

Weddings & Social Events in Rural Lands

2026 Comprehensive Plan – Periodic Update



Spokane County Building & Planning

Rural Traditional Events

A constituent request to the commissioners was assigned to planning staff to examine:

- Viability of allowing weddings in RT zones

- Potential consequences

- Draft zoning code language



Small-Tract Agriculture Events

Current Spokane County Code

- Only allowed on actively farmed small tract agricultural parcels
- Requires an annually renewed temporary use permit that can be revoked at any time
- Events are only allowed from the first weekend in May to the last weekend in October
- Limits on times events can be held, noise limits, parking requirements, etc.



Rural Traditional Events Definition

Rural Traditional Weddings/Social Events: Those uses, other than the primary residence or existing business on a rural property. Including, but not limited to, weddings, receptions, graduations, corporate gatherings and private personal celebrations.

These accessory event activities/uses typically include music, event catering, off-street parking and appropriate ingress/egress.

This definition does not include retail sales, concerts and amphitheaters, rodeos, circuses or other similar public events.



Rural Traditional Events - *proposed*

Any owner of property located in the Rural Traditional zone may submit an application for a temporary use provided that such use is of a temporary nature and that the specific criteria for said use in the underlying zone classification are met.

A renewable zoning certificate for such use may be granted by the Planning Department in the form of a temporary and revocable permit for not more than a 5-month period in any given year and may be renewed on an annual basis subject to such conditions as will safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare.

The temporary use permit may be revoked for failure to meet any condition of the temporary permit approval.



Rural Traditional Events – *proposed*

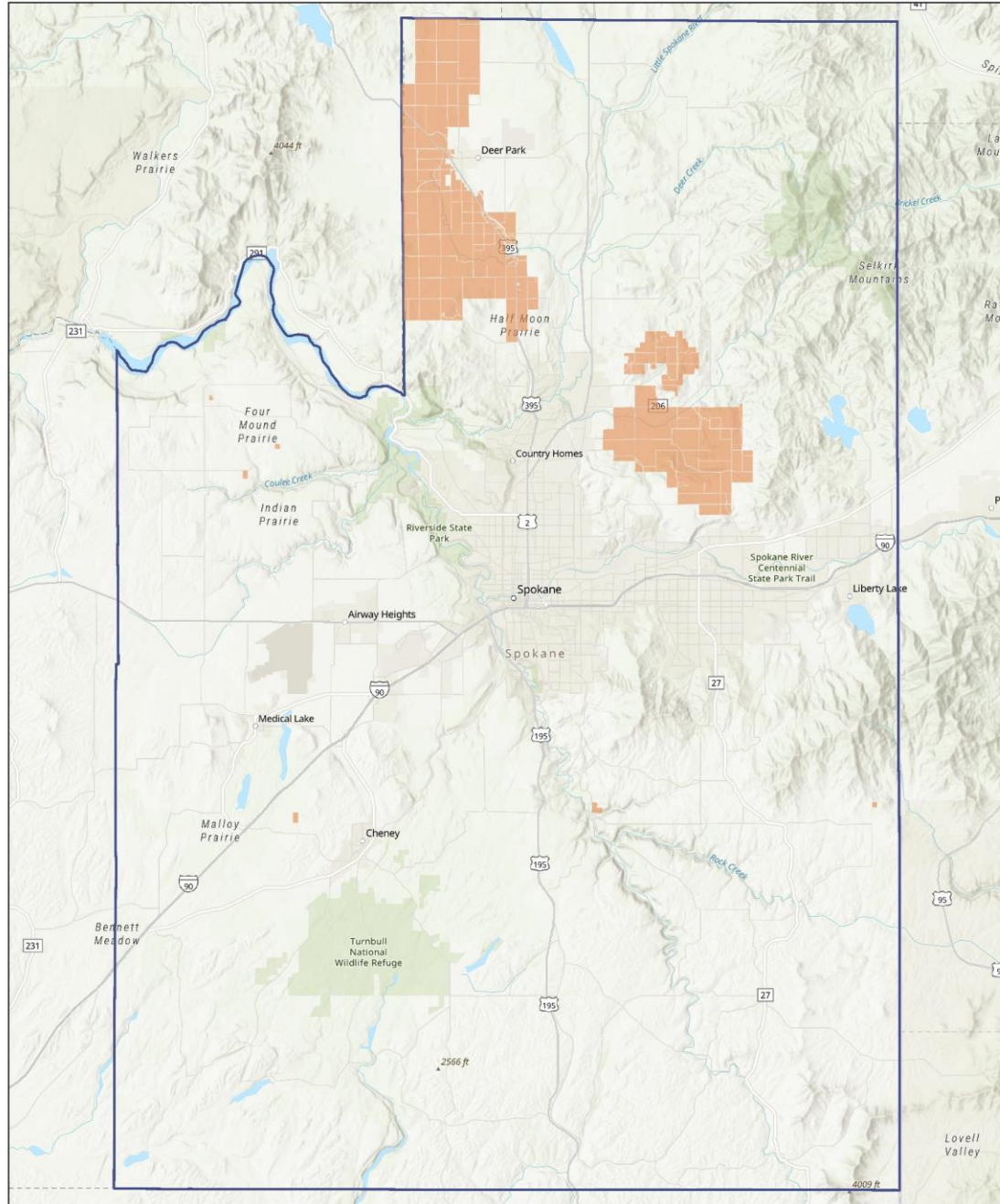
- Events shall be limited to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between the first weekend of May and the last weekend of October.
- Hours of operation shall occur between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. All guests must be off the premises by 10:00 p.m.
- The property shall retain its rural character.
- The owner of the property must live on the property.
- The temporary use must be an accessory use to the parcel or lot and cannot be the primary use on the parcel or lot.
- The temporary use shall be located, designed and operated so as to not interfere with the quality of life of neighboring properties.
- Amplified music or public address systems are not permitted.

Zoning Code (proposed addition) P. 618-3 (rural)

Business Uses	Rural-5	Rural Traditional	Rural Activity Center	Urban Reserve	Rural Conservation
Wedding/social event	N	L	N	N	N

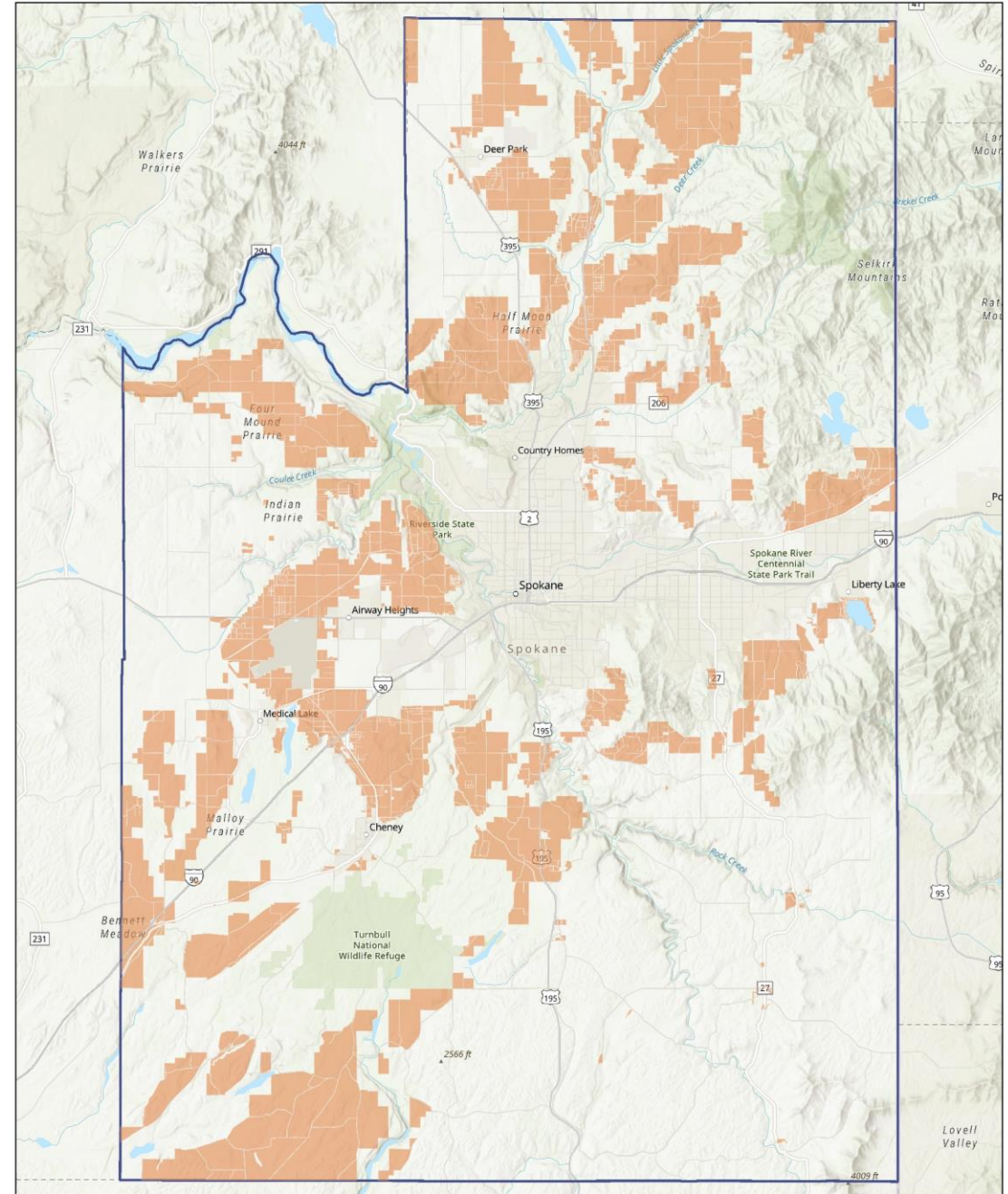


Small Tract Agricultural Zoning



5/22/2024

Rural Traditional Zoning



5/22/2024



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Questions &
Comments

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