

Inland NW County & State Parks

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

(19 "Americana" Fine Artwork Titles Listed Alphabetically)



DOWNTOWN SPOKANE - RIVERFRONT PARK

The Golden Carousel ~ 3.1997

The carousel at Riverfront Park carried hundreds of riders in merry circles during Spokane's warm-weather season. I.D. Loeff finished it in 1909. It was elaborate in every detail with dozens of multi-sized mirror panels and 180 glittering lights. Too expensive for Natatorium 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 a mobile home park, 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 was available again to children of all ages.

The Christmas Carousel (Loeff) ~ 6.2017

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Riverfront Park Reverie ~ 9.2012

Riverfront Park was created as the site of Spokane's 1974 "Expo '74" - the first environmental world's fair. Located on riverfront property that had been a hodge-podge of industrial businesses like the Crystal Laundry, intersecting railroad tracks and the old railway station, the setting was developed into a beautiful park. Some folks thought the historic train station was an architectural gem worth saving. After much discussion, a compromise was reached to keep its signature clock tower. The park went on to house the Loeff Carousel, the "Radio Flyer" slide, a pavilion for ice-skating and gondolas that carried folks over thundering Spokane Falls. **Highlight** - Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson's classic film "Benny & Joon" included a scene filmed here.

BROWNE'S ADDITION - COEUR D'ALENE PARK

Pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park ~ 4.1997

The pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park, Spokane's first public park, was designed to be an architectural focal point in what was also the city's first residential neighborhood, Browne's Addition. In 1891, J.J. Browne and A. M. Cannon donated the property for the park (the neighborhood was named for Browne and a park on the South Hill for Cannon). Using ideas shared with the City Beautification Committee prepared by world-famous landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the committee worked to make the park lovely and inviting for the nearby wealthy neighbors. Trees, shrubbery, small pools, flowering plants, pathways and lawn were installed, as well as the band concert pavilion pictured here. This onion-domed gazebo recently received an ambitious restoration led by an organization that took on the stewardship of the park, the Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park.

Vintage View at Coeur d'Alene Park ~ 10.2015

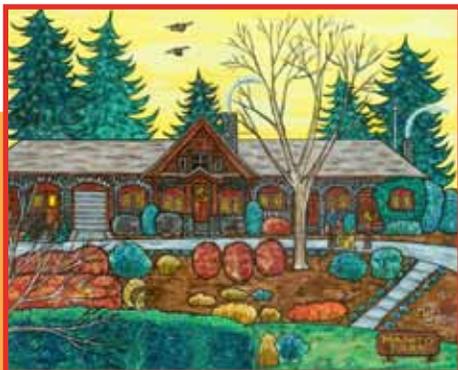
Legendary Landmarks) This autumn-themed artwork portrayed how I imagined Spokane's first and oldest park, Coeur d'Alene, might have looked in the early 1900s. Several wealthy Browne's Addition residents made their fortunes in the Coeur d'Alene mines, perhaps inspiring its name. Researching how the first pavilion and period clothing looked, I painted merrymakers listening to music, strolling leisurely, bicycling and riding in the elegant carriage based on the one owned by the Amasa Campbell family. Although the four-block parcel was set aside by developers A.M. Cannon and J.J. Browne in the 1880s, the park was not officially deeded until 1891. In the early 1900s, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Dawson of the famed Olmsted Bros. offered several suggestions to improve the park, including reducing the drives through it and the addition of a bandstand pavilion. This was replaced very similarly to the original plans and rededicated in 1990 with two of the handsome urn-shaped planters seen in many early park photographs flanking it. The park was also renowned for its collection of one of nearly every type of tree native to the Northwest. **Highlight** - 2016 marked the 125th anniversary of the park's founding with celebrations driven by the stewardship group, the Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park.

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THE SOUTH HILL - MANITO PARK THROUGHOUT YEAR

Afternoon at the Manito Administration Building ~ 9.2003

The stunning focal point of the South Hill neighborhood, Manito Park was deeded to the city of Spokane in 1904. This handsome, single-story basaltic rock and shingle building was constructed in 1912 on the north side of the Gaiser Conservatory, just south of Ferris Perennial Gardens and east of Rose Hill. It was built to house the offices of Manito's horticultural staff and The Friends of Manito, a non-profit service group partnering with the Spokane Park Department and committed to the work of preserving, promoting and improving the beloved setting.

Davenport Fountain at Duncan Garden ~ 6.1997

The Davenport Fountain was donated in 1956 by the Davenport family in the memory of Louis M. Davenport - longtime owner of the downtown Spokane landmark hotel by the same name. The fountain has long been the focal point of the formal European Renaissance-style "Sunken Garden" - renamed John W. Duncan Garden to honor a beloved Manito Park superintendent. Every summer, the garden has been planted with annuals, creating brilliant rainbows of color and making it an ideal setting for hundreds of weddings since its creation. Over the years, "wishing" natives and visitors have tossed coins into the fountain. Highlight: The first park superintendent discovered the rich soil when the property was forested and he found his son playing there. To raise funds for Manito, he began selling the loamy soil to other parks and neighbors in the area, creating the "sunken" effect.

Fun & Frolic at the Manito Fireplace ~ 11.2006

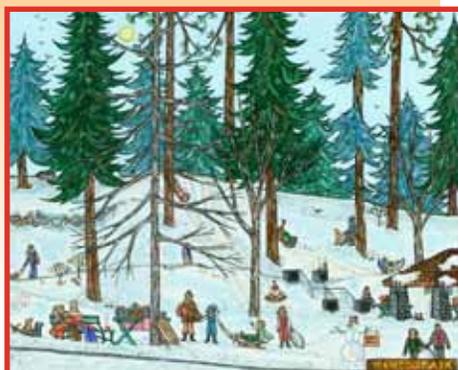
At the west end of the Manito Park's Duck Pond (also known as Mirror Lake), a massive basaltic rock fireplace was built in 1955 as a memorial to Lt. Lawrence Rist, an Air Force officer who was killed in action in the Korean War. For decades growing up in Spokane, my parents took our family ice-skating during the winter months on Manito Pond. At that time the city and local fire department took pains to keep the surface smoothly groomed for skaters. There was nearly always a fire blazing for folks who were chilled and in need of warming up and a hot beverage. I filled this scene with family and friends enjoying the day.

Romantic Rose Hill (Manito Park) ~ 3.2018

Rose Hill has always been a romantic spot and one of my favorite Spokane settings in warmer months. Couples walking at dusk, weddings beneath the pergola in spring - this setting has been remarkable since Superintendent John Duncan designed the first plans for it in 1941. Additional suggestions from the Rose Society in 1948 included a test garden and memorial roses. Grading began in 1950, the soil was prepared and a sprinkler installed. The award winning Rose Garden was chosen in 1951 to be one of 90 test gardens in the United States by the American Rose Society. Years later, the Dahlia Society shared space there as well, with one of the first of eight test gardens in the United States and Canada. Several beautiful structures were built to enhance Rose Hill. Highlight - In 1993 when noted Spokane photographer Erna Bert Nelson died, she left a bequest of \$700,000 to Manito Park and the garden she loved. A rose arbor (also known as "the pergola") with 14 columns of board, brick and steel was constructed for visitors to the park to enjoy.

Sledding on the South Hill at Manito ~ 10.2013

This piece pictured Manito Park's sledding hill on the corner of Grand Boulevard & 18th Avenue as it looked in the late 1950s. I painted friends and family enjoying a crisp winter day at the park after a fresh snowfall - something folks in the neighborhood have done since 1904 when the beloved park was established. In 1959, my parents gave me an aluminum "Flying Saucer" for Christmas. All of us kids had our "Flexible Flyer" sleds, but these metal discs were the latest thing! We sat down in the center, crossed our legs, grabbed the leather handles on both sides - and prayed we didn't hit a tree on the way down because steering was out of the question. There were two sides of the hill - a smaller one by the picnic area for the younger set and a larger one adjacent to the street that the bigger kids poured water on to speed up the ride. This sheet of ice guaranteed a swift trip to the bottom!



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The Swans at Mirror Lake (Manito's Duck Pond) ~ 5.1997

The Duck Pond at Manito Park has been altered quite a bit over the years from the setting shown in this artwork. Known in its youth as Mirror Lake, it was once nearly twice the size as it is now, offering a welcome home to the ducks and swans that came to live there during the warmer months. Sadly, the swans were killed in a malicious prank and the signature island weeping willows pictured here were so weakened by the devastating ice storm of 1996 that the park department was forced to cut them down. But the pond has had its revenge, wreaking havoc with some of the homes west of it with its "fingers" of meandering underground streams flooding basements during spring run-off months.

THE SOUTH HILL - THREE OTHER PARKS

Carvorting at Cannon Hill Pond ~ 7.2009

Cannon Hill Park was created just west down the hill from Saint Augustine's Parish where I attended grade school. There was little property for playgrounds in the 1950s-60s, so in winter, the 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders were allowed to skate on the pond during recess. The boys played hockey and the girls twirled and skated backwards (we all dreamed of joining the "Ice Capades"). The site of the Washington Brick & Lime Co. in the 1880s (used for many South Hill homes), when the clay deposits ran out, the Adam's family (relatives of John Quincy Adams) donated 13 acres for Adams Park, later named for real estate developer A.M. Cannon. In 1910, the famed Olmsted brothers designed the park, including a large pond with basaltic rock bridges, two pergolas and a wading pool for children - no longer in place. This work is filled with family and friends - including the Roberts, McCarthy and Shelledy kids. The Shelledys lived in the brick two-story shown overlooking the pond.

Marriage at the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens ~ 6.2013

The restoration of the stunning Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens was a gift to Spokane. They were originally designed in the Victorian style in 1889 as companion gardens to the F. Rockwood Moore home, young Kirtland K. Cutter's first residential commission. Prominent Spokane businessman Moore died in 1895 and U.S. Senator George Turner moved into the home. The family hired Portland landscape architect Hugh Bryan to infuse the gardens with an arts & crafts flavor and add permanent structures, making them the largest perennial gardens in the Northwest. But with Turner's death in 1932 and the Great Depression, the bank took over the property. Ultimately, it reverted back to its natural state and the home was demolished. The ice storm of 1996 caused the gardens to be rediscovered and the painstakingly process of bringing them back to their original splendor began. Research, grants, private funding and a great deal of work by many made the re-opening possible in 2008.

Summer Fun at Comstock ~ 6.2015

In the 1930s, the E.A. Shadles donated 21 acres and \$150,000 on the South Hill to create Comstock Park in the name of Mrs. Shadle's father, former mayor J.M. Comstock. Comstock was a very civic minded man who worked actively with the Spokane River Parkways Association to beautify the property around the Spokane River east of town - especially near Riverside State Park, Seven Mile and Deep Creek Canyon. In July 1938, Comstock Park was dedicated with its gorgeous, expansive state-of-the-art swimming pool. Most of the kids on Spokane's South Hill learned to swim at Comstock, including the Simpson youngsters when we lived nearby. I gave this piece a mid-1950s theme, picturing friends and family of all ages enjoying sports and games at the beloved old pool. *Highlight* - in recent years, the pool was completely rebuilt and expanded into the Comstock Aquatic Center.

THE NORTH SIDE - NATATORIUM PARK

Riding the "Jack Rabbit" at Nat ~ 6.2009

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 activities going on in the city and folks heading to their cabins at surrounding lakes in upper Northeast Washington and the Idaho "Panhandle." To add insult to injury, when the park closed, the grand roller coaster was burned to the ground on-site.

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THE NORTH SIDE - RIVERSIDE STATE PARK

Picnic Baskets at the Bowl @ Pitcher ~ 7.2014

Just seconds from downtown on Spokane's North Side, Riverside State Park came into being under Park Superintendent Aubrey Lee White who was known as the "Father of Spokane Parks." The signature basaltic rock formations on the south side of the Spokane River resembled a bowl and pitcher - thus the name. Both Washington Water Power (which became Avista) and individual citizens donated land for it. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, built many of the park's facilities, including the swinging bridge, the Aubrey L. White Parkway on both sides of the river as well as the rock walls that border it.



MOUNT SPOKANE STATE PARK

Historic Francis Cook Cabin ~ 2.2014

This piece portrayed Francis Cook's Cabin, which was built in 1904 on the west side of Mount Spokane overlooking the Spokane Valley. Francis Cook was known as the "Father of Mount Spokane State Park." When he died in 1920, he transferred his considerable property there to the county with the understanding that it would be a park for everyone to enjoy. In 1933, the State Parks & Recreation Commission oversaw the enlargement of his original cabin. They replaced the collapsed roof, built a deck and lunch counter for skiers and added living quarters for the park's superintendent. In 1940, Federal funds built a handsome new ski lodge near the cabin, but a horrific fire destroyed it completely in 1952. A decision was made to move the facilities to the less windy east side of the mountain and the Cook Cabin public ski area closed for good in 1955.



Vista House View ~ 2.2010

This artwork portrayed the historic Vista House on a gorgeous sunny day with friends, family and a group of eager young S.S.R.A. racers (Spokane Ski Racing Association) in the scene. Located at the summit of Mount Spokane near the top of the #1 chair-lift, 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 on Spokane's North Side. It was constructed to blend with its stunning, natural setting. Renovated in 2002 by Mount Spokane State Park, once again it opened its doors to the public on Sundays and holidays, offering light fare and a huge, friendly fireplace.

The Old Mount Spokane Ski Lodge ~ 1.2013

Opened in 1940, the Mount Spokane Lodge was a huge upgrade to original developer's Francis H. Cook's rustic cabin. It served the fledgling ski area of Mount Spokane State Park with dining rooms, fireplaces, a lounge, dormitory and a waxing room for skis. In 1952, this handsome Craftsman-style lodge was about to reopen with a sprawling three-story addition when it exploded into flames, killing one of two on-site workmen and leaving nothing but ashes and rubble. As nearly everything was gone, a decision was made to move the ski area to the less windy east side of the mountain for the public to use going forward. *Highlight* - During World War II, the lodge served personnel from nearby military bases. The Alpine ski instructors were German and Austrian internees paroled to the FBI in Spokane for the duration of the war.



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