

IN TOUCH WITH THE



Spokane Parks FOUNDATION

HELPING OUR PARKS GROW

Route 66 Park Blitz

The intrepid Hunter family attempts the impossible: 66 Spokane parks in three days!



One day Amos Hunter was driving around town with his kids Arabella, 9, and Alex, 7, just another parent trying to run a few errands. Craving diversion, the kids kept up a steady drumbeat: "Can we go to this park? How about that one?" Finally, the exasperated dad blurted, "One of these days I am going to take you to all of those parks." As they say in the fairy tales, "Be careful what you wish for, children."

After a bit of research, the Hunters discovered Spokane has a whopping 66 parks, enough to boggle the mind of even the most park-crazed kid. To tackle such an outlandish expedition, only Labor Day afforded the critical long weekend, not to mention a karmically appropriate name.

Commencing "Route 66" on Saturday, the Hunters covered 25 parks, including one county park for good measure. Ambition slackened on Sunday; they pooped out after 16.

Summoning all their strength, the family made a massive push on Labor Day and came to the end of the route amid the pine-scented groves of Comstock Park, where they restored themselves to the melodic strains of the Spokane Symphony.

It was a labor of love, of course, and an achievement that few other kids can match. But this year, the Hunters are leaning toward something more modest – a leisurely outing to just a dozen or so of their favorites. Child's play, really. ■

Foundation Grants Announced

The Spokane Parks Foundation awarded grants for ten projects in Spokane area parks.

The East Central Neighborhood received \$900.00 for signage at Liberty Park Ruins; Corbin Senior Center received \$2,070 for a commercial refrigeration unit; Fat Tire Trail Riders received \$2,070.00 for trail signage at Camp Sekani; Northeast Youth Center received \$3,158.00 for sports mats; Spokane Arts Commission received \$5,000.00 for sculpture walk art repair; Corbin Art Center received \$5,000.00 for veranda repair; Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf received \$5,100.00 for water accessible wheelchairs for public swimming pools and \$5,000.00 for outfield safety fencing for softball fields at Plante's Ferry Sports Complex; Northwest Neighborhood Association received \$10,200.00 for picnic enhancements. The Spokane City Parks and Recreation Department received \$15,737.00 for scholarships, allowing all children, regardless of income, to participate in programs including swim lessons, summer day camps, art and outdoor program and the IMAX Theater. ■

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MISSION STATEMENT
The Spokane Parks Foundation is an independent organization leading efforts to preserve and enhance Spokane's parks for today and tomorrow.

Parks Winter Fun 2008



If you're a warm weather, sun-loving type, you probably spent most of our epic winter of 2008 sipping cocoa by the fire. Or maybe you cashed in your bonus miles and flopped out on the white sands of Bermuda. But at Spokane Parks and Recreation, snow makes way for the winter glories of the Outdoor Program. We embrace the season, and that can be contagious.

This winter, snowshoers and cross-country skiers turned out in record numbers for lessons at Mount Spokane and 49 Degrees North. Groups from schools, churches, and even soccer teams (who seemed to get a "kick" out of it, even if they may have been missing their cleats) swarmed the packed classes and had the time of their lives. The Spokane Parks Foundation provides funding for scholarships for Outdoor Recreation programs.

The Outdoor Program also took people out to play at Lookout Pass, 4th of July Pass, Sherman Pass, Bolder Deer Creek Pass, Rocks of Sharon, Mineral Ridge, and Crater Lake. For many, it was their first visit to these beautiful winter playgrounds, though we're pretty sure it won't be their last. ■

—Mike Aho

Fat Tires, Happy Trails, Big Fun



The Fat Tire Trail Riders club (FTTRC) are trail-loving mountain bikers who give back to the community by building and maintaining dirt trails for all to use.

The club's pet project is Camp Sekani, whose 267 undeveloped acres are crisscrossed by heavily-used trails that riders carved out over the years. In 2005, the Fat Tire riders declared their commitment, "adopting" the city park. The club is working to create a mountain bike park—much like a skateboard park—with structures for bikers to test and improve their skills and has received several supporting grants, including \$1,000 from Kona Bikes and \$2,070.00 from the Spokane Parks Foundation for signage and 100 trail markers.

For more information, visit www.fttrc.org and come ride with us! ■

—Penny Schwyn

Gift Giving by phone or mail – send a check or call us at 509-326-5233 to make a gift using Visa or Mastercard. Our mailing address is Spokane Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 2021, Spokane, WA 99210.

Corbin Kids Summer Art Camp



The Corbin Art Center's Kids Summer Camp offers kids a chance to create, explore, experiment and make new friends.

Art workshop themes run the gamut from dinosaurs to bugs and jungle animals to sea creatures. Kids can create their own animated flip book or use leaves and twigs to make paper inspired by Mother Nature. A host of weeklong specialty camps run to drama, clowning, science, archeology or fairytales.

The Spokane Parks Foundation provides funding for scholarships for children and Therapeutic Recreation participants, depending on available funds. For scholarship guidelines and to receive a scholarship application, call 509.625.6200. To register for a Corbin Art Center program call 625.6677 for class information, or visit the website at www.spokaneparks.org. ■

—Lynn Mandyke

Thanks to Our Donors...

THE SPOKANE PARKS FOUNDATION would like to thank the following generous supporters. Our sincere appreciation goes to the following individuals, businesses and foundations who demonstrate their friendship and support in so many ways. This list is for all donations made from November 1, 2007 to May 6, 2008. If we omitted anyone, please accept our sincere apology. You can help us correct our records by calling 326-5233. Thanks for your generous support!

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Northeast Youth Center Cares for Spokane's Youth



"I love the Center!" "What a great place to hang out with my friends!" As you walk in through the front doors of the Northeast Youth Center one can always hear the laughter of children. Since 1971, the Northeast Youth Center has been providing low cost, quality recreational programming in Spokane's Hillyard neighborhood. The Northeast Youth Center's programs focus on empowering area youth through opportunities in life skills, character values, sportsmanship, and team work. ■

Help make a splash this summer.
Help children in need stay cool this summer by donating a new swimsuit to the Spokane Parks Foundation.

FREE MORNING MOVIE WEEK
Don't miss your chance to see "Horton Hears a Who" for FREE June 23 -27 at the Garland Theater courtesy of Spokane City Credit Union and the Spokane Parks Foundation.



 Spokane City Credit Union
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