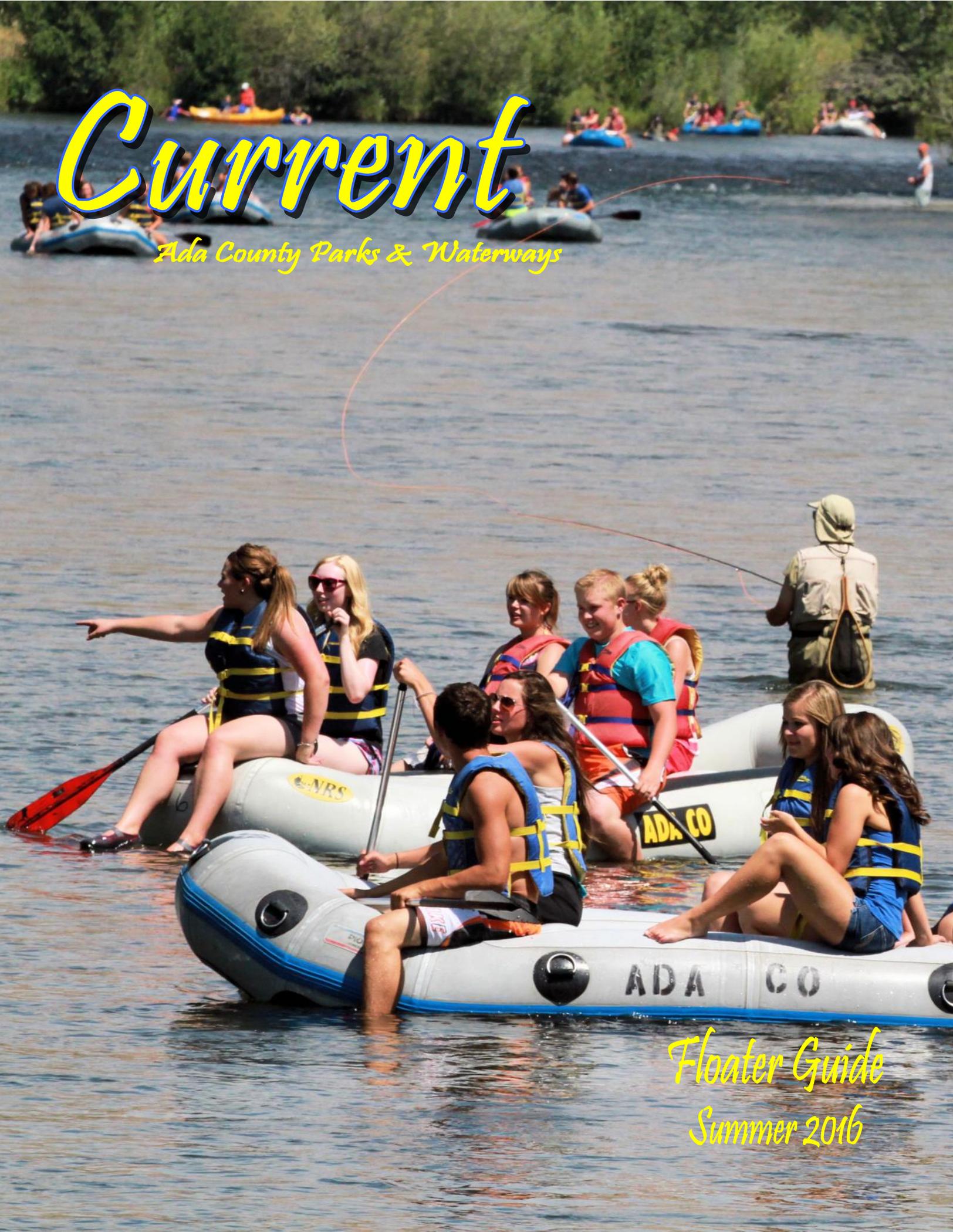


# Current

Ada County Parks & Waterways



Floater Guide  
Summer 2016

# Current



**Current** *adjective* \kúrrənt\  
: happening or existing now; most recent; of the immediate present; in progress

**Current** *noun*

: the swiftest part of a stream; a steady, smooth onward movement

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Photo of the Table Rock Fire taken less than 24 hours after the opening day photo above

Special thanks to Daniel Gonzalez for providing this issue's Float & Fish cover photo

# DIRECTOR'S CUT

Nothing says summer in the Treasure Valley quite like a float down the Boise River right into the heart of downtown Boise. It's a long-standing tradition that over 125,000 people enjoy every year once the summer heat cranks up. Floating the Boise River has become an iconic experience and an annual must-do on just about every Ada County "Summer Bucket List".

This summer, while waiting for the high spring runoff to subside, eager would-be floaters suffered through a few extra days of triple digit heat before things calmed down enough on the river to remove the "Dangerous Conditions" status. Floater friendly flows (try saying *that* five times fast) finally arrived with time to spare before the 4th of July holiday weekend and we were pleased to announce the **official opening of the 2016 Boise River float season in Barber Park on Wednesday, June 29th.**

On hand to support the announcement were several float season partners including the Ada County Board of Commissioners, Ada County Sheriff Marine Patrol, the Boise Fire Department Dive Rescue Team, and Boise River Raft & Tube staff. To quote Ada County Commissioner Jim Tibbs, "The weather is hot, the water is cold, and the air is free. **It's time to float the river!**"



With a lot of novice floaters, new residents, and valley visitors now getting introduced to this experience for the first time **we'd like to remind all floaters that a safe trip is a fun trip.** Despite annual efforts from the Boise Fire Department and other local, state and federal agencies to identify and remove hazardous debris from the designated floater segment between Barber Park and Ann Morrison Park, the Boise River still contains natural and manmade obstacles and is always a float-at-your-own-risk endeavor. Whether you're a first timer or you float the river several times every summer, you should always exercise caution and emphasize safety during any river trip.

**Make sure you have the proper equipment for your voyage including a life vest or personal flotation device (PFD).** If you don't own a PFD you can rent one in Barber Park for five dollars along with any other equipment for your float including rafts, tubes, inflatable kayaks and paddles.

Visit <http://boiserriverraftandtube.com/> for more information.

For all the latest updates you need to know before you float check out our facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/FloatTheBoiseRiver>.

**BE SAFE, HAVE FUN and RESPECT THE RIVER!**

-Scott Koberg, Director





# Barber Park

2016 Boise River Float Season

Hours of Operation:

*Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset*

## Monday - Thursday

Fee parking (\$5.00):	10:00am - 7:30pm
Raft & Tube rental:	12:00pm - 5:00pm
Shuttle service (\$3.00):	1:00pm - 8:00pm

## Friday

Fee parking (\$6.00):	10:00am - 7:30pm
Raft & Tube rental:	12:00pm - 6:00pm
Shuttle service (\$3.00):	1:00pm - 9:00pm

## Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

Fee parking (\$6.00):	9:30am - 7:30pm
Raft & Tube rental:	10:00am - 6:00pm
Shuttle service (\$3.00):	12:00pm - 9:00pm



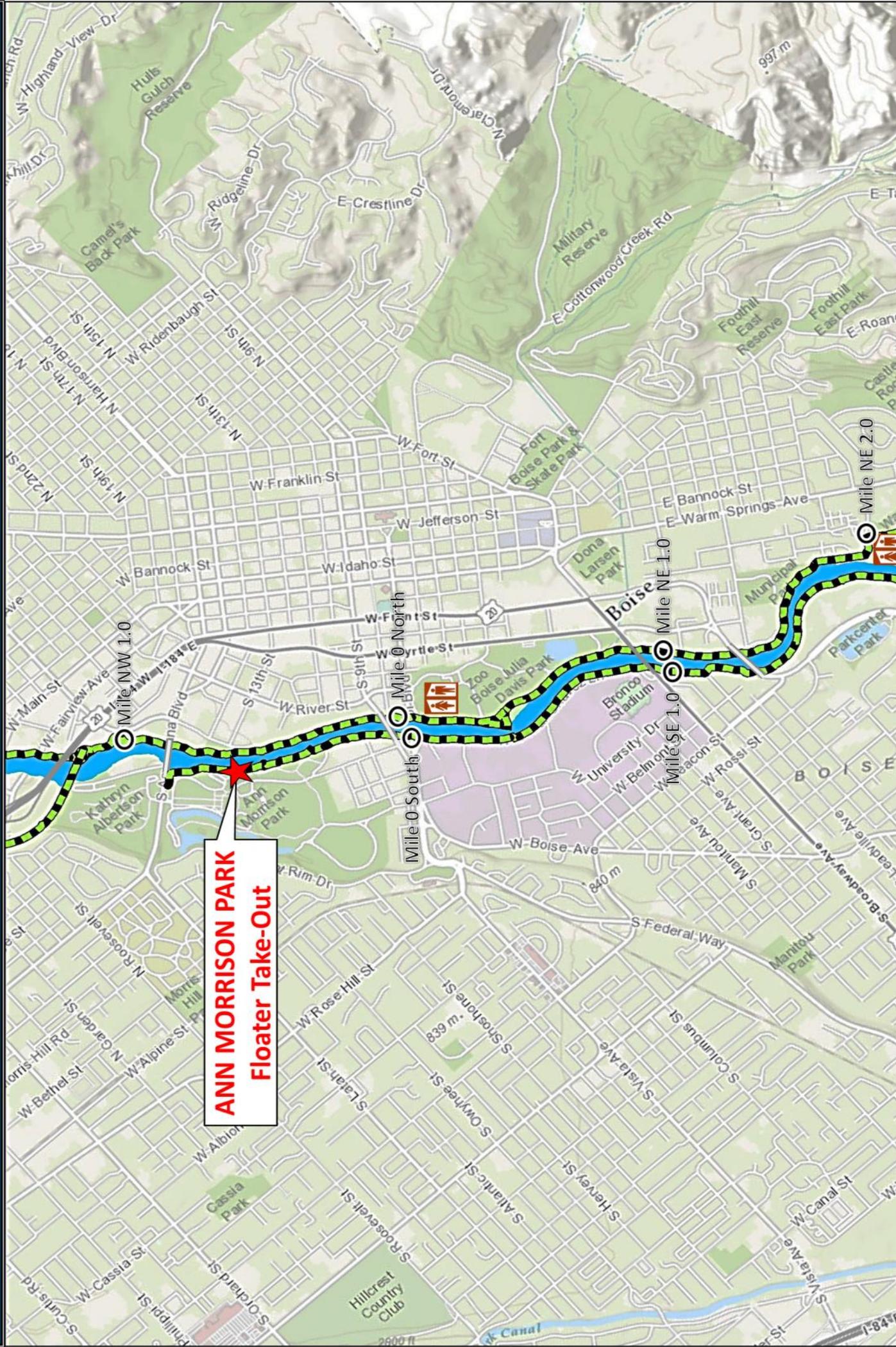
*\*Monday thru Friday the shuttle departs Ann Morrison Park every hour on the hour*

*\*Saturday, Sunday, Holidays the shuttle departs Ann Morrison Park approximately every 20 minutes*



- **Life vests are required to be worn by all children age 14 and under**
- **Every vessel must be equipped with a life vest for each person on board**
- **Open containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited**
- **Operating any water craft under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited**
- **Glass beverage containers are prohibited in all parks and on the river**
- **No littering**
- **Use designated restroom facilities**
- **Boogie boarding from a fixed object or tree is prohibited**
- **Bridge jumping is not illegal but jumping into the river within 50 feet of any boater, floater, rafter or tuber is prohibited**

# Boise River Floater Map





# Floater FAQs

## **Is the river open?**

The Boise River is never “closed” but sometimes it is deemed unsafe for recreation by local authorities and given a temporary “Dangerous Conditions” status. Regardless of status it is always a float-at-your-own-risk endeavor and the Barber Park floater amenities and rental concessions are available and open only when air temperatures and river conditions are appropriate (typically late June through Labor Day).

## **How far is it to the take-out?**

The take-out is located on river left in Ann Morrison Park 6 miles downstream from Barber Park.

## **Are there any rapids?**

There are three small, splashy diversion drops during the first half of the float and all floaters should use caution to avoid natural or manmade obstacles including bridge piers, debris and overhanging tree limbs.

## **How long will it take to float?**

Typically 2-3 hours depending on flow conditions in the river.

## **How cold is the water?**

During the float season the water in the Boise River runs pretty chilly between about 55°F and 59°F.

## **Can I drink beer on the river?**

No. Open containers of alcohol and all glass containers are prohibited on the Boise River.

## **If I bring my own raft or tube is there a place where I can fill it with air?**

Yes, the compressors in Barber Park supply air to 24 individual hoses at 16 air stations free of charge.

## **Where can I rent a raft, tube, kayak or safety equipment to float the river?**

Barber Park! [Boise River Raft & Tube](#) has a contract with Ada County to operate the rental concession.





# Boise River Raft & Tube Barber Park Equipment Rental Information

## 4 Person Raft Rental



Raft + 2 paddles + 4 vests =  
\$45.00 + sales tax

## 6 Person Raft Rental



Raft + 2 paddles + 6 vests =  
\$55.00 + sales tax

## 2 Person Inflatable Kayak Rental



Kayak + 2 paddles + 2 vests =  
\$35.00 + sales tax

## Deluxe Tube Rental



Deluxe Tube =  
\$12.00 + sales tax

## Tubes for Sale



Tube =  
\$25.00 + sales tax

## Vest Rental



\$5.00 each + sales tax

## Paddle Rental



\$5.00 each + sales tax

## \*All Rentals:

- Credit card deposit required with photo ID
- Rental for 3 hours
- Must be 18 or older to rent
- Rental agreement forms required (everyone 18 and older must sign)
- Rental equipment must be returned on time to check in point at Ann Morrison Park or late fees apply
- Rafts/Kayaks - late fee of \$30 per hour (per item)
- Tubes/Vests/Paddles - late fee of \$10 per hour (per item)

More info at: <http://www.boiseriverraftandtube.com>



## ALL ACCESS PASS (or fail?)



For a week in mid-May the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) and the River Management Society (RMS) held the **2016 National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Boise**. Over 350 recreation and natural resource professionals from 35 states were in attendance and for many this was their first visit to the Gem State. With attendees from Alaska, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, California and all points in between these visitors caught a glimpse of just how important the Boise River is to

our community. The conference theme was “Rivers and Recreation in a Changing Climate” and it was hosted on the Boise River at the Riverside Hotel.

The highlight for many attendees was the opportunity to participate in a variety of field workshops on day three of the conference. Eleven different tours were offered and many sold out including a **full-day session titled “Universal Design of Watercraft Landing Sites and Adaptive Equipment”**. Topics discussed during this tour included: how to set up and adjust adaptive equipment; how to improve access at existing launching and landing sites; and how to design new universal access watercraft landing sites. The tour guides for this session were renowned experts Peter Axelson (Founder and R&D Director of [Beneficial Designs](#)) and Kevin Carr (Founder and Owner of [Creating Ability](#)). The first stop of the tour was a visit to the Boise River launch site in Barber Park.

Tour participants measured and evaluated several accessibility components at the launch site including ADA ramp slope, turning radius, sand compaction, and hand-rail height while also participating in **an accessible launching demonstration with a kayak mounted onto a wheeled chariot**. We received high praise for all but one of our accessible amenities. Although Peter was impressed with the performance of the thick, rubber conveyor belt placed across the beach to connect the parking lot to the access ramp and launch site, we acted on his suggestion to replace it with a wider ADA concrete pathway prior to the opening of the 2016 float season. Needless to say it was an invaluable experience to learn from the experts in the field of recreational accessibility since we’re always looking for ways to improve the experience for all Boise River floaters park visitors.



# It's Time to Float the Boise River!



From a Tripadvisor.com online review:

***"Float the River!"*** ○○○○○

***"Nuff said, when you're in Boise during the summer it's time to float the Boise River and there's no better place to start than at Barber Park."***

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. But just for good measure here are several more of our favorite quotes from 5 star online reviews of the Boise River float experience:

***"I could do this over and over again! For a first timer, this was an absolute blast!"***

***"I can't count how many times my family and I have done this float. It's easily two or three times a month during the summer. It's not adrenaline-filled whitewater, it's just a relaxing river float."***

***"When friends come to town in the summer a Boise River float trip at Barber Park is an absolute must do."***

***"My wife and I floated down the Boise River this past August. The scenery was amazing, the people were friendly, and it was a great time!!"***

***"If you're in Boise - you HAVE to float it!!"***

***"So fun for family. We've visited family in Boise last 2 summers and floating the river has been one of our favorite activities... It is very scenic and really enjoyable."***

***"Floating the Boise River is a MUST for family visits!"***

***"In the summer months, we bring our guests to Boise and enjoy the calm of the river float on a tube or raft."***

***"We can't event count how many times we have floated the Boise River... it is very scenic and very refreshing on a hot summer day."***

***"Great affordable way to cool off in the heat of the summer. I try to float the Boise River from Barber Park at least once a year. It has become a tradition... Enjoy the ride!!!"***



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