

## **Post Falls Community Forest**

The City of Post Falls is working toward the development of a 500 acre multi-use natural area called the Post Falls Community Forest.

It is envisioned for this area to serve as a multi-use property for the City, providing an opportunity to reuse highly treated Class A reclaimed water via drip irrigation, serving as an educational forest, and providing outdoor recreational opportunities to citizens and visitors.

This naturally forested area contains approximately 2 miles of Spokane River frontage, hiking, mountain biking trails, native trees and shrubs, wildlife, and amazing granite cliffs and rock outcroppings.

This area is currently open for non-motorized public recreation. It can be accessed by entering the trailhead located in Q'emiln Park. Development of a trailhead and comfort facilities along West Riverview Drive are also planned to allow for convenient public access at the southern border of the Community Forest. Future development of reclaimed water facilities may result in temporary closures of affected areas for public safety during projects.

Since 1987, the City's Parks Department has managed the 58 acre 'Q'emiln Trails' parcel, located on the east side of the forest property. For many years, Q'emiln Trails has offered year-round public access and recreation in the form of hiking, snow shoeing, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, and bouldering. In 2005, the City purchased the 76 acre 'Kroetch' parcel, opening this area for public access for the first time. It currently remains undeveloped.

In 2015, the City's Water Reclamation Division purchased 250 acres of forested property known as the Lost Mine parcel. It is located between the Q'emiln Trails and Kroetch park parcels and, directly adjacent to the Water Reclamation Facility Spokane River outfall. The combination of the Lost Mine Property, Q'emiln Trails and the Kroetch property make up the Upper Falls Community Forest.

As a joint venture, the Water Reclamation Division and the Parks Department applied for a \$400,000 grant from the Forest Service to fund the purchase of an additional 125 acre parcel, the "May" parcel, in early 2016. This property would also provide forest land suitable for reclaimed water as well as recreational uses. If this grant application is successful in providing funding, the City has the right to exercise a purchase option on the property. Additional funding for the acquisition would still be necessary from the Parks Department and the Water Reclamation Division. As it is still private property, the "May" parcel currently remains closed to public access.