



# Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District Downtown Clean Team Fact Sheet

## Overview:

The Downtown Clean Team has been cleaning and maintaining Downtown Spokane since January 1996 and is credited with aiding in significantly increasing the perception of a clean urban environment in which to live, work, and play. The Team was brought in-house as official Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) employees in 2007.

The distinctively dressed Clean Team in olive green and black uniforms enhance the unique urban experience by cleaning and maintaining Downtown five days a week, totaling more than 10,000 hours a year and removing more than 5,000 garbage bags and 10,000 pieces of graffiti, not to mention snow and ice removal in the winter and planting spring through fall. The crew of six is trained to provide assistance for all maintenance situations. They make Downtown Spokane clean and beautiful by providing enhanced services that keep our city vibrant.

This Business Improvement District (BID) program is managed by the DSP.

## Duties:

- The Team serves the businesses and patrons of Downtown with all of their common area cleaning, planting, and maintenance needs as well as being able to provide valuable hospitality services.
- The Team serves as additional feet on the street for the entire Downtown area, sustaining a visible presence in maintaining cleanliness and beautification.
- The Team also exchanges beneficial information with the Downtown Security Ambassadors.
- The Team provides maintenance services to all major Downtown events, increasing efficiency for the City and saving money.
- The Team is also able to provide valuable hospitality services by offering information, directions, and comfort to Spokane residents and visitors.
- The Team provides an important individual component in the overall task of improving and maintaining the Downtown core.
- The Team's presence in Downtown, whether picking up litter, removing graffiti, planting flowers, giving directions, or just listening, makes the public feel better about coming to a clean, well-maintained Downtown and using the many services Downtown businesses have to offer.

## Basic Schedule:

Monday - Friday: 11:30 - 5:30pm

Although schedules and deployment can be affected by events, occasional weekends, and the winter season.

## Maintenance Area:

- The Clean Team maintains the **80 blocks of the BID**, roughly Maple to Browne, and the Railroad Viaduct to North River Drive.
- The Clean Team maneuvers primarily on foot, but a green Ford Ranger in conjunction with the Security Ambassador program is utilized for quick access to all parts of the BID as well as for watering the planters throughout. The Clean Team will utilize an electric car for maintenance in 2009.

## Funding:

**The Downtown Clean Team is funded by the businesses and properties within the BID with additional assistance from the City of Spokane.** This investment helps provide enhanced services that urban centers across the country have come to expect.

## Keeping Downtown Spokane Clean, Green, and Beautiful Benefits the Entire Community:

- **Public maintenance is both a business and community issue.** The Clean Team program is a community service designed to sustain the competitiveness of Downtown Spokane and ensure that the environment is conducive to business activities and tourism. The Clean Team are not part of the sanitation department, but a unique service that provides valuable maintenance, which effectively manages cleaning, maintenance, beautification as well as graffiti, snow, and ice removal issues throughout Downtown.
- **The ability of the Clean Team to augment the City's sanitation department frees them up to work on important sanitation issues and maintenance for a variety of neighborhoods throughout the City of Spokane.** The partnership promotes continued community maintenance efforts in the city. When such a relationship exists there is a synergistic effect that serves to upgrade the main goals of cleanliness and beautification.
  - Studies on the "Broken Windows" theory show that the less tolerant you are with minor street crime, the lower the chance of more serious crimes. This is a theory that is practiced every day throughout the BID with the removal of graffiti within 24 hours.
  - This program is not only very cost effective, but it has proven to be very beneficial to the Downtown businesses as well as the citizens and visitors that utilize their services.
- The Downtown Clean Team keeps our urban neighborhood clean and beautiful not only because it is their job, but also because they want to help make Downtown a pleasant experience to be enjoyed by all.

## Downtown Spokane is Clean, Green and Beautiful:

Downtown Spokane is clean, green and beautiful for workers, residents, and visitors alike and the Clean Team helps make that a reality through their presence day in and day out, not only ensuring that Downtown is clean, but also that it is a friendly place where people can come back to again and again.