

Riverside Expansion – Glen Tana
Oct 5, 2023 – August 16, 2024 Comments

Please be certain to acquire the GLEN TANA PROPERTY in Spokane County. This connection with and addition to Riverside State Park is one of the the best opportunities in our area to come along in quite a while. We live on the Little Spokane River in the Pine River Park Vicinity and treasure the clear cold waters so beneficial to trout, other native fish, and hopefully the returning salmon being introduced into the river recently. The river corridor is a thriving habitat for many bird species, amphibians, a few reptiles, and many mammals. Please keep us posted on these wonderful developments! ¹

I fully support the establishment of Glen Tana natural area and feel this is a tremendous benefit to the Spokane area. We are known for access to outdoors, yet many accessible areas are close to an hour drive from the city. Glen Tana provides a large area for outdoor enthusiasts in a central location and adds to the unique and appealing character of our city. My one suggestion is to prioritize, maintain and develop wildlife habitat
Thank you for working on this project!²

The Glen Tana property is a jewel! It offers diverse outdoors opportunities. I hope that the property will be part of the salmon reintroduction efforts on the Little Spokane River in the future!³

This expansion would greatly benefit Spokane and her people by providing a space for healthy recreation and natural conservation. Future generations will be thankful that we set aside land to prosper without human interference, and will be able to take a step back in time to see the natural beauty from time immemorial thanks to this significant addition.⁴

1. Any new trails should not be closed to pets on leash. The area near St Georges is closed to pets for no rational reason. This area is not near the herron breeding ground.
2. Mountain bike use and speed on any park trail should be limited for safety reasons. The multi use trail use by mountain bikes should be controlled to ensure reasonable speeds and preserve the trail contours and surfaces. Consider requiring warning bells on all mountain bikes.⁵

It would be nice to see more camping spots, perhaps with full or partial hookups. Hiking trails would be appreciated, too.⁶

Adding the Glen Tana area would be a great addition to North Spokane's recreational areas. Giving more easy access to the outdoors for those going toward Colbert and Deer Park. Opening some of the trails to dog walking would be great so we can hike with dogs while going back and forth from Green Bluff or Deer Park throughout the year. Currently we stop at Holmberg Park for quick hikes to tire out the dog.⁷

I would love to expand equestrian trails into this area⁸

Glen Tana project.⁹

The Lands Council, a near 40-year-old regional conservation nonprofit, express our support for the Riverside State Park expansion to include the Glen Tana property. We are excited for the tribal engagement and the potential for further salmon recovery efforts on the Little

Spokane. The Lands Council urges State Parks to priorities the ecological integrity of the site and would like to see any infrastructure improvements, trails and facilities, have the least impact to the natural and restored ecological function of this important property. We do encourage State Parks to incorporate interpretative signage that encompasses the full history of this site, including tribal involvement, as well as it's ecological importance.¹⁰

Founded in 1969, the Spokane Audubon Society's mission is to advocate for birds and their habitats in the Inland Northwest and connect people with nature. The addition of the Glen Tana property to the Riverside State Park complex aligns with our mission. If added, the Glen Tana property will complete the wildlife corridor from Waikiki Springs to the confluence of Long Lake. This area, a wildlife corridor that allows easy public access has been a long-time goal of the Spokane Audubon Society.

Morey and Margaret Haggin, two of the founding members of Spokane Audubon Society, and former director of Spokane County Parks Sam Angrove were instrumental in creating the Little Spokane River Natural Area. Originally a county Park, the area was eventually added to the Riverside State Park complex, and was the first piece of the Little Spokane River to gain protection. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife purchased some land at Waikiki Springs to build a fish hatchery. When additional land became available on the west side of Waikiki Springs, the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy bought it and then transferred it to the state with the agreement that INLC would manage the property. The acquisition of the Glen Tana property by Riverside State Park would complete the aforementioned wildlife corridor.

The Waikiki Springs area is currently a popular area used by youth groups, birdwatchers, hikers, and trail runners. The natural yet near-urban location allows people to enjoy nature without traveling a long distance. The Glen Tana area contains many intact habitat types that are important to butterflies, insects, birds, and mammals. Birds such as bald eagles, osprey, and pileated woodpeckers nest in the area. It is one of the last remaining undivided tracts of land in the Little Spokane River basin and thus preserving it is vital for plants and wildlife. The Spokane Audubon Society and the Riverside State Park/Waikiki Springs area share a rich history. The addition of Glen Tana would complete a goal set over 50 years ago of preserving an ecologically rich area and having easy access for it to be enjoyed by all. Thank you for your consideration. ¹¹

I would like to see a year around boat ramp on Long lake somewhere in the middle that is usable by the general public. Suncrest area would be great.¹²

Greetings, It would sure be nice to have Bridle Trails included in the Riverside State Park expansion plan. The equestrian community is vibrant and would welcome new areas to ride. Thank you for your consideration of this!!!¹³

Waikiki and ruder park are not handling the present traffic. How will this new expansion handle increased traffic in our area.

Parking is a problem at Waikiki Springs. The expansion with riverside should increase use in all areas and parking and road

congestion need to be addressed.ps

ps. MY hope is that conservation of this area will be the #1 priority.¹⁴

Hello, I support expanding Riverside state Park Boundary to include the Glen Tana Property. I support development of multi-use trails, including horse use. If there are places that trails should not be to protect wildlife or water quality, then it could be signed appropriately. Large parking areas are great for horse trailers.¹⁵

I was able to attend the first meeting , but not the second at the SCLD library. I've reviewed maps that my RiverBluff Estates neighbors sent from their attendance at the meeting. These are my comments:

"When looking at your maps, I see that you are interested in developing recreation opportunities mostly on our corner(Dorset Road and Rutter Parkway) including parking and picnic areas and bathroom facilities. All of the rest of the land is out there, left natural, as it should be. This entire area could facilitate a few hiking trails that connect to the Waikiki Springs and St. George's Trails. But do we need picnic areas? Nearly all of the local Spokane County hiking trails have restroom facilities at the trailhead, but not picnic areas. Why here? I think leaving it natural as much as possible preserves the area best, and am opposed to day shelters and picnic areas. I've been hiking with the Spokane women's hiking group all over the county and see trails with restroom facilities, but otherwise natural. That seems to be the best use for this very untouched area, to 1)preserve its natural state. There is less and less undeveloped land in the area. Let's save this by developing it minimally. I'm also concerned about 2) fires, which tend to come with picnic areas, and shelters. Our neighborhood has been under level 2 evacuation more than once and we are very sensitive to this, while people from other parts, or within the city, may not realize critical fire danger in late summer. Please consider this when planning. "¹⁶

Please make it so the public could hunt this area. Adding mountain bike trails or ORV trails would be miserable.¹⁷

Thank You State of Washington Parks Department for keeping the property acquired thru the Glen Tana Property accessible for hiking and kayaking. This is such a wonderful property & I hope & pray that you safeguard it for us & future generations. Install camera in parking to keep vandalism away and it becoming a camp ground for the homeless. Our Lord Jesus has created a wonderful world.¹⁸

I would like to suggest that the expansion include more bike trails. ¹⁹

Regarding the Glen Tana Conservation Area - I live next to the kayak outpost on the Little Spokane River in Nine Mile Falls. I have lived there for 14 years. It is my opinion that the parks department does not have the resources it needs to manage the park as it stands currently and until that changes, there should be no more public access to parks lands. There are numerous problems at the kayak take out that the parks department does not address: overuse, parking issues, the public accessing the park after dark, (fireworks were just shot off last weekend at the boat launch), graffiti, trash, weeds not being mowed or sprayed, the public not leaving the river at the outpost, traveling down the river, running into trouble and getting out of the river on my property are among the issues that need to be addressed. The parks department put up parking barriers and no parking signs along the road, but people still park along the road and block my driveway. I was told that there was going to be something done to limit use. I have seen nothing. The barriers just created a bigger parking issue that I do not believe is being addressed. If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to call me. ²⁰

It appears that the road access to the west parking area is planned for Dorset Rd at Center Lane. This is a private road built on a public right of way that serves about 50 residential properties. We strongly recommend that the park access be established directly from Rutter

Parkway, the county road through the park. We do not want more traffic, walkers or illegal parking in the area of our homes. Thank you. ²¹

I am in firm support of the parts of the plan that that involve stewardship of the land by the Spokane tribe, and want this to be a funding priority. I hope that the Spokane Tribe is also involved as an equal partner in the co-management of all of the park, and not just one section of it, as is being done successfully with national park land in California ²²