

September 2023 – October 5, 2023 Comments - Riverside

With all the concrete being built around us I feel like we need this expansion for the public and the rest of us runners! ¹

Seeing Glen Tana incorporated into Riverside State Park would be a massive win for protecting lands in a rapidly urbanizing area. These "iconic 1,060 acres of land with two miles of the Little Spokane River, is a prime location for the salmon reintroduction efforts of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The upland Ponderosa Pine forest, already adjacent to Riverside State Park, opens up miles of possibilities for increasing access to the outdoors for the community through our partnership with Washington State Parks," as the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy website states. This land is vital to maintain habitat connectivity and keep expanding public lands to push back on the encroachment of development happening all around us. Let's see this expansion through to completion to reconnect people, lands, and salmon in the Little Spokane River ²

I was very happy to hear about the acquisition of the Glen Tana property! I love that this property is going to be added to Riverside State Park! I often hike from the Waikiki Springs trailhead across to the Little Spokane and beyond. I love the new trails that the Washington Trails Association (WTA) created in the upland areas of the Waikiki springs trail system on the north side of the Little Spokane River area recently. The WTA could extend these existing trails to the upland areas in the Glen Tana area. Also, I love that the Spokane Tribe will use be using the Glen Tana area for salmon recovery! The Glen Tana property is a jewel and will be enjoyed by the public for many generations!³

It would be really cool if STA could run a Riverside State Park trolley route. It would help with parking and traffic on Pettit Drive and (eventually) Rutter Parkway AND provide equitable access to park facilities for those without cars. And people could bring their bikes on the trolley providing a safe way to get to the park without riding on major roads.

A trolley route could run from the Jefferson Park & Ride to the Hastings Park & Ride - with stops at the Spokane River on Whistalks Way, Disc Golf Course, Bowl & Pitcher, Rifle Club (though we might not want people travelling with their guns), Spokane House, Indian Painted Rocks, the new proposed campground on Rutter Parkway. Or it could be divided into a north route and a south route. North would pick up Spokane House. The South route could stop at the Rifle Club or maybe Plese Flats and could be implemented before the Rutter Parkway campground is finished.

Even if this only ran every half hour on weekends, it would alleviate traffic and provide access.⁴

This might be a good opportunity for Spokane County and State Parks to collaborate on safe pedestrian and bike routes. Using alternative forms of transportation to reach this area of the park is unsafe. Waikiki and Rutter are too narrow to support walking and biking safely. With an East/West hiking route becoming official north of the river (Glen Tana), it seems likely that pedestrian traffic on Rutter will increase.

Currently the access points at Indian Painted Rocks and Waikiki are only car friendly. It isn't easy to access these places on foot or bike. While it might be outside of the scope of this project, or even the abilities of the state, it is a need. More people will be recreating in this area due to the purchase. An improvement in infrastructure would be helpful.

An ideal outcome is that Rutter is improved between Waikiki and

<p>Indian Painted Rocks trailhead. Maybe a single, grade separated, paved or crushed rock surface path on the north side of the road is possible. ⁵</p>
<p>Trail access of the Glen Tana parcel from Stearns would be highly valued by this community. We can see the Waikiki Springs natural area but cannot access it due to private land blocking access. A small foot path from Stearns is kindly requested so we have somewhere safe to walk our dogs and kids. Our stretch of Hazard Road is very unsafe for pedestrians. ⁶</p>
<p>Is there a bus that even goes there ? If not, then either get one to, or quit wasting taxpayer money on something only rich people with vehicles can use. ⁷</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please consider access safety to the historic farm house as the driveway is just downhill of a blind (and dangerous in the winter) curve. 2. N Eagle Bluff Lane neighbors are very interested in visual and physical security at the shared property line. Additionally, the neighborhood would be pleased to see any public access, such as trails, to be located as far away as is feasible from the shared property line. 3. The neighborhood is very excited about the prospect of restoring salmon and this neighbor is also very interested in invasive species removal and habitat restoration. ⁸
<p>lease provide full acquisition efforts for the 1,060 acres of available land to join with Waikiki Springs Preserve and give it a similar land classification. A bisecting trail within 1/4 mile from the Little Spokane River would be delightful. Please provide one boat launch and limited parking development. Please use this opportunity to aggressively acquire additional properties of riparian and upland landscapes into the management area. Please consult earlier work to support this planning effort including the 2018 Scoping Study by Nicoterra Trails, Recreational Resource Value of the Little Spokane River: Jones and Jones Architects 1975 - copy available at Spokane Library. Please lets not reinvent the wheel. ⁹</p>
<p>I am interested in receiving updates by email on this project. I'm also curious what portions of Glen Tana are under consideration to be made public. Thank you. ¹⁰</p>
<p>Connectivity is important for the health of ecosystems. The Glen Tana property is connected to Riverside State Park and it increases the amount of protected area along the Little Spokane River which is prime habitat for reintroducing salmon. It is the last large piece of native natural land around an urban area in Washington state. For all of these reasons I encourage to incorporate Glen Tana in Riverside State Park. Thank you. ¹¹</p>
<p>in order to preserve the natural area and the peace and solitude for both the visitor and the wildlife, I believe the area should be classified as Natural Area with no bike trails, equestrian, or pets allowed. I'd further like to suggest an emphasis on enforcement of this designation from the very first day that the property becomes available for public enjoyment. No overnight camping in the area. Additionally, please plan a trailhead with ample paved parking and restroom facilities - the parking areas in that part of the park are insufficient to the demand for recreation in that area. We will get one chance to plan the use for this wonderful acquisition, please make as much of this area Natural as is possible. It is always possible to loosen up regulations later on. Thank you again for your work on this piece of property, Glen Tana will be a wonderful addition to Riverside State Park ¹²</p>
