

History

Native tribes have inhabited areas near the Spokane Falls and Gorge for thousands of years. **Salmon** once filled the Spokane in such numbers that tribes from near and far congregated each spring, freely sharing in the bounty.



Cover of 1913 Olmsted Report

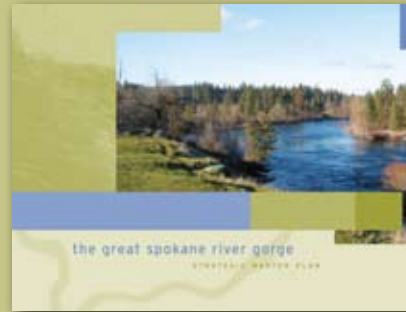
urged the City to create a **“Gorge Park”** from the Falls downstream to Ft. George Wright (now *Spokane Falls Community College*) and make it the centerpiece of the community.



Spokane's Lower Falls, ca. 1880

Gorge Master Plan

In April 2000, Friends of the Falls convened numerous groups and organizations to consider carrying the Olmsted vision forward. These included neighborhoods, tribes, City and State parks representatives, business and civic leaders, and more than 750 citizen participants. A Conceptual Plan was produced in 2002, and leveraging State



Cover of Gorge Master Plan

economic development funds, a **Gorge Strategic Master Plan** was completed in March 2005.



Among many goals, policies and objectives contained in the plan, 15 “Priority Projects” are listed and defined, including **habitat restoration**, a **Tribal Cultural Center**, and one project that has since been funded and is well on its way to completion: a **whitewater park** to be located near the Sandifur Memorial Bridge!



Pages from Master Plan – available on-line!

About Us

Friends of the Falls is a non-profit organization working to protect and improve access to the historic Spokane Falls and river gorge. Primary activities include leading implementation of projects identified in the community-based Spokane River Gorge Strategic Master Plan, an annual shoreline clean-up event, and numerous other river-oriented activities.

Since 1997, Friends of the Falls has led community-wide, collaborative efforts to promote the River, Falls and Gorge area as the **heart and centerpiece** of our city and region. From our successful defense against construction of a major bridge over the Lower Falls, to the completion of the 2005 Strategic Master Plan, to winning local and State funds for projects, cleanup and improvements, Friends of the Falls has led the charge.



Spokane's falls and gorge are already one of the most unique and impressive landscapes found anywhere, especially within an urban context. As envisioned by the Olmsted-inspired plan, the river and gorge present tremendous opportunities to improve the area's civic identity, its quality of life, and economic future. Help carry the dream forward – support Friends of the Falls with **your membership!**

Join Friends of the Falls!
www.friendsofthefalls.org



Membership Application

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Home Phone:

Day Phone:

Mobile:

E-Mail:

Additional Names ("River or greater):

Membership Levels

"Creek": \$ 35.00

"Stream": \$ 50.00

"River": \$ 100.00

"Watershed": \$ 250.00

Other: \$ _____

Please notify on upcoming events & meetings:

Put me on the volunteer list!

Make checks payable to:

The Friends of the Falls Association

P.O. Box 21143 • Spokane, WA • 99201

Friends of the Falls is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization. Friends of the Falls does not sell or distribute its mail or e-mail listings. On-line credit card donations, membership forms and much more available at:

www.friendsofthefalls.org

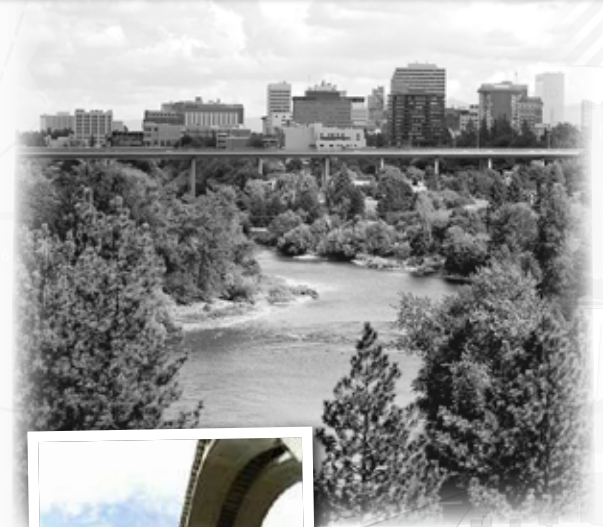
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Friends of the Falls Association
P.O. Box 21143
Spokane, WA 99201



Friends of the Falls

Promoting Spokane's Falls, River & Shorelines Legacy



Spokane River Gorge, looking east toward Downtown (top)



River cleanup event volunteers (center)

Friends of the Falls raft trip (bottom)



"Nothing is so firmly impressed on mind of the visitor to Spokane, as regards its appearance, as the great gorge into which the river falls near the center of the city ... any city should prize and preserve its great landscape features, inasmuch as they give it individuality."

— Olmsted Brothers, 1913 Parks Plan