

Current

Ada County Parks & Waterways

Floater Guide
Summer 2015

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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DIRECTOR'S CUT

Everyone should have a "Summer Bucket List". I don't mean a "To-Do List" of home improvement items and yard projects. What I'm talking about is a fun and frivolous list made to embrace all things summer. Have a picnic. **Stack rocks** (cover photo). Ride the greenbelt. Go camping. **Kiss a fish**. Learn a skill. Start a hobby. Watch a ballgame. Attend a concert. Whittle. Tinker. Paint. Tend a garden. See a play. Visit a park. Read a book. Take a hike. Run through sprinklers. Watch the sunset. Take a nap. **Float the river**. Do nothing... all day long.

Before these summer days slip away into the cool crispness of fall and the dark of winter, take time to enjoy the sunshine. The great thing about summer in Ada County is you don't have to plan much or travel far (or at all) to fill your days with fun, relaxation, or adventure. Take a "staycation" and off your list today. There's no need to wait for the weekend since we all know there's plenty of daylight for work *and* play during a typical summer day in the Treasure Valley.



Toward the end of June we were reminded of just how good we have it here when the Idaho Youth Soccer Association hosted the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Championships in Boise. The tournament brought over 4,000 players (and families, and friends, and coaches) from 13 western states to the Treasure Valley and when the weather turned hot **everyone** was looking for a place to cool down. So when the teams weren't practicing or competing they were descending upon Barber Park by the busload to play in the water and float the Boise River. Our parking lot was loaded with out-of-state plates and the river was full of first time floaters of all ages.

Many visitors had never been to Idaho before or floated any river and it soon became clear that where we live is also a great vacation destination.

Head Coach Jose Dydasco and his U16 Honolulu Bulls girls team timed their first visit to Barber Park perfectly as they happened to be here during Idaho Fish & Game's release of Chinook Salmon. So while they helped **Jeff Heindel (IDFG Fish Production Coordinator)** and his staff place the monster fish in the river some girls took the opportunity to cross "Kiss a fish" off their bucket lists.

In the meantime we enjoyed visiting with the Hawaiian families that wanted to be sure we knew how lucky we were to live in such a beautiful and scenic place. (Reminder: these are people who actually live in Hawaii!) With that, we'll keep this issue brief and simply give you all the info you need to cross "Float the river" off of *your* summer bucket list. Aloha!



-Scott Koberg, Director

Ready... Set... FLOAT!



On Thursday, June 12th at high noon we announced the official opening of the 2015 Boise River Float season at Barber Park. On hand to support our season kick-off event were the Ada County Board of Commissioners, Ada County Sheriff Marine Patrol, and Boise Fire Department Dive Rescue. As soon as the **newly renovated Boise River Raft & Tube rental windows** opened and the excited floaters began heading downriver the unofficial start to summer in the Treasure Valley was underway. Some of those lucky first floaters also got a glimpse of the **Dive Rescue safety vessels** as they jetted down to their emergency launch site near Broadway Avenue while conducting safety demos and outreach.



This year's opening date matched the **earliest season opener on record** and with Labor Day falling on September 7th there is no doubt that **2015 will also be the longest float season we've ever had**. Conditions have been ideal with daily air temperatures topping out at an average of 95°F from opening day through July 4th and river flows averaging 970 cfs during that time. It doesn't get much better than that!

As a reminder to all floaters **the keys to a fun trip are preparation, safety, and proper equipment**. The water in the Boise River can be cold and swift so always exercise caution and emphasize safety during your float. A well-fitted personal flotation device (PFD/life vest), sunscreen, and drinking water are recommended for all floaters. Children 14 and under are required by Idaho Code to wear an approved PFD. All floaters are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for the weather as well as appropriate footwear. For additional tips and information on floating the Boise River please visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/Parks-Waterways/Float-the-River>.

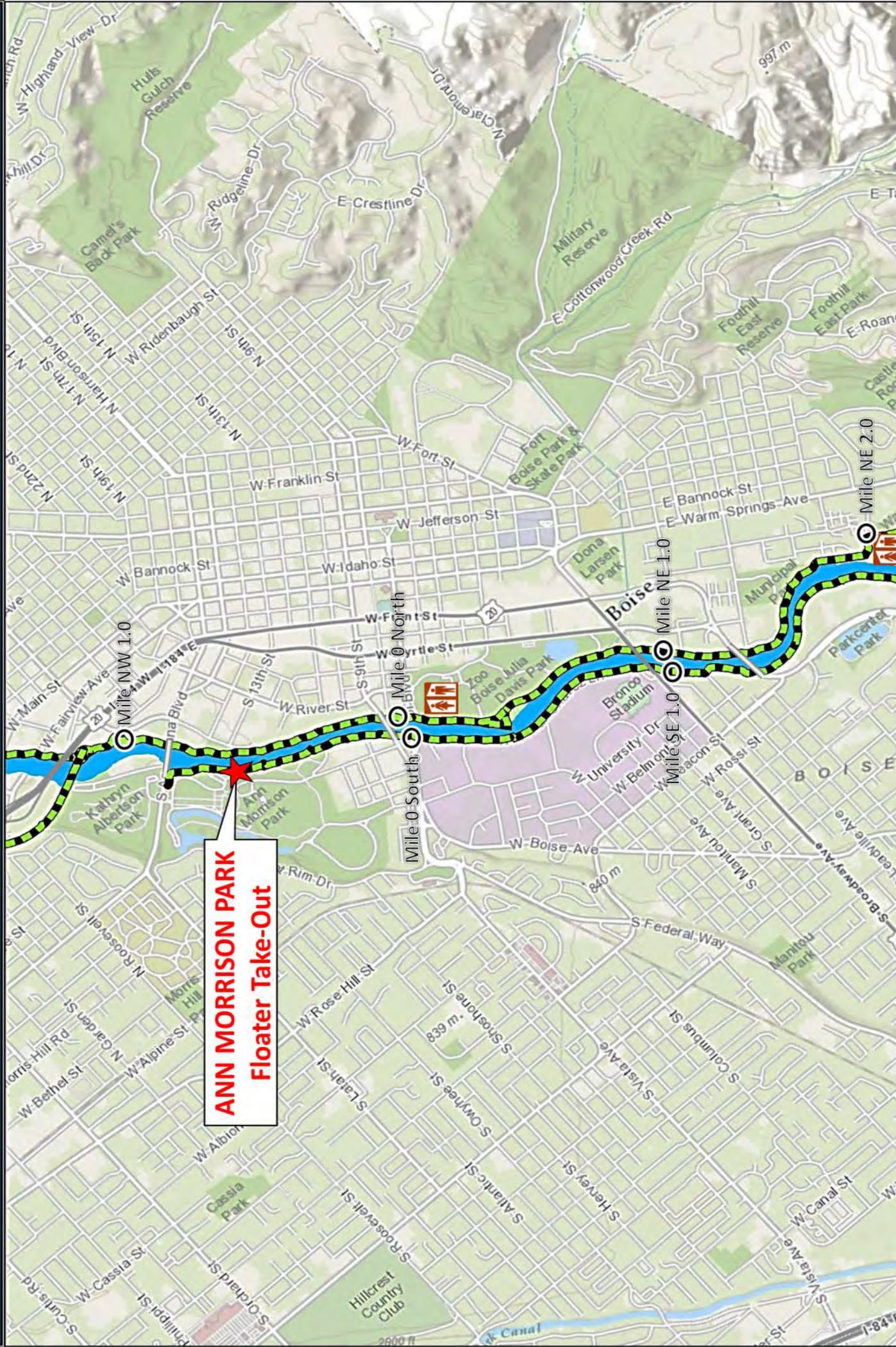


Rules of the River



- **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





- Greenbelt pathway (paved)
- Greenbelt pathway (primitive/pedestrian only)
- Greenbelt mile age marker
- Floater rest stop

**BARBER PARK
Floater Launch Area**

Map labels include: Table Rock, 1113m, 8200 ft, 898 m, 370 ft, S-Toluca-Way, Mile NE 3.0, Mile NE 4.0, Mile NE 5.0, Mile SE 2.0, Mile SE 3.0, Mile SE 4.0, Mile SE 5.0, E-Monterey-Dr, E-Bergeson-St, E-Amity-Rd, E-Lake-Forest-Dr, E-Eastgate-Dr, S-Federal-Way, S-Production-St, Gower-Rd, W-Sunrise-Rim-Rd, US-30-W-US-30-E, I-84-W-US-20-W, US-20-E-I-84-E, Victory-Rd, Gateway-Plaza, Hywild-Park, Warm-Springs-Golf-Course, Idaho-Botanical-Garden, Quarry-View-Park, Barber-Park, Boise-Factory-Outlet, and various other street names and landmarks.



Barber Park

2015 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*



Boise River Raft & Tube

Barber Park Equipment Rental Information

4 Person Raft Rental



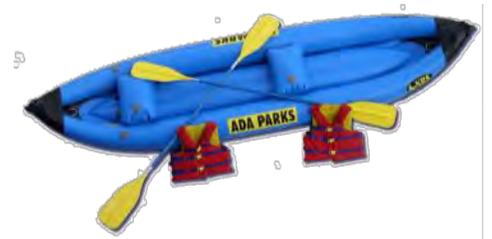
Raft + 2 paddles + 4 vests =
\$45.00 + sales tax

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 to check in point at Ann Morrison Park prior to return time 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>



New Life for the Old Beach House



After the close of the 2014 Boise River float season we began tackling several projects to improve the floater facilities and equipment in Barber Park. The last project to be completed but certainly not the least important was an **exterior remodel of a building now known as the Beach House**. If you've ever floated the river from Barber Park you know the building. Located on the beach at the floater launch area it's usually the last thing you see before pushing off into the river.



Dating back to the 1970s a portion of the Beach House (pictured below) was actually the original headquarters office of the Ada County Parks Department. Despite efforts to maintain the building over the decades the siding rotted beyond repair, the roof leaked, and various critters began to intrude. Although it **houses four key components of the department's functions during the float season** it became a maintenance headache and an eyesore.

Now it's an eyesore no more and a pleasure to maintain. With support from Ada County Operations and the efforts of our responsive contractors we were able to complete the Beach House remodel (cedar siding/trim, stain/paint, roofing, gutters/downspouts, electrical retrofit, and concrete footer) exactly one day prior to the opening of the 2015 float season. A special thanks to Operations Director Dave Logan (who once worked as Parks Manager in the old office) and especially to Bob Seagler (Maintenance Superintendent) for their valuable insights and contributions to this project.



Floater FAQs

Is the river open?

The Boise River is never “closed” but it is always a float-at-your-own-risk endeavor. Barber Park floater amenities are available and open only when air temperatures and river conditions are appropriate.

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?

No, but there are 3 small diversion drops during the first half of the float and all floaters should use caution to avoid any natural or manmade obstacles, debris, or overhanging tree branches/limbs.

How long will it take to float?

Typically about 2 hours.

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 are prohibited on the Boise River.

Are there any fish or wildlife?

Absolutely! The Boise River is an awesome urban trout fishery and anglers might expect to find trout (rainbows, browns) or even Chinook Salmon (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/rules/southwest.pdf>) As for wildlife, keep your eyes open for deer, coyotes, foxes, beavers, river otters, minks and a wide variety of birds such as Osprey, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Killdeer, Mallards, Mergansers, Geese, and Flickers.

Where can I rent equipment?

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

How many rafts do you have in the rental fleet?

Our combined rental fleet consists of 47 four person rafts, 41 six person rafts, 17 tandem kayaks, 308 deluxe tubes and all of the accompanying life vests and paddles. And yes, sometimes it’s all on the river at once.

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

Yes, the Beach House compressors supply air to 24 individual hoses at 16 air stations free of charge.

How many people float the river each year?

About 125,000 people float the river annually between Memorial Day and Labor Day.



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