



ADA COUNTY

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Barber Pool Property Designated As Conservation Area

Board of Commissioners Vote Unanimously To Protect Treasured Wildlife Area

BOISE –Ada County Commissioners today adopted a resolution designating the Barber Pool Property as an Open Space and Conservation Area. The 35+ acres of property is owned by the county and is located along the north bank of the Boise River near the intersection of Highway 21 and Warm Springs Avenue.

The Barber Pool Property provides valuable wildlife habitat for more than 60 species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and includes cottonwood forests and willow riparian areas where more than 200 species of birds have been documented including bald eagles. The area also provides a refuge for migrating deer and is considered a valuable resource in the scientific and environmental communities.

“Ada County’s population is projected to almost double in size by the year 2040, and that’s not that far off,” said Ada County Commissioner Kendra Kenyon. “That is why we believe it is critically important to make sure we protect the things that are precious to us. We are doing what we can to make sure wildlife habitat, unique vegetation, and wetlands remain areas of inspiration.”

“As a child growing up in Boise my family and I always found places to visit where we could revive our connection to nature,” said Ada County Commissioner Diana Lachiondo. “I am proud we are doing tangible things to protect our quality of life and our heritage for future generations.”

The designation of Conservation Area and/or Open Space does not preclude passive recreation such as hiking, wildlife observation, birdwatching, painting, drawing and photography while staying on officially designated trails. The county will continue to collaborate with neighboring landowners and other stakeholders within the Barber Pool to help determine appropriate access. At this time, the Barber Pool is best viewed from the 2 miles of Greenbelt Pathway off of Warm Springs Avenue between the Idaho Shakespeare entrance and Diversion Dam. This mostly elevated pathway was completely rebuilt in 2018 by Ada County Parks & Waterways to create a wider, safer, and smoother surface and there are several points for stopping along the shoulder to soak up the view.

The county received title to the Barber Pool Property from the Idaho Park Foundation in 1986. The property is located in the floodplain of the Boise River.

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