



East Central, Spokane

East Central

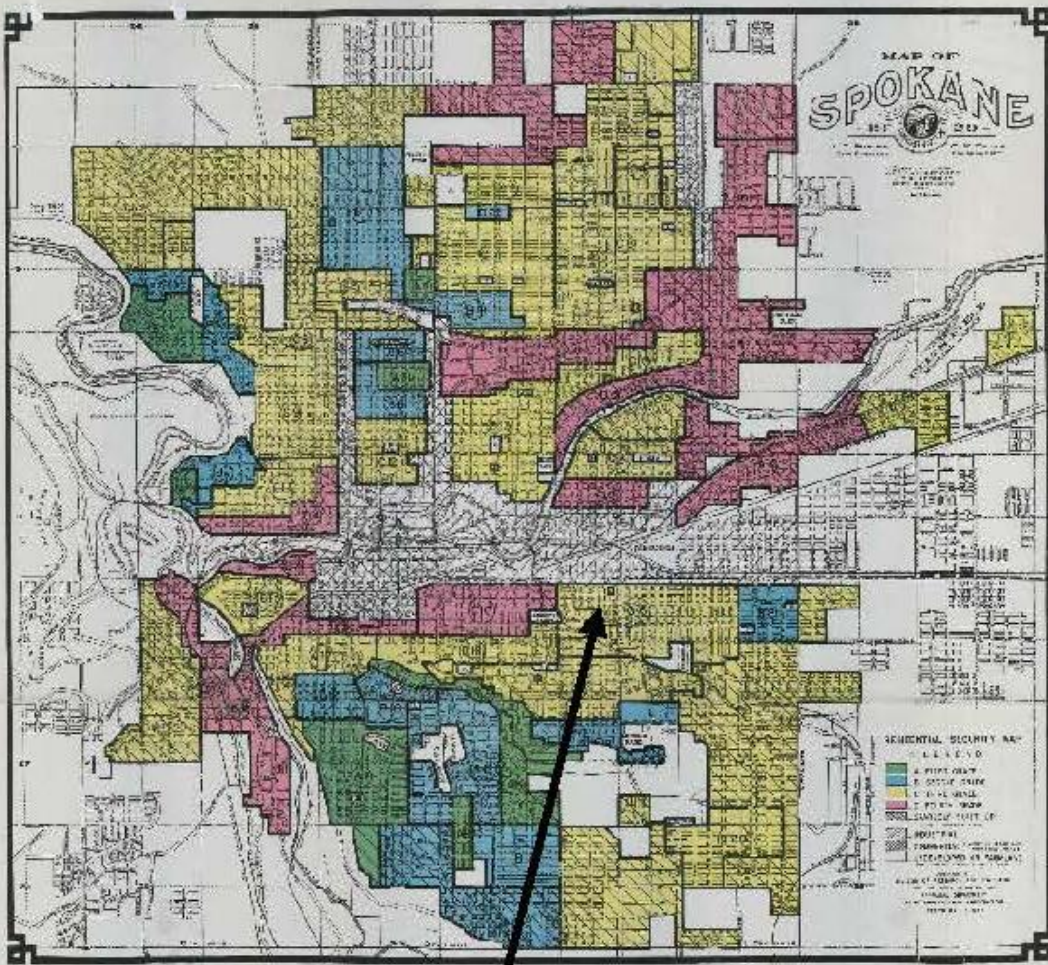
Past

Spokane's East Central Neighborhood

- One of the **oldest** neighborhoods in Spokane
- One of the city's **most diverse** neighborhoods
- Home to thousands of **families** and hundreds of **businesses**



Bethel AME Church, Mother's Day, 1936 (image L98-56.162
courtesy of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture)



4. AVAILABILITY OF MORTGAGE FUNDS: a. Home purchase limited ; b. Home building limited
5. CLARIFYING REMARKS: Zoned single family residential with multi-family zoning along Pacific Avenue and provision for many business centers, principally along Fifth Avenue. Lot values \$5 to \$7 per front foot. This area is on the verge of being 4th grade and is assigned a very "low yellow" grade. Both improvements and population are extremely heterogeneous in character and the Northwestern part of the area will undoubtedly become "hazardous" in the course of time.

Figure 4. HOLC Redlining Map of Spokane, 1930s. Source: University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab Mapping Inequality.

► Practices such as ‘redlining’, racially restrictive covenants and steering have had long-lasting economic impacts on the East Central neighborhood

I-90 Freeway Construction



The East Central neighborhood was devastated by the construction of the I-90 Freeway in the 1950s.

Before →

After →

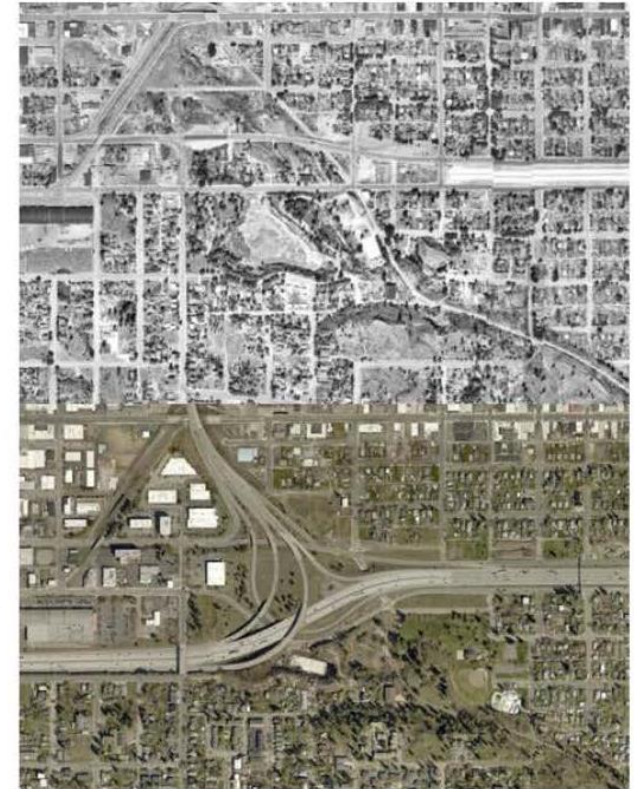


Figure 3. Liberty Park and the construction of I-90. Top: 1958. Bottom: 2018. Source: ESRI.

- The East Central neighborhood was cut in half
- 1000+ homes leveled
- Hundreds of businesses closed
- Liberty Park lost **26** of its 28 acres



East Central
Present

5TH AVENUE

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

MARCH 2021



Prepared in partnership with
CITY OF SPOKANE NEIGHBORHOOD AND PLANNING SERVICES
5TH AVENUE INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDERS



Working To Uplift East Central

- ❖ City of Spokane
- ❖ East Central Neighborhood Council
- ❖ East Sprague Business Association
- ❖ Fifth Avenue Initiative



5th Avenue Revitalization

Planning & Development Services | P: 509.625.6300 | E: bdsinfo@spokanecity.org

The residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in the 5th Avenue/Underhill Park Neighborhood are reestablishing the neighborhood commercial section of 5th Avenue as a vibrant center of their community.

The Project

The neighborhood retail center of 5th Avenue, which serves the Underhill Park section of the East Central Neighborhood, is undergoing a stakeholder-driven revitalization. Separated from the rest of East Central by I-90 and the steep eastern section of the South Hill, the residents of Underhill Park are moving forward to develop a plan to foster the area's social capital by creating a center for local services, commercial activity, and community gathering.



The Stakeholder Vision

Short/Medium Term

- Streetscaping
- Façade improvements
- Fresh Soul restaurant
- Youth tutoring center
- Public Space



Long Term

- Infill development with mixed-use buildings within the retail center
- Continued protection of affordable housing
- Continued recognition of neighborhood diversity and needs



Success Criteria

Project implementation driven by resident and stakeholder leadership.

A continued positive relationship between the residents/stakeholders, the City of Spokane, and private partnerships.

The development and implementation of the physical plan.

The establishment of commercial activity both in revitalized structures and through programming repurposed vacant space that engages residents and enhances the current efforts to foster neighborhood identity.

In the long term, a consistently vibrant and safe location that residents of all ages identify with as their neighborhood center.





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East Central Dental 

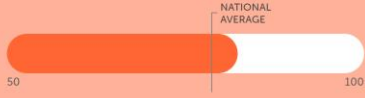




East Central
Future

My Area

Census Tract
Reference number: 53063004200



82.30
YEARS

Spokane County



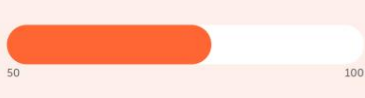
78.90
YEARS

Washington



80.20
YEARS

United States

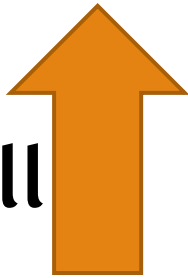


78.60
YEARS

Life Expectancy Project

National Center for Health Statistics and
the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

South Hill

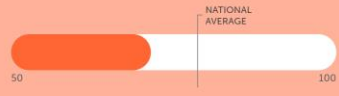


East
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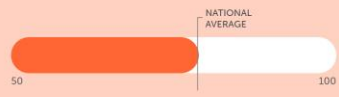
My Area

Census Tract
Reference number: 53063003000



71.50
YEARS

Spokane County



78.90
YEARS

Washington



80.20
YEARS

United States



78.60
YEARS

REBUILD EAST CENTRAL

Senate Bill 5853

- ▶ A once in a lifetime opportunity to undo the Historical Damage done to our neighborhood

Expand investment. Prevent displacement. Community driven.

Our Vision - Repair the Damage Done to the East Central Neighborhood

- 1) Affordable housing (pathways to home ownership)
- 2) Economic Development
 - Mixed Use - retail, commercial, entertainment, childcare, residential
 - Business incubators, micro-retail, pop-up shops (pathways to business ownership)
 - Non-profit organizations
- 3) Access to Green spaces
- 4) Expand Amenities - make East Central a destination place, not just a pass-through neighborhood

Prevent Displacement

The Washington Department of Commerce identifies three main types of displacement:

- Physical displacement:** Displacement as a result of eviction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of property, or the expiration of covenants on rent- or income-restricted housing.
- Economic displacement:** Displacement due to inability to afford rising rents or costs of homeownership like property taxes.
- Cultural displacement:** Residents are compelled to move because the people and institutions that make up their cultural community have left the area.

Community-led equitable development.