

# 14 acres of protection added to Drewes Farm on South Hill

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Courtesy: Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

SPOKANE, Wash. – The Inland Northwest Land Conservancy has announced that 14 acres of land will be added to protect the Drewes Farm on the upper South Hill in Spokane.

A YMCA facility is set to be added in the area of the farm. The property is next to a 15-acre parcel that borders the Ben Burr Trail. The farm's protection aims to create natural space with trails, plants and other things to preserve the area's natural state. People can access the farm through the Ben Burr Trail.

"As part of the project, the YMCA envisions a system of trails for public use that will extend across the YMCA site, through the adjacent 15-acre parcel, and connect with the Ben Burr Trail," YMCA said in a release in April.

The Drewes family has owned the farm since 1935, and the family farm spans over three generations. The farm is owned by John, Dan and Paula Bauer. The farm is used as an animal pasture, vegetable crops and dryland crops, among other things.

Before the Drewes family owned the farm, it was owned by J.J. Browne, a significant attorney and businessman in Spokane in the early 1900s who eventually established the Browne's Addition neighborhood in Spokane. He brought electricity to his barn on Moran Prairie where the farm is today.

The Mullan Military Road was built in the 1800s and was the first wagon road to cross the Rocky Mountains. The road stretched 624 miles from Fort Benton, Montana to Walla Walla. The Ben Burr Trail was a freight and passenger line in Spokane and the Inland Railroad line. The line closed in 1940 and the property was sold to Spokane County. The tracks were removed by 1951 and the public access trail was created in 2005.

John Bauer is working with the YMCA on the facility to emphasize sustainability and healthy integration with the landscape in the area. This new YMCA facility will replace the one at 57th and Regal.

Courtesy: Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

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