

Current

Ada County Parks & Waterways

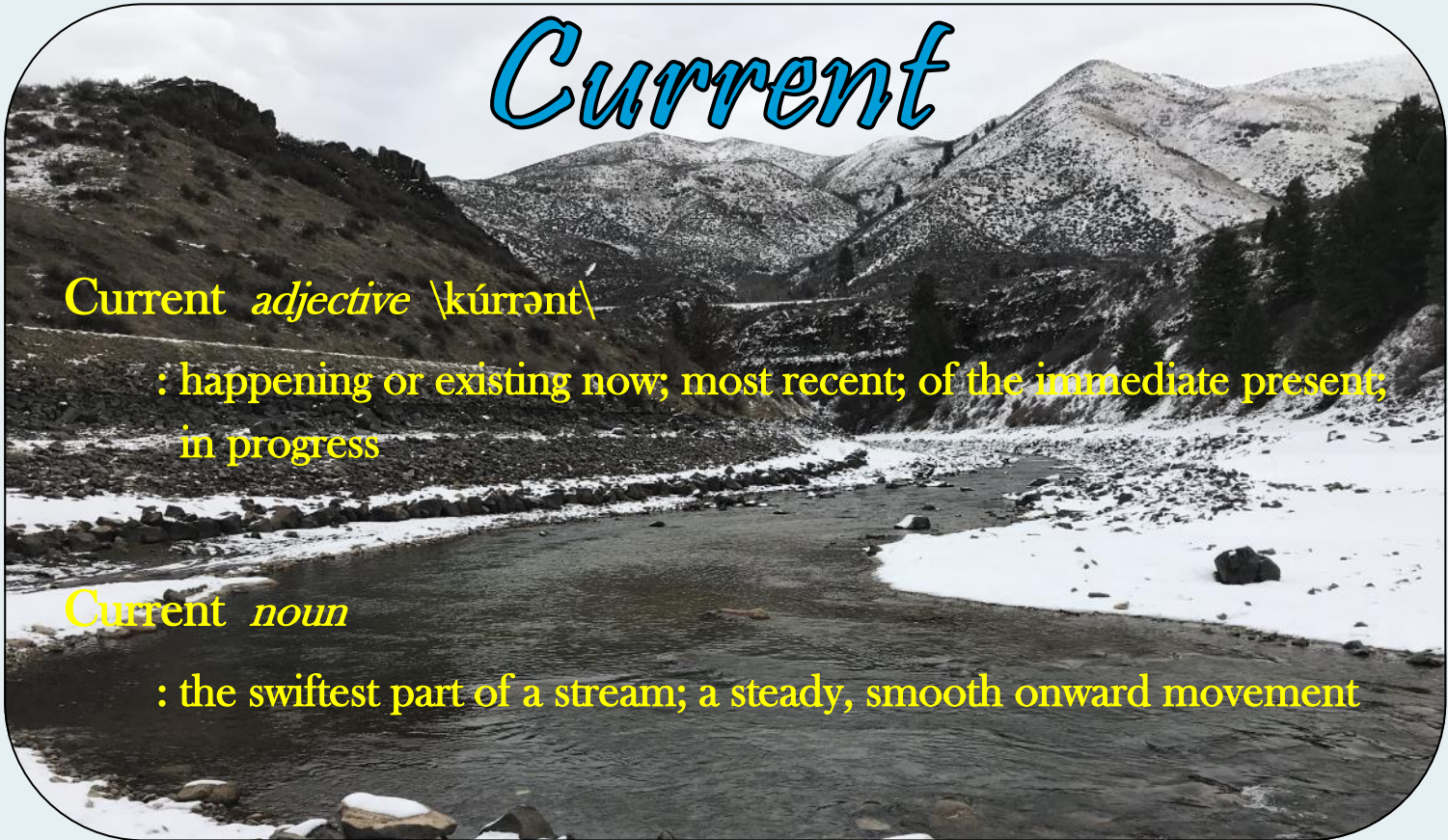


Photo Issue 2022

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



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- | | |
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| Candy Hahlbeck | Administrative Specialist |
| Brooke Conn | Events Coordinator |
| Tom Harshfield | Parks Maintenance Supervisor |
| Jarrod Mathews | Waterways Maintenance Supervisor |
| Davey Brown | Trail Crew Foreman |
| Angelina Williams | Event Attendant |
| Donna Swett | Parks Maintenance Mechanic |
| Ethan McCurry | Waterways Maintenance Mechanic |
| Robbie Sosin | Program & Education Specialist |

Introduction & Insight

Welcome to the **Winter 2022-23** issue of **Current** created and distributed by **Ada County Parks & Waterways**. Hopefully the new year will continue bringing more snow!

Greatness is a daily choice. That is something that my father has said to me for years, and it's something that I've been taking to heart. I don't know where he got that saying from. It could be some classic **old man wisdom** or something he heard a football coach say it on TV, but it something I think is wonderfully profound and try to live by every day. What does this phrase mean exactly? It means that every day you have to find the answer this question: **"What version of myself am I going to be today?"**

This is something that everybody in our department does: Choose to be great! From our seasonal employees all the way up to our Director, **we strive to be great at what we do.** I challenge everybody reading this to choose to be great today. Whether that's pushing yourself out of your comfort zone, going out of your way to help your fellow human, or giving the day your best effort: **BE GREAT.**

Taking **GREAT photos** is definitely something our readers did to help fill the pages for this edition of **Current** --- our annual issue showcasing **local photographic talent.** Although we accepted submissions throughout the course of a year we still didn't quite get enough for a full-scale contest, but we wanted to share some of the wonderful art **Ada County citizens** have created. With that, it's time to bundle up and keep **Current!**

- Robbie Sosin, Program & Education Specialist



***"I WOULD RATHER SIT ON A PUMPKIN, AND HAVE IT ALL TO MYSELF,
THAN BE CROWDED ON A VELVET CUSHION."***

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Cottonwood Forest Loop

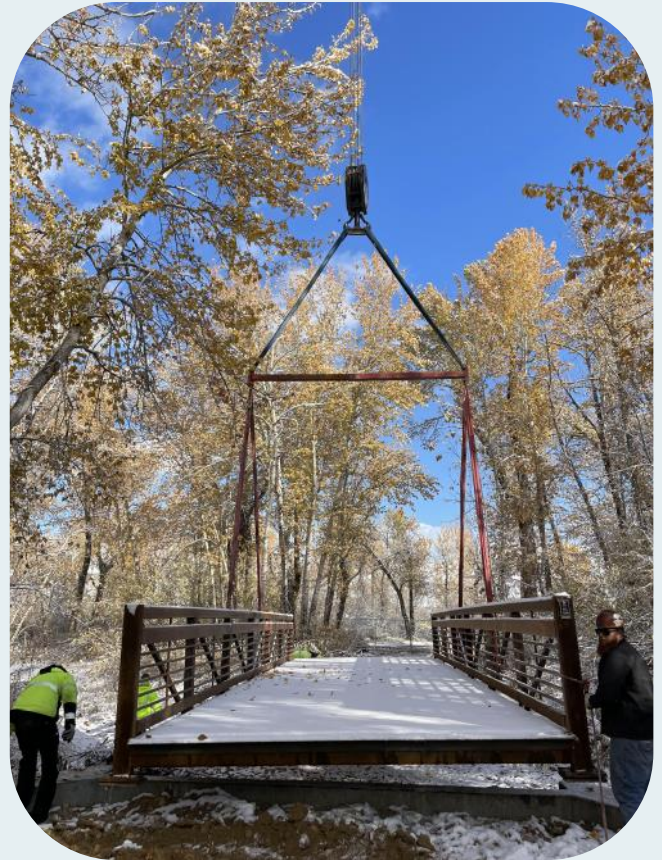
After working diligently through a variety of construction challenges and waiting patiently on delivery of the **new bridges** for Ada County's exciting (and first construction related) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project, it finally happened! On a chilly morning in early November the two new Wheeler Pratt underhung truss bridges with weathered steel, wooden decking, and safety railings were finally **craned into their new homes**. Each bridge, spanning a side channel of the Boise River, is located in Barber Park on what's known as the "Cottonwood Forest Loop" trail.

When the entire project is completed later this Winter we can't wait to hear the public's feedback on this easily accessible and newly re-constructed ADA compliant loop.

For more information regarding Ada County's involvement in ARPA visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/clerk/budget-finance/arpa/>



Cottonwood Forest Loop



Boise River ReWild Project

The Boise River means a lot to our community and we aspire to keep it a beautiful recreational paradise, but we also want to recognize what an important place it is for Idaho's famed wildlife. That's why Ada County Parks & Waterways is partnering with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, the City of Boise, and several other organizations and volunteers in an exciting effort known as the Boise River ReWild Project. **The goal is to restore 50+ acres of important habitat** along the Boise River by the end of 2023.



The project has five main components that will help restore many of the **ecological functions** of habitats along the Boise River:

- 1) Invasive Species Removal
- 2) Native Plant Restoration
- 3) Shoreline Protection & Access Management
- 4) Litter Clean Up
- 5) Visitor Education

Volunteers have been a key piece to the success of this project through a **stewardship effort** known as “**adopt-a-plot**”. With direction provided by agency partners

and public land managers, these dedicated citizens take the lead on restoring **1/2 acre sites** by removing weeds, planting and watering native seedlings, installing temporary plant protectors, beaver-proofing native cottonwoods with wire wrapping, and documenting their progress with notes and photos.

Several restoration sites have been established in **Barber Park** as well as the county's dedicated open space property within the **Barber Pool conservation area**. Volunteer groups participating in the adopt-a-plot program include the Boise State Women's Beach Volleyball Team, Micron, Wild Beginnings Nature School, Everwild Forest School, and local neighbors committed to making Ada County a better place!



Boise River ReWild Project

Eventually each of these restoration plots will provide **food and shelter for various pollinators, insects, and animals** that live in Barber Park and the Barber Pool conservation area. These sites will also be monitored over time and integrated into educational programming for local schools and other visitors to these areas.

It is expected that seeds from these native grass, forb, and shrub species will also **spread and germinate naturally** throughout other portions of the Boise River riparian area while helping to **reduce the spread of noxious and invasive weeds**.



If you're planning a visit to Barber Park for a walk along the Boise River Greenbelt, you'll notice the various adopt-a-plot sites clearly identified with signage and **plastic plant protectors** in the area formerly known as

“gopher grove”. Previously infested with cheatgrass and rush skeletonweed, this area is now beginning to **thrive with native plant diversity**.



To learn more about the Boise River ReWild Project and the Golden Eagle Audubon Society or to **find out how YOU can volunteer**, please visit:

<https://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/restoration/boise-riparian-corridor-project>



Photo Submission Showcase

As mentioned in the introduction we did not receive enough submissions to compile a full photo contest... but we wanted to showcase some of **the amazing photos** we did receive from a few of our regular park visitors. These wildlife and landscape photos are wonderful!

Who knows, maybe YOUR photos will be featured next year!

Sandy Lindberg – Wildlife – Various Locations

Both Pages!







Michelle Primo — Landscape — Oregon Trail Recreation Area ↕



Anonymous — Landscape — Lucky Peak Lake



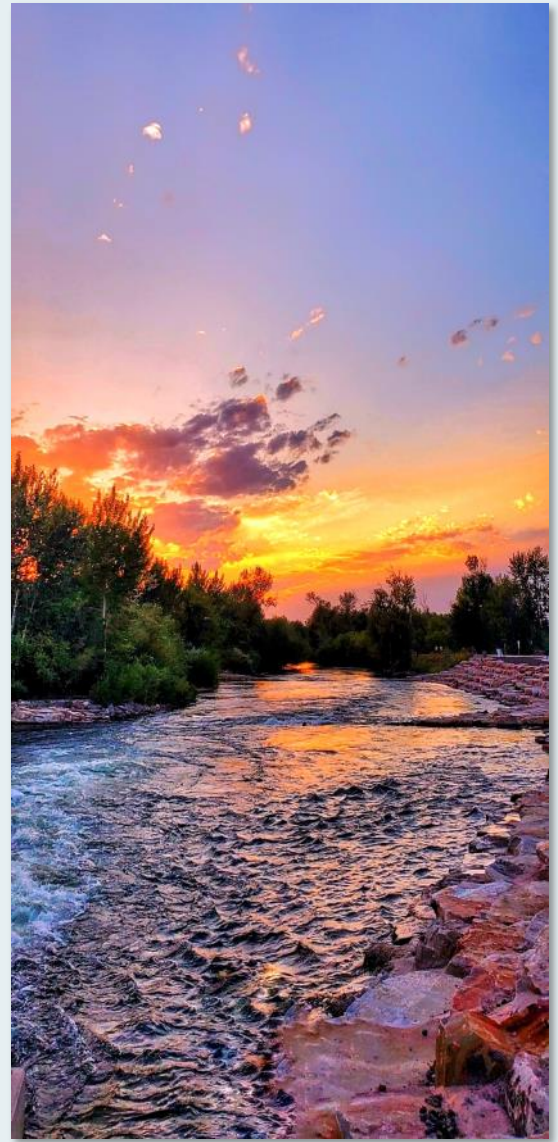
Debby Rivas

—

Landscape

—

**Boise River
Greenbelt**



Jenifer Kroll

—

Landscape

—

**Warm
Springs Mesa
Greenbelt**





Robbie Sosin
—
Landscape
—
Boise River Greenbelt



Robbie Sosin
—
Landscape
—
Boise River Greenbelt



Brooke Conn — Wildlife — Barber Park Education & Event Center



Scott Koberg — Landscape

Boise River at Barber Park

Scott Koberg — Landscape

Boise River at Barber Park



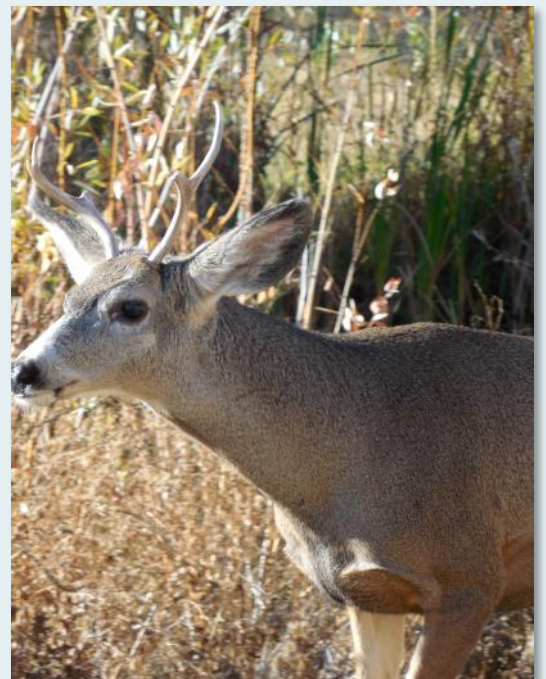
Scott Koberg — Wildlife

Warm Springs Mesa Greenbelt



Scott Koberg — Human Interest

Boise River at Barber Park





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