

Inland Northwest Parks, Gardens & Eastern Washington State Parks

25 FINE ART "AMERICANA" PAINTINGS OF INLAND NORTHWEST PARKS AND GARDENS
 • INCLUDING THE MANITO PARK COLLECTION, MOORE-TURNER HERITAGE GARDENS,
 OTHER SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS, RIVERSIDE AND MOUNT SPOKANE STATE PARKS



THE SOUTH HILL'S MAGNIFICENT MANITO PARK • DIVIDED BY SEASON

MANITO PARK • SPRINGTIME

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

The Duck Pond at Manito Park has been altered over the years from the setting shown here. Known in its youth as Mirror Lake, it was larger, 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 by some cruel teenagers. As a remembrance, the local Junior League had a swan ornament created by the "Olde World Christmas" folks and we have three of them hanging on our tree every year. Other casualties were the signature weeping willow trees that were so weakened by the devastating ice storm of 1996 and the early October snowfall of 2019 that the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department was forced to cut many of them down. But the pond has had its revenge, wreaking havoc with some of the homes west of it with its "fingers" of underground streams flooding basements during Spring run-off months. Recently the park has enjoyed several improvements, some affecting the pond. One was the addition of a paved walkway around the perimeter of the pond - no more slogging through the mud on rainy days! **Highlight** - When Mirror Lake was new and ran all the way from Division Street to Grand Boulevard), historic photos showed that a large dance pavilion had once been on its shoreline.

MANITO PARK • SUMMERTIME



The Davenport Fountain at Duncan Garden ~ 7.2015

In 2015, I updated this painting to reflect some of the additional features in Duncan Garden at Manito Park. The 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. It has long been the focal point of the formal European Renaissance-style "Sunken Garden" - renamed John W. Duncan Garden to honor the beloved Manito Park superintendent. Every Summer since its creation, the garden has been planted with annuals, creating brilliant rainbows of color and making it an ideal setting for weddings. Over the years, "wishing" locals and visitors have tossed coins into the Davenport Fountain. **Highlight** - First Park Superintendent E. Charles Balzer discovered the rich soil when the property was forested and he found his son playing there with some friends. To raise funds for Manito Park, he began selling the loamy soil to other parks and neighbors in the area, ultimately creating the "sunken" effect.



NEW! Picnicking at the Park Bench Café ~ 3.2020

Visitors to Manito have flocked to the Park Bench Café since it opened. In the beginning, the park included a zoo from 1905 to 1932 with polar and grizzly bears, elk, buffalo and more. At that time, south of Mirror Lake (also known as the Duck Pond) and north Joel E. Ferris Perennial Garden, there was a small pond with water fowl with a small hut in the center of it. In 1923, a decision was made to fill this in and tear down the hut to make way for the new shingle and basaltic rock Park Bench Café. Music was an important part of the park from the beginning. When I painted this portrait of the café, concerts were still offered at no charge to the picnicking public on Friday evenings during Summer months.

Highlight - In earlier years, in addition to serving refreshments, the Park Bench Café also offered skates and bicycles for rent to visitors.



Romantic Rose Hill (Manito Park) ~ 3.2018

Rose Hill has always been a romantic spot and a 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 U.S. 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 U.S. and Canada. Several 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.

NEW! The Splash Pad in Summer ~ 3.2020

This area of Manito Park between Division and Tekoa off 25th Avenue has always been a playground. Folks who brought their kids here in 1910 found only 2 swings constructed of power poles by 1st Park Superintendent Charles Balzer, as there was no money for play equipment at the time. In 1913, Park Superintendent John Duncan upgraded the area by planting lawn. For decades, people without children seldom visit this part of Manito. Over the years, a wading pool was installed (now demolished), more swings, slides and parallel bars. In 2009, a plan was formed to add a Splash Pad - a huge challenge as the South Hill was liberally peppered with basaltic rock, often only 6 inches beneath dirt's surface. But the project was completed, as shown here in this artwork picturing our grandkids Addison and Austin. Both visited the Splash Pad in 2015 at different times, but as these 2 have always been close, I pictured them together in this piece. **Highlight** - In 2001, this was the 1st playground in Spokane to install play equipment with a ramp and elevated play areas for children in wheelchairs.



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MANITO PARK • AUTUMN

NEW! Autumn Splendor at the Japanese Garden ~ 9.2020

The stunning Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden was finished and opened in 1974, honoring Spokane's connection with its sister city Nishinomiya, Japan. Acclaimed landscape architect, Nagao Sakurai, was commissioned to design the special garden in 1967 - remarkable, because at one time he was in charge of the Japanese Imperial Palace grounds. The waterfall and pond were started in 1970, but in 1973 Sakurai suffered a stroke, so 2 other architects, Shosuke Nagai and Hirohiko Kawai, travelled from Kobe, Japan, to complete the last year of the project. Dedication took place on May 17, 1974 honoring the Sister City relationship. Ed Tsutakawa founded the Spokane Nishinomiya Sister City relationship and was involved with the movement for 45 years. He also had a great deal to do with the design and completion of this site. Upon his death in 2006, it was suggested that Manito's Japanese Gardens be named for him. A decision was made at the Spokane Park & Recreation Board meeting in December 2007 and the garden was re-dedicated on April 20, 2008. A flowering cherry tree from Nishinomiya and the Spokane Sister City Societies was planted to honor the event.



Afternoon at the Manito Administration Building (Headhouse) ~ 9.2019

The stunning focal point of the South Hill neighborhood, Manito Park was deeded to the city of Spokane in 1904. The handsome single-story basaltic rock and shingle Administration Building or "Headhouse" as it was also known, was constructed in 1912 on the north side of the Gaiser Conservatory, south of the 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 whose purpose it was to help Spokane's Parks & Recreation Department preserve, promote and improve the city's beloved setting. Revised from the original artwork completed in 2003, this piece celebrate family (3 generations) enjoying the beautiful setting on a gorgeous sunny Autumn afternoon - walking the dog, playing in the fallen leaves and more.

MANITO PARK • WINTER & HOLIDAY

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. *Highlight* - 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.



Lights A-Glow at the Manito Conservatory ~ 11.2019

Manito Park was a huge part of my life growing up in Spokane. My first 12 years as a youngster were spent in a small cottage and then a Dutch Colonial in the Manito neighborhood. The park was within walking distance. In the 1950s and 1960s, kids could take off most anytime they wanted and play safely there - with or without chums. After moving back from the Seattle area, my husband and I bought a brick bungalow near Manito Park and found it to be the gift that keeps on giving. As wonderful as old memories were, we found many new ones. During our 10 years there, a favorite was "Holiday Lights" - a magical display of thousands of colored lights decorating the interior of the Gaiser Conservatory. I pictured folks I love gathering to tour with cups of steaming cocoa. *Highlight* - Created by volunteers from the Friends of Manito, it's open during the Holiday Season for all to enjoy - still at no charge when I painted this piece.



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 at Manito Park on Spokane's South Hill. 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. *Highlight* - There were 2 sides of the hill - a smaller 1 by the picnic area for the younger set and a larger 1 adjacent to the street that the bigger kids poured water on to speed up the ride. This sheet of ice guaranteed a VERY swift trip to the bottom - steering sleds was impossible. There was always a kid or 2 every season that ended up at the hospital when a tree stopped their ride!



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NEW! Snowfall at the Basaltic Rock Bridge ~ 10.2020

One of the most unique things about 90-acre Manito Park was the prolific use of native basaltic rock on structures throughout the grounds when this magnificent park was created in 1904. This included rest-rooms shelters, Headhouse (the administration building on the north side of the Gaiser Conservatory), the Park Bench Cafe, storage buildings above Duncan Garden on its east side and later in the 1950s, the huge fireplace at the west end of Manito Pond. A remarkably beautiful feature at the park was its stone bridge that connected Rose Hill to the property that originally housed zoo animals before it closed in 1932 due to the Great Depression. This decision was further spurred by an accident that maimed a child when she reached through bars to feed a polar bear. *Highlight* - I painted this scene with Doug, me and our granddaughters enjoying the day after a fresh snowfall.

OTHER SOUTH HILL PARKS AND GARDENS

Carvoting at Cannon Hill Pond ~ 7.2009

Cannon Hill Park was created just west of Saint Augustine's Parish where I attended grade school for six years. I painted a glimpse of it into the background of this piece. 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. *Highlight* - I filled this work with family and friends - including the Roberts, McCarthy, Shelledy kids and more. The Shelledys lived in the blond brick two-story bungalow by the right edge of the pond.



Marriage at Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens ~ 3.2013

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, one of young Kirtland K. Cutter's first residential commissions. Prominent Spokane businessman Moore died as a young man 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 widespread financial damage caused by the Great Depression, the property went into receivership. Ultimately the gardens reverted back to their natural state and the stunning 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. *Highlight* Research, grants, private funding by a generous benefactor and a great deal of work by many including volunteers from the newly formed Friends of the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens made the re-opening possible in 2007.



Summer Fun at Comstock in the 1950s ~ 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 huge state-of-the-art swimming pool. Most of the kids on Spokane's South Hill learned to swim at Comstock, including most of us Simpson youngsters when we lived four blocks away. 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.

SPOKANE'S DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

The Christmas Carousel ~ 7.2009

20 Years after I created it, this painting was reworked for Michael Bagley's carousel-themed Holiday tree for the 2017's Christmas Tree Elegance. The Loeff Carousel delighted riders for decades at both Natarorium and Riverfront Parks. I.D. Loeff finished it in 1909, and it was elaborate in every detail with multi-sized mirror panels and 180 of lights. Too expensive for Nat Park at \$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 it to the park as a wedding gift for his daughter Emma. When Nat Park closed for good in 1968, the site developed into a trailer park, the carousel was dismantled and stored. With the close of Spokane's Expo 74 at 100-acre Riverfront Park, the most anticipated event was the re-opening of the carousel - not just for viewing, but for riding. Decades later in the mid-2010s, voters passed a bond for major improvements to Riverfront Park - 1 was the construction of a custom structure for the merry-go-round. *Highlight* - In Spring 2018, the carousel was moved from storage to its new home, and then Mayor Condon re-opened it to the delighted public.



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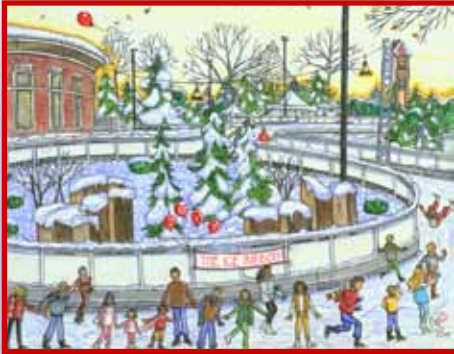
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The Christmas Carousel ~ 7.2009

In 1909, I.D. Loeff finished his stunning carousel - elaborate in every detail with dozens of multi-sized mirror panels and 180 glittering lights. Too expensive for its original home at 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 Natatorium 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, the most anticipated events was the re-opening of the carousel - not just for viewing, but for riding! A few years ago, a bond was passed to update and make improvements on Riverfront Park. This included the construction on a new custom protective structure for the vintage merry-go-round. *Highlight* - In late Spring 2018, Mayor Condon opened its doors and the elegant Loeff Carousel began spinning again for her eager riders.



Ice Ribbon at Riverfront Park ~ 9.2019

In early December 2017, Spokane opened the first ice ribbon on the West Coast - a fun addition to Riverfront Park which was part of the updating plans happening on what was once the site of Spokane's Expo 74 environmental fair. The ice ribbon promised a wonderful urban experience with its 16-foot wide 700-foot trail curling around the west end of the park. Fire pits, an ice lounge and more promised a great experience for skaters young and old. Summer offered roller-skating instead and other activities, so the ribbon could be enjoyed year round. *Highlight* - I filled this artwork with skaters enjoying the crisp Winter day and pictured Riverfront's pavilion and iconic clock tower in the background of this piece honoring the ice ribbon's opening day.



Riverfront Park Reverie ~ 11.2006

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. Many Spokane folks thought the historic train station was an architectural gem worth saving. After much discussion driven by several concerned citizens and organizations, a compromise was reached to keep the station's signature clock tower. Riverfront Park went on to house the Loeff Carousel, the "Radio Flyer" slide, a pavilion later outfitted with tubes of colorful lights that lit up the night skyline, the magical Ice Ribbon skating feature, and gondolas that carried folks over thundering Spokane Falls. *Highlight* - Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson's classic film "Benny & Joon" included scenes filmed in Riverfront Park.

BROWNE'S ADDITION • COEUR D'ALENE PARK • SPOKANE'S 1ST AND OLDEST PARK

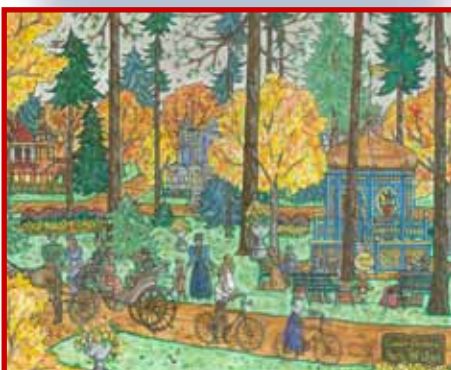
Pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park ~ 4.1997

2016 marked the 125th Birthday of Spokane's first and oldest park. The pavilion at Coeur d'Alene Park, Spokane's first public park, was designed to be an architectural focal point in this recreational space that served Spokane's first 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. *Highlight* - The reason why this park was named Coeur d'Alene was probably because the bulk of the neighborhood's very wealthy residents made much of their money in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho mines.



Vintage View of Coeur d'Alene Park ~ 10.2015

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. firm 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 NORTH SIDE • GRAND OLD NATATORIUM PARK

Riding the "Jack Rabbit" at Nat ~ 6.2009

Historic Natatorium Park held lots of great memories for Spokane "baby-boomers" - and their parents before them! The amusement park on the Spokane River had dozens of rides at the height of its popularity, but the two favorites were the Loeff carousel and the Jack Rabbit roller coaster. The Jack Rabbit was a thrilling ride around dizzying tracks that lasted about a minute and a half. Each trip left its riders breathless and "lunch-less" if they had eaten too many hot dogs and cotton candy. It broke the heart of every Spokane kid when the park closed in 1968, but it had lost money for years with other events going on in the city and folks heading to nearby lakes in Summer. To add insult to injury, when Nat closed, the grand roller coaster was dismantled and burned. *Highlight* - My cousin Jim Flemister tricked me into riding the roller-coaster just as soon as the height and age regulations made me eligible. It scared the heck out of me, but to this day I remember it as the most thrilling ride ever!

STATE PARKS IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

RIVERSIDE STATE PARK

Picnic Baskets at the Bowl @ Pitcher ~ 7.2014

Minutes from Spokane's Downtown District, Riverside State Park came into being under the direction of Park Superintendent Aubrey Lee White who was known as the "Father of Spokane Parks." The basaltic rock formations on the south bank of the Spokane River resembled a bowl and pitcher - thus the name. President Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) built the famous swinging suspension bridge, the Aubrey L. White Parkway on both sides of the river, the rock walls that border it and more. A new set of timbered steps that climbed up to the hiking trails on the south side of the bridge was updated in 2012. *Highlight* - I painted our friends the Mulhollands and Simshausers joining us at this iconic setting for a picnic on a gorgeous sunny day - a favorite pastime here!

MOUNT SPOKANE STATE PARK

Historic Frances Cook Cabin ~ 2.2014

This piece portrayed Francis Cook's Cabin, 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 Spokane 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. *Highlight* - Decades later, this area that overlooked Spokane from the south side of the mountain became a popular hiking area.

The Old Ski Lodge at Mount Spokane ~ 2.2013

Opened in 1940, the Mount Spokane Ski 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 ski equipment. In 1952, this handsome Craftsman-style lodge was about to reopen with a sprawling three-story addition when it exploded into flames. The explosion killed one of two on-site workmen and within hours left nothing but ashes and rubble. Disastrously, he structure was uninsured. As everything was gone, it was decided to rebuild the ski area to the less windy east side of the mountain. *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.

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. - including my nephew Scot and niece Isabell Simpson. Located at the summit a short hike up from the top of the #1 chairlift, this granite stone cottage was designed by Spokane architect, Henry C. Bertelsen to blend with Mount Spokane's stunning natural setting. It was built in 1933 during the Great Depression with help from the C.C.C. (the Civilian Conservation Corps), headquartered at Riverside State Park on Spokane's North Side. Renovated in 2002 under the direction of Mount Spokane State Park, it re-opened to skiers on Sundays and holidays, offering refreshments and a huge, friendly fireplace. *Highlight* - During warmer months, the Vista House has also been available for weddings and other special events.



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