

HERE WE GO, AGAIN

Spokane County Parks has started a new cycle of property acquisitions for its Conservation Futures Program. This program has been very successful in the past, and there is every reason to believe that this next round will continue building a green future for our community. The nomination period was closed earlier this summer and County Parks is administrating the process of evaluating each nomination working with an all volunteer Land Evaluation Committee. This committee will produce a prioritized candidate list that will completed towards the end of the year. After that, with a nod of approval from County Commissioners, the acquisition part of the process will begin starting with No. 1 down. If you choose to inspect (digitally) these properties, they will be described online at the Parks website (spokanecounty.org/parks) when they are posted later this month. A public meeting is scheduled for Oct. 12th where the nominees will be paraded, and the public will have the opportunity to express their opinions on them. Rumor has it that the meeting will be at the IMAX theater in Riverfront Park, but stay tuned for details as the date comes closer.

The 36 candidates range in size from small (less than 1/2 acre - Five Mile) to large (920 acre - Mica Peak timberland), in location from downtown (Kendall Yards) to distant (Crab Creek and Deer Park), and encompass a large variety of natural settings. There's riparian habitat, wetlands (both seasonal and permanent), conifer forest, shrub steppe, scablands, springs, park extensions, wildlife corridors, trail connections, scenery, and even ice age flood features! There is something for everyone; it's a conservation Christmas! The Beacon Hills groups have a cluster of 10 nominations, and, yes, the Dishman Hills Association has 2 nominations. This year's Conservation Futures round should spark quite a bit of public interest, comments, and maybe even some spirited debate. So make sure to get involved when you can, support the Program, and check out the meeting on Oct. 12th.

GRANT RECEIVED

This month the Association has received a \$10K grant from REI for our Stewardship & Recreation projects. This generous support is a continuation of our partnership with REI that was well demonstrated in their support of last Spring's stewardship day in the Natural Area when we planted a new forest in the Valley View burn area, restored trails, cleaned up debris, and removed fire pits and transient camps.

With these funds we plan to run another stewardship day next April in the Iller Creek Conservation Area on the southern end of the Dishman Ridge. The grant also includes funds for new trail brochures for the Iller Conservation Area, and materials for a new "Leave No Trace" program to address the heavy use of the Natural Areas by dog walkers.

An important portion of the grant is a flexible fund to support a variety of volunteer projects that will appear in the next year that could include trail signage and maintenance, habitat restoration, or cleanup. We are very grateful to REI for remaining an active member of the conservation community and supporting us in our mission to keep the Spokane area an outstanding place for outdoor recreation, natural land scenery, and environmental education.

Growth of the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell
Edward Abby- American author

FALLS ACOMIN

Fall is right around the corner. So far (knock-on-wood), there has not been any significant wildfires this summer in the Natural Area. The last fire was spotted early in the day at a camp fire site that was probably left smoldering from some beer party (bottles on site) the night before. A hiker spotted the fire, phoned it in, and remained there to contain the fire until firefighters arrived. Way to go hiker!



Small burn at fire pit

All the wildfires this season have been on the northeast side of the Natural Area and very small.

County Parks has update us as to plans for Camp Caro. After September 15 the parking lot gate will be locked open rather that closed after sunset. This is a cost savings move with the security company that opens and closes the gate. The lodge is already closed for the winter. As of October 16 the Camp parking lot will be closed for the winter, to open again April 14. They will post a new sign ("→ Walk-In Access 600 feet") on the locked gate to inform the public that there is still foot access to Camp Caro and the trailheads there by walking to the right on a path that will take you around the fence to the northwest entrance to the camp. Evidently last year there was some confusion whether Camp Caro access was closed or just the parking lot. People can park on the west side of Sargent Road and walk in.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be October 19th. We will meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our August donors that have consented to be listed: John Beecher, Nancy Cashion, Joyce Kelly, Glen Kivett, Stephanie Lambert, John O'Brien, Bill Peterson, Adin & Cindy Smith, Barney & Jeanne Wilson, and one anonymous donor. Thanks All!

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS or DUES**
All contributions are tax deductible.

Send contributions to: DHNAA
3415 S. Lincoln Dr.
Spokane, WA 99203

Your Name: _____
Please put your account no. on your check (see on address)

- \$ _____ Memorial for: _____
- \$ _____ Land and Stewardship
- \$ _____ General fund
- \$ _____ Annual dues, due by June 30 (\$15)
- \$ _____ TOTAL

New ? Renewal ? Don't list me as donor

Please tell us if this newsletter is unwanted or if there is an address mistake