

Liberty Lake Regional Park: Cedar Grove Fact Sheet

<https://www.spokanecounty.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Cedar-Grove-Conservation-Area-59>

Meeting place: 3707 S. Zephyr Road, Liberty Lake WA 99019

Distance: 4.5 mile round trip, using split creek trail and main trail in an out and back fashion.

- This 4.5 mile hike to the Cedar Grove begins at the LLRP main parking lot (Zypher Rd) and takes just over 2 miles to reach the Cedar Grove.
- Due to this being an out and back hike to see the iconic cedar grove it is recommended to hike out on or back on the Split Creek Trail which runs on the east side of Liberty Creek, and back on the main trail on the west side of Liberty Creek.
- INLC helped conserve this property in the early 1990's as one of our first major partnership projects. INLC worked with the landowner and the county in tandem to complete this project. Ultimately Spokane County purchased the 60-acre plot of land that the Cedars currently grow upon.
- Of greatest interest is to share the role of Cedar Trees to the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Tribes. They traditionally built ornate and useful baskets from the cedar bark that they pulled from the tree for this purpose. There is an example of what a cedar bark pull would look like on one of the cedars east of the bridge over the creek. It starts wide (10-12") and then goes 15+feet up the trunk of the tree and narrows to a point. If time allows people love seeing and touching that tree.
- It is not known for sure if the tree scar mentioned above was made by a tribal member or if it is a "cultural tree" or not. Best not to speak as if it truly is, but "could have been."
- The conserving of the Cedar Grove also meant that the road up liberty creek was left in disrepair and functions today as a trail not a road through the forest.
- In 2018 the bridge across Liberty Creek was rebuilt by volunteers using cedar trees harvested from the grove. The bridge should last another 25 years before needing to be replaced again.
- Some first people's referred to the Cedar Tree as the tree of life. Each part of the tree: roots, bark, wood, and branches were used to make an abundance of valuable resources to sustain first nations.
- This unique piece of habitat is treasured by the local recreation community. Please be respectful and abstain from overnight camping or defacing the trees/rocks in any way.
- Note: there is an "INLC protected these lands sign" at the Cedar Grove with a QR code to show to hike participants.