

Manito Park

The Crown Jewel of Spokane City Parks

1904 - Present Day

In 1904, ninety-five acres of land was donated to the City of Spokane. On May 19, 1904, Montrose Park had a new owner, the City of Spokane. At that time, the park was renamed “Manito,” a Native American word meaning “a supernatural force that pervades nature.”

For many years, Manito’s main attractions were its exhibition gardens and small zoo. In 1912, a conservatory was added, followed by a three acre “sunken garden” in 1913.

By its Centennial Celebration in 2004, numerous additions and improvements have been made. Additional signage was introduced through the park; pergolas in the Rose Garden, changes in the Japanese Garden and the gazebo in Duncan Gardens all enhance the beautiful gardens.

Today the park is one of the few in the nation with such a diverse horticultural display. Manito Park has a reputation as the primary garden showplace in Spokane and is toured by over 150,000 visitors.

Park Use Rules

City of Spokane

Violation of Park Rules is a Misdemeanor

SMC 10.10.040

- A. No person may violate such rules and regulations as may from time to time be promulgated by the park board or the director of parks and recreation pursuant to and in supplementation of the City Charter and this code.
- B. Except when done in places designated and in the manner prescribed by rule, regulation or special permission of the park board or department, no person may:
 1. solicit donations or collections, such as for entertainment by strolling musicians or other performers, or peddle or hawk any goods or services;
 2. operate any public address or loudspeaker system, or operate any radio or other electronic audio device in such a manner that the device makes extreme noise which offends the common sensibilities and senses of others;
 3. ride, drive or park any vehicle or animal except along designated drives, ways, boulevards or paths; or
 4. move at a speed in excess of fifteen miles per hour unless otherwise posted; or
 5. otherwise operate or drive any vehicle or mobile device, including bicycles, skateboards and roller skates, in a manner which is likely to endanger persons and/or property; or
 6. ride or drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of five miles per hour in Riverfront Park; or
 7. ride or drive any motorized vehicle on the grass; or
 8. park outside designated parking areas;
 9. play or practice any game or activity, such as golf, hacky-sack or baseball, involving running or the throwing or hitting of a ball or other missile when and where such activity is or is likely to be dangerous to others or upon drives, ways, boulevards or paths.
- C. No person may allow any animal to run at large in any park or enter any pond, pool, fountain or stream thereof.
- D. No person may possess or consume in any park any liquor, except as specifically authorized by law.
- E. No person may operate any type of watercraft in or upon water within or bordering any park.
- F. No person may in any park:
 1. possess any dangerous weapon as defined in chapter 9.41 RCW, unless authorized by park department rule, regulation or special permission of the park board, park department or police department; or
 2. shoot, fire or explode any firearm, fireworks, explosive, bow and arrow, slingshot or other weapon, toy or real, which discharges a pellet or other object with harmful force.
- G. No person may camp in any park except at places set aside for such purposes by the park board and designated by signs, or by special permission of the department.
- H. Where the park board has provided for the collection of fees, rents or charges for the use of park facilities, including municipal golf courses, no person may enter upon or use such park facilities without paying such required fees, rents or charges.
- I. All City parks shall be closed from eleven p.m. to four a.m., Pacific Daylight Time, or ten p.m. to five a.m., Pacific Standard Time, except Riverfront Park, which shall close at midnight throughout the year.
 1. No person may be in a City park during the hours of closure without the express permission of the park board or the director of parks and recreation.
- J. No person may build a fire except in designated fireplaces and park-supplied barbecue pits.
- K. No person may disturb or attack any wildlife in any park.
- L. No person may dig holes in any park or cut or trim park trees or landscaping.
- M. Swimming pools, wading pools, softball diamonds and basketball courts may be used only during hours designated by the park board.

A Walking Tour of Manito Park



Spokane, Washington

1 Duncan Garden



The Duncan Garden was originally called the Sunken Garden. The garden became 'sunken' when Manito's first superintendent, Charles Balzer, hauled out 42,500 wagon loads of loam that were used in the gardens of all the City's parks. The formal garden was designed and built in 1912 by John Duncan, Manito's second superintendent. The garden was designed in a classical European Renaissance style with bilateral symmetry, a central water feature, and geometrical planting beds. The garden covers three acres and includes manicured turf areas and displays of colorful annual bedding plants. The center of the garden is highlighted by a large granite fountain that was the gift of Mrs. L.M. Davenport in memory of her late husband who was a member of the park board for many years. The fountain is made of 'Mt. Airy' light gray granite, surmounted by a bronze feature representing three swans. In 1941, the garden was renamed to honor John Duncan, park superintendent from 1910 to 1942. To celebrate Manito's centennial, a gazebo was constructed at the south end of the garden.

2 Gaiser Conservatory

The original conservatory was built in 1912. A new, all aluminum conservatory and supporting greenhouses were designed and built in 1974 and funded entirely with private donations. The central dome was redesigned and enlarged in 1988 and name in memory of Dr. David Gaiser, civic leader and park patron. The dome area includes a waterfall, pond, and housed large tropical plants. At Christmas, the Holiday Lights Show features over 30,000 lights strung among the plants, making for a spectacular display.



Winter – November to March – 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Summer – 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Frequently closed on Wednesday's for pest management.

3 Joel E. Ferris Perennial Garden

The Ferris Garden is an informal counterweight to the formality of the Duncan Garden. It was established in 1940 by John Duncan and later named in honor of former park board member and popular civic leader, Joel E. Ferris. With over 300 plant species, the garden provides a constantly changing array of flowers through the season. The structure of the garden has evolved in recent years with the introduction of larger beds, small trees, and a multitude of exciting grasses.



4 Rose Hill

Rose Hill was first conceived by John Duncan before his retirement, but actually developed in the late 1940's as a joint venture between the Spokane Rose Society and the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. The gardens now hold 150 varieties of hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda and miniature roses. A pergola at the north end of the garden honors the late photographer Erna Bert Nelson, a generous benefactor to Spokane Parks. The sundial nearby is dedicated to the memory of Jacob and Ward Wortman, the sons of Mr. & Mrs. R. Jackson Wortman. A new pergola was built in the centennial year with funding from The Friends of Manito and the Spokane Rose Society. A new gazebo was added in 2015, funded by The Friends of Manito.



5 Nishinomiya-Tsutakawa Japanese Garden

After 12 years of planning the Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden became a reality in the spring of 1974. Various garden elements have been artistically placed in an asymmetric, strolling pond style, creating a beautiful garden in Japanese tradition. This garden provides an intimate reminder of nature, inspiring tranquility and peace. It also symbolizes the friendship of Spokane and its Sister City, Nishinomiya. In 2008, the garden was ranked 16th among more than 300 public Japanese gardens by *The Journal of Japanese Gardening*. In December 2007, the Garden was named to honor Ed Tsutakawa, founder of the Spokane Nishinomiya Sister City relationship and a champion of the Sister City movement in Spokane for 45 years until his death in October 2007. The garden design has been updated with a new, more accessible entrance and the addition of some extremely large boulders. The garden is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to one half hour before dusk from April 1 through November 1. Please respect your fellow guests in the garden by following the rules posted at the gate. Note: Photography is not permitted in the garden.



6 Lilac Garden

In 1912, John Duncan obtained 128 named lilac cultivars from Rochester, New York. This marked the beginning of the Lilac Garden. Today, the Lilac Garden contains well over 100 named cultivars from 23 distinct species, making it one of the most important lilac gardens in the west. In 2003, the Spokane Lilac Society made a contribution to Manito Park for an extension of the garden that is home to *Syringa vulgaris* 'Spokane' a lovely new double pink lilac.



7 Picnic Shelter

The Rotary Club Picnic Shelter, located in the large picnic grounds area near 18th and Grand, was built in 1961. It was a gift from the Rotary Clubs of Spokane to the City in commemoration of the Club's 50th anniversary. The shelter contains fire pits, charcoal grills and picnic tables for public use. There are also playground facilities near the shelter. If you wish to rent the Picnic Shelter for large picnics, events or reserve the gardens for a wedding, please call 509.363.5455 for information and prices.

8 Mirror Pond



The pond in Manito Parks was originally a natural body of water called Mirror Lake that would dry up during the summer months. The lake was large enough to accommodate canoes that could be rented on site. A dance hall was located on the bank of the lake and open air motion pictures were shown nearby from 1905-1907. Later, a concrete retaining structure was built to keep the pond full throughout the year. Today, Mirror Pond is a favorite meeting place for those who enjoy watching ducks and other water fowl. **Please don't feed the water fowl.**

9 Park Bench Cafe

Originally called the Peanut Shack, this building was built in 1923. Its original purpose was to provide refreshments for zoo visitors and peanuts for the monkeys. The zoo was a popular attraction from 1905 until its demise in 1933 – a casualty of the Great Depression. Other zoo residents included buffalo, elk, bobcats, cougars, bears and deer. The Parks Department now provides a variety of sandwiches, salads and treats for your enjoyment. Summer hours 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sometimes closed due to inclement weather 509.456.4349.



10 Loop Drive and Bridge

This road allows vehicular access to several majestic views and to the Rose Garden during the non-winter months. The picturesque stone bridge, built in the early 1930's, reflects the same stone architectural style seen in many of the park buildings built in its early years.

11 Upper Manito Playground

The Upper Manito playground was originally established by the first superintendent of the park, Charles Balzer, in the early 1900's. At that time, the City did not provide money for equipment, so Superintendent Balzer procured power poles for swings. The playground now features a softball diamond, playground equipment, picnic shelter, and a brand new splash pad. All of these amenities make it a favorite gathering spot for children in the warm months.



12 Administrative Offices

Built of natural basalt rock, circa 1912, this building now provides office space for the Park Department horticulture staff and The Friends of Manito organization. Manito Park's business office is located at 2304 East Mallon, Spokane, WA 99202. For more information call 509.363.5455.

Reservations are required for all weddings and wedding photos. Call 509.363.5455 for information.

Directions to Manito Park

From West, heading to Downtown

From I-90, take exit 280 (Maple/Lincoln). At second light turn left. At 3rd Avenue, turn right. At Stevens Street, turn right (4 lanes, one-way going south). Stay to the right; this turns into Bernard Street. At 21st Avenue, turn left.

From East/Couer d'Alene

Head west on I-90. Take exit 282B on to 2nd Avenue. Stay in far-left lane. From the exit go 1.4 miles to Stevens Street; turn left, stay to the right; this turns into Bernard Street. At 21st Avenue, turn left.



509.363.5455
SpokaneParks.org
TheFriendsOfManito.org



The Friends of Manito

Founded in 1990, The Friends of Manito has united to support Manito Park through work projects, educational events, and fundraising to help finance park activities and developments. Their annual plant sales, June and September are events that local gardeners and park supporters look forward to throughout the year.



Become a Friend of Manito

Your tax-deductible membership to TFM will enrich Manito Park

Benefits:

- Quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount at TFM Plant Sales
- Discounts at:
 - Alpine Bark Blowing
 - Home Fires Nursery and Landscaping Materials
 - Northwest Plant Health Care
 - Northwest Seed and Pet
 - Spokane Landscaping
 - Wittkopf Landscape Supplies
- Email updates on events and sales

Household membership is \$25 per year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to
The Friends of Manito and mail to:

The Friends of Manito
4 West 21st Avenue
Spokane, WA 99203-1974

Or Charge my Visa or MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on account – please print _____


Signature of cardholder _____

Or join online at: www.TheFriendsOfManito.org

For more information, call (509) 456-8038

Map of Manito Park

Spokane, Washington

-  Park Entrance
-  Parking
-  Public Restroom
-  Footpath (dotted lines)
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Handicap Accessible
-  Informational Kiosk

There are ADA facilities available at all restroom locations

-  **1 Duncan Gardens**
-  **2 Gaiser Conservatory**
-  **3 Joel E. Ferris Perennial Garden**
-  **4 Rose Hill**
-  **5 Nishinomiya-Tsutakawa Japanese Garden**
-  **6 Lilac Garden**
-  **7 Picnic Shelter**
-  **8 Mirror Pond**
-  **9 Park Bench Cafe**
-  **10 Loop Drive & Bridge**
-  **11 Upper Manito Playground, Splash Pad, and Upper Manito Shelter**
-  **12 Administrative Offices**

