

# BALFOUR PARK EXPANSION & NEW SPOKANE VALLEY LIBRARY



The city will update this 2013 preliminary design created for an expanded Balfour Park.

## \$2 million state grant will help fund new library

The Spokane County Library District has received a grant from the State Department of Commerce to help build a new library facility in Spokane Valley.

The library will be constructed on 2.8 acres at the corner of Sprague Avenue and Herald Road, across the street from City Hall. It will replace the current library on Main Avenue, which was built in 1955. The library district purchased the property on Sprague from the city in 2013. The district is working on facility design, and tentatively planning to begin construction in 2022.

### A LIBRARY FOR THE COMMUNITY

The district is committed to ensuring the new library is a community learning space that engages visitors to learn, create and thrive together. The facility will continue to provide access to both print and digital resources for all ages, as well as educational programs and community meeting spaces.

The new facility is projected to cost about \$14 to \$15 million. Funding includes a loan from the Washington State Treasurer's Office, grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, library district capital savings and fund raised contributions. In addition, the city is contributing \$1.3 million which includes \$461,000 of surrounding street improvements and \$839,000 in cash (representing the amount that the library district paid to the city when it acquired the 2.8 acres where the library will be located).

## City focuses on updating site design for Balfour Park expansion, library

The city and library district are collaborating to update the preliminary design for an expanded Balfour Park. The existing park is located at 105 N. Balfour Road in the northeast corner of a city block across the street from City Hall. The expansion will integrate the adjacent 5.6 acres of undeveloped land into the existing park. Residents have long voiced support for revitalizing this part of the city, often referred to as the "heart of Spokane Valley" and home to the city's first retail mall in the 1970s and 80s.

In 2013, the city engaged a consultant to gather community input and develop a "conceptual site plan" for expanding the park. At that time, suggestions included a public plaza; amphitheater and stage; playground and more. The city estimated the expansion would cost about \$6 million, but put the project on hold until the library district secured funding for a new facility.

With a new library planned, the city and library district will partner this summer to update the 2013 site plan and proposed amenities. Discussions will include the need for a crosswalk near City Hall to allow pedestrians to safely cross Sprague Avenue, and the feasibility of connecting the Appleway Trail to the expanded park. In addition, the city will improve three streets surrounding the park block — N. Herald, E. Main and N. Balfour. The streets will be widened, and curbs and gutters installed this summer. Sidewalks will be added during the library construction in 2022. The city will seek grant funds to support future improvements.

### LOCATION OF PARK AND NEW LIBRARY



CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY  
SpokaneValley.org/BalfourPark  
509.720.5200

