

Neighborhood Parks in Spokane County

DOWNTOWN, BROWNE'S ADDITION, THE SOUTH HILL,
NORTH SIDE & MOUNT SPOKANE



The Golden Carousel

DOWNTOWN SPOKANE - RIVERFRONT PARK

1. *The Golden Carousel ~ 1997*

The carousel at Riverfront Park carries hundreds of riders in merry circles during Spokane's warm-weather season. I.D. Loeff finished the carousel in 1909 which was elaborate in every detail with dozens of multi-sized mirror panels and 180 glittering lights. Too expensive for Natorium Park at a price of \$20,000, Loeff struck a special deal. If the park would allow his son, Louis Vogel to run the carousel and other concessions on a percentage basis, Loeff would ship the carousel to the park as a wedding gift for his daughter Emma. When the park closed in 1968, its property developed into residential housing, the carousel was dismantled and stored. With the opening of Spokane's World Fair, Expo 74 at 100-acre Riverfront Park, one of the most anticipated events was the re-opening of the carousel - not just for viewing, but for riding! Housed in a protective building, this merry-go-round is available to children of all ages.



Pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park

BROWNE'S ADDITION - COEUR D'ALENE PARK

2. *Pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park ~ 1997*

The gazebo at Coeur d'Alene Park is located in the center of Spokane's first park. The property was donated in 1891 by J.J. Browne (for whom the neighborhood was named) and A.M. Cannon (for whom the park on the South Hill was named). Using ideas shared with the City Beautification Committee prepared by the world-famous landscape architects, the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the committee worked to make the park lovely and inviting for the neighborhood's residents. Trees, shrubbery, small pools, flowering plants and lawn were installed, as well as a decorative, wood pavilion for band concerts. This onion-domed gazebo still stands in the center of the park today.

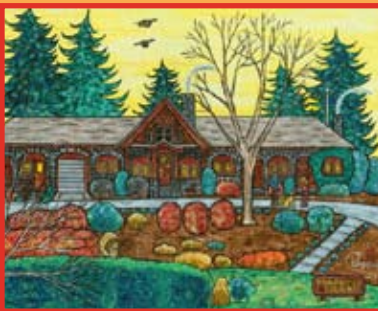


Cavorting at Cannon Hill Pond

THE SOUTH HILL - CANNON HILLS & FOUR SEASONS AT MANITO PARK

3. *Cavorting at Cannon Hill Pond ~ 2009*

Cannon Hill Park is just down the hill from St. Augustine's Church and what is still the parish grade school, now known as Cataldo Catholic School. When I was a student there in the early 1960s, there weren't enough playgrounds to accommodate all the kids, so in the winter months, the 6th, 7th and 8th graders were allowed to go ice skating on the pond at lunchtime - quite a privilege at the time. The boys played hockey and the girls learned how to twirl and skate backwards (we all had aspirations to join the "Ice Capades"). This painting is filled with Simpsons, neighbors and friends - including the Roberts, McCarthy and Shelledy kids. The Shelledys lived in the brick two-story shown overlooking the pond.



Autumn Morning at Manito

4. *Autumn Morning at Manito (Fall) ~ 2003*

The beautiful focal point of the South Hill neighborhood, Manito Park was deeded to the city in 1904. This handsome basalt and shingle building, built in 1912, is located just north of the greenhouse and adjacent to Rose Hill. It houses the offices of Manito's horticultural staff and The Friends of Manito, a non-profit group partnering with the Park Department committed to the work of preserving, promoting and improving the beloved setting.

5. *Davenport Fountain at Duncan Garden (Summer) ~ 1997*

The Davenport Fountain was donated in 1956 by his family in the memory of Louis M. Davenport - longtime owner of the downtown Spokane landmark hotel that bears his name. Located in the center of John W. Duncan Gardens (named for the Manito Park superintendent), it is the "star" of the formal European Renaissance-style gardens that surround it. This beloved setting has hosted dozens of weddings throughout the years. The fountain is filled with pennies tossed by "wishing" natives and visitors alike who are drawn to the colorful destination every summer.



Davenport Fountain at Duncan Garden

Patti Simpson Ward



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Fun & Frolic at the Manito Fireplace



The Swans at Manito Pond



Riding the Jack Rabbit at Nat



Vista House View

6. Fun & Frolic at the Manito Fireplace (Winter) ~ 2006

In 1955, at the west end of the Manito Park Duck Pond, a huge basaltic rock fireplace was built as a memorial to Lt. Lawrence Rist, an officer in the Air Force who was killed in action in the Korean War. For years growing up in Spokane, my parents took our family ice skating in the winter on Manito Pond. The city, at that time, took pains to keep the surface smooth and groomed for skaters. There was nearly always a fire blazing for those of us who were chilled and needed some toasting up and a quick warm beverage. Friends and family are pictured in this carefree winter scene.

7. The Swans at Manito Pond (Spring) ~ 1997

The Duck Pond at Manito Park is altered from the setting shown in this painting. This lovely, spring-fed pond was known in its youth as "Mirror Lake" when it was much larger. It is located in the lower northeastern corner of Manito (Native American word for "hilltop") Park, which was deeded to the city of Spokane in 1904. The pond, home for hundreds of ducks and swans in warmer months, has undergone many "facelifts" over the years. The most recent change to the vegetation surrounding it occurred as a result of a devastating ice storm of 1996. These two landmark mammoth weeping willows became weakened by the storm and had to be cut down, leaving a simple grass-covered island.

THE NORTH SIDE - NATATORIUM PARK

8. Riding the "Jack Rabbit" at Nat ~ 2009

Most folks would say that the most thrilling ride at historic Natatorium Park was the roller coaster - aptly named the "Jack Rabbit." Each trip around the dizzying tracks lasted about a minute and a half, with speeds and dips that were guaranteed to leave you breathless - and "lunch-less," if you had eaten too many hot dogs and cotton candy. It broke the heart of every Spokane kid when the park closed in 1968, but Nat had lost money for years with so many other things going on in the city. To add insult to injury, when the park closed, the grand roller coaster was dismantled and burned to the ground on-site.

MOUNT SPOKANE STATE PARK

9. Vista House View

This is a portrait of the historic Vista House on a gorgeous sunny day - picturing friends, family and a group of eager, young S.S.R.A. racers (Spokane Ski Racing Association). Located at the summit of Mount Spokane near the top of the #1 chairlift, this unique granite stone cottage was the design of Spokane architect, Henry C. Bertelsen. It was built during the Great Depression in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), who were headquartered at Riverside State Park. The Vista House was constructed to blend seamlessly with its stunning natural setting. Renovated in 2002 by Mount Spokane State Park, it is open to the public on Sundays and holidays, offering light fare and a huge, friendly fireplace.

Patti Simpson Ward

