

NE 11.5 Spokane River Gorge

Pursue the Spokane River Gorge as a natural area and maintain this place as one of our region's greatest resources.

Discussion: The Spokane River Gorge is a natural connection between Riverfront Park, Latah Creek, Indian Canyon, and Riverside State Park. The historical significance of the Gorge to native and early pioneering cultures should be emphasized in how the area is protected. Various historical and cultural experiences should be developed without harming the riparian habitat.



NE 12 URBAN FOREST

Goal: Maintain and enhance the urban forest to provide good air quality, reduce urban warming, and increase habitat.

Policies



NE 12.1 Street Trees

Plant trees along all streets.

Discussion: Installing street trees along all residential and arterial streets is the easiest and most cost effective way to secure the environmental benefits of urban forestry. Street trees planted in buffer strips between the curb and sidewalk should be included in every street project or private development.

NE 12.2 Urban Forestry Programs

Consider joining the Spokane County Conservation District for urban forestry programs, protection, and maintenance. Until joining, have a program that accomplishes the equivalent of the Conservation District program.

NE 12.3 Protection Techniques

Use incentives and acquisition to protect forested areas both on publicly and privately owned land.

NE 12.4 Forest Inventory Database

Maintain an inventory of the urban forest in the city's Geographic Information System.

NE 12.5 Tree Replacement Program

Do not allow tree removal in the public right-of-way without a program for tree replacement.

Discussion: The city should adopt a practice of “no net loss” in street trees. Permits to remove street trees should only be granted when they are determined by the city to be sick, damaged, or near the end of life. Removal for life, safety, or other emergencies is the determination of public safety officials.

