

Project & Goals

Goals:

- Research established river plans, local issues, and attend talks/conferences
- Communicate with & survey community members, sovereign nations and stakeholders
- Present a white paper to City Council Study Session on April 16, 2020

Outcomes:

- Present & establish the city's need for a plan
- Create white paper to distribute to council members & stakeholders
- Impact decision-making within the city to create a river plan for the Spokane R. within the city

Background

Previously failed attempts within Spokane in establishing a need and the success of other plans in the U.S. inspired this project.

Community Partner

Jerry White, Spokane Riverkeeper, was our community partner. White helped advise our project and establish connections with other community members and organizations.



Critical Issue

A river plan is necessary for the Spokane R. because it makes connections between social and environmental injustices and provides standards for the care and use of the river for community members to follow.

This project provided opportunities to meet with community organizations and tribal governments to gain insight into related concepts and policies.

What We Did



What We Learned

There are connections between the river & the identity of Spokane. Without the river in good form, the city loses what makes it special.

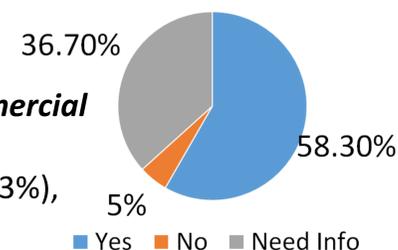
By attending events & reading local scientific research, we learned there are pressing matters we learned there are pressing issues that are not always addressed because of economic reasons, lack of incentive, and lack of community education surrounding the river.

Community Needs

SURVEY RESULTS

The top 5 uses of the river requested to be included in a Spokane River Plan were:

Recreational (60%), **Commercial** (26%), **Ecological** (47%), **Pollution Management** (33%), and **Cultural** (20%)



Civic Perspective

The group was experienced in researching environmental injustices previous to this experience. This project helped us to better see the localized social & environmental injustices in relation to the Spokane River. This project was ours, but if adopted by the City of Spokane the river plan will impact Spokaneites in years to come as well as wildlife & cities downriver.

Academic Perspective

Scientific interpretation from Case Studies & social responsibility from Environmental Ethics helped shape this project. In Ethics we discussed responsibility of the government & citizens to improve the environment as well as environmental injustices in low income communities. We learned how willing active community members are to respond/support something like this project, even if they may not do so themselves. This project challenged whether or not people would be interested in adopting a river plan.

What is Next?

An education campaign, widespread collaboration effort between government and citizens, and long-term examination of future policy management of the Spokane River.

