

Current

Ada County Parks & Waterways

Spring 2022





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

Parks & Waterways Staff

Scott Koberg	Director
Candy Hahlbeck	Administrative Specialist
Brooke Conn	Events Coordinator
Angelina Williams	Event Attendant
Mike Edwards	Open Space & Trails Coordinator
Davey Brown	Trail Crew Foreman
Jarrold Mathews	Waterways Maintenance Supervisor
Curtis Corvinus	Waterways Maintenance Mechanic
Tom Harshfield	Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Donna Swett	Parks Maintenance Mechanic
Robbie Sosin	Program & Education Specialist

Ada County Parks & Waterways
4049 Eckert Road
Boise, ID 83716
(208) 577-4575
parks@adacounty.id.gov

<https://adacounty.id.gov/ParksandWaterways>



Introduction & Insight

Welcome to the **Spring 2022** issue of **Current** magazine created and distributed by Ada County Parks & Waterways. Please allow me to introduce myself! My name is Robbie Sosin, Program & Education Specialist for this department and I'll be in charge of creating this wonderful newsletter. Reading through previous issues published by Parks & Waterways Director Scott Koberg, I thought it would be a **great privilege and challenge** to continue the legacy of sharing interesting and colorful content with our public, partners and park users. This issue will focus on showcasing **projects and improvements** that have been undertaken or completed in the past few months. I'll also be highlighting some beautiful recreation sites that our department manages, both well known and **hidden gems**. Hopefully this issue of Current will be a **fun reintroduction** that creates the momentum to provide this outreach for many years to come. The world has been an extra tumultuous place for two years now and I hope that in reading this you can find some positivity and a sense of community. Thank you for keeping **Current!**

-Robbie Sosin, Program & Education Specialist

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 INTRODUCTION & INSIGHT
- 4 GREENBELT IMPROVEMENT
- 5 BARBER PARK LOOP REVAMP
- 6 BARBER PARK EVENT CENTER
- 8 A GRANT FOR NEW MOTORS
- 9 SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUTOUT
- 10 BIKE PARK PLANTING
- 11 VICTORY WETLAND
- 12 BREN TREE WRAPPING
- 13 OREGON TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS
- 14 PHOTO CONTEST
- 15 PHOTO CONTEST REBOOT



"THERE ARE NO WORDS THAT CAN TELL THE HIDDEN SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS, THAT CAN REVEAL ITS MYSTERY, ITS MELANCHOLY, AND ITS CHARM." – THEODORE ROOSEVELT



ARPA FUNDED PROJECTS

One major event that happened this winter was the **approval of funding by the Board of County Commissioners** for two important projects at recreation sites managed by our Department. Both projects will be completed using funding allocated to Ada County through the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** which was passed in March 2021 to



combat public health and economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first project involves **replacing a 1.64 mile segment of the Greenbelt** between Garden City and Eagle commonly known as the **Judy Peavey-Derr segment** (also known as the Sunroc segment) that suffered irreparable asphalt damage and significant

streambank erosion during the historic 2017 flood. **The new pathway will be built using concrete** to better withstand future flood issues and the streambank will be stabilized to repair and prevent further erosion.

This project is expected to be completed before the end of the year and will create a **wider, safer and smoother pathway** with brightly painted lines to guide all users. You can check out all Greenbelt Pathway segments managed by our Department at adacounty.id.gov/parksandwaterways/boise-river-greenbelt.



ARPA FUNDED PROJECTS

The second ARPA project includes important improvements for the safety and enjoyment of all visitors to **Barber Park**. More specifically, we will be **renovating and upgrading the small looped pathway** adjacent to the river just downstream of the floater launch area.



This loop was once the main road for vehicles entering the park and includes two old decaying wooden bridges along with small parking lots among the black cottonwood trees. The existing asphalt is not ADA compliant with an uneven and cracked surface that still includes the old speed bumps.

The **renovation will replace the asphalt with a brand new surface called Stalok** which has properties of both soil and concrete, allowing water to drain effectively while giving a **sturdy pathway for ADA compliance**.

The project also includes **replacing the two bridges with new bridges** that have safety railings and can accommodate flood flows. We will also be removing the asphalt from the old parking areas and **restoring the site with native plant seedings**.



This pathway will extend all the way to the new fishing pier which will create a loop that is much safer and appealing while also **improving the habitat**.

Find our Barber Park page at adacounty.id.gov/parksandwaterways/open-space-and-trails/Barber-park

New Vessel Motors

Our Waterways division has applied for a grant from the **Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF)** administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to acquire **two brand new motors for** our Maintenance Vessel. This is the boat our Waterways Maintenance staff uses to maintain and improve over **100 docks at 16 recreation sites and 4 launch ramps at Lucky Peak Lake.**

The WIF is funded from boater registration fees so boaters at Lucky Peak can directly see what their fees are improving. This option to purchase new motors and maintain the current Maintenance Vessel is nearly 7x cheaper and **more cost effective** than a whole new vessel.

Currently the boat is outfitted with a set of two 2004 2-stroke motors that have about 9000 hours of use on them, which is roughly equivalent to 300,000 miles in a car.

The **proposed new motors** we would purchase with the WIF grant are more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly **4-stroke motors.**



Recently, the Walla Walla District of the US Army Corps of Engineers appraised the newest version of our vessel and their estimate was that it would cost about \$400,000 to replace. By comparison, the proposed **new motors only cost \$60,000** and we expect to get at least **10 years of maintenance use.**

Other projects successfully funded from the WIF program in the past include low profile dock purchase and installation at Spring Shores Marina patrol boats for sheriff offices around the state, and shoreline stabilization at Celebration Park in Canyon County.

Social Media Shoutout

ATTENTION ALL READERS!

We are currently in the process of **expanding our social media** presence as well as **improving and renovating our website.**

adacounty.id.gov/parksandwaterways

Did you know?

We have **Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, AND Instagram** accounts?

Below are **links to our socials!** We hope you'll **give us a follow** so you can stay up to date on everything happening within Parks & Waterways!



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAfXsdga_E3GmP_Oa4cbYAQ



[Instagram.com/adacountyparks](https://www.instagram.com/adacountyparks)



[Facebook.com/adacountyparks](https://www.facebook.com/adacountyparks)



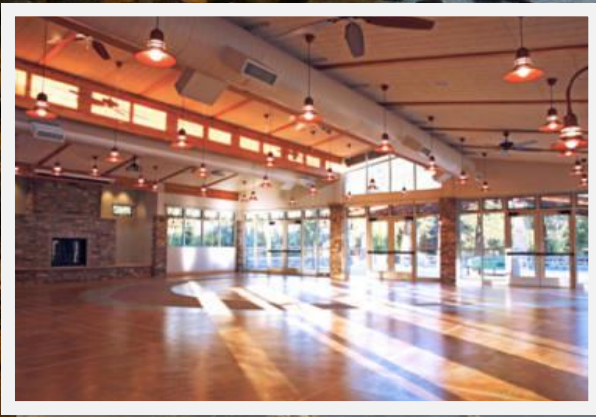
[Twitter.com/AdaCountyParks](https://www.twitter.com/AdaCountyParks)

Barber Park

Education & Event Center

Perfect for:

- Business Retreats!
- Corporate Workshops!
- Banquets!
- Company Parties and Picnics!



Audio/Video Amenities:

- Ceiling mounted projector with drop-down screen
- Microphones
- Full facility sound system
- CD-DVD-VHS player

Call us to reserve your date today: 208-577-4576

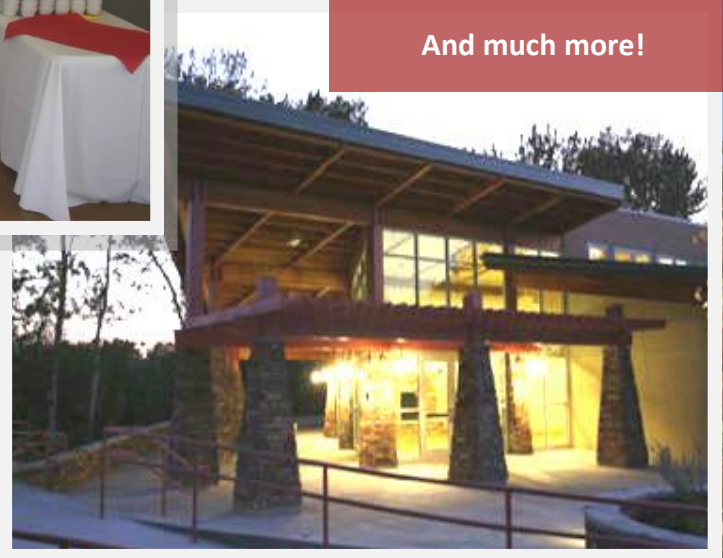
"I had no idea this was even here!"

We've heard this before but once you find us
we're confident your event at this stunning facility will be unforgettable.



Venue includes:

- Gorgeous natural setting
- Large covered patio
- Indoor stone fireplaces
- Flexible open floor space
- Huge picture windows
- And much more!



Ada County Parks & Waterways
4049 Eckert Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83716
208-577-4577

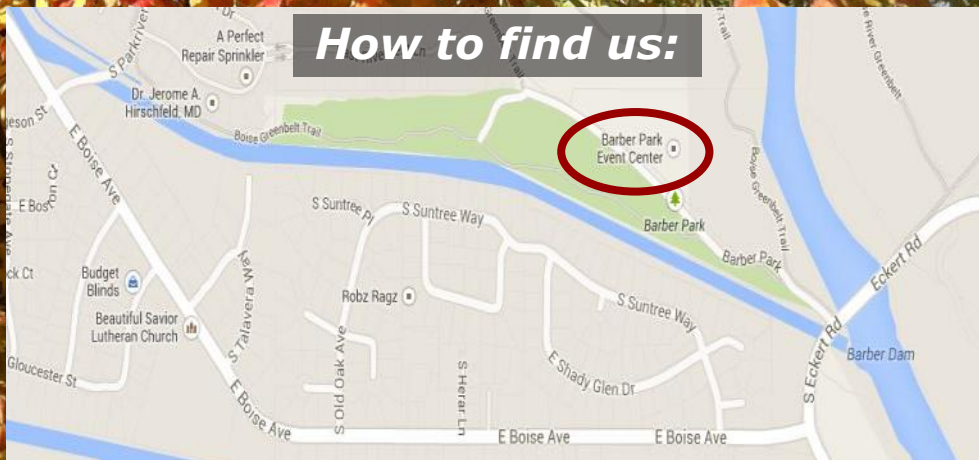
Email: eec@adacounty.id.gov
Website: adacounty.id.gov/parksandwaterways

Visit us on



Facebook

How to find us:



We're nestled right next to the Boise River in Barber Park
with ample parking just 5 miles east of downtown Boise!

Ada/Eagle Bike Park Planting

In November, volunteers from the **Mountain West Outdoor Club** and **Martha Brabec** from **Boise Parks and Recreation** led a **planting effort** of over **600 bitterbrush plants** along the Rabbit Run and Big Springs trails out at Ada/Eagle Bike Park.

This portion of the trail system is on Ada County property that is jointly managed under the Ridge to Rivers partnership and was **devastated by a fire that burned over 440 acres** in early October.

Bitterbrush was used in these restoration efforts because the soils at this location are perfect for this hearty native species that can withstand the extremes of our summer and winter weather patterns while also providing erosion control and creating habitat.



Working in 3 person teams, one team member would use the **planting bar or “dibble bar”** (pictured in the bottom right) to make a hole big enough and deep enough that the seedling rootmass wouldn’t fold over itself. Next, another team member would situate each plant in the hole and hold it to allow for the soil to be placed back

around the roots with the planting bar to provide the plant with a solid base. Finally, the third team member would place small bamboo stakes and plastic plant shields to protect the plants from grazing animals and rambunctious pets and children to give the new seedlings the best chance to grow and survive.

This **restoration effort** took place over two afternoons with the help of several volunteers including staff members Mike Edwards (Open Space & Trails Coordinator), Davey Brown (Trail Crew Foreman), and Robbie Sosin (Program & Education Specialist).



Victory Stormwater Basin



Also in November a group of volunteers from the **Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS)** planted over **200 plants** at our Victory Stormwater Basin and Constructed Wetlands site!

The GEAS is dedicated to building an understanding, appreciation, and respect for the natural world to help conserve and **restore ecosystems for birds and wildlife!**

Since this site is home to many different birds including redwing blackbirds, great blue herons and geese, the GEAS wanted to improve this area by creating spaces that will serve as homes and food sources for birds.

The plants were placed in two separate plots and included grasses, forbs and shrubs that were planted via the same method: 2 or 3 volunteers from each planting group had a



shovel and dug holes large enough for the respective plants. The rest of the volunteers would remove the plants from their plastic sleeve, then **place the plants** into the hole and cover the roots in the excavated dirt.

This effort lasted a couple hours on a Sunday morning and included a small group of adult and children volunteers supervised by Ada County Parks & Waterways and GEAS staff members. We expect this project will have a great and **lasting impact on our community and environment.**



Visit [GoldenEagleAudubon.org](https://www.GoldenEagleAudubon.org) for more info!

Tree Wrappings with BREN

In December, volunteers from the **Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN)** led an effort in Barber Park to **wrap 75 black cottonwood and willow trees** in a wire fencing that prevents beavers from downing the trees and creating various safety hazards near the Boise River. Prior to these efforts, a family of beavers would be able to down entire



small groves of trees within forested areas of Barber Park overnight.



Black cottonwoods and willows are important for riparian habitat. In addition to providing a cool shade canopy they also create important perch sites, roost areas, and other habitat benefits for multiple species along the Boise River.

The volunteers performed the tree wrapping on a Friday afternoon in December and worked hard to identify and wrap trees that were marked as protection worthy. These trees were either mature trees that provide a large amount of shade and habitat to animals, or they were smaller trees typically targeted by beavers before they can mature and provide valuable benefits to the Boise River riparian area. Black cottonwoods are also **very drought resilient and native to the Treasure Valley** so they can thrive in years where there is less than average precipitation.

As it currently stands in regards to flow management, channelization, and development it will be next to impossible to naturally restore black cottonwoods to their former role in the Boise River ecosystem, so BREN has been leading efforts to **protect the existing black cottonwood forests** we do have.



To learn more about **BREN** visit their website at www.boiseriverenhancement.org

All information gathered for this article regarding Black Cottonwood Forests near the Boise River was found here (use phone to scan QR code):



Trail Improvements



The Open Space and Trails Division of Ada County Parks & Waterways recently implemented a project to **renovate and upgrade the existing trails under our management at the Oregon Trail Public Recreation Area** off Highway 21 in East Boise.

The existing soils on which the public trail system was constructed didn't hold up well to the elements and became super muddy and slick after precipitation. During the summer months the trail becomes quite chalky and dusty. To combat this our crew **amended the soil** with a fine gravel based mix to armor portions of the Ezra Meeker Trail to help make it more accessible and pleasurable for all users.

This soil material used for this project is what's known as "**reject sand**" and it **works much better** as a stable and level surface that drains well after precipitation so it can accommodate all types of walkers, runners, and riders. An added benefit of this material is that it is **locally sourced!** These trails will be put to the test for the spring season when we (hopefully) get some rain and into next winter when the snow falls and melts again next year.

Davey Brown, Trail Crew Foreman, worked on this project throughout much of the winter and in the short time this project has been ongoing, regular trail users and newcomers alike have been complimenting Davey on his great work and providing lots of **positive feedback** on the quality of the new trail. Next time you see Davey out on the trails give him a big thank you for all he does to improve trails managed by **Ada County Parks & Waterways!**



Ada County Parks & Waterways

3rd Annual Photo Contest

Thank you for reading this issue of Current Magazine. We hope it was everything you loved about previous iterations and then some. **Whether it is your first time reading or you've been a loyal fan waiting for the next issue, THANK YOU.** We take great pride in putting something out into the community worth a read.

With that being said, we would like to announce our **3rd Annual Photo Contest!**

We will be doing it a little bit differently this year to allow for more time during the Spring and Summer for you to **visit our recreation sites, capture your favorite images, and submit your photos for our contest.**

As always, all photos submitted to Ada County Parks & Waterways will be judged, scored, and ranked by a panel of designated staff. All rules and conditions are posted on the back page of this issue.

Categories:

1. Landscape/Scenic 2. Wildlife 3. Action 4. Human Interest 5. Abstract/Close-up

Photos must be submitted before September 1st

Share your favorite shots from our parks, trails, and waterways for the chance to be declared the winner in the Fall issue of Current!

Submissions may be posted on our social media pages so send us your best!
Even if you don't win the contest your photo may be featured!

Email photos to: rsosin@adacounty.id.gov

Include name, date taken, location, and category for each photo

To be eligible to win, photos must be taken at a location managed by Ada County Parks & Waterways

Past Winners of Photo Contest



Gary Raney
Five Mile/Victory Wetland
2015 Landscape



David Swindler
Corrals Trail (Ridge to Rivers)
2015 Action



Elizabeth Lamas
Boise River Riparian Area
2015 Wildlife



Jim Culpepper
Boise River
2016 Abstract/Close Up



Keith Hyde
Lucky Peak Lake
2016 Human Interest



Paul Dawson
Boise River Riparian Area
2016 Wildlife



**4049 Eckert Road
Boise, Idaho 83716**

Eligible photo contest locations:

Barber Park (including Event Center), Lucky Peak Lake, Ada/Eagle Bike Park, Boise River (float stretch), Boise River Greenbelt (any P&W Segment), Hubbard Reservoir Recreation Area, Oregon Trail Recreation Area, Five Mile/Victory Wetland, Snake River Water Trail, or any Ridge to Rivers Trail

Judging:

Photos will be judged by a panel of Ada County Parks & Waterways staff

Other Info:

No limit on number of entries. All participants grant Ada County nonexclusive and unlimited use of submitted photos for use in all future digital and/or print outreach materials.