# FLSRV Newsletter



Winter 2021



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### Membership

A 2021 membership form is enclosed for your convenience.

Membership funds go into a general fund and provide the resource for printing and mailing newsletters, maintaining our web site, auditing the year's financial records and miscellaneous expenses. Your support is important so please complete the enclosed form.

# Jack Nisbet's 8th Annual Walking Tour

Hog Lake

Saturday, April 25, 2021 • 9:30am-12:30pm We will try for this tour with Jack Nisbet. We will keep you posted early spring of 2021 as to possibilities.

### Valley Clean-Up 2021

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley did not hold their annual clean-up day for the valley on Saturday, April 18, 2020 due to the Covid issues and Spokane County canceling our permit to use Moose Park in Gleneden.

Our goal each year is to clean up most of the major roads in the valley from Wandermere to Perry; Shady Slope to the top of the hill; Dartford to Hazard Road; Hatch Road to Bidwell Park; and Golden Road, Midway, and Colbert Road including some new area along US 395.

We are going to tentatively hold the clean-up April 17, 2021, if the world is a safer place and people feel comfortable in an outside group. We will again use Moose Park starting at 9:30 AM. We need your time and continued support to help keep our Valley clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors. We will send a notification as we come closer to the day. Remember you can always clean up a little around your area on your own.

After the cleanup, an annual chili feed will be held at Bart and Lindell Haggin's home for those who help out. Thanks to all who help with both cleanup and the cooking!

### Annual Dinner Auction Meeting Postponed

Harla Jean Biever

Because of the ongoing pandemic FLSRV Board is looking toward an outdoor get together some time in the summer of 2021 instead of a February Annual Meeting. The board will consider the situation in the spring and make a decision about the possibility of the meeting. We will let you know what is decided. This means we will not be making a profit from the Auction. The 2020 amount was \$2300.00.

If possible would you contribute to our fund by making a donation when you submit your membership form?

# Little Spokane Drive Trail Update

David Maccini

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley is moving forward with plans to extend the trail system with a trail along the west side of Little Spokane Drive between Midway and Colbert Rd. We have had a survey performed to define the county right of way. We have received one bid of over \$550,000 for the work to be done! We have received verbal commitments for easements on private land. We had a wetland specialist help define and rate the wetland area we will traverse. We are arranging a meeting with the US Army Corp of Engineers and Department of Ecology to ensure compliance with a trail through a wetland area. We are seeking funding in the form of grants and donations. If you would like to help with expertise (construction) please contact us friendsoflittlespokaneriver@gmail. com. To donate find us at flsrv.org and scroll to the bottom.

### **Update**

Martha Schaffer

As many of you have discovered, business can be conducted in this pandemic environment virtually and the FLSRV Board is no exception. We are pleased to resume our board meetings "via ZOOM" and also connect with you through this newsletter. Work has been done on the trail system, and plans are being made for our annual valley clean-up and an outdoor gathering this summer in place of our February dinner-auction. See more details throughout this newsletter, stay healthy and safe, and please renew your membership!

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

# **FLSRV** Newsletter

is a publication of:

#### Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

P.O. Box 18191 Spokane, WA 99228 Phone: 509-951-2084

For article suggestions or comments contact Harla Jean Biever

#### **Board of Directors**

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# Northside Family Aquatic Facility

Kristopher Krohn, PLA
Park Planner / Landscape Architect
Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf

Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf is excited to announce that construction efforts on the Bidwell Park Development Project (801 E Handy Rd.) are on the home stretch! After years of planning and many months of challenging construction efforts, the park is expected to be substantially complete by late spring / early summer of 2021. Improvements to the Northside Family Aquatic Facility include a new (heated) splash pad, expanded pool deck, and two new dramatic waterslides. Other amenities within the park include an outdoor movie area, two playgrounds, pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, a basketball court, two ball fields, two picnic shelters, two new restrooms, added parking, a natural area, open green space, shade trees, and over 1.2 miles of paved pathways. Funding from Spokane County (REET) as well as grant awards from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (WWRP-Local Parks, Youth Athletic Facilities), the National Park Service (LWCF), and the Spokane Parks Foundation have made this project possible. With the help of many community members, patience of the neighborhood, support from the Board of Spokane County Commissioners, dedication from project consultants (SPVV Landscape Architects, Parametrix, Budinger & Associates, and Coffman Engineers), and much hard work from general contractor LaRiviere Inc., this park will soon come to life! We look forward to welcoming the community to come and enjoy the variety of offerings in this fantastic new park in 2021.



New water slide at Northside Family Aquatic Facility.



Bidwell Park slated for completion by late Spring, 2021.

### Moose In The Valley

Harla Jean Biever

Several people have spoken about seeing Moose in the Spokane Little River Valley. Here are some comments and some photos from a few of them.



This big Bull Moose came through the yard to enjoy apples from my apple tree. In late October a Mother Moose and two Youngsters came through my yard and the lady reached up high to pick apples.

Harla Jean



A Mother Moose and Two Youngsters visited our yard.
- Michael Kennedy



Moose in our driveway, looking to go camping!

- Dave Maccini



This moose (above) spent a month or more with us in 2018. He had an injured foot that did not seem to be any better by the time he left. Was seen under a sprinkler (below) this summer looking quite robust and without a limp!

- Lindell Haggin



# Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Inc. 2021 Association Membership Form

#### **Goals of the organization:**

- Preserve and sustain the unique character of the Little Spokane River Valley, including its open space and natural setting, maintaining lower density zoning.
- Protect the areas ecosystem including water quality, wetlands, priority habitat and wildlife, and dwindling native vegetation.
- Encourage the development of area parks.
- Educate public officials of FLSRV concerns, being pro-active when major issues are at the forefront.

Property owners in the area 3/4 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Chattaroy to Dartford, then ½ mile either side of the

Address:			
City:			
Home telephone:			
What are your special concerns about the v	valley?		
What issues or topics would you like discu	ssed at meetings?		
Check if you are interested in helping w	vith: 2021 F	2021 FLSRV Membership Dues:	
☐ Trails Committee ☐ Parks Committee ☐ Newsletter (writing &/or publishing) ☐ Sign Design or construction ☐ Board member ☐ Administrative help ☐ Other ☐ Other ☐ Other Little Spokane River Valley, Inc. is an ions are tax exempt to the full extent of the law.	Welcome Sign TOTAL PAIL  In IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-	ember \$15.00) n (Future)  profit corporation (a cha	
	yable to: Friends of Little Spokanon n Biever, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Co		
DONATIONS:   TRAIL FU		GENERAL FUN	D \$
	_ City	State Zip	Code

Make checks payable to: FLSRV Donations may be tax deductible. Send to: Harla Jean Biever, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert WA 99005

### The Porcupine

Dr. Paul Horn

On the evening of that big October snowfall, I was out back shoveling a path to the wood pile. Our 1-1/2-vear-old lab mix. Jesse, started barking. It was that bark that said, "I have discovered something really interesting." Fearing a skunk, I went to investigate. As usual, she was in the Case's yard, and barking at the base of their tree. Looking up in the tree, my headlamp silhouetted the biggest porcupine I have ever seen. Those were some big guills! I thought we had skated by trouble until I noticed what looked like snow all over my dog's snout. Close inspection revealed porcupine quills embedded around her nose, mouth and chin. Amazingly, it did not seem to bother her at all. She licked at them a little but showed no sign of reluctance to continue chasing this animal that had just impaled her.

My brother-in-law, Matthew Schmidt, who is a local veterinarian, answered his phone, fortunately. I had assumed the situation would require anesthesia, and a thousand dollars, to get the quills out. He suggested I simply pull them out with a firm grip and a hemostat. It was recommended that I grab each quill as close to the skin as possible to avoid breakage. It took

my wife and cousin together, providing restraint, so I could dive into the painful task. I was amazed at how firmly each quill was embedded. Quickly, it became apparent that the quills in her nose were the most painful, so I saved those for last. She was very good, but by the last few quills she had become quite distressed. We all lived through the drama and within ten minutes our sweet dog was acting like nothing had happened.

There was one quill embedded in the underside of the chin that would not come out. It broke off at the base leaving about 1/8 of an inch protruding through her coat. Of course I called my brotherin-law again. "Leave it alone," he said with a prediction that it would migrate farther in under



the skin in the next 48 hours, possibly emerging between her lips and gum or under the tongue. It could then be extracted. In his experience, a rogue quill will not usually cause significant problems. The next morning, I could still see the quill protruding. However, consistent with his pre-diction, it had completely disappeared within 24 hours. The only time that the lost quill seems to bother Jesse is when I examine her. I think I can still feel it under her chin and it seems a little tender. I have a peek at her gums and under the tongue periodically. I have not found any sign of quills or infection. She is eating just fine. So, for now, we wait and watch.



# Inland Northwest Land Conservancy Announces Purchase of 95-Acre Parcel of Land

Reprint courtesy of Spokesman Review.

The north Spokane recreation area commonly referred to as Waikiki Springs nearly doubled this fall as Inland Northwest Land Conservancy announced the purchase of a 95-acre parcel of land adjacent to existing 114-acre Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife property along the Little Spokane River.

The land, part of the Waikiki Dairy in the early 1900s and ancestral home of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, provides beautiful habitat for local plants and animals, and is home to ideal spawning grounds for native fish.

The newly acquired parcel was platted for development but has been conserved for public access, conservation and habitat restoration, through a partnership among INLC, the Spokane Tribe and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Permanent protection of this vital piece of near-urban wildlife habitat has been a priority of neighbors and community groups for many years, including Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Fairwood Farmer's Market and Save Our Switchbacks.

The purchase was funded, due to the leadership of Marcus Riccelli, support from Andy Billig and by the taxpayers of Washington State.

The name "Waikiki," meaning "spouting fresh water," references the natural springs throughout the area that pour cold, clear aquifer water into the Little Spokane River. This influx of water keeps the river cool in the summer and moderate in the winter, further enhancing its value as habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

The hiking trails can be accessed from the north end of Fairwood Drive off Mill Road near Mead High School. As land manager, INLC will work closely with the Spokane Tribe of Indians and

the Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve habitat, enhance recreation opportunities and engage the Spokane community with this beautiful natural area.

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy was formed in 1991. Since then, the organization has protected over 22,000 acres in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. A new initiative is "Olmsted 2.0," a collaborative plan to provide access public parks, trails and natural spaces for Spokane County residents. You can learn more how INLC is connecting people to nature by conserving the lands and waters essential to life by visiting inlandnwland.org.









# Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

Carol Corbin

This has been a year of challenges, changes and, hopefully restoration in the outdoors for many of us. We at the Conservancy have been working hard to protect special local places.

Join us at our year-end celebration, Tuesday, December 8, 6:00 PM, for Common Ground, our annual meeting. We will share the ways in which our mission, connecting people to nature by conserving lands and waters essential to life in the Inland Northwest, has come alive in 2020. We will share some of the great successes we've achieved and give you our vision for the coming year.

If interested in attending this meeting, register at the website below. When you register, you will receive a link that will join you to the Common Ground meeting, at 6:00 p.m., on YouTube Live.

InlandNWLand.org



