmsted nor the current citywide classification system seems appropriate to this multiple property listing. Instead, a streamlined look at property types has been devised here that includes naturalistic parks, community parks, recreational parks and facilities, and boulevards and parkways. In some cases, parks may qualify under more than one associated property type.

### Type I: Naturalistic Parks

Naturalistic parks may include conservation lands, trails, or other park types as classified by the City of Spokane, that are intentionally designed to preserve and maintain environmentally sensitive features, significant views, and wildlife habitats and corridors.

<sup>179</sup> Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 75–80.

<sup>180</sup> The city did secure some of the recommended lands, but the large parks as envisioned by the Olmsted Report were not developed.

<sup>181</sup> City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, “Park Classification System,” draft, September 4, 1913, City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, Spokane, Washington. Provided to HRA by Garrett Jones of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation.

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Section No. F Page 34***Physical Attributes***

Naturalistic parks include a limited number of built resources and are instead primarily associated with geographical or environmental features. Within the City of Spokane park system, they will vary in size (acreage) and design but will generally be sited around one or more natural features, such as waterways (ponds, streams, springs), geologic elements (rock formations, cliffs, canyons), or other environmentally sensitive features. The plan of the park will focus the visitor on the experience gained from the natural features as opposed to any specific sport or other recreational pursuit. This is not to say that a naturalistic park will not have built and recreational activities on site, only that those should be secondary and the natural elements the primary focus. Built structures in naturalistic parks should be constructed of natural materials in a manner that depicts the workmanship and artistry of the craftsperson while fading into the scenic setting.

***Associative Attributes***

A naturalistic park may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature. Instead, it is likely that each naturalistic park eligible under this listing has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Spokane; the growth of the city; the rise and fall of important citizens; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the park and its role as a naturalistic environment today. Cultural affiliations with both Euro- and Native Americans should be explored and elucidated when relative to the historic contexts presented here. However, the presence of natural features and resources that helped determine the park's location will likely be most important for naturalistic parks.

***Geographical Information***

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be most important with the naturalistic parks as opposed to other property types. The siting, location, design, and use of materials within naturalistic parks should be elucidated in accordance with its physical and associative attributes.

***Examples of Naturalistic Parks****Drumheller Springs Conservation Area*

Established in 1950, Drumheller Springs Conservation Area and the attached Drumheller Springs Historical Park are located near the intersection of West Euclid Avenue and North Ash Place in Spokane. The 12-acre park preserves a traditional Spokane Indian gathering and burial grounds, and was the location of the school of Chief Spokane Garry. The park includes paved and unpaved walking trails. Drumheller Springs is eligible for inclusion in this listing under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane.

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*Lincoln Park*

Established by the city in 1913, Lincoln Park is located at East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South Crestline Street and includes 51.30 acres divided into upper and lower sections. Upper Lincoln Park is largely devoid of buildings and structures, and includes walks designed to take the visitor to a pond or past incredible views of the Spokane valley. Lower Lincoln Park is accessed via a paved drive past monumental basalt cliff formations, down to a grassy rolling lawn, basalt restroom building, concrete picnic structure, and playfield. The Olmsted Report refers to Lincoln Park as Rockwood Park, a local park proposed to be 78 acres. Lincoln Park is eligible for inclusion in this listing under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane, and under Criterion C, as a designed historic landscape incorporating the distinctive basalt rubble rock construction of buildings that almost disappears into a background of basalt cliffs.

**Type 2: Community Parks**

Community parks may include major parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, neighborhood mini-parks, or trails as classified by the City of Spokane. Community parks are located within residential or other communities and are designed to provide natural scenery and unique features in a pleasing environment, while also providing for active and passive recreation.

***Physical Attributes***

Community parks include a large number of built resources, including but not limited to restroom and picnic shelters; passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, paths, and designed gardens; and active recreational facilities such as tennis courts, ball fields, and play structures. Within the City of Spokane park system they will vary in size (acreage) and design, but will generally be sited around one or more natural or geologic elements that have been included in a larger built environment. The plan of the park will focus the visitor on the experience gained from passive and active recreation. Built structures in community parks are constructed of natural and manmade materials in a manner that depicts both the workmanship and artistry of the craftsman or the function of the resource.

***Associative Attributes***

A community park may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, or a specific recreational need. Instead, it is likely that each community park eligible under this listing has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Spokane; the growth of the city; the rise and fall of important citizens; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the park and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely be centered around European American settlement, but may also include associations with Native American populations. The presence of natural features and resources that helped determine the park's location will likely be relevant for community parks, but may no longer be as visible on the landscape due to park development over time.

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***Geographical Information***

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be less important with the community parks as opposed to other property types, especially as it relates to park development over time. Instead, the siting of the park within an existing or proposed community or neighborhood development will likely be the most important geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within community parks should be elucidated in accordance with its physical and associative attributes.

***Example of a Community Park***

*Underhill Park*

Established in 1912, Underhill Park is located near the intersection of East Hartson Avenue and South Fiske Street in Spokane. The 19.20-acre park includes paved and unpaved walking paths, as well as ball fields and courts, a children's play area and splash pad, a restroom building constructed in the distinctive basalt rubble rock construction style common of the City of Spokane's parks, and open lawn area. Underhill Park is eligible for inclusion in this listing under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane, and may also be eligible under Criterion C, as a designed historic landscape.

**Type 3: Recreational Parks and Facilities**

Recreational parks and facilities may include major parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, neighborhood mini-parks, trails, or other facilities as classified by the City of Spokane. Recreational parks and facilities are located both within residential or other communities, as well as being destinations for both local users and tourists. Recreational parks and facilities are designed to provide some scenery in a pleasing environment but focus on an active recreational experience.

***Physical Attributes***

Recreational parks and facilities include a large number of built resources, including but not limited to active recreational facilities such as tennis courts, ball fields, and play structures; aquatic recreation facilities; arboretums; art and community centers; and golf courses. Within the City of Spokane park system they will vary in size (acreage) and design, but will generally be sited based on the recreational needs of the facility. The plan of the park will focus the visitor on the experience gained from active recreation, be it sports, community engagement, or a specific learning environment. Built structures in recreational parks and facilities are purpose driven, and may or may not depict workmanship and artistry in addition to the function of the resource.

***Associative Attributes***

Recreational parks and facilities may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, or a specific recreation need. Instead, it is likely that each recreational park and facility eligible under this listing has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Spokane;

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the growth of the city; the rise and fall of important citizens; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the resource and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely be centered on the growth of Spokane as a thriving community, but may also include associations with Native American populations and/or early settlement. It is unlikely that the presence of natural features and resources helped determine the park's location; this may be relevant in some cases, though perhaps not visible on the landscape due to park development over time.

***Geographical Information***

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be less important with recreational parks and facilities than with other property types, especially as it relates to park development over time. Instead, the siting of the park within an established community or neighborhood development will likely be the most important geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within recreational parks and facilities should be elucidated in accordance with its physical and associative attributes.

***Example of Recreational Parks and Facilities***

***Whittier Playground***

Established in 1951, Whittier Playground is located near the intersection of West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South F Street. The 3.5-acre park includes paved sidewalks, ball fields and courts, a children's play area, a restroom building constructed in concrete block, and open lawn and picnic areas. Whittier Playground is eligible for inclusion in this listing under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane, and may also be eligible under Criterion C, as a designed historic landscape specific for active recreation as prescribed under the category of "playfields" in the Olmsted Report.

**Type 4: Boulevards and Parkways**

Boulevards and parkways include parkways as classified by the City of Spokane. Boulevards and parkways are located within residential or other communities, and serve as arterials that connect scenic features, trails, and/or parks. Boulevards and parkways will have a specific landscape treatment in addition to paths for pedestrian and/or vehicular use.

***Physical Attributes***

Boulevards and parkways are, by definition, structures, and may also include buildings, sites, or objects. Within the City of Spokane park system they will vary in size (acreage) and design, but will generally be sited based on the transportation needs of a community, for recreational or other purposes, and/or a geologic or natural view. The plan of the boulevard or parkway will focus the visitor on the experience gained from the journey, be it from a neighborhood to a commercial core, from or to a scenic viewpoint, or between parks. The built structures in boulevards and parkways are purpose driven (i.e., for transportation), and may or may not depict

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workmanship and artistry in addition to the function of the resource. They will, however, be suitable for pleasure driving and walking either due to a captured viewshed or a designed landscape.

***Associative Attributes***

Boulevards and parkways may not always have been designed or designated around a specific geologic or natural feature, or even an established transportation route. Instead, it is likely that each boulevard and parkway eligible under this listing has a varied history that may include important activities related to the settlement of Spokane; the growth of the city; or other events or activities that led to the designation of the resource and its role in the community both past and present. Cultural affiliations will likely be centered on the growth of Spokane as a thriving community, but may also include associations with Native American populations and/or early settlement. It is likely that the presence of natural features and resources helped determine the boulevard or parkway's location and, if so, those features should be visible on the landscape regardless of development over time.

***Geographical Information***

As with the associative attributes, the geographical relationship of the property to natural and topographical resources will likely be important with boulevards and parkways, especially as it relates to park development over time. The siting of the park within an established or proposed community or neighborhood development will likely be just as important as any geographic consideration. The location, form, design, function, and use of materials within boulevards and parkways should be elucidated in accordance with its physical and associative attributes.

***Example of Boulevards and Parkways***

***Manito Boulevard***

Manito Boulevard was designed as part of the Manito Addition in 1904, with landscape plans approved and adopted by the City Council in August 1912. The boulevard travels from Manito Park south to approximately East 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and includes a central, 80-foot-wide tree-scaped, pedestrian accessed parkway flanked by 20-foot-wide north and south single-lane roads within the residential community. The central area features volunteered trails, but no prescribed pedestrian paths. Manito Boulevard is eligible for inclusion in this listing under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane, and may also be eligible under Criterion C, as a designed historic landscape specific for vehicular and pedestrian transportation between a park and a residential community.

**Locational Patterns**

Spokane's Parks and Boulevards are located throughout the city. As described in the four associated property types, physical, associative, and geographical attributes will affect locational patterns. However, as these are

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subjective to each individual park, there are no known generalizations about the likely location, occurrence, and/or distribution of the property types.

### **Boundaries**

In most cases, the boundaries for a park eligible under this listing will be the current boundaries of the park as defined by the City of Spokane. However, certain instances may exist where the historic and current boundaries are not the same, and modern construction would serve to exclude the property from eligibility under this listing. In such instance, a boundary may be scaled back from the current boundary to an appropriate historic-era boundary representative of the resource.

It is unlikely that a boundary for this listing would be larger than the current boundaries of a given park as the city defines it. However, in some cases, two or more individual parks within the City's system may be continuous, and thus joined to create the boundary for a listing under this nomination. Examples of this may include a park and attached boulevard; a park and attached trail; or any combination of two or more attached resources that share a historic context and significance.

### **Variations**

There are many variations within the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, both among the individual property types and within the individual parks. In all instances, however, variations should be able to be categorized within a temporal context, historic context, and associated property type, and meet the registration requirements outlined below to be eligible under this listing.

### **Condition**

The City of Spokane is currently acting as steward of the 4,100 acres of protected green space within the park system. Not all of the over 130 individual parks within the system will meet the eligibility requirements of this listing. Those that do should maintain roughly the same recreational characteristics within the social and natural environment now as they did during the eligible temporal context. Neglect may detract from the overall condition, for example, but would not preclude eligibility. Similarly, a change from one property type to another (e.g., from a recreational park in the historic era to a naturalistic park currently) would not necessarily result in a loss of eligibility.

### **Specific Locations**

As previously mentioned, Spokane currently maintains 131 parks and recreation facilities, not all of which will be eligible under this listing. Table 1 provides a brief summary of these, including name, location, date established, and size (information provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department).

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Table 1. List of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department facilities as of 2015. The year established indicates the date the park was acquired by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, the year established may not represent the earliest date the property served as a park. In other cases, the year established may not be known as the current name of the park may not be the same as the historic name. Additional research is required on individual park properties to determine their exact history, and will be conducted as individual nominations to this MPD are added.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>Year Established</b>
Hillyard Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	2.33	1932
Finch Arboretum	Arboretum	56.65	1947
A. M. Cannon Park	Community	8.46	1912
Audubon Park	Community	26.57	1907
Comstock Park	Community	26.05	1936
Franklin Park	Community	43.54	1914
Liberty Park	Community	30.00	1897
Lincoln Park	Community	58.41	1913
Minnehaha Park	Community	38.92	1909
Qualchan Hills Park	Community	27.88	1985
Shadle Park	Community	34.91	1945
Sky Prairie Park	Community	26.25	1998
Underhill Park	Community	19.83	1912
Campion Park	Conservation	22.69	
Downriver Park Conservation	Conservation	143.95	1912
Drumheller Springs Conservation	Conservation	15.91	1950
Hamblen Park	Conservation	7.99	1946
Hangman Park Conservation	Conservation	319.00	1910
Herbert M. Hamblen Conservation Area	Conservation	31.84	1907
High Drive Conservation	Conservation	226.35	1913
Indian Canyon Park Conservation	Conservation	155.70	1912
Latah Creek Conservation	Conservation	10.96	1929
Meadowglen Conservation	Conservation	15.95	
Palisades Conservation	Conservation	464.20	1938
Peaceful Valley Conservation	Conservation	10.93	1912
Upriver Park Conservation	Conservation	32.60	1909
Wyakin Park Conservation	Conservation	20.85	1993
Ashland Conservation	Conservation Futures	8.16	
Austin Ravine Conservation	Conservation Futures	29.96	
Camp Sekani Conservation	Conservation Futures	56.48	
Elliott Conservation	Conservation Futures	1.96	
Rimrock Conservation	Conservation Futures	7.09	
Romine Conservation	Conservation Futures	30.45	
Trolley Trail Conservation	Conservation Futures	12.34	

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Table 1. List of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department facilities as of 2015. The year established indicates the date the park was acquired by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, the year established may not represent the earliest date the property served as a park. In other cases, the year established may not be known as the current name of the park may not be the same as the historic name. Additional research is required on individual park properties to determine their exact history, and will be conducted as individual nominations to this MPD are added.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>Year Established</b>
Downriver Golf Course	Golf Course	140.50	
Esmeralda Golf Course	Golf Course	188.90	
Indian Canyon Golf Course	Golf Course	198.99	
The Creek At Qualchan Golf Course	Golf Course	187.07	
Camp Sekani Park	Major	146.04	1930
High Bridge Park	Major	200.00	1952
Manito Park	Major	90.00	1904
Riverfront Park	Major	60.53	1974
Ben Burr Park	Neighborhood	8.96	1998
Byrne, Patrick S. Park	Neighborhood	3.61	1902
Cannon Hill Park	Neighborhood	13.11	1909
Chief Garry Park	Neighborhood	10.76	1912
Clark, B. A. Park	Neighborhood	9.92	1937
Cliff Park	Neighborhood	5.65	1908
Coeur d'Alene Park	Neighborhood	11.00	1891
Corbin Park	Neighborhood	11.50	1907
Courtland Park	Neighborhood	3.70	1931
Cowley Park	Neighborhood	2.08	1915
Emerson Park	Neighborhood	3.50	1983
Friendship Park	Neighborhood	12.00	1978
Glass Park	Neighborhood	3.47	1902
Glover Field Park	Neighborhood	4.22	1912
Grandview Park	Neighborhood	5.65	1992
Grant Park	Neighborhood	12.62	1908
Harmon-Shipley Park	Neighborhood	10.65	1933
Hays Park	Neighborhood	8.85	1907
Heath Park	Neighborhood	1.00	1979
Hill N' Dale Rotary Park	Neighborhood	4.00	
Indian Trail Park	Neighborhood	3.50	1958
James J Hill Park	Neighborhood	2.09	1924
Kehoe Park	Neighborhood	1.96	1992
Loma Vista Park	Neighborhood	8.63	1955
Meadowglen Park	Neighborhood	14.30	1986
Mission Park	Neighborhood	13.33	1914

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Table 1. List of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department facilities as of 2015. The year established indicates the date the park was acquired by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, the year established may not represent the earliest date the property served as a park. In other cases, the year established may not be known as the current name of the park may not be the same as the historic name. Additional research is required on individual park properties to determine their exact history, and will be conducted as individual nominations to this MPD are added.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>Year Established</b>
Nevada Park	Neighborhood	9.57	1971
Pacific Park	Neighborhood	5.00	1991
Edwidge Woldson Park	Neighborhood	13.00	1945
Polly Judd Park	Neighborhood	5.61	1992
Rochester Heights Park	Neighborhood	4.02	1970
Ruth Park	Neighborhood	2.01	1912
Sterling Heights Park	Neighborhood	9.18	
Stone Park	Neighborhood	1.20	
Thornton Murphy Park	Neighborhood	10.61	1934
UTF Skate Park	Neighborhood	0.66	1964
Webster Park	Neighborhood	2.33	1945
Wentel Grant Park	Neighborhood	5.60	1928
Westgate Park	Neighborhood	4.85	1979
Whittier Park	Neighborhood	4.14	1951
Wildhorse Park	Neighborhood	2.72	1985
Dutch Jakes Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.43	1976
Fairview Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.38	
Logan Peace Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.65	
Loren Kondo Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.50	1998
Parkwater Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.34	1998
Peaceful Valley Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	2.22	1986
Skeet-So-Mish Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.27	1976
Your Place Park	Neighborhood Mini-Park	0.44	1972
21st Avenue Parkway	Parkway	1.50	
Cliff Drive Parkway	Parkway	2.00	
Elliot Drive Parkway	Parkway	36.87	
Garfield Road Parkway	Parkway	0.67	
Manito Boulevard Parkway	Parkway	8.75	1907
Mission Avenue Parkway	Parkway	1.74	1884
Northwest Boulevard Parkway	Parkway	28.55	
Park Boulevard Parkway	Parkway	3.70	
Riverside-Cedar Parkway	Parkway	0.70	
Rockwood Boulevard Parkway	Parkway	2.16	1908
Skyview Drive Parkway	Parkway	0.70	

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Table 1. List of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department facilities as of 2015. The year established indicates the date the park was acquired by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, the year established may not represent the earliest date the property served as a park. In other cases, the year established may not be known as the current name of the park may not be the same as the historic name. Additional research is required on individual park properties to determine their exact history, and will be conducted as individual nominations to this MPD are added.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>Year Established</b>
Summit Boulevard Parkway	Parkway	31.15	
Upriver Drive Parkway	Parkway	70.41	1909
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	Sports Complex	150.44	
Park Ops.	Park Ops	4.00	
Southside Sports Complex	Sports Complex	17.00	2000

Table 2. List of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department Superintendents.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATES OF SERVICE</b>
John W. Gilson	as needed until 1902
E. C. Balzer	(1902 – 1909)
John W. Duncan	(1909 – 1942)
Henry T. Abbott	(1942 – 1959)
Jack H. Betts	(1960 – 1964)
B. William Creighton	(1964 – 1965)
William S. Fearn	(1965 – 1980)

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**Property Type Significance**

Each of the four property types may be significant within the historic contexts presented here; no other known historic contexts are appropriate to the resources in this listing.

As previously elucidated, the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards include properties throughout the City that were designated and constructed between 1891 and 1974. These properties are significant under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane. They may also be significant under Criterion C, as a designed historic landscape. Furthermore, in rare instances, a park or boulevard may be significant under Criterion D, for yielding or being likely to yield information important in history. Properties constructed between 1965 and 1974 of exceptional importance will be eligible within the context of this listing in accordance with Criteria Consideration G until such time as the fifty-year threshold has been met (the year 2024). Properties eligible under this listing are significant at the local level.

In nominating a park or boulevard to this listing, the significance of the property should relate to one or more of the contexts presented in Section E. That context should consider the important dates, events, activities, persons, associations, and developmental trends outlined in Section E, as well as any additional aspects specific to the eligible property. Any direct relationships to the contexts presented in section E should be considered, as should indirect or nonconforming relationships that may indicate a heretofore unknown or underdeveloped context within the overall City of Spokane Parks and Boulevards system.

For properties eligible under Criterion C, the design, intent, and social issues reflected in and on the landscape should be discussed as they relate to the overall historic context. In most cases, the architectural characteristics will be small-scale buildings constructed of local, natural materials spatially arranged around landscaped features for the benefit of a user within a recreational environment. Properties eligible under Criterion C must meet one of the following thresholds: retain integrity of a designed landscape specifically prescribed in the Olmsted Report; be reflective of a trend or school of practice in landscape architecture; maintain a cohesive aesthetic used throughout the built environment of the property; be of superior aesthetic quality; or any combination thereof.

For the rare properties eligible under Criterion D, related cultural affiliations will likely be to Native American contexts. In such cases, archaeological, ethnographic, and historic contexts that may be applicable to the understanding of the history of the specific context, property, and/or the region should not be excluded regardless of the fact that none have been specified within this document (Section B). The general physical characteristics and probable kinds of research data are as yet unknown but should link the property type to its eligible historic context within the period of significance of this MPD, and have important archaeological or other evidence that may contribute to the understanding of human history.

Properties eligible under Criteria Consideration G, as previously discussed, must meet the eligibility requirements in general and be of exceptional importance within the context of this listing. As of 2024,

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properties listed within the context of this nomination will need to meet the registration requirements as described below but will not need to address Criteria Consideration G.

**Registration Requirements**

***Criteria for Evaluation***

**Criterion A**

The parks of the City of Spokane represent an investment on the part of private citizens, public and private organizations, and the local government in the development of Spokane as a destination in the American West. Individual designation of parks and the later implementation of a comprehensive parks plan helped create an idealized city that welcomed visitors and bid them to stay as citizens. Integral to the growth of the city from its inception, City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards established and designed between 1891 and 1974 are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for their association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history tying to the recreational needs of the community.

**Criterion B**

City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards were, without doubt, influenced by the early leaders and settlers that developed Spokane into the city it is today. However, examination of the parks and boulevards as a collective under this Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) reduces the connection of any resource under Criterion B, and instead focuses the significance on the groupings of city leaders, planners, developers, and organizations that led to park development and expansion, as opposed to any one individual. As such, City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards are not known to be collectively associated with the lives of significant persons and therefore are not eligible under Criterion B.

**Criterion C**

City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards may also be eligible under Criterion C for their significance as a designed historic landscape, either as a landscape whose design is itself a work of art or as a landscape designed by a master using a recognized style or tradition or in response to such. In the case of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, the original design intent was likely to complement significant topographical or geological features, which were then interwoven into a broader designed landscape including active and passive recreational opportunities. The designs were linked to social issues of the time, most obviously those of the needs of working- and middle-class families to recreate in fresh air and open environments not overly distant from downtown and residential cores, as prescribed in the Olmsted Report. Other social issues may also be apparent, dependent upon the park; its historic, temporal, and geographic contexts; and its design intent. Spokane's Parks and Boulevards will meet Criterion C for a designed historic landscape if one or more of the following are met:

- Its design is directly associated with a design prescribed in the Olmsted Report;

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- It is associated with a historical trend or school of theory and practice within landscape architecture, such as the City Beautiful movement, that relates directly to the local context of this listing;
- It maintains the presence of highly skilled craftsmanship or use of particular materials in the construction of buildings, structures, objects and other landscape elements that create a cohesive aesthetic; or
- It maintains evidence of distinguished design and layout that results in superior aesthetic quality and constitutes an important artistic statement.

Some buildings and structures within the City of Spokane Parks and Boulevard system do embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction that combine to form a cohesive aesthetic.

One early example of a cohesive aesthetic is the use of indigenous materials and regional building traditions reflected in the basalt rubble rock construction styles of some restroom, administrative, and other buildings and structures throughout the parks system. Fieldstone construction was initially introduced to America by immigrants of German and Welsh decent, who settled in the region north and west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the early 1700s.<sup>182</sup> In Spokane and the surrounding area, immigrants and settlers carried these building traditions with them, which were reflected in the landscapes, buildings, and structures associated with local homesteads. By the early 1900s, the National Park Service “rustic” style sought to distinguish a strictly functional type of architecture from something that was both pleasing to the eye and compatible with its majestic natural surroundings.<sup>183</sup> National Parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Glacier, among others, featured distinctive rustic lodges and other facilities as early as the turn of the twentieth century. Historical architect Merrill Ann Wilson of the National Park Service wrote of the rustic movement:

This little noticed movement in American architecture was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country’s western frontiers...The conservation ethic slowly took hold in this atmosphere of romanticism. Part of this ethic fostered the development of a unique architectural style. Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature... Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Leland Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2001), 79.

<sup>183</sup> National Park Service, “Rustic Architecture: 1916–1942,” accessed February 2, 2015, [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/rusticarch/introduction.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/rusticarch/introduction.htm).

<sup>184</sup> Merrill Ann Wilson, “Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style,” *Trends* (July August September, 1976), 4–5, quoted in National Park Service, “Rustic Architecture: 1916–1942,” electronic document, accessed February 2, 2015, [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/rusticarch/introduction.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/rusticarch/introduction.htm).

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Research into the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards reveal that buildings and structures constructed of basalt rubble rock in the distinctive rustic style date from as early as 1900 through at least the 1970s.<sup>185</sup> Originally designed to blend with the parks' natural outcroppings and shelves, and later with existing buildings and structures, most are one story or one and one-half stories tall, constructed on a poured-concrete foundation with a gable or hip roof with exposed rafter tails. Original roof materials appear to be wood shingles, though many have received new roofs in asphalt or metal. Decorative features include arched basalt lintels over window and door openings, the earliest of which were accentuated by stone half walls that define the entries. Later construction campaigns included flat lintels and sills in wood, stone, or concrete. Original doors were arched wood (where arched lintels were present). Original windows appear to have varied; one example, extant on the restroom building at Underhill Park (ca. 1912), was metal devoid of glass, with alternating metal slats that enabled air flow while maintaining privacy. Extant windows may have been altered and infilled, though openings are easily identified by the presence of lintels and sills.

The rustic basalt rubble buildings and structures are just one example of a cohesive aesthetic seen in some of the City of Spokane's earliest parks. Other examples are expected throughout the Parks system, and individual examples will likely reflect construction trends of their time. Built elements from the midcentury, for example, may create a cohesive aesthetic in brick, concrete, or other materials that represent their individual build dates, types and periods of construction. Other examples may be represented in the work of local and regional architects, or via specific aesthetic or artistic statements made to the landscaped and built environments as examples of their period, type and/or method of construction.

Criterion D

The City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards are designed and landscaped sites and, more specifically, park topography is a living entity subject to frequent changes. As such, resources eligible under this MPD are unlikely to yield important archaeological or historical data. However, some parks within the city were home to important events in both prehistory and history, such as Glover Field, which hosted the Indian Congress in 1925 and 1926. Should important archaeological or other evidence be discovered that may contribute to the understanding of human history, and should such evidence also be relevant to the context of the location as a park or boulevard within the City of Spokane, then the park or boulevard may be eligible under Criterion D.<sup>186</sup> Such features are anticipated to be rare and would need to date to the period of significance.

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<sup>185</sup> Examples at Manito Park include basalt walls and enclosures constructed for the zoo, ca. 1900, and the Manito Service Building, known today as the Manito Meeting Room, constructed in 1970.

<sup>186</sup> Parks and Boulevards eligible under Criterion D to this listing must meet the temporal context requirements (1891–1974), and therefore would be examples of important events in history. Archaeological information important in understanding local, regional, or national prehistory discovered in Spokane's Parks and Boulevards that predate the periods of significance for this listing are outside the context of this nomination.

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Section No. F Page 48*Criteria Consideration G*

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation generally exclude properties that achieved significance within the last fifty years unless they are of exceptional importance. In general, parks and boulevards eligible under this nomination whose construction began over fifty years ago but whose completion overlaps the fifty-year period will not need to meet Criteria Consideration G. Also, resources significant for association with plans, designs, or concepts instituted by the Olmsted Brothers firm or the city, or other actions relevant within this historic context that began over fifty years ago but for which the actual completion overlaps the fifty-year period will not need to meet Criteria Consideration G.

In developing a context on historic parks and boulevards in the City of Spokane, however, it is important to include Expo '74, the world's fair held in Spokane from May 4 to November 3, 1974. Not only was the event one of the most significant in Spokane's history, attracting almost 5.2 million visitors to the town of then approximately 170,000 people, but the environmentally themed fair also left "a 100-acre park in the heart of the city of Spokane, which was once a blighted area."<sup>187</sup> The Olmsted Report specifically called attention to the need to acquire control of the riverbanks, and Expo '74 marks the last large-scale plan the city implemented that was directly tied to the Olmsted Report recommendations.

It would therefore be remiss not to extend the period of significance of this listing into 1974. As of the time of this listing, 2015, properties constructed between 1965 and 1974 will need to be evaluated under Criteria Consideration G and shown to be of exceptional importance within the context of this listing.

*Summary*

The City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards includes properties that were designated and constructed between 1891 and 1974. These properties are significant under Criterion A, for association with events that made a significant contribution to the development of Spokane. They may also be significant under Criterion C, as designed historic landscapes. Furthermore, in rare instances, a park or boulevard may be significant under Criterion D, for yielding or being likely to yield information important in history.

*Ownership of Property*

In most cases, properties eligible under this listing will be currently owned and operated by the City of Spokane. Properties that were never owned or operated by the City of Spokane may be eligible should they meet all other registration requirements and be significant within one or more of the historic contexts presented in Section E. Furthermore, properties that were once owned or operated by the city but are no longer within public ownership may be eligible, assuming that they meet all other registration requirements and are significant within one or more of the historic contexts presented in Section E.

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<sup>187</sup> Richard Nixon, opening speech of Expo '74, May 4, 1974, quoted in Jim Kershner, "President Richard M. Nixon Presides over the Opening of Expo '74, Spokane's World's Fair, on May 4, 1974," HistoryLink.org Essay 5133, last updated May 20, 2014, [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=5133](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=5133).

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***Category of Property***

Properties eligible under this listing may be buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts. A building, such as a natatorium or community center, may also include historically and functionally related units and still be categorized as a building. For example, a community center building with minimal surrounding landscape may be appropriately classified as a building. Likewise, a boulevard and a minimally landscaped walking path may be categorized as a structure. Structures are differentiated from buildings in that they are not habitable. In some cases, a property eligible under this listing may be an object, such as an individual monument, fountain, sculpture, or statuary on a small parcel devoid of other built components but associated with a specific setting or environment.

The vast majority of properties eligible under this listing, however, will be categorized as *sites*. For the purposes of this listing, a site is the location of a significant event, historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, where the location itself possesses historic or cultural value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Within the auspices of this listing the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards will likely be sites that include a number of contributing or noncontributing buildings, structures, and objects.

If a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects is present, a collection of these may be nominated as a *district*. Districts are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development and derive their importance from being a unified entity. In the case of the City of Spokane Parks and Boulevards, the identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources conveying the visual sense of the overall historic environment. For example, a boulevard that links numerous parks might be appropriately nominated as a district, assuming that they are physically and historically connected in the present in a manner that conveys their collective historic significance.

***Integrity***

Integrity is the ability of the property to convey its significance and is grounded in an understanding of the property's physical features and how they relate to significance. For the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, the most important aspects of integrity are likely to be location and setting, which most directly convey the why, where, and when of the property's significance. Other important aspects to consider are design, feeling, and association. Because parks are literally living entities, there is an expectation that design, materials, and workmanship may evolve over time.

***Location***

Location is the place where a historic property was constructed or the place where a historic event occurred. For the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, the historic location must match that of the existing park. Park boundaries may have expanded or contracted over time, in which case a justification should be made for the nominated boundary of the park and how it relates to the historic or current boundary.

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Design

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. For the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, the design will reflect historic functions and aesthetics, as well as the original conception and planning of the property, especially as reflected in its landscape architecture. The organization of space, ornamentation, proportion, technology, and materials may have evolved over time, a reflection of the living entity that is a park property. With regards to design, however, if the significance is directly related to a specific plan or recommendation as prescribed in the early history of the parks or by the Olmsted Report, then those aspects of the design should be retained on the landscape in the spatial relationship between major features.

Setting

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property and is a direct reflection of the character of the place in which it played its historic role. In the case of the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, this is arguably the most important aspect of integrity to consider. The property's siting and its relationship to surrounding geologic and natural features, communities, and/or other open spaces should reflect the basic physical conditions under which it was originally built. The way in which the property is positioned in the environment is likely to reflect the concepts of nature, recreation, and aesthetic preferences of the original designer/developer.

Physical features that should be considered are both natural and manmade and include topographic features; vegetation; manmade features, such as fences, paths, and designed gardens; and the relationships among these and other features, such as buildings, structures, sites, and open spaces. Setting of the property should also consider the surroundings: regardless of whether the park or boulevard is located in a residential or commercial neighborhood, part of the downtown city scape, or a naturalistic viewpoint, the current setting within the park and surrounding the park should match or at least evoke the historic setting.

Materials

Materials are the physical elements that were combined in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. For parks and boulevards, there is an expectation that materials will change over time. For example, pathways and walking trails may have historically been paved in asphalt or concrete; with time and new aesthetics, these may be reconfigured and then landscaped in natural materials such as bark chips or permeable pavers. Likewise, plantings and planned gardens may evolve from human intervention (e.g., changes in fads from exotic to native plants) or natural intervention (e.g., blight, fire, drought). It is not the intent of this listing to focus on specific plantings or materials for landscape features. Instead, integrity of materials for the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards will be reflected in the contributing resources (defined below) that date to the historic era. Integrity of materials will be especially important for those properties eligible under Criterion C, for the use of indigenous materials and regional building traditions reflected in the rustic basalt rubble rock construction styles.

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Section No. F Page 51*Workmanship*

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history. For the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards, workmanship is more likely to be reflected in individual contributing resources as opposed to the property as a whole. Workmanship will be expressed primarily in the vernacular construction method of the basalt rubble rock construction styles of architecture, when present, or may represent in a specific aesthetic principal reflected in the landscape architecture of a park or boulevard.

*Feeling*

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. For the purposes of this listing, a park or boulevard should retain sufficient physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character in regards to its historic and current property type. The feeling of a historic park in the period of significance should be evoked into the current day.

*Association*

Association is the direct link between an important historic event and a historic property. The City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards retains association if the property is sufficiently intact to convey the relationship of the park to its historic context. A historic-era park that has been bisected by a freeway, as in the example of Lincoln Park, is not sufficiently intact to convey its association to any of its eligible historic or temporal contexts.

*Contributing and Noncontributing Resources*

Common resources within the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards include ***buildings***, including restrooms, administration buildings, offices, and community centers; ***structures***, including greenhouses, gazebos, picnic shelters, ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, bridges, fences, rock walls, pedestrian pathways and trails, railways and tracks, vehicular roadways, parking lots, gates, and barriers; ***objects***, including sculpture, statuary, fountains, monuments, signs, and memorials; and ***sites***, including topographical and geological features, designed and named gardens, open spaces such as lawns, turf, and golf courses, and some water features (both natural and designed) that are not structures or objects, like ponds and streams.

To be contributing, a resource must have been designed, constructed, or planned within its significant temporal context and retain sufficient integrity to convey its associated historic contexts.

Noncontributing resources are those built outside of the temporal context of the specific park or those that do not convey the associated historic context. This might be a facility built outside of the period of significance of an eligible park, or one which has been altered to such an extent that it no longer conveys significance within its historic and temporal context.

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*Note on Excluded Resources*

Some features can be automatically excluded from resource counts, as they will be ubiquitous on most landscapes. These include most signage throughout parks and boulevards. Over the years, parks have had numerous types of signs and interpretive panels, which have ranged in size, shape, and style from simple, painted wood signs on wood poles to more elaborate signs on laminated panels. Signs are expected to change periodically. A full inventory of all signs within a park is considered outside the scope of a nomination and, with the exception of contributing monuments and markers, should not be included in the resource counts for a listing.

Additionally, while the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards are obviously dependent upon their natural and designed landscapes for their significance, a complete inventory of plants and plantings, urns, benches, planters, garden beds, arbors, and most pedestrian pathways and trails, vehicular roadways, parking lots, gates and barriers, and public utilities and amenities such as lighting, trash cans, picnic tables, barbeque pits, and grills will not be required. There are obvious exceptions, such as in the instance of designed boulevards and parkways where the resource directly contributes to a property's type and integrity, or an object such as a planter around which a specific and significant landscape was designed. It will be the job of the nominator to include appropriate resources in the resource count, both contributing and noncontributing, and to distinguish them from those too ubiquitous to include.

*Minimum Eligibility Requirements*

To be eligible within this listing, a property must

- Be planned, designed, or constructed between 1891 and 1974.
- Be significant within one or more of the three historic contexts presented in this nomination: either as an early park, one influenced by the Board of Park Commissioners or the Olmsted Report, or as a park in the modern period associated with the World's Fair or with later implementations of recommendations in the Olmsted Report.
- Be significant under Criterion A, for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history; and may also be significant under Criterion C, as a designed landscape, and/or Criterion D, for important archaeological or other evidence that may contribute to the understanding of human history within the temporal context of this nomination.
- Be definable within at least one of the four associated property types, specifically naturalistic park, community park, recreational park and facilities, or boulevards and parkways.
- Meet the registration requirements, including retaining sufficient integrity to convey historic significance within its given temporal context.

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## **G. Geographical Data**

Properties eligible for the City of Spokane Parks and Boulevards Multiple Property Listing extend throughout the city limits of Spokane, Washington.

## **H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

Beginning in October 2014, HRA architectural historians Natalie K. Perrin, MS, and Chrisanne Beckner, MS, conducted background research on the history of Spokane Parks. HRA utilized a combination of local, state, and federal repositories to examine the history of the city's park system, including the natural and prehistoric land use of the area as it informed the topography of European American development; public and private land acquisition; the beginning of public and private parks in Spokane; evolution of the parks system over time; influence of local, state, and national designed landscape movements on the city's parks; the influence of the Olmsted Report (1908) on park development and evolution; Expo '74, an environmentally themed world's fair in Spokane of which a portion of the grounds were adopted into the park system; and present-day park use and development.

HRA utilized research materials collected by Lynn Mandylke of the Spokane Landmarks Commission, as well as research materials in our own archives, historic maps (Sanborns, Metzgers, General Land Office, US Geologic Survey, etc.), aerial photography, historic-era records of the Spokane Park and Recreation Department (SPRD), and others as appropriate. HRA examined records and literature on file at the Washington State Archives at Eastern Washington University, Spokane Public Library, Joel Ferris Research Archives at the Spokane Museum of Arts and Culture, and other historic maps, photos, and resources as available.

In November 2014, Perrin and Beckner conducted an intensive-level survey of Manito Park and Manito Boulevard and a reconnaissance-level survey of Drumheller Springs Park, Lincoln Park, Underhill Park, and Whittier Park. Perrin and Beckner also visited the Indian Canyon Golf Course (closed for the season) and Finch Arboretum, and drove a segment of Skyview Drive. Examination of these nine components of the City of Spokane's Parks and Boulevards system enabled the researchers to make informed decisions about the associated property types; their physical, associative, and geographical attributes; and the types of contributing and noncontributing resources that might be found within an eligible property.

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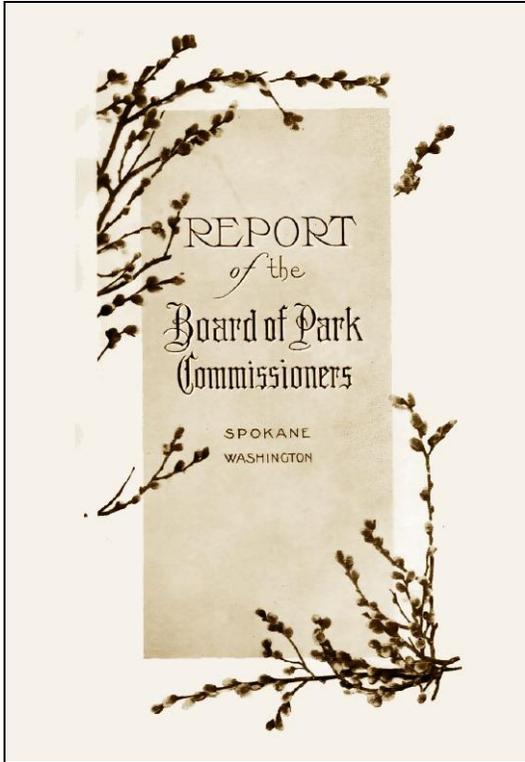
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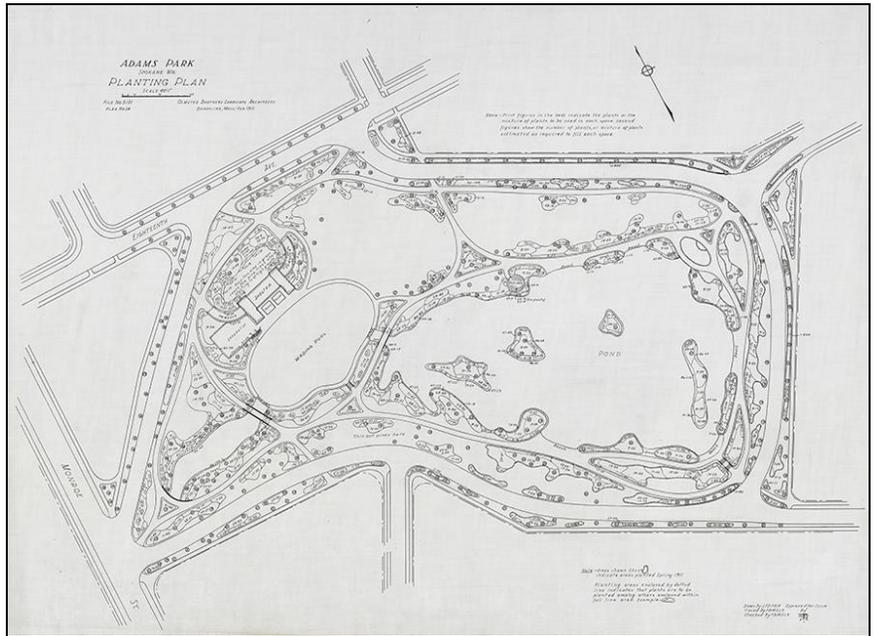
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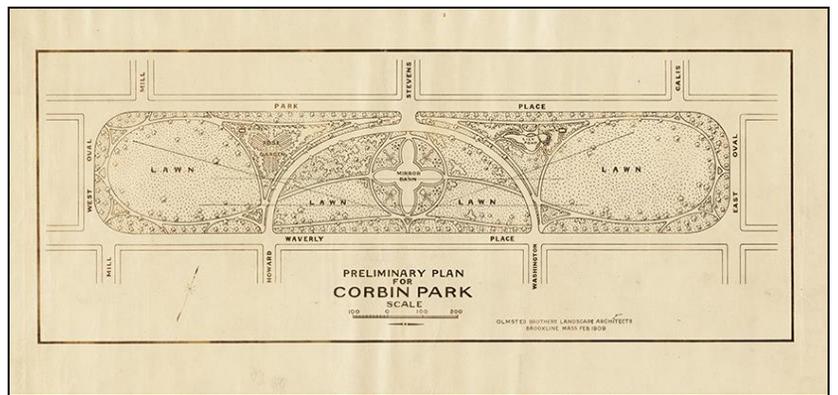
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Cover of Olmsted Report - 1908.



Plan of Adams Park, Olmsted Brothers, 1909-1911  
- Plan courtesy of *OlmstedOnline.org*.



Corbin Park, image & plan, c. 1900 - Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives & *OlmstedOnline.org*

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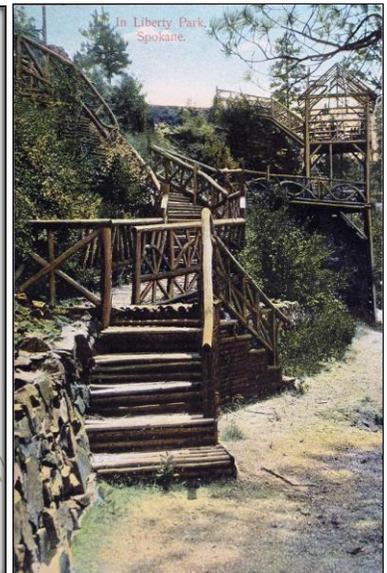
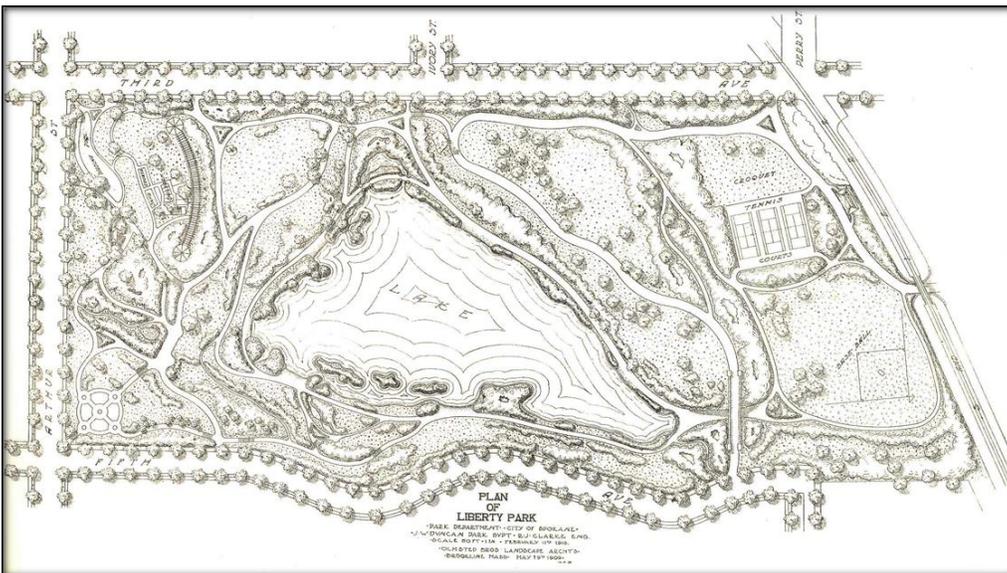
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John Charles Olmsted (left); Frederick Dawson (center); Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (right).

- Photo courtesy of *Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest, Private Estates and Residential Communities, 1973–1959.*



Plan of Liberty Park & Postcard, Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, 1909

- Pland & photo courtesy of *OlmstedOnline.org.*

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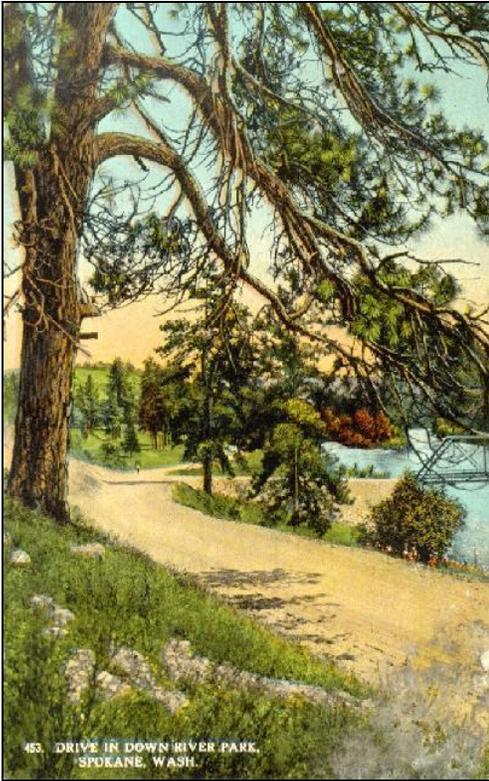
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Postcard of Downriver Park, c. 1915  
- Photo courtesy of DAHP



Liberty Park, c. 1900  
- Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives



Playground at A.M. Cannon Park, c. 1905  
- Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives



Enjoying a picnic at Lincoln Park, c. 1923  
- Photo courtesy of NW Museum of Arts & Culture

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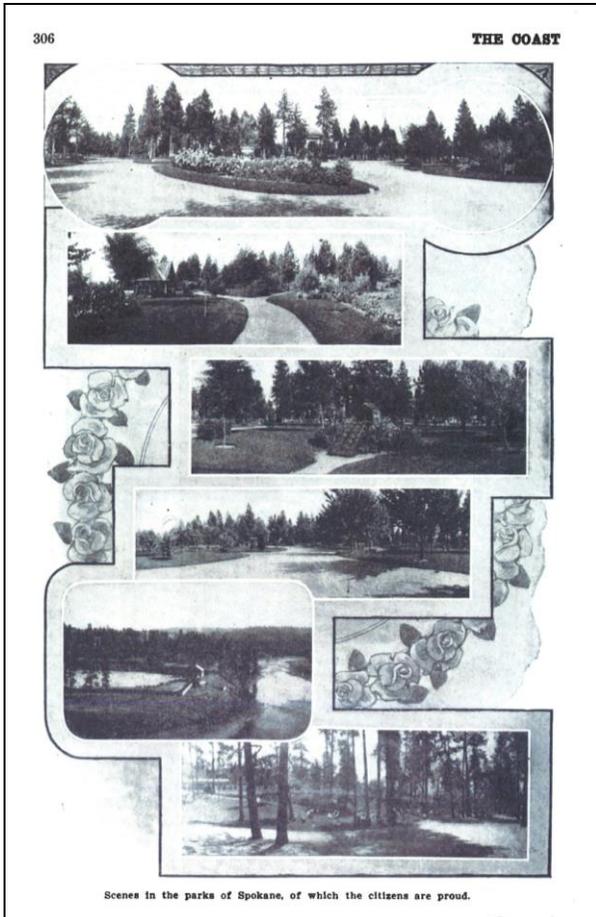
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Scenes from Spokane Parks, 1907,  
The Coast Magazine

Coeur d'Alene Park (top) Manito Park, Duncan Garden  
(bottom), c. 1920

- Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives



Sinto Pool, c. 1920

- Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives



Comfort station, Cliff Park c. 1915

- Photo courtesy of WA State Digital Archives