

# ADA COUNTY



December 2019



## SMOOTHING OUT A BUMPY RIDE

Ada Parks & Waterways plans  
Greenbelt repair project

## DO YOU KNOW THE SIX CITIES IN ADA COUNTY

Fast Facts and upcoming  
events in your communities

## YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS

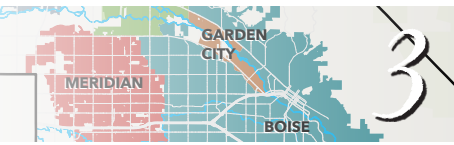
Who Gets What - at a glance

## IT FEELS GOOD TO BE CLEAN

County Signs Clean Energy

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DECEMBER 2019



## THIS IS ADA COUNTY

<https://www.facebook.com/AdaCountyIdaho/>



## FROM THE ADA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FROM THE ADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

<https://www.facebook.com/adacosheriff/>



## ADA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

<https://www.facebook.com/adacountyem/>



## SIX CITIES

What's been happening in your city?



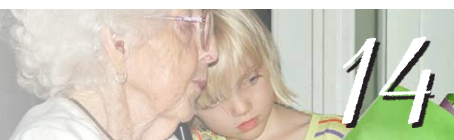
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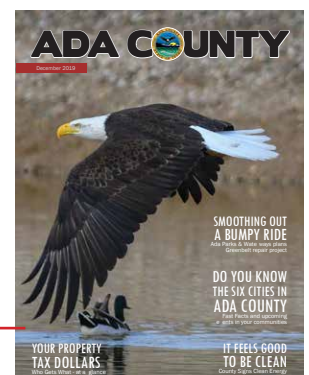
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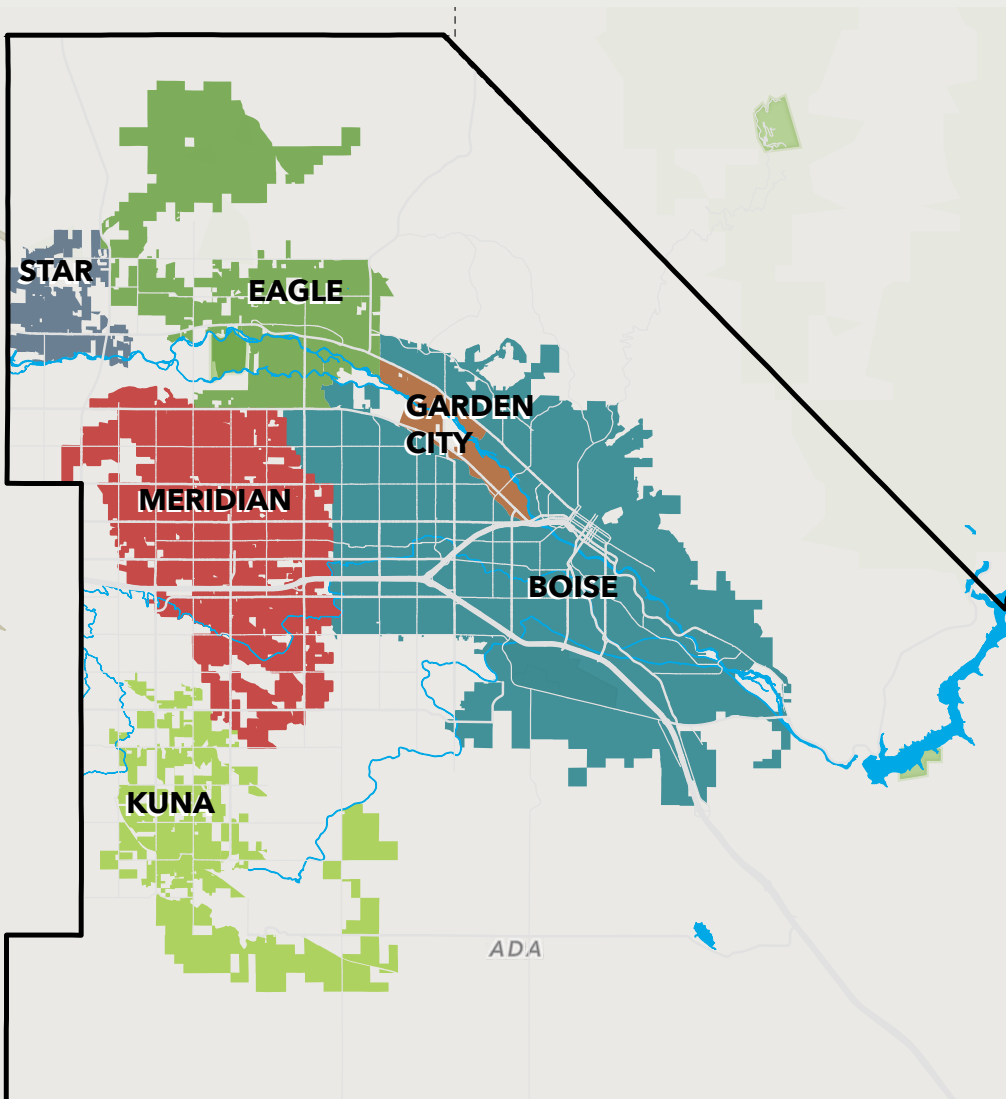
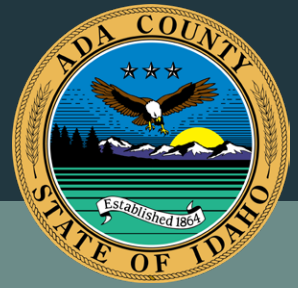
<https://www.facebook.com/adacountyparks/>

**ON THE COVER: A bald eagle soars above a mallard in a settling pond at the Ada County Landfill.** Photo Credit: Richard Puzio



# This is Ada County

*Protecting your quality of life*



You live in one of the most beautiful counties in the United States. Ada County includes more than one thousand square miles of high desert beauty, peppered with foothills and a glistening river that winds through four of the county's six cities. Our population is more than 487,000 and is expected to grow significantly in the coming twenty years. While no one can stop families and individuals from moving here, we can as a county work together to protect our quality of life in a fiscally responsible manner, while continuing to provide the excellent customer service you expect.

## ADA COUNTY FACTS

- 25% of the state's population
- 6 distinctly different cities

Watch <https://adacounty.id.gov/commissioners/coordinated-growth/>

- One of the safest communities in the country
- Approximately 8000 acres of recreational space



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the Ada County newsletter. We are proud to highlight for you news and events happening within Ada County government. The Ada County newsletter includes useful information on the myriad services we provide, and keeps you updated on events, programs and initiatives that make this county one of the most desirable places to live in the country.

The Ada County newsletter highlights events happening in the Ada County departments the Board of Commissioners oversees, and the five elected offices within county government.

As 2019 comes to a close we are grateful for the work done every day by the 1975 dedicated employees of Ada County. We are also grateful to live and work in a county whose residents care deeply about protecting our quality of life in a fiscally responsible manner.

Ada County is a gem that should be protected so it can thrive and continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family, operate a business, get an education and retire. As your Board of elected

Ada County Commissioners we are fortunate to have a strong and collaborative team in place. Each employee and elected official is committed to providing outstanding service to all residents of Ada County. We look forward to your feedback and encourage you to sign up for upcoming issues. <https://adacounty.id.gov/subscribe/> May you and your family have a safe, prosperous and happy New Year.



**Diana Lachiondo**  
District 1



**Rick Visser**  
District 2

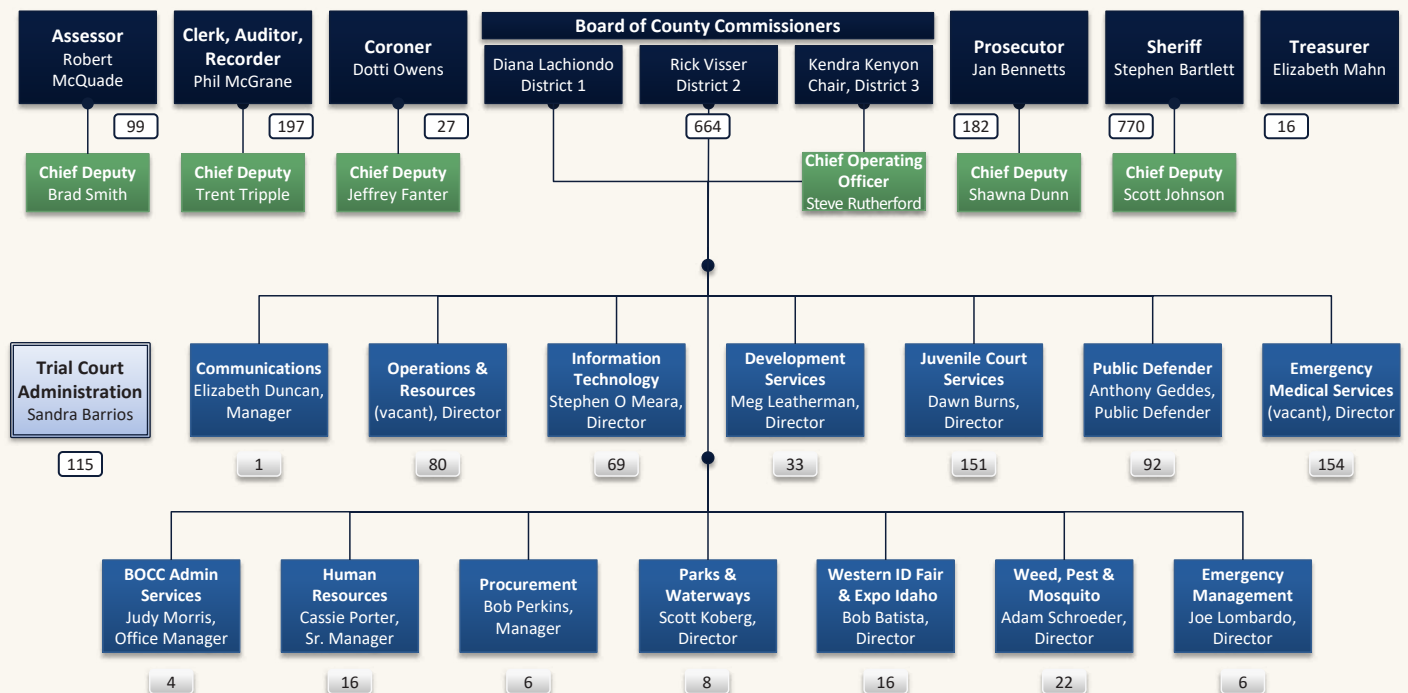


**Kendra Kenyon**  
District 3



## Ada County Organization 2020

200 W Front Street ~ Boise, Idaho 83702



## FROM THE ADA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



Jan M. Bennetts, Ada County Prosecutor, joined with members of her team, founders from Project Never Forgotten,

and members of the Treasure Valley Lodge #11 of the Fraternal Order of Police to light the Prosecutor's Office 2nd Annual Fallen Police Officer Memorial Christmas Tree.

**"It is so important for us to remember the law enforcement officers and K9s who sacrificed their lives in order to keep us safe. One way for my office to demonstrate our gratitude to the officers and their families is hosting the Project Never Forgotten Christmas Tree. This year's tree is in remembrance of the 149 law enforcement officers and 28 K9 officers who lost their lives across our country in 2018. Each ornament honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are deeply grateful to all of our law enforcement partners who put their lives on the line every day." - Jan M. Bennetts**

The Memorial Ornament Campaign offers scholarships to children and widows of fallen officers in addition to supporting memorial events. The formation of Project Never Forgotten occurred after the November 2016 shooting of Boise Police Officers Kevin Holtry, Chris Davis and K9 Jardo. The Ada County Prosecutor's Office is extremely thankful to the founders and volunteers who brought this tree to their office and who work to make this project a success.



## FROM THE ADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Second Driver's License Office in Ada County Coming Soon

If any of you have gone to our Driver's License office at 400 N. Benjamin Lane this past year or so and have been frustrated about long wait times, we understand.

We are hoping by this time next year, we will have found a location and be well on our way to opening a second Driver's License office somewhere in western Ada County.

We are working closely with Ada County Development Services to figure out the best area to put a second driver's license location, and are working with real estate brokers to find the best place to put it. When we figure that out, we'll let you know.



In the meantime, if you do have to get your driver's license renewed or need to get your Real ID/

Star card (which you will have to do before October 2020 if you want to fly), try to avoid Monday, which is the busiest day. Tuesdays and Thursdays generally have the shortest wait times.

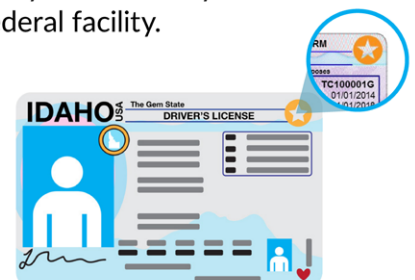


### WHEN TO GO

No matter what day you decide to go, avoid first thing in the morning and lunch times, which are the busiest. Late morning and late afternoons are the best times. For more info, check out <https://adacounty.id.gov/sheriff/services/drivers-licenses/>

### As of October 1, 2020

You will need a Star Card or another accepted form of identification to fly commercially or access a federal facility.





## ADA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

In 2019, we issued 529 single family dwelling permits, processed 320 land use applications and 1,263 Zoning Certificates, issued 145 final plats, and took in a total of 976 applications across all divisions. In addition to applications, we are thankful for your trust in us to answer all 13,000 of your development phone calls. Also this year, our strategic planning division began a Coordinated Growth for Ada County project with our commissioners, and we are grateful for all who participated in the growth conversation by attending the public meeting on October 16th.



## NEXT STEPS

Taking Action from  
Lessons Learned

### STEPS UNDERWAY

#### COUNTYWIDE LEADERSHIP

The current Ada County Commissioners are committed to bringing all jurisdictions and agencies to the table for the growth conversation.

#### TIMING FOR PLANNING

The growth is HERE, the time is NOW to plan for it! 71% of Ada County residents believe that Ada County is growing too fast - the time to take action is now.

#### RENEWED ENERGY

As Ada County has grown, we have fresh ideas to take what we've learned from the past efforts and move forward.

#### WE'LL HAVE THE NUMBERS

COMPASS is doing a fiscal impact analysis, which will provide a tool for us to understand the cost of our growth patterns.

### COMING SOON

#### UNDERSTANDING LEGAL LIMITS

We are coordinating with BSU to put together an education series to learn more about what our authority and legal limitations actually are, so that we are all on the page moving forward.

#### REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES

We will be reaching out to business owners, neighborhood associations, and most importantly, our residents, to understand their thoughts on growth.

#### SUPPORT LAND USE DIVERSITY

Our team is in the process of a deep dive of each jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plans to understand each jurisdiction's goals and find common threads. Once we understand each other, we will be able to plan together for coordinated growth.



## Guiding Development to Protect Our Quality of Life in Ada County

As 2019 comes to a close and the application season winds down, Ada County Development Services reflects on an amazing year of change in Ada County. This year, we have been working to further our vision of “balancing growth for a sustainable future while maintaining the trust of those we serve.” As such, we are excited to announce that in 2020, we will be launching an Outreach and Education Program. With this program, we hope to expand your trust in us and provide better educational resources to our community.

Speaking of outreach, it may not seem like the time of year to think about flooding, but we are! To help homeowners receive reduced insurance rates, the county is a part of the Community Rating System (CRS), a program sponsored by FEMA. Our participation in CRS gives homeowners a 20% discount on their flood insurance, and we want to make sure all residents know about these savings! Last month alone, our team pulled together to mail over 1500 flood information pamphlets to our residents.

Development Services is grateful for the opportunity to serve our residents and looks forward to another year of developing Ada County with you!



**Pine Street Schoolhouse, the 2019 winner of the Historic Preservation Council's County Treasures Award**

## ADA COUNTY OPERATIONS

### Focus on Resource Conservation Continues

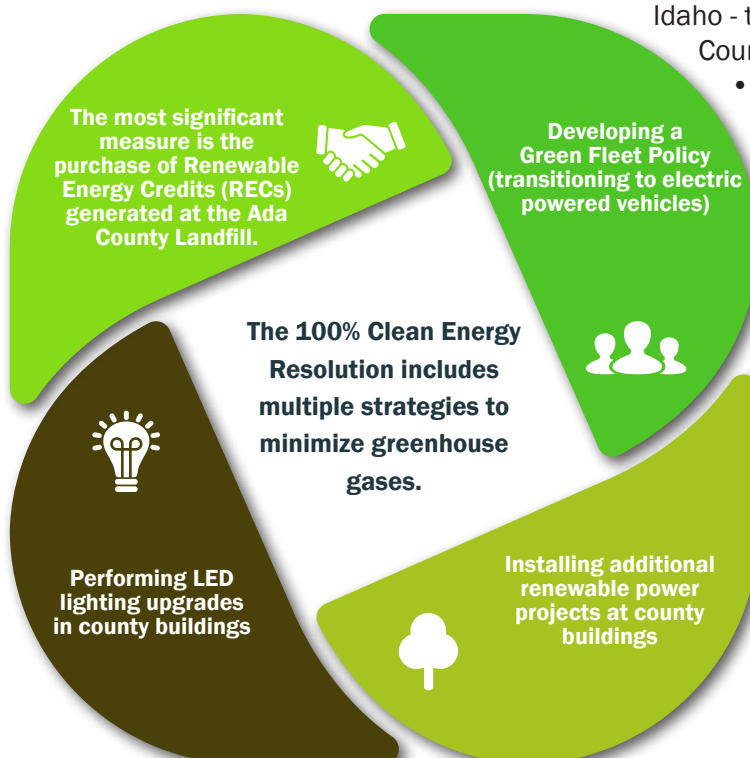
Ada County Commissioners signed a resolution October 31, 2019 that builds upon the county's proven commitment to energy efficiency and strategic resource conservation. The Clean Energy Resolution sets a target date of 2020 to achieve 100% clean electricity at Ada County-owned facilities. Additionally, the county is committing to 100% Clean Energy by 2045.

“The 100% Clean Energy Resolution is yet another in a series of steps we are taking to protect our environment and quality of life for every person who lives, works and visits Ada County,” said Ada County Commission Chair Kendra Kenyon. “Every step we take to reduce our greenhouse gases has a long-term cumulative effect that allows us to be responsible stewards of all we enjoy in Ada County, including clean open spaces, clean water, and clean air.”

“It’s exciting that we are literally using the gas produced by our trash, turning it into clean electricity for county buildings and producing revenue at the landfill,” said Ada County Commissioner Diana Lachiondo. “This is a win-win solution for county leadership and taxpayers.”

### What We’re Doing Right:

- Building and maintaining high performance facilities
- Earning ENERGY STAR® certification of the Ada County Courthouse for the 12th time
- Operating nine LEED Certified Buildings including the first LEED Certified building in Idaho - the Ada County Courthouse
- Providing free bus passes for all Ada County employees to encourage alternative transportation



# SIX CITIES



## Eagle



2019 in the City of Eagle was a year of community participation and community building. In November, Eagle voters elected a new mayor and two new city council members. Mayor-elect Jason Pierce and councilmembers-elect Brad Pike and Charlie Baun will take office on January 14th. The City of Eagle would like to thank outgoing Mayor Stan Ridgeway and Councilmembers Stan Bastian and Dr. Jill Mitchell for their time in office serving the community.

In 2019, community participation was way up for the City's big seasonal events. In early July, over 32,000 people came out to Eagle Fun Days. This year's theme



was "Celebrate America" and there were lots of fun, patriotic displays during the concert performances, the Wet and Wild Parade, and the fireworks show. In October, over 9,000 people

attended Eagle Harvest Fest, which smashed the 2018 record of 5,000 people.

Fall of 2019 was the inaugural season for the Eagle Youth Soccer League! In its first season, over 120 kids signed up. The City of Eagle is proud to bring a local soccer program to Eagle families and residents. Registration for the Spring 2020 season started on December 1st.

More people than ever before wanted to participate in City of Eagle Recreation Programs. Since recreation programming started in 2015 the number of programs offered has grown from 145 to 365, and enrollment has grown from 663 people to 2375.

Speaking of building community, Eagle now has a dedicated community center. This summer, the City purchased the old Landing Community Center and renamed it The Eagle Landing. The city now has a new place for the community to gather, learn, create, and play. We hope to see you at one of our programs or events in the new year! Connect with us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/cityofeagleidaho/>

## Star



Did you know Star was one for the earliest settlements in the Boise Valley? The city in northwestern Ada county has a population today of just over 10,000, and is growing rapidly. Read more about Star's storied history on the city's website [www.staridaho.org](http://www.staridaho.org)

## Garden City



In Garden City, Heron Park Phase II construction has started. It is located at 3858 Reed Street along the greenbelt with river access for tubers to put-in or take-out. Phase II will add a landscaped picnic area and public restrooms. The park has parking for 17 cars.

The City is excited to see the launch of the Garden City Visitors Bureau. The website will launch soon. Check for the link at [gardencityidaho.org](http://gardencityidaho.org). This effort has been coordinated and funded through the efforts of the Southwest Idaho Travel Association, Garden City business community, the Garden City Urban Renewal Agency, and the City. One of the first events to be showcased was the celebration of National Repeal Day, which originally took place on December 5th, 1933. This event highlighted access to quality producers of fine wines, craft beers, and cider, all available in Garden City.

On December 19th, the Garden City Police Department will be escorting Santa through the City to spread gifts and joy to our youngest citizens. Check our Facebook pages for details. Mayor Evans says, "As we enter the holiday season, I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas."





## Kuna

We've had a great 2019 and are preparing for 2020. Watch your mailboxes for the City's annual mailer with important calendar dates and contact information. It covers the year and is an excellent reference so feel free to hang it on the refrigerator with your kid's drawings and stellar report cards!

The November election resulted in Mayor Stear retaining his office (he ran unopposed) as well as incumbents Council President Buban-Vonder Haar and Council Member McPherson being re-elected. They join sitting Council Members Christensen and Cardoza. The public is invited to the swearing in ceremony on January 7, 2020 at the City Council meeting.

If you've noticed dirt work along Indian Creek and the Greenbelt behind City Hall, our fantastic Parks Department is updating the area to assist with erosion and to provide ADA creek access for all users. Watch our social media and website for the completion. The Idaho



Renaissance Faire makes Kuna its host city for its annual Faire held in October. They award an Education Grant each year from

the revenues. This year, the Kuna High School Drama Department received \$4,000! Congratulations!

Mayor Stear has implemented a new forum for 2020. Q & A with the Mayor will be held bi-monthly (every 2 months) for all citizens. This is a good time to visit City Hall and ask questions of your elected official. Watch for dates and times or call the Kuna City Clerk's office for schedules.

Stay up to date with us at [www.kunacity.id.gov](http://www.kunacity.id.gov), Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Nextdoor or feel free to stop in to City Hall or give us a call.

## Meridian



The City of Meridian passed a 'Hands Free While Driving' ordinance that is now in effect. This new ordinance requires drivers to put down their handheld wireless devices while operating a vehicle on public streets or highways within the City of Meridian. The Meridian Police Department will continue educating drivers on the new ordinance through the end of December. Beginning January 1st, 2020 Meridian Police Officers will enforce this new ordinance.

Violating this ordinance will result in an infraction and a fine. For more information and to read the ordinance go to: [www.meridiancity.org/handsfree](http://www.meridiancity.org/handsfree).



## Boise

The City of Boise will have a new mayor in 2020. City Council President Lauren McLean was elected in a runoff in early December. McClean succeeds Dave Bieter who managed Idaho's largest city for 16 years. Best wishes to Mayor Bieter for his distinguished service, and welcome Mayor-Elect McClean.

# FROM THE ADA COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

## Ada County Elections: the Largest Event Planning Operation in Idaho

With the upload of the final results from December 3, 2019, Ada County Elections started wrapping up a whirlwind four month period of elections. The November 5, 2019 Election resulted in a runoff election in Boise between the top two mayoral candidates. The runoff condensed a process that normally takes approximately four to five months into a narrow one-month window.

Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane describes Ada County Elections as the "largest event planning operation in the State of Idaho." Imagine the logistical complexity of planning a wedding to be held simultaneously at up to 150 different locations on the same day, with up to 250,000 guests (none of whom RSVP).

A few days a year schools, churches and fire stations are transformed into polling places throughout the valley, to make voting accessible to thousands of registered voters in Ada County. The core Elections staff consists of just 10 full time employees. Up to 1,000 poll workers are trained prior to the Election to set up the voting machines, manage crowds, field questions, determine if voters are at their correct polling location and help unregistered voters to register.

The planning and behind the scenes preparations include programming, testing and delivering up to 300 machines and providing support for them throughout the day. In a consolidated election like the one on November 5, overlapping precincts can result in hundreds of ballot styles with a variety of taxing districts within Ada County. A single precinct can have several ballot styles and poll workers are responsible for ensuring each voter gets the correct ballot. Turnout can vary wildly and determining the number of ballots for each precinct is both an art and a science.



**Phil McGrane**  
Ada County Clerk

All of this preparation comes together on Election Day to ensure eligible voters in Ada County have the opportunity to cast a ballot. If you are interested in learning more about the Elections process, follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

## ADA COUNTY ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 5, 2019

**250,000+**

REGISTERED VOTERS

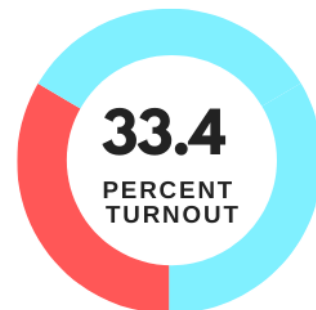


**83,834**

TOTAL BALLOTS  
COUNTED

**4,811**

SAME DAY  
REGISTRATIONS



**22**  
CONTESTED RACES

**93**  
CANDIDATES

**149**  
POLLING LOCATIONS

1,192 PHONE CALLS  
252 BALLOT STYLES  
129,530 BALLOTS PRINTED  
9 FULL TIME STAFF  
707 POLL WORKERS  
97 ELECTION NIGHT WORKERS

**5,769**  
ABSENTEE BALLOTS SENT  
**9,643**  
EARLY VOTING BALLOTS  
**9**  
MOBILE VOTING UNIT  
LOCATIONS

# ADA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

## Human Resources

### Ada County Nondiscrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy

Human Resources recently updated Ada County's harassment and discrimination policies.

The revisions provide more inclusive nondiscrimination language, adding to the existing policy to further prohibit



discrimination on the basis of: marital status, pregnancy, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, military status, use of a

service animal, and any other status protected by federal, state, and local law.

These updates took effect in late August, and aim to reinforce the county's ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion in our workplace.

Additionally, the updates created more concise harassment and retaliation policy sections that are in line with a more contemporary handbook style.

## Procurement

### E-Procurement System, "Bonfire"

Ada County Procurement has adopted a new E-Procurement System called Bonfire. Bonfire will allow for electronic submittals for bids and RFPs from vendors and contractors. This transition from paper to digital will help reduce the county's reliance on paper, and will enable more efficient procurement processes.

Bonfire also has a more dynamic vendor database,



as well as an electronic evaluation feature for RFPs. You can check out Ada County's current procurement solicitations at: <https://adacounty.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

### Cooperative Purchasing Law

July 1, 2019 ushered in a new era of Cooperative Purchasing, as a new law took effect allowing for political subdivisions to utilize cooperative contracts that other government organizations have already competitively bid. Essentially, this cooperative purchasing allows smaller government organizations to have the same purchasing power as some of the largest cities and counties in the United States, while adding efficiencies to their procurement processes. What this means for Ada County is greater value when procuring goods and services.

### Idaho Public Purchasing Association

Ada County Procurement is involved with the Idaho Public Purchasing Association (IPPA) and serves in various roles within the organization. IPPA is a local chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Procurement (NIGP). Alyssa Ellington, Procurement Officer II, has applied and been appointed NIGP Chapter Ambassador for Area 8 (N.W. United States and Western Canada) starting January 1, 2020. This is an exciting opportunity and will be the first time this position has been filled by anyone in the state of Idaho!





# ADA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY FOR WINTER

Preparedness Pointers to  
keep you safe

Winter traveling is right around the corner as we head into the holiday season. For long distance driving trips, it is important to plan ahead. Be sure to watch weather reports and delay trips if bad weather is expected. If it



is absolutely necessary to travel, let friends or family know your route and schedule. Be sure to check in with friends or family regularly. You should always keep at least half a tank of gas in your vehicle, and an

additional power source to charge a cell phone. If you do get stuck in a storm, stay in your vehicle and place a brightly colored flag or piece of material where rescuers can easily see it. Most importantly, make sure you have an emergency kit in your car in case you get stranded in a severe winter storm while driving.

Snow forecasts and road reports are on the front of everyone's mind this time of year, but once the snow melts, run-off season begins. A property could be far from the river for foothills gulches and still be flooded by one of these sources. Now is the time to start thinking about purchasing flood insurance for your home. It takes 30 days for flood insurance policies to take effect, so it is important to purchase before you need it. You can learn more about flood insurance cost and coverage at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

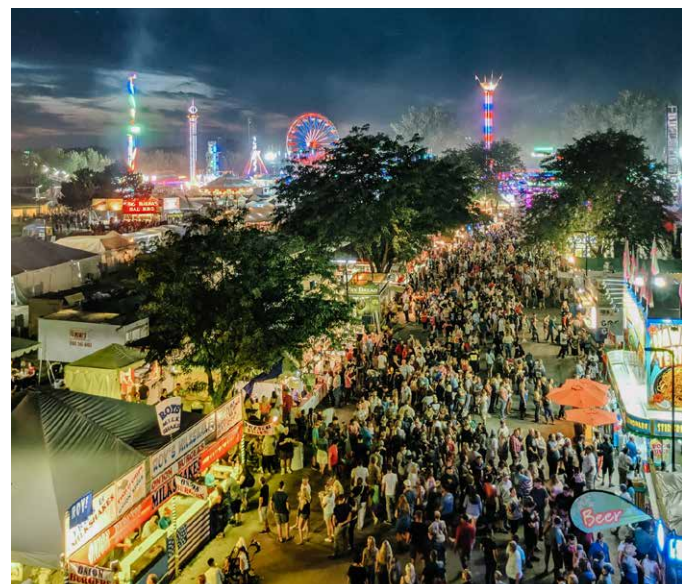
## EXPO IDAHO HAS SOME GREAT THINGS HAPPENING



Almost every person in Ada County has experience with Expo Idaho – the 240 acres of unincorporated land inside the City limits of Garden City. Whether it's a car, sportsman, or crafting show, a concert, a 4-H event, the Western Idaho Fair, or one of the myriad other programs hosted by Expo, a lot of people spend time there.

Expo Idaho is an enterprise fund department of Ada County. It is self-supported and receives no tax dollars to operate.

2020 promises to be another record-breaking year for Expo and we look forward to providing the public we serve with programs and events that enrich lives.



# ACHD PREPARES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

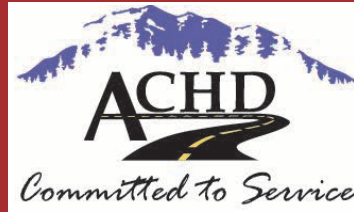
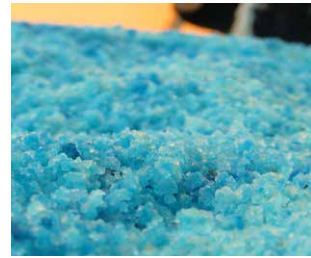
Agency is responsible for  
Ada County Roads

Winter is here and the Ada County Highway District is ready for anything headed our way.

Preparations begin long before snow even falls. The enormous amount of planning starts in August. Crews review and update their winter maintenance route maps making sure to include things like new roads, subdivisions and schools. Once the map is finalized in early October, crews familiarize themselves with their routes, inspect and prepare equipment and they complete training.

Winter operations officially begins at ACHD on Nov. 1. That means on-call shift rotations start for our crews. If a snowstorm comes overnight, the crew on call is ready to go. This year, we have 60 pieces of equipment, including 46 snowplows, capable of treating roads; 144 team members split into two crews; 280,000 gallons of magnesium chloride; and 4,500 tons of salt.

ACHD crews take care of major roads and intersections, overpasses, bridges, roads with fire stations and



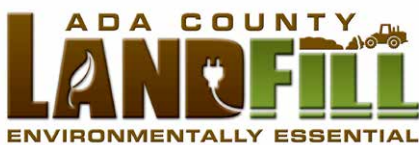
**ACHD is a separate agency from Ada County, with its own elected officials, is responsible for treating and maintaining 5,121 lane miles of roadway in the county.**

hospitals, railroad crossings, school crossings and streets with a grade of six percent or higher. Property owners and residents are responsible for clearing sidewalks near their home or business.

We are staffed, routes have been confirmed, and equipment is ready and materials on hand. The one factor we can never control is Mother Nature but rest assured that whatever weather is thrown our way, ACHD crews will be working their hardest to maintain safe travel routes in Ada County.

## THE ADA COUNTY LANDFILL IS DOING SOME JUICY THINGS

If you work in the Landfill space you tend to have a trashy sense of humor. Case in point – the value of garbage juice, or leachate. The Ada County landfill is using leachate, the liquid from the trash you put in your dumpster every week, to help the environment.



The Solid Waste Management Department received approval from Idaho

Department of Environmental Quality and Central District Health to embark on a three year pilot program to reinject the leachate into the lined landfill cell of the North Ravine Cell.

The reinjection is happening systematically, with controlled flow for specified times. There are also rest periods in individual lines in portions of the landfill that are not currently being used. That way we are not pumping ten million gallons of leachate into the

landfill all at once. The desired outcome from reinjecting leachate is three fold. First, with an increase in moisture in the landfill we increase the rate of decomposition of the waste and ultimately regain some air space. Secondly, the additional moisture will increase the quality of the landfill gas coming from the North Ravine Cell and enhancing the ability to generate electricity from our onsite generators. Lastly we'll have a backup for our leachate ponds to dispose of leachate, where we would normally use evaporation. Having the ability to control the volume of garbage juice in the ponds helps us keep in compliance from an environmental impact.



**Leachate pumped back into the leachate pond to break surface tension, encouraging evaporation.**



## FROM THE ADA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

### Safe Infant Sleep Awareness

The Ada County Coroner's Office would like to bring your attention to Safe Infant Sleep Awareness, the winter edition! While the urge to bundle up your little baby may feel like the right call, all of those extra cuddly blankets and layers can pose a life-threatening hazard to your little one when they are sleeping. Overheating and suffocation are risks that can be avoided with just a little extra

mindfulness of your infant's environment and temperature. Wearable sleep sacks and room thermometers are great tools to ensure your infant is sleeping safe!

The Ada County Coroner's Office is proud to support Governor Brad Little's proclamation of a "Safe Infant Sleep Awareness" month in Idaho. While the awareness month is proclaimed to be October, we believe safe infant sleep awareness is important for EVERY month, EVERY day and EVERY infant. Keep those little bundles of

joy warm, safe and happy this winter and we wish you happy holidays!



**Coroner Dotti Owens,  
M.A., D-ABMDI**

## ADA COUNTY BOARD OF GUARDIANS ASSISTS OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST VULNERABLE

The Ada County Board of Guardians acts as legal guardian for Ada County residents, who have been declared incapacitated. We are the last resort for our clients who do not have friends or family willing or able to act on their behalf, or have assets to pay for guardianship services. Often, our clients have been or are in danger of being exploited and need an advocate. We also make medical, placement and financial decisions as necessary. The guardianship appointment continues for the remainder of the client's life. The Board employs a full time program manager and a full time client coordinator. We are currently serving nearly 30 clients and the need is steadily increasing. The program is always looking for volunteers to act as friendly visitors for some of our clients who enjoy more interaction. There is a vetting process and all volunteers must pass a background check.

For more information

<https://adacounty.id.gov/community-guardian/>





# BEWARE OF FAKE AMAZON, GMAIL AND PAYPAL PHISHING ATTACKS!

## Phishing Phact:

In 2016, 91% of security breaches start with a phishing email (see article for more interesting phishing facts <https://www.thesslstore.com/blog/20-phishing-statistics-to-keep-you-from-getting-hooked-in-2019/>).

The bad guys are at it again. They're posing as well-known services like Gmail, Amazon, and Paypal so they can trick you into giving up your personal and financial information. 'Tis the holiday season so we all need to be extra vigilant when it comes to our online accounts as those bad guys are going to assume you will be more worried about your purchases than carefully looking at emails you receive.

All phishing attack starts off the same way: You receive an email claiming that you need to verify your account. The bad guys send their emails from an active email address, which makes it look more

legitimate and makes it easier for them to bypass email security filters. Once you click the button or link in the email you're first brought to a website that is only used to redirect you to a second page. This helps the hackers get past email filters. From the second page, you're asked to verify that you're not a robot. Once this fake site has confirmed you're not a robot, the real danger begins. On the final phishing page, you're asked to fill in fields with your account credentials, credit card details, etc.. At that point all of your data is sent directly to the attacker's email address. Keep in mind all of these pages look very similar to the real websites, with logos and even 800 numbers!

What should you do if you get an email about an issue with an account that you are unsure if it is real or fake? Simple: never follow any links in an email that is randomly sent to you. If Amazon, Gmail, PayPal or even your bank randomly sends you an email with

link to "validate your information" – don't click, simply open your browser and go to the site in question by either following a book mark you have or type in the address. This way you know you went to where you wanted to go and if there are account issues, the site will tell you as soon as you log in. Don't believe the sender's email address either as it could be altered in a way you may not notice. Be safe and take your time!



phish-ing  
/fISHING/

*noun*

**1. the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.**  
"an email that is likely a phishing scam"

## ADA COUNTY PARAMEDICS



**AdaCountyParamedics**  
We're in it for Life!

Ada County Paramedics believe upstanding pre-hospital healthcare should be available to all Ada County residents regardless of their financial situation—that's why we created the Vital Ride Ambulance Membership program. When Vital Ride members are transported to the hospital, instead of billing them for our services, we simply waive their ambulance bill.\* We recognize unexpected medical emergencies can be a financial hardship, but we never want that to hinder someone in our community from receiving the healthcare they need. Vital Ride Ambulance memberships offer peace of mind starting at just \$75 a year.

Enroll today at <https://adacountyparamedics.org/vital-ride-ambulance-membership/>!

### Choose Your Membership Level

We offer memberships to fit any budget. Choose from a 1-year, 5-year or lifetime membership. One membership covers your whole household. Select our 5-year membership level for the best value.

### Call 911 During Your Emergency

When you or your covered household members have an emergency, dial 911. We'll respond quickly and ensure you get the best pre-hospital healthcare available.

### We'll Take Care of the Rest

Come billing time, we'll apply your Vital Ride Membership to your ambulance bill. After your insurance kicks in, you'll owe us nothing.\* There's no paperwork for you to do!

## FROM THE ADA COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE



**Elizabeth A. Mahn**  
**Ada County Treasurer**

Ada County mailed the 2019 Consolidated Property Tax Bills to approximately 188,000 taxpayers in November. Property taxes are collected by the Ada County Treasurer on behalf of dozens of local taxing districts. Ada County retains approximately 22% of the total property taxes collected and uses its share primarily to fund public safety and courts. The remaining taxes are distributed to schools, the six

(6) cities in Ada County, ACHD, fire and other districts. To understand how your Ada County property tax dollars are distributed, visit <https://adacounty.id.gov/treasurer/>.

In January, Ada County will mail the 2019 Consolidated Property Tax Bills for the “subsequent” (or occupancy) tax roll. This bill is typically for the completion of an improvement or structure that is assessed between the fourth Monday in May and October 31. For the subsequent roll, the first half installment or full amount is due by February 20, 2020. If the first half installment is paid timely, then the second half will be due June 20, 2020.

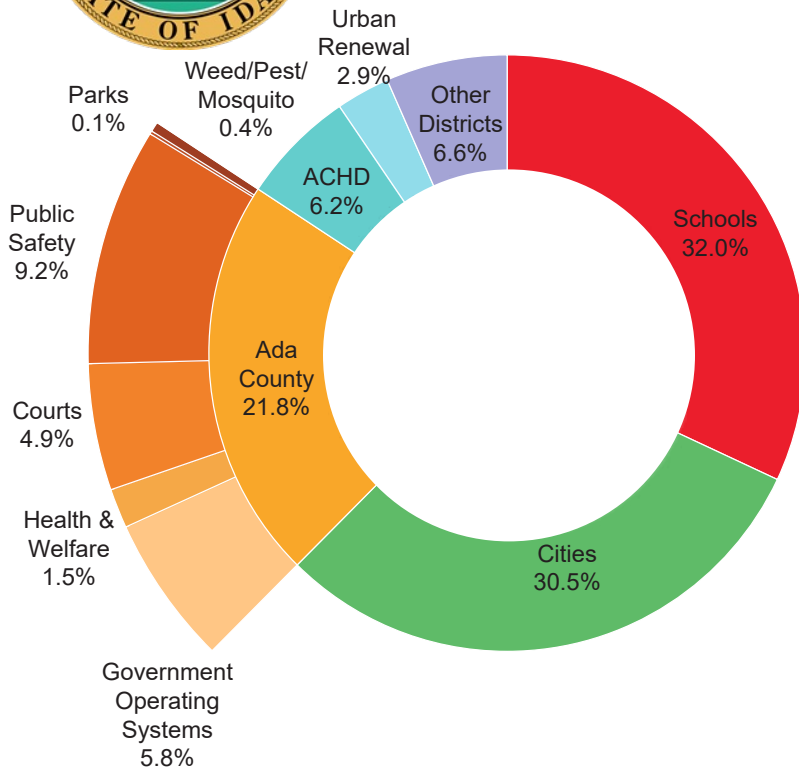


**SUBSEQUENT PROPERTY TAXES DUE**  
Don't miss the deadline!  
.....  
**02.20.20**  
.....  
Learn more at  
<https://adacounty.id.gov/treasurer>





In the 2019 Tax Year, Ada County will collect \$683,633,929 in Property Taxes on behalf of other local taxing districts. Here is how those Tax Dollars Ada County collects are distributed.



Taxing District	Property Taxes Levied
BOISE CITY	\$158,325,512
Ada County	\$140,724,751
BOISE SCHOOLS*	\$114,566,261
WEST ADA SCHOOLS*	\$93,995,405
ADA COUNTY HIGHWAY DIST	\$42,590,717
MERIDIAN CITY	\$36,734,757
URBAN RENEWAL	\$19,933,475
KUNA SCHOOLS*	\$9,865,997
EAGLE FIRE*	\$9,179,938
MERIDIAN LIBRARY	\$7,124,889
COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO*	\$7,098,138
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	\$6,732,748
N ADA CO FIRE & RESCUE	\$4,735,240
GARDEN CITY	\$4,543,233
EAGLE CITY	\$4,043,662
WHITNEY FIRE	\$3,868,581
KUNA CITY	\$3,239,481
ADA COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	\$2,504,748
STAR FIRE*	\$2,316,671
KUNA FIRE*	\$2,000,003
MERIDIAN FIRE	\$1,506,450
STAR CITY*	\$1,388,315
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT	\$1,181,467
HARRIS RANCH #1 CID	\$889,347
KUNA LIBRARY*	\$861,777
STAR SEWER*	\$706,127
PEST EXTERMINATION	\$664,288
WESTERN ADA RECREATION	\$588,426
MERIDIAN CEMETERY	\$477,673
FLOOD CONTROL DIST. #10	\$360,942
KUNA CEMETERY*	\$197,053
DRY CREEK CEMETERY	\$189,472
MELBA SCHOOLS*	\$122,882
STAR CEMETERY	\$115,551
EAGLE SEWER	\$112,132
SUNSET FIRE	\$54,446
JOPLIN CEMETERY	\$37,300
AVIMOR #1 CID	\$34,171
MELBA FIRE	\$17,786
MELBA CEMETERY*	\$2,341
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY*	\$1,775

\*Taxing District is split between 2 or more counties. Only the Ada County portion is shown above.

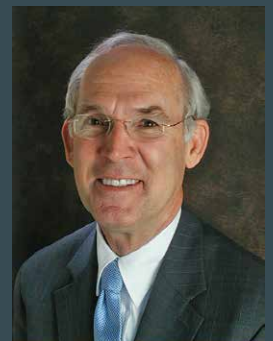
## FROM THE ADA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

### Annual Property Appraisals are Underway

Assessor's Office appraisal staff have started their annual reappraisal. State law requires every parcel in the county be physically re-inspected once every five years. That means your property could be within an area up for reappraisal for 2020. You may see someone from our office in your neighborhood gathering data and taking updated photographs of your property. From time to time, we leave door tags requesting property owners contact our office. We hope our presence doesn't cause alarm but in the event it does, staff is required to carry county-issued ID badges and business cards in the field. If your home falls in one of our reappraisal areas, you may also receive a survey in the mail from our office requesting confirmation of the physical characteristics of your home. We appreciate your participation in our effort to gather and maintain accurate property data.



**Ada County Property Appraiser conducting a required Reappraisal**



**Robert McQuade, Ada County Assessor**

You may visit our website, [www.adacountyassessor.org](http://www.adacountyassessor.org), for more detailed information and answers to your reappraisal FAQs:

<https://adacounty.id.gov/assessor/appraisal/-residential-commercial-faqs/>



# WEEDING OUT INVASIVE PLANTS

Ada County Weed, Pest  
and Mosquito Abatement  
strives to protect our  
native landscapes,  
ranches and farm land,  
and public health



## Weed Control

In 2019, Ada County Weed Control (ACWC) saw an increase in work pertaining to Early Detection/ Rapid Response (EDRR) weeds. ACWC classifies EDRR weeds as the greatest threat to establish in Ada County. For this reason, preventing EDRR weeds from establishing in Ada County becomes the top priority of ACWC when they are discovered. The EDRR projects that ACWC encountered in 2019 included:

- Yellow starthistle: ACWC mapped and treated 5.22 acres of yellow starthistle in a tremendous effort to contain this fast-spreading weed.
- Parrotfeather milfoil: ACWC mapped and treated 1.6 acres of this troublesome aquatic weed.
- Black henbane: Ada County's lone infestation of black henbane decreased to less than one



hundred plants following years of successive treatments.

- Hoary alyssum: ACWC discovered hoary alyssum in Ada County for the first time, in 2019. ACWC pulled and bagged the seed heads from around 100 square feet of plants, and then treated the area for new growth.
- Johnsongrass: ACWC discovered and treated a single infestation of Johnsongrass.
- Perennial Sowthistle: ACWC also discovered Ada County's first infestation of perennial sowthistle, in 2019. Treatment was made this year and will continue to be monitored to meet eradication goal. 0.86 acres mapped and treated.

## Pest Control

The Ada County Pest Control District added an additional field crew in 2019. This helped to reduce work order completion time by 40%, so far, in the 2019 season.



## Mosquito Abatement

In total, the 2019 season saw the Ada County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD) inspect more than 41,000 sites, reduce the hatching of adult mosquito populations with 881 acres of larvicide treatments, and respond to vector and nuisance mosquito populations by administering roughly 64,000 acres of ultra-low volume fogging treatments. Public service requests for larvicide treatments increased by 52% from 2018, likely due to education efforts. ACMAD trapped over 67,000 mosquitoes and found West Nile virus in 23 locations in Ada County. ACMAD reported all testing sites and West Nile virus positive pools to the publicly accessible "Mosquito Tracker" on the ACMAD webpage.

<https://gis.adacounty.id.gov/apps/wnv/>





## ADA COUNTY PARKS & WATERWAYS

Starting this spring the Ada County Parks & Waterways Department will continue implementing much needed Greenbelt upgrades to enhance the wonderful, public, riverside pathway system that connects our communities. The Department intends to build upon its award winning success from the recently completed Warm Springs Mesa and Penitentiary Canal greenbelt projects (formerly Ada County pathway priorities #1 and #2) to implement a new surface enhancement project on the county's next high priority pathway segment.

Using newly allocated support from the general fund for Greenbelt Pathway repair and maintenance approved by the Board of Ada County Commissioners during the FY20 budget process, Parks & Waterways will make much needed repairs to the 1 mile segment of Greenbelt Pathway on the Expo Idaho property between Glenwood Street and Plantation Island. The surface condition of this existing pathway segment has been in a state of disrepair for several years making it generally unsafe and unenjoyable for recreational users at Expo Idaho and bicycle commuters from Eagle and Garden City.

The scope of the project will include sawcutting, patching, grinding, crack filling, sealcoating, and striping. Special attention will be given to areas of the pathway suffering from root intrusion from adjacent cottonwood trees that have buckled the pavement creating several hazards. Given the proximity of the pathway to the Boise River and the intent of the Board of Commissioners to gather additional public input regarding the overall revitalization of the Expo Idaho property, this project will not result in a full reconstruction or widening of the existing pathway at this time; however, all users should expect significant improvements to the overall surface condition and pathway experience. Next in line for repair by Ada County will be the flood damaged portions of the Judy Peavey-Derr (aka Sunroc) Greenbelt Pathway segment downstream from Garden City.

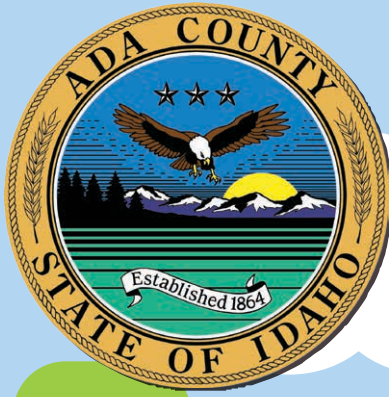
### WATCH OUR PROGRESS!

Ada County Parks & Waterways

<https://www.facebook.com/adacountyparks/>

### Greenbelt Repairs in the Works!





**Wave goodbye  
to your  
BUMPY RIDE!**

**Ada County is gearing up  
to repair this 1 mile stretch  
of the Greenbelt!**



**Spring  
2020**

For more information visit  
[facebook.com/adacountyparks](https://facebook.com/adacountyparks)