

**Report from the Horticulture Supervisor
For CAC Meeting May 5, 2009**

Park Staff met with representatives of the web designing firm, BHW1 to approve outline of new Parks Department website. Urban Forestry will not only have its own website but will also have a prominent location on the Parks and Recreation homepage, alongside Golf and Riverfront Park. This will be a major change from the exposure on the previous old website. The anticipated timeline for launching of the new website will be around June.

Councilperson Richard Rush received the Tree City USA award at the Arboday celebration at Finch Arboretum. Three trees, many seedlings, around 450 bags of recycled material (donated by Avista), and lots of information was given away. Cindy Deffe and Steve Nittolo worked the table. Jeff Perry, with volunteer and Finch staff help planted a Susie's Forest sassafras tree. The event was well attended.

Regarding full-time Urban Forester position, no news since job specs went to Civil Service office.

Steve Nittolo received a grant from AmeriCorps for an Americorps volunteer to start a Field Trip to the Parks Program. The Spokane Parks Foundation has not responded to the matching funds grant application for this project.

Jeff Perry worked with concrete cutting contractors to ungirdle some of the worst girdled trees. This work was funded by the Downtown Spokane Partnership and moved forward by Andrew Rowles. The federal building in the downtown area is donating several grates that are being pushed up by tree roots for reuse on other trees.

Trees for the Gardens Springs Creek Project at the Finch Arboretum have arrived and planting has begun.

The Park Board approved a CAC subcommittee to meet with City of Spokane representatives of different departments to review street tree planting/infrastructure policies.

Steve Nittolo, Jeff Perry, Janis Saiki, Ed Lester and Rich Baker met to discuss and revise the recommended street tree list. The focus of the meeting was on suitability for street tree use, based on established criteria. The list will be substantially revised based on the discussion.

The Heritage Tree Ordinance was brought forward and approved at the Park Board Meeting. The next step is to send it to City Council for approval.

Steve Nittolo met with Nancy Goodspeed to discuss the possibility of creating some public service announcements to distribute to television and radio stations, to request free

air space. Subsequent conversations with the Director of City Cable 5, were encouraging for producing some clips later in the summer. Further details will be discussed at the CAC meeting.

Steve Nittolo and Jeff Perry attended Lincoln Street stormwater mitigation project meeting to answer questions about trees on Lincoln Street. Jeff Perry had Engineering Department create some large maps of tree inventory for meeting.

Angel Spell forwarded two nominations for Heritage Trees to the CAC and UFTC.

Work completed by Urban Forestry Arborist Crew:

- Planted 12 trees most of which were replacement trees due to vandalism within the parks.
- Removed 15 trees near entrance to Moore-Turner and line cleared two trees adjacent to entrance. This was a work order request.
- Jeff Perry met with construction manager at Albi to go over work that would need to be done. Clearance for north trail done as well as several removals associated with trail near S trail. Also removed one large pine because of proximity to swale on E side of project.
- Removed four trees for Albi Stadium (2 dead and two that would be severely impacted by a wall removal)
- Jeff Perry met with Beth Mort of the Lands Council to look at possible projects for volunteers. They will be working on some thinning at Camp Sekani.
- Ongoing inventory of park and street trees
- Ongoing work in tree nursery
- Tree exchange with Angel Spell in Post Falls
- Bond project air spade inspection

Work at the Urban Forestry Office:

- Fifty-plus pruning or removal permits were issued to City of Spokane Engineering Services for street construction projects with many copies of each sent out. Still more to go
- Steve Nittolo met further with City of Spokane Water Department staff to work around tree roots in response to customer requests.
- Steve Nittolo provided tree species selection for Market Street Project
- Steve Nittolo met with City Engineering staff and contractors to help provide solutions to several sidewalk tree conflicts and house moves
- Spring pruning, planting, and removal permit applications are increased to high volume