

"Spirit Easement" Created for Homestream Park

"It was one of those moments when you can feel the hair on the back of your neck stand up, your eyes water in a wave of emotional awakening." - Phil Davis

As Phil and Cathy Davis shared their vision for Homestream Park with Mark Miller last summer, hoping he would agree to be a part of a 'Coming Home' grand opening celebration, they learned from him of an even bigger outcome of their efforts to create a park honoring the rivers, the fish, and the native people of the Methow.

"Coming Home to us meant salmon, returning to spawn in the upper reaches of the watershed, and the Methow people, returning to their homeland to honor the salmon and the reciprocity with nature," reflected Phil Davis. Smoker Marchand's magnificent sculptures of spawning salmon and a tribal fish camp were the signatures of this coming home notion.

What Phil and Cathy didn't realize, guided by Mark's words, was that this place, Homestream Park, would also become a home for the spirits of the Methow ancestors who were removed from their homeland in the late 1800s. Phil shared, "Mark helped us understand that these spirits, who live among us, thousands of them, had equally lost their spirit homeland. But now a home had been found, and together we would build a place that forever would remain open in both the physical and spirit worlds. This realization was moving and powerful."



A home for the Spirits, photo by Jason Paulsen

Shortly after the grand opening while doing some clean up at the Park, an idea came to Phil. Why not find a way to permanently acknowledge Homestead Park as a home for the spirits. This was the spark that has resulted in the creation of what the Davises call a 'Spirit Easement'. This "Spirit Easement" has been recorded with the County ([click here to see a copy](#)) and the Davises hope it may inspire others to consider ways to reopen to the Methow People their lost Methow Homeland. If you are interested in learning more, [contact us](#).