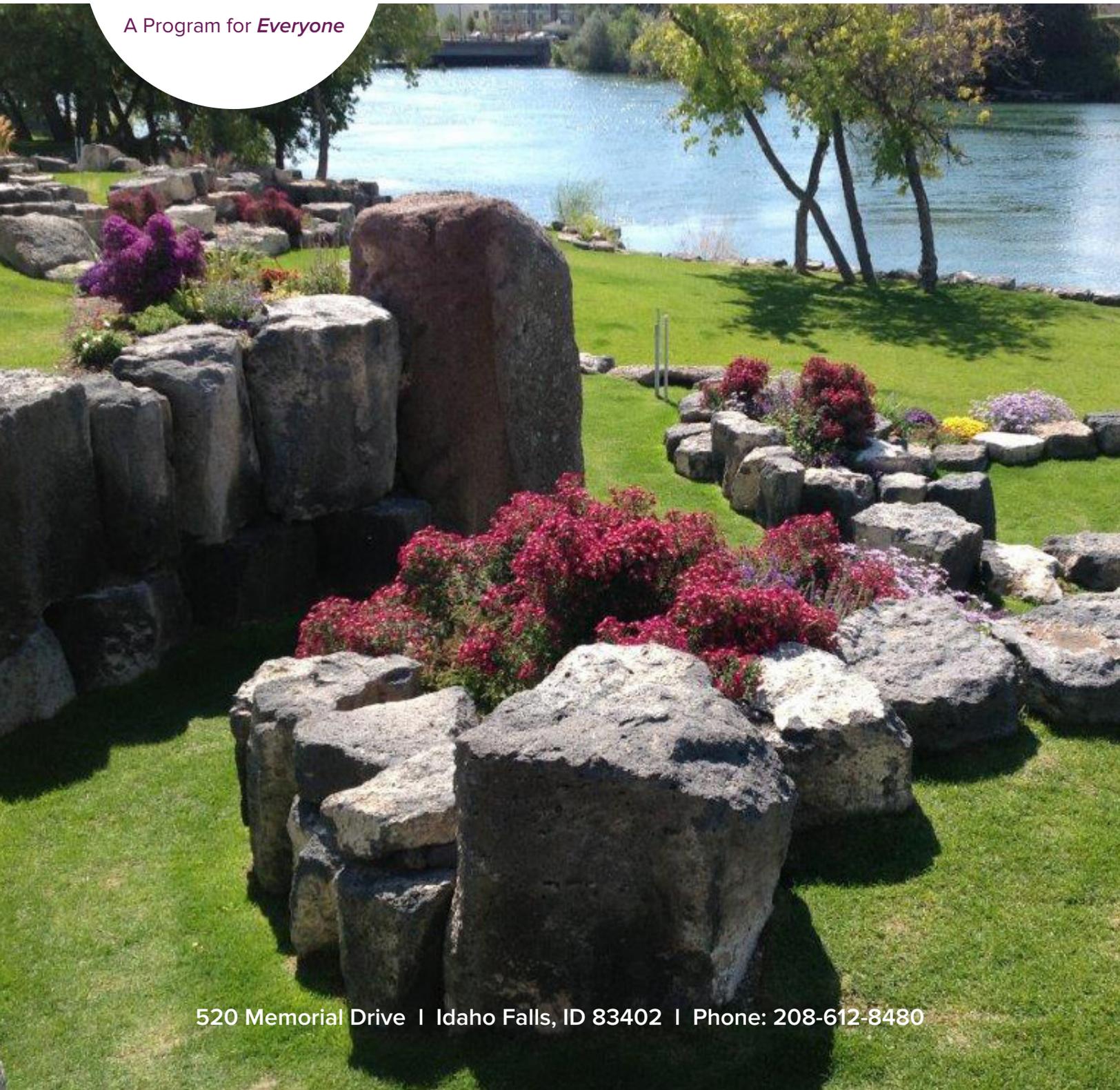


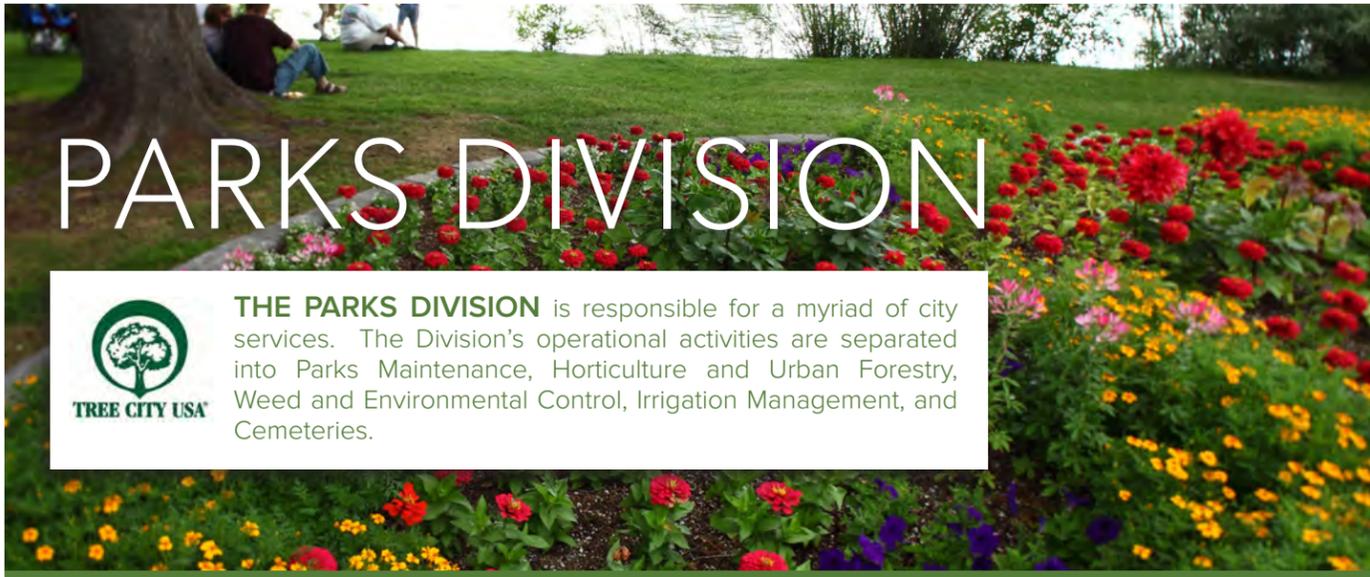
City of Idaho Falls  
Department of Parks and Recreation



A Program for *Everyone*

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT





The staff works together to provide high quality, safe and well maintained parks, trails, athletic facilities, pavilions and shelters, cemeteries, public restrooms and numerous other recreation facilities. The Division also provides citywide special event assistance, snow removal, weed control, the banner program, ice arena maintenance, the holiday lighting program as well as maintenance of all memorials, flowerbeds, and city turf grass.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The State of Idaho Vietnam War Memorial at Freeman Park was re-grouted and chains on the bollards were repaired.
- A pilot recycling program was initiated during special events and at Sandy Downs Park where more than 6,760 pounds of aluminum, scrap metal and plastic was collected.
- Thanks to a Bonneville County landscaping grant that helped pay for labor and fuel expenses, 67 trees were planted at Blacktail Reservoir.
- The Melaleuca Field outfield fence project began by removing the old fencing and installing 85 poles and plywood siding.
- Thanks to a generous donation, a new and very popular art bench of a John Deere tractor was installed along the Greenbelt at Capital Park.
- The Parks Division assisted with the first annual *Festival of Lights at Freeman Park* special event.
- Disc Golf Pad Extensions – extended all 19 concrete pads for Frisbee golf at Freeman Park.
- Installed more than 15,000 sq. feet of sod at the River Gardens at Taylor's Crossing Phase II project. The next phase will be installing lighting along the river walk trail adjacent to the river gardens.
- Purchased new trash truck and developed formal collection plan and trash can placement to improve labor efficiencies and sustainability efforts.
- Assisted with Snake River Greenbelt Parkway Redesign project by removing benches, signs, trees and irrigation to prepare for a new 14 foot wide path from Broadway Street to Johns Hole parking lot.



- Oversaw completion of parking lot improvements at South Tourist Park.
- Assisted with Greenbelt East bank path project from Broadway to River Road by removing benches, signs, trees and laying 10,000 sq. ft. of sod.
- The landscaping and irrigation system for the new Snake River Animal Shelter was completed.
- The Parks Division took over the responsibility of the grounds for Pancheri overpass property and the Bristol Heights storm retention pond and the grounds on the East and West side on Hitt Road south of Sunnyside road.
- Ronnie Campbell, Weeds and Environmental Control Foreman, helped lead the Department Uniform Committee that developed a new uniform policy for all divisions and sections including sizing and ordering for more than 300 employees.
- Assisted with multiple volunteer and Boy Scout projects including new soccer benches being built for Old Butte Soccer Complex and a cabin restoration project on Keefer's Island.



**HORTICULTURE AND URBAN FORESTRY**

The Horticulture and Urban Forestry section of the Parks Division manages more than 17,000 public trees in city parks and street rights-of-way. This section also maintains, grows, and plants flowers and plants for more than 150 flower and landscape beds and 120 flower baskets in city parks and public spaces.

**Services and Programs**

- Pruned more than 500 trees, treated 800+ trees, planted 70 potted trees, removed 41 trees, and transplanted more than 150 trees in 2015.
- Received the Tree City U.S.A. designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 23rd year and was selected to receive the Growth Award in 2015. Arbor Day was held on May 14th where volunteers and staff worked on the west side of the river planting trees and flowers.
- Horticulture/Forestry hired a seasonal employee from BYU-I, who knows plant identification and diseases. She updated the City's tree inventory, identified the species of trees, identified tree hazard/removals and updated the GIS data base.
- Managed greenhouse production including watering, fertilization, pest control and growth regulation. Other responsibilities include producing greenhouse flowers and perennial crop from seed and vegetative cuttings.

**NEW TOPIARIES INSTALLED**

Two (2) new topiaries of a mule deer buck and doe were installed along the east bank of the Snake River on Memorial Drive. The project was developed by the Horticulture and Forestry section of the Parks Division with local artist Jason Brown.

# OUR MISSION

**THE MISSION** of the City of Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality parks and recreation opportunities based upon cost efficiency and community needs.

The 2015 Annual Report highlights the major accomplishments and responsibilities of the City of Idaho Falls Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Department's operational activities are separated into Parks, Recreation, Golf, Zoo and Administrative Divisions. There are 69 full-time positions and more than 300 part-time and seasonal employees who provide Idaho Falls' 58,000 residents and metro population of 136,108 with quality park and recreation services, programs and facilities.

Facilities provided by the Department include 52 parks and more than 26 miles of trails, Pinecrest, Sand Creek and Sage Lakes public golf courses, Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park, Wes Deist Aquatic Center, the IF Rec Center, Joe Marmo and Wayne Lehto Ice Arena, Idaho Falls Raceway at Noise Park, Sandy Downs Rodeo Grounds, Melaleuca Field, Rose Hill and Fielding Cemeteries, Skyline Activity Center and many others.



COVER PHOTO: Three-time State award winning park, the River Gardens at Taylor's Crossing.



## 2015 Citizen Boards and Commissions

### City Council

Rebecca Casper, Mayor  
 Michael Lehto, Council President  
 Thomas Hally, Parks and Recreation Liaison  
 David M. Smith, Parks and Recreation Liaison  
 Ed Marohn  
 Sharon D. Parry  
 Barbara Dee Ehardt

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Bill Combo, Chair	Kerry Martin
Tom Hersh	Jill Kirkham
Matt Hill	Steve Janes
Jim Hammon	Kris Millgate
Jeffrey Forbes	John LoBuono
Dave Radford	Mike Davis

### Golf Advisory Committee

Rick Carosone, Chair	Tom Hersh
Dave Bishop	Amanda Moore
Jim Dalton	Jack Simonds
Gary Lattimore	Jim Veeneman
J. Boyd Leavitt	Sharon Griffith
David McDonald	Tim Reinke

### Shade Tree Committee

Matt Hill, Chair	Kim Johnson
Randy Westergard	Gerry Bates
Kerry Beutler	Wayne Jones



## From the Director

Thank you for making 2015 another remarkable year for the Department of Parks and Recreation! A few highlights from the past year include:

- After being awarded the 2014 Outstanding Facility and Parks Award by the Idaho Recreation and Park Association, the River Gardens at Taylor's Crossing project also won the 2015 Redevelopment Award from Idaho Smart Growth and the City Achievement Award from the Association of Idaho Cities.
- Thanks to more than \$1.2 million in funding assistance provided by the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Falls Redevelopment Agency, Connecting Our Community, a master plan for connecting the Idaho Falls area through a network of trails and bikeways, got underway with the Snake River Greenbelt Parkway Redesign which included much needed trail widening and safety improvements to the Broadway bridge.
- The Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park launched a new Quarters for Conservation program that raised more than \$11,000 dollars for local, national and international conservation efforts. Thanks to the generosity of 4Sight Security, more than \$30,000 dollars of security camera equipment was donated to the Zoo and Tautphaus Park.
- The Department welcomed several new partnerships including the oversight and management of Idaho's Oldest Rodeo, the War Bonnet Roundup, and the first annual Festival of Lights at Freeman Park where more than 8,000 vehicles drove through an animated holiday light display. A portion of the revenues raised from both events will benefit the city-wide Parks Capital Improvement Fund.

The Department of Parks and Recreation would not be the organization we are today without the tireless dedication of our past and present staff, commission, boards, volunteers, partners and sponsors. Thank you for supporting Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation in 2015!



All the best,

Greg A. Weitzel, MS, CPRP

If you should have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 208-612-8482 or by email at [gweitzel@idahofallsidaho.gov](mailto:gweitzel@idahofallsidaho.gov).

## HORTICULTURE AND URBAN FORESTRY CONT.

- Manages the tree farm at Sandy Downs Park and performs rotational pruning for tree health and safety of both trees in city parks and in the public street rights-of-way.
- Conducts and maintains street tree inventory and planting program; Removal of dead, diseased, or potentially dangerous trees on city property.
- Tree safety inspection program and Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Coordination of the Adopt-A-Flower Bed and Arbor Day programs and coordinated with volunteers to plant adopted flower beds for Memorial Day holiday.
- Provides development design review and enforcement of tree protection codes.



## WEED AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

The Weed and Environmental Control section of the Parks Division manages and enforces the City's weed control program and provides a proactive approach to maintain a controlled weed environment as well as responding to resident's observations, concerns and complaints. Weed control provides fire safety, pleasing neighborhood aesthetics, street cleanliness, and the reduction of related health issues. This section is also responsible for herbicide treatment on public properties including right-of-ways, city property, trash and debris removal, park restroom cleaning, as well as operating and maintaining Sandy Downs Racetrack and Rodeo Grounds and the Idaho Falls Raceway at Noise Park.



### Services and Programs

- The Weed Control Section received 545 weed complaints on private property resulting in 417 violation letters being sent and 39 enforcements completed; Willow trimming on both sides of the greenbelt was completed.
- The section planted more than 1,000 milkweed seeds that the park employees collected for the monarch butterfly habitat at Ryder Park.
- Broadleaf weeds were controlled on more than 500 acres of turf in all parks, including 26 miles of sidewalks and all athletic fields. Noxious and nuisance weeds were controlled on more than 1,000 acres of undeveloped ground.
- More than 600 acres of undeveloped ground which includes right-of-ways, interstates, highways, and snow storage areas were cut and maintained during the growing season.
- The section oversaw the July 4th clean up that included more than two (2) tons of trash.



**WEED AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL** planted more than 1,000 milkweed seeds that the park employees collected for the monarch butterfly habitat at Ryder Park.

## CEMETERIES

The Cemetery section of the Parks Division manages both Rose Hill and Fielding Cemeteries. Every effort is made to maintain the cemeteries with the respect deserved of the deceased. Our staff works with funeral directors and the public to ensure the burial portion of the death process is handled professionally and with compassion for each individual's needs.

### Services and Programs

- Cemetery employees are responsible for burial lot preparation and funeral assistance that provided 287 burials in 2015.
- General maintenance for more than 25,000 headstones, several niche walls including repair and leveling, lawn care, trimming and removal of trees when necessary
- Staff provides for proper irrigation that includes ensuring pumps, water lines and main lines are functioning properly

### Fielding Cemetery

- Added insulation and new plywood on the walls in the shop. Put a new roof on shop.
- Removed the pump house and installed a new pump and power connections. Dug new 300 foot trench, put new power line to the old shop. Painted the pump house by the pond.
- Constructed a new 30 foot chain link fenced on the north shop.
- Cut down eight (8) trees and ground the stumps, trimmed trees for clearances.
- Fixed six (6) water main lines and switched out 50 quick coplers.
- Lifted and fixed over 500 headstones. Boy scouts helped with about 100 headstones.
- Fixed pot holes, 150 loads hauled in of good dirt, 160 loads hauled out of gravel, 140 loads hauled out of debris



### Rosehill Cemetery

- Abandoned the old connection to the city water and installed a 4" line over 1,800 feet to upper part of Rosehill cemetery to connect to the sanitary line with a new backflow valve.

## IRRIGATION CONTROL

The Irrigation Control section of the Parks Division performs a variety of skilled duties related to the installation, maintenance and repair of the City's irrigation system. The staff also designs and constructs irrigation systems and maintains the largest computer operated system by Hunter Irrigation in the nation.



### Services and Programs

- Central Control performed an erase all data update on 158 ACC packs and added 12 Rad3 radios.
- Finished sprinkler system on the north end of Taylors Crossing. Repaired the new main line twice at Taylors Crossings Phase II.
- Added new valves, laterals, and heads at South Tourist Park.
- Snake River Animal Shelter dug out main line with back-hoe and added main valve, risers and 2" PVB. Installed sprinkler system and controller.
- Dug out main lines at Sunnyside strips, Shoup & D parking, and Craner Field in Tautphaus Park and repaired leaks.
- Added new lines and heads in Tautphaus Park on the north side of the skate park and in Elk Field.
- Replaced 20 rotor sprinklers in Community Park and seven spray heads along Pancheri by Skyline High School and nine heads at Milligan Pond due to vandalism.

## IDAHO FALLS RACEWAY AT NOISE PARK

More than 600 motor cross participants and over 2,000 spectators attended the largest race in the history of the facility during a two-day special event held April 18th and 19th, 2015 through the RMX Series. Idaho Moto Cross also hosted an event July 10th and 11th. More than 300 riders used the track for practice. With the 20 motor cross practices we held, and two races we brought in more than \$23,000 in surcharges for the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.

### Services and Programs

- Provided track and safety improvements at the motor cross course and managed practices every Wednesday that averaged more than 60 riders per practice.
- Added several new water lines to the motocross track and new quick couplers, which greatly helped in dust abatement.
- We reconfigured the straight ways by professional track builder Curtis Holmes.
- Transplanted 10 new trees to provide shade and a wind break at the track and installed new white rail fencing.



With more than 20 practices and two races, Noise Park brought in MORE THAN \$23,000 in surcharges for the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.

## SANDY DOWNS RACETRACK AND RODEO GROUNDS

Prepared and provided maintenance support for more than 15 special events at Sandy Downs including the War Bonnet Roundup, IDA Racing, BeerFest and several concerts and carnivals. The Parks Capital Improvement Fund received more than \$38,000 dollars from parking and entrance fee surcharges.

### Services and Programs

- Rental of the arena for barrel racing and practices was a big hit this year with eight (8) races.
- Operates, maintains, and assists with rental of 261 horse stalls including practice-riding areas that brought in \$11,643 in revenue.
- Installed over 388 feet of 3-rail pressure treated drilled posts with the rails being galvanized around the grandstand area for a safety barrier.
- Installed new bucking chutes with walk platform on the backside of chutes.
- Daily maintenance includes mowing, watering, and track grooming; other projects included painting bleachers and fence installation, stall repairs and adding a soil pumice mix to the track and arena to improve surface conditions.



## SANDY DOWNS ARCHERY RANGE

- Started the archery range cover and installed the first 12' out of the 88 feet total.
- More than 60 new trees were planted at the archery range to create a wind barrier and shade cover.
- New archery stands were built and installed by a Boy Scout.
- Started working on the development of a new parking lot.



## IDAHO FALLS STOCK CAR TRACK AT NOISE PARK

- Renovations were completed by volunteers and Parks employees and the Stock Car Track reopened with two (2) stock car practice dates and 10 practice race dates with \$2,580.00 going to park improvement fund. Constructed a new scoring tower and also graded the track, removed rocks and compacted the racing surface.
- Volunteers hauled in dirt and constructed the track for the tractor pulls, and installed a fence in the pit area and reset the retaining wall.
- We ran our new rock picker around the track to remove additional rocks and installed a safety net under the bleachers. All the bleachers were painted as well as the restroom. Some electrical upgrades were also made.



## PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

Acres of Parks Department Maintains	2115.8 acreage
Neighborhood Parks - 8	11.7 acreage
Civic Parks - 6	23.48 acreage
Urban/Community Parks - 25	936 acreage
Open Space - 4 (undeveloped)	76.50 acreage
Non Park Properties - Parks Maintain - 31	42.24 acreage
Right of ways - 44	168.68 acreage
Storm Water Retention Ponds - 45	108.09 acreage
Snow Dump - 15	129.8 acreage
Rosehill Cemetery	37 acreage
Fielding Memorial	69 acreage
City Flower Beds	52
Downtown Planter Beds	70
Hanging Flower Baskets	120
Picnic Shelters	24
Restrooms – yearly / seasonal	y 5 / s 24
Playgrounds	24

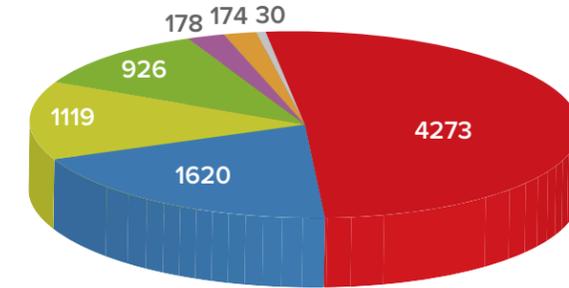
Miles of Bike & Pedestrian Trails	26 miles
Baseball Fields	19
Softball Fields	7
Football Fields	1
Soccer Fields	22
Basketball Courts – full-court/hoops	fc 4 / h 10
Fishing Ponds	1
Fishing Piers	3
Swimming Pools	1
Horseshoe Courts	11
Rinks – indoor/outdoor	id 1 / od 4
Tennis Courts	18
Pickleball Courts	2
Volleyball Courts	2
Picnic Tables	< 500
Trash Barrels	< 400



THE RECREATION DIVISION is responsible for hundreds of youth and adult programs and athletic leagues as well as four (4) city facilities including the Wes Deist Aquatic Center, Joe Marmo/Wayne Lehto Ice Arena, Idaho Falls Recreation Center and the Idaho Falls Activity Center.

The Division continues to strive to meet the needs of the community – a combination which includes creative, innovative programming and managing a fiscally responsible budget.

### RECREATION CENTER USERS IN 2015



- Basketball
- Racquetball
- Weight Room
- Pre-School Gym
- Fitness Classes
- Runners
- Pickleball

#### Creating Community Through People

In our youth sports leagues, we focused on skill development with our players, coaches and parents. We hope that this change builds player confidence through development clinics, gets parents more involved through meetings, and encourages coaches to include all players in their season through coach's trainings. We collaborated with multiple organizations throughout the year including user groups, military branches, industry leaders, school districts, local businesses, special event coordinators and all demographics recreating in our community.

#### Creating Community Through Programs

In 2015, the Recreation Division concentrated on high quality programming with a push towards family inclusion and community involvement. Division staff successfully added several new programs to our long list of ongoing programs offered in Idaho Falls. New programs offered in 2015 included four (4) science and technology workshops, an adult soccer league, sand volleyball, Red Cross WSI swim lessons, a dirt bike clinic, a walking club, fitness classes, a Hispanic basketball league, power skating clinics, adult tennis lessons and pickleball; bringing our list of programs and special events to well over 200 annually. We continued several traditional recreational programs throughout the year and professionally managed more than 150 seasonal staff who worked as program leaders, lifeguards, referees, swim and sport instructors and facility operators.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Several of the department staff attended the 2015 Idaho/Montana Recreation & Parks Association Conference in Bozeman, Montana. While attending the event, we learned that the 2016 Tri-State (MT, WY, ID) conference was scheduled to be held in Idaho Falls. Excited to show off the amenities that the City of Idaho Falls has to offer, we enthusiastically accepted the challenge and assigned Recreation Superintendent, PJ Holm the position as conference chair.
- Looking to streamline the special event permitting process for the entire City of Idaho Falls, the Recreation Division re-established the Special Events Committee. The committee currently has representation from the Street Division, Police Department, Fire Department, Parks Division, Recreation Division and Public Health Department.
- The Special Events Committee meets monthly to talk about upcoming events, debrief on past events and work on revising all of the current permitting processes that each of our departments use to eventually include all of the permits into one application that can be completed on-line or by stopping into only one office.
- The Recreation Division partnered with Sensational Workshops for Kids to bring the community week long educational programs that would challenge the mind & expose kids to robotics, electronics, engineering & physics through hands on discovery & learning. Each program sent kids home with motors, models or gadgets to keep their new knowledge & creativity stimulated. The workshops offered included Creative Engineering, Robotic Arm Science, Magnetic Levitation & Electronic Lab.

#### Sports Leagues

Basketball	427 Teams
Baseball/Softball	187 Teams
Football	23 Teams
Volleyball	29 Teams
Adult Soccer	5 Teams

#### Lil' Sports Programs (Ages 3-6)

Lil' Kickers Soccer	58 Players
Lil' Hitters Baseball	27 Players
Lil' Shooters Basketball	36 Players
Lil' Servers Tennis	5 Players



#### Camps, Tournaments and Lessons

Alumni Basketball Tournament	18 Teams
Softball Tournament	12 Teams
Cleave Lewis Basketball Skills	488 Participants
Basketball Summer Camp	66 Participants
Fishing Clinics	7 Participants
Skateboard Clinics	14 Participants
Soccer Clinics	83 Participants
Tennis Camp	55 Participants
Tennis Lessons	434 Participants
Dirt Bike Clinic	6 Participants

#### Other Programs

Breakfast with Santa	57 Participants
Daddy Daughter Date Night	80 Participants
Blue Goose Cyclocross	75 Racers
Great Pumpkin Cross	25 Racers
Hip Hop Dance Class	38 Dancers
Running Program	43 Runners
Taiko Drumming Classes	41 Drummers
Science & Technology Clinics	30 Participants





**Creating Community Through People**

Our staff welcomed more than 117,000 visitors to the facility in 2015 and making a connection with every one of those guests is what we do best. Safety and customer service are our top priorities. We collaborate on a daily basis with multiple organizations, user groups, swim teams, local elementary, middle and high schools, local businesses, and residents of all ages and diversities.

**Creating Community Through Programs**

Our aquatic facility ran hundreds of programs in 2015 and continues to develop and add additional programs where needed. Between WSI swim lessons, Dive-In Movies, swim lessons, fitness classes, public swims, scout programs and swim meets, there is never a dull moment at the Wes Deist Aquatic Center.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The Wes Deist Aquatic Center is excited to now be offering the **Red Cross Learn to Swim Program** after 23 years. All swimming lesson instructors are Red Cross certified Water Safety Instructors. The Aquatic Center converted from YMCA swim lessons to Red Cross swim lessons with a Program Kick Off. Children were given a complimentary swim lesson to evaluate the child's skills, were greeted by the Program Penguins, received Longfellow Whales Tales tattoos and were served refreshments as a thank you for participating. The citizens of Idaho Falls were pleased to have a nationwide lesson program taught in the community.

**The Red Cross Advantage:**

- Professional Instructors who are well trained by the American Red Cross
- Learning made fun in a safe environment
- A balanced program that teaches swimming skills and how to be safe in the water, including a focus on lowering the risk of drowning and increasing the chances of drowning survival.
- A comprehensive swimming and water safety program for everyone in the family – from infancy to adulthood.



A Program for *Everyone*

- A representative from Paddock Systems, a company that manufactures a system designed to remove toxic and corrosive pollutants from the air and deliver healthy air to the swimmers, visited the Aquatic Center in July. The purpose of this site visit was to determine whether their product could help the Aquatic Center air quality. After the visit, a plan was prepared for purchase and installation of the system in the Aquatic Center. The installation of the system began in December. A retrofitted Bench Evacuator will provide additional seating around the pool, while capturing and exhausting chloramines from the pool air.



- Through rain or shine, the Aquatic Center continues to host the largest kid's triathlon in Idaho. The 9th Annual Kids Tri-Harder Triathlon took place on Saturday, August 8th even though the weather didn't want to cooperate. It was pouring rain all morning but just as the kids were receiving their instructions for the event, a little bit of sun started to peak through the clouds and the rain slowed down to a sprinkle. 144 kids competed in the event and every one of them received a medal as they crossed the finish line.

**AQUATICS BY THE NUMBERS**

TYPE OF USER	USERS IN 2015	+/- FROM 2014
Children & Senior Admissions	9,572	+1,576 Swimmers
Adult Admissions	7,503	+791 Swimmers
Kids 3 & Under Admissions	1,824	+741 Swimmers
Membership/Punch Pass Admissions	5,053	+2505 Swimmers
Jr. High Night Admissions	4,345	+772 Swimmers
Friday Night Family Admissions	1,647	+207 Swimmers
Birthday Party Admissions	1,656	+291 Swimmers
<b>TOTAL DAILY ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>31,600 Swimmers</b>	<b>+6,883 Swimmers</b>

TYPE OF USER GROUP	USERS IN 2015	+/- FROM 2014
USA Swim Team Members	35,784	-385 Users
Lap Swimmers	10,460	+1,390 Users
School Groups	4,742	-453 Users
Public Swim Lessons	25,832	+235 Participants
Kids Tri-Harder Triathlon	144	+1 Participant
Scout Troop Swim Lessons	345	+115 Participants
Fitness Classes	6,074	+1,139 Participants
Other Groups/Rentals	2,583	NA
<b>TOTAL USER GROUP ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>85,964 Users</b>	<b>+2,042 Users</b>



In 2015 the Wes Deist Aquatic Center had more than **117,000 VISITORS!**



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Rock Gardens at Taylor's Crossing Phase II project, which included more than 800 LF of river front revitalization and erosion control was completed. After receiving the Outstanding Facilities Award from the Idaho Recreation and Park Association in 2014, the project was awarded the 2015 City Achievement Award from the Association of Idaho Cities and the Redevelopment Award from Idaho Smart Growth in 2015.
- The Parks Department began the process of removing and renovating the outfield fence at Melaleuca Field which included engineering a fence that can withstand Idaho's strong winds and working with Idaho Falls Power on replacement poles.
- The staff at Sandy Downs Park completed a new redesign of the rodeo grounds and installed new safety fencing and bucking chutes. Director Weitzel was also invited to speak before the Idaho State Senate Affairs Committee on the history of horse racing at Sandy Downs.
- The Recreation Division staff wrote a successful grant to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to open 400 acres of rideable City owned land for motorcycles and ATVs under 50" at the Idaho Falls Raceway at Noise Park. The project will include moving the current gate closer to the existing motocross and stock car tracks, constructing a rough parking lot, fencing off unsafe and restricted areas and putting signage up in the parking lot and along more than seven (7) miles of trail. The City was granted \$25,000 for this project.



- In 2015, the Department completed Requests for Proposals for completing Tautphaus and Heritage Park master plans. Selection committee's reviewed more than 18 different proposals and interviewed the top consultant teams. The selection committee's chose Design Workshop and Pros Consulting to complete the plans that will include public meetings in 2016 and presentations to chart the future of the City's most popular and newest parks.
- The Parks Division completed installation of NEOS 360 at the Tautphaus Park Accessible playground. The NEOS 360 is the newest in playground technology which combines the speed and fun of electronic games with the explosive movement of aerobic exercise to create an exciting new wave playground.
- The Parks Division had the State Vietnam War Memorial at Freeman Park refurbished and had the plaques on several downtown Greenbelt monuments repainted. The band shell on Memorial Drive received more upgrades with benches, plaque repair and sod replacement.
- The Recreation Center received conference room upgrades, the floors of the racquet courts were refinished and the lights were converted to LED energy efficient lights. A new treadmill and elliptical machines were added to the fitness room.
- The Parks Division assisted with the landscaping of the Snake River Animal Shelter and helped the continued development of the new tea pavilion and bamboo fence projects at the Japanese Friendship Garden. A website was established by volunteers to follow the progress of the tea pavilion at [www.japenesepavilion.com](http://www.japenesepavilion.com).
- The Sand Creek Golf Course capital improvements included new cart paths that was a combined effort of the Sand Creek maintenance staff and the City of Idaho Falls Streets Department. New landscaping was installed at the triangle clubhouse area. A private landscaping company also installed irrigation in The Dunes at Sand Creek subdivision drainage pond. The project, including hydro-seeding, was paid for by the Dunes Home Owners Association.
- A golf course irrigation audit was completed by Baer Design Group on Pinecrest and Sand Creek golf systems that identified both short and long-term recommendations.



- The Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park removed the old “red gravel path” in the center of the zoo and replaced with new asphalt. The renovation provides visitors with a more enjoyable experience that is easier on footwear and strollers. The red gravel was also removed from the tent area and replaced with stamped concrete which provides a more pleasant dining experience as visitors enjoy the concessions at the zoo.
- Thanks to a generous donation from the CHC Foundation, the yak and donkey barn at the Zoo was finished in the spring of 2015. The new barn is attractive, more comfortable for the animals, and allows the zoo to stay in compliance with proper standards and regulations. Skylights were also installed in several animal areas in the Primate Discovery Center. The lights provide natural sunlight to the primates that otherwise depended on artificial lighting. The zoo’s main freezer for the animal’s food storage was also replaced due to age and deterioration beyond repair. The new unit is more energy efficient.
- After several after-hours vandalism incidents, reserve funding allowed for installation of a long-needed 24-hour surveillance security system throughout the zoo. As part of the new system, several cameras were installed in animal areas to assist staff with monitoring births and animal observation.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation continued to work with several City Departments and divisions to implement the Idaho Falls Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan. The plan was developed with professional design firm, Hunt Design, and a group of more than 30 stakeholders to help promote tourism by emphasizing Idaho Falls as a destination as well as to highlight key attractions that enhance the visitor experience. In 2015, the plan was finalized and specifications were developed and approved, and bids were released for the fabrication of more than 150 signs. Phase I of the project includes vehicular and downtown pedestrian signage and banners. A new waterfall gateway sign and vertical monument signs were designed and plans were being finalized for 2016 development.
- The Department also joined with a city-wide identity project that included development of a new logo for the City and the Parks and Recreation Department.



**Idaho Falls Citywide Signage & Wayfinding Program**

The City of Idaho Falls, along with a local stakeholder committee, have been working with consultants from Hunt Design ([www.huntdesign.com](http://www.huntdesign.com)) on a Master Wayfinding and Signage Plan. The overall purpose of the plan includes promoting tourism, emphasizing Idaho Falls as a destination, highlighting key attractions, reinforcing community identity, enhancing the visitor's experience, reducing driver and pedestrian frustration and improving traffic flow and roadway safety. Now that the City Council has approved the master plan & funding for this project, community members will start to notice dilapidated signs being removed & replaced by new comprehensive signage. If you should have any questions, please visit [www.idahofallsidaho.gov](http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov) or call the Division of Parks and Recreation at 208-612-8482.

Street banner on B Street, downtown Idaho Falls

Community Park

Public Parking

WWW.IDAHOFALLSIDAHO.GOV DISCOVER IDAHO FALLS 25



## PLANS & CAPITAL PROJECTS - CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Implementation of Connecting Our Community, a master plan for connecting the Idaho Falls area through walking and biking, got underway with the construction of the top priority project, the Snake River Parkway and Greenbelt Redesign.

Thanks to more than \$1.2 million in funding assistance from the Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Falls Redevelopment Agency, the project included trail widening, electrical upgrades, overlook improvements, high visibility pedestrian crosswalks, new signage and safety railings and walls along the Broadway Bridge. Assistant Public Works Director Chris Canfield and engineers and staff from the Idaho Falls Department of Public Works along with the Parks Division helped develop and manage the construction of this project.

# Connecting Our Community

A plan for connecting the Idaho Falls area through walking and biking

### What is Connecting Our Community (COC)?

Building on open house workshops and a mail-in survey, this planning effort focuses on making key strategic additions to the existing trail and greenbelt network, including roadway crossings and on-street growth within Idaho Falls, Ammon, Ucon and Iona.

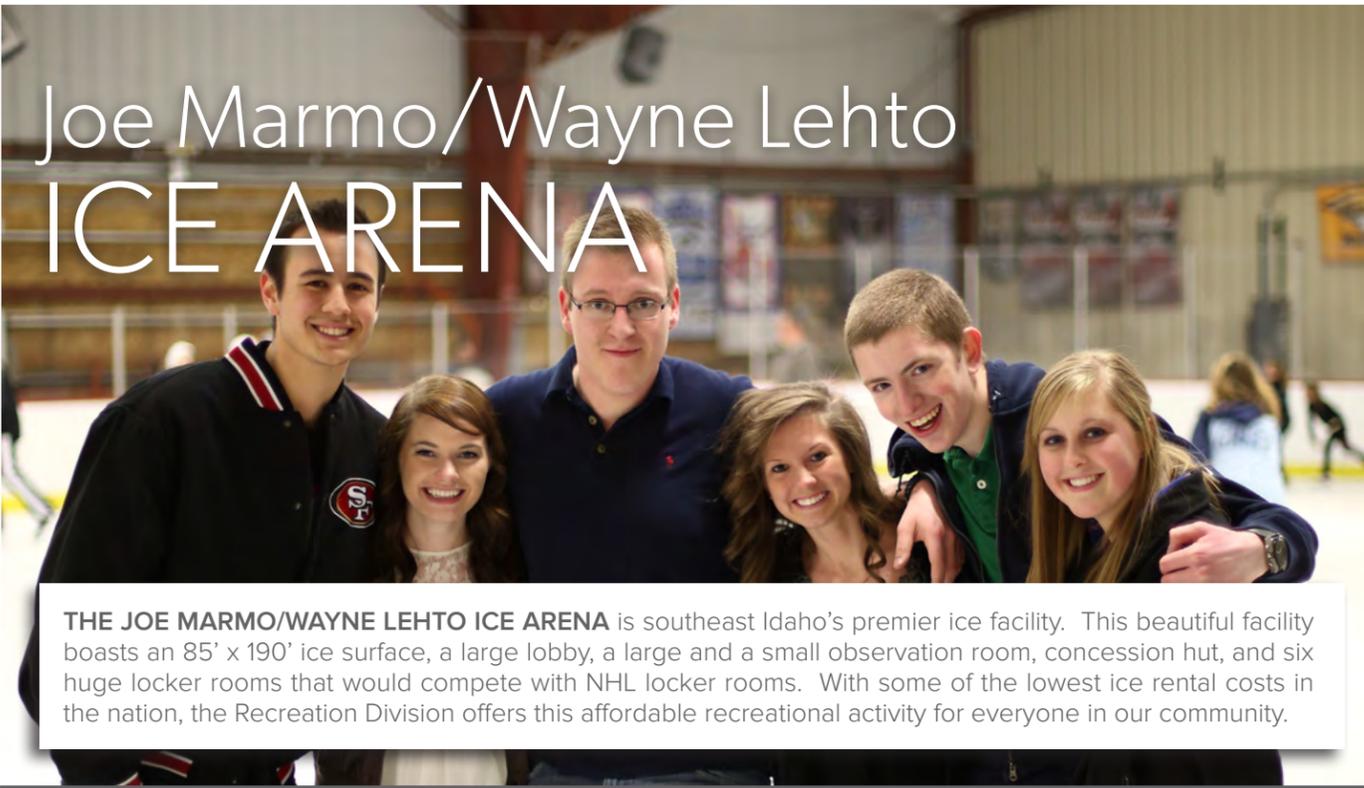
**What are the goals of COC?**

- Create a comprehensive and interconnected trail network
- WORLD CLASS TRAIL SYSTEM
- Foster a culture of active living
- Market as a destination for trail users

### TOP TEN TRAIL PROJECTS

- #1: River Parkway Greenbelt Widening and Redesign (Broadway St to US-20) - **90% Complete**
- #2: Greenbelt East and Riverside Drive (Broadway St to US-20) - **40% Complete**
- #3: Idaho Canal Trail
- #4: Greenbelt Southwest (Snake River Landing to Sunnyside Rd)
- #5: Greenbelt Northeast (Existing terminus at railroad crossing to East River Rd)
- #6: 5th & 6th Streets On-Street Bikeways (Boulevard Street to Holmes Ave)
- #7: A & B Streets On-Street Bikeways (Memorial Drive to Yellowstone Hwy)
- #8: Loop Connector Trail (Over railroad trestle into Downtown)
- #9: Wayfinding Along Bike Routes
- #10: Saturn Avenue Bike Route (Grandview Drive to Pancheri Drive)

# Joe Marmo/Wayne Lehto ICE ARENA



**THE JOE MARMO/WAYNE LEHTO ICE ARENA** is southeast Idaho's premier ice facility. This beautiful facility boasts an 85' x 190' ice surface, a large lobby, a large and a small observation room, concession hut, and six huge locker rooms that would compete with NHL locker rooms. With some of the lowest ice rental costs in the nation, the Recreation Division offers this affordable recreational activity for everyone in our community.

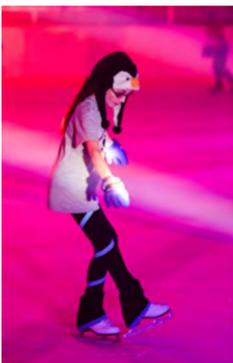
ICE ARENA BY THE NUMBERS	
Days Open in 2015	165 Days
Prime-Time Public Skates	89 Sessions
Public Skaters	10,232 Skaters
Skate Rentals	8,258 Rentals
Skate Aide Rentals	670 Rentals
Youth Skating Lessons	486 Participants
Adult Skating Lessons	36 Participants
Gross Revenue	\$173,149
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$260,986

### Programs Offered

- Public Skate
- Freestyle Sessions
- Stick N' Shoot
- Women's Stick N' Shoot
- Drop-In Hockey
- Youth Learn to Skate Program
- Adult Learn to Skate Program
- Power Skating & Edge Control Clinics
- Laser Light Skate Nights
- Skate with Santa
- Skate with Princesses Elsa & Anna

### Facility User Groups

- Idaho Falls Youth Hockey Association
- Idaho Falls Figure Skating Club
- Adult Hockey League
- Budmen Hockey League



# Idaho Falls ACTIVITY CENTER



**THE IDAHO FALLS ACTIVITY CENTER** on Skyline Drive is used year-round by a variety of groups, businesses and organizations for meetings, programs and parties. The facility houses a multi-purpose room, industrial kitchen, a large classroom and several smaller conference rooms.

### Weekly/Monthly User Groups

- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Shade Tree Committee
- Golf Advisory Board
- Gun Safety
- IBEW
- Idaho Distance Education Academy
- Veterans Group
- IFYHA Hockey Board
- Idaho Virtual Academy
- Weight Watchers
- Karate (Randy Hubbard)
- City Signage & Wayfinding Committee
- School District # 91
- HK Contractors
- City Departments Meetings & Trainings
- BYSL Soccer
- Living Faith Fellowship
- AYSO Soccer
- Deon Brady Weight Loss Challenge

ACTIVITY CENTER ROOM USE	
Multi-Purpose Room	\$10,154
South Room	\$7,888
East Room	\$5,591
West Room	\$3,300
North Room	\$385
North East Room	\$782
Kitchen	\$1,535
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$29,636</b>





THE IDAHO FALLS ZOO AT TAUTPHAUS PARK has the largest collection of animals in the state of Idaho and is known as the “Best Little Zoo in the West.” Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the zoo has more than 350 individual animals representing 122 species from around the globe and participates in 44 national Species Survival Plans. The Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park was the first accredited zoo in Idaho.



## ANIMAL NEWS

- In the fall of 2014, the zoo traded a female Bactrian camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) for a very handsome young male Bactrian camel from The Wilds in Ohio. The goal was to produce offspring once both animals became sexually mature. Unbeknownst to zoo staff, the young male camel reached sexual maturity much earlier than expected. The staff was pleasantly surprised 13 months later - which is the gestation time of a camel - with the birth of a beautiful female calf. Due to the mother's young age and inexperience, as well as a lack of milk production, the calf is being hand raised by the zoo staff but is still being housed near her parents. She should be on exhibit for the 2016 season.



**DID YOU KNOW** that wild Bactrian camels are more endangered than the giant panda? With less than 950 remaining in the wild, they are considered critically endangered and are on the brink of extinction.

- In April 2015, the zoo lost one of the oldest-known turkey vultures in captivity to the effects of old age. She was 42 years old and had lived at the Idaho Falls Zoo since 1973.
- In June 2015, the Idaho Falls Zoo launched Quarters for Conservation, a program to help support conservation efforts locally as well as globally. As part of admission, zoo guests vote on the conservation effort of their choice. The change will make a world of change by helping threatened and endangered animals in their natural habitats.
- The Idaho Falls Zoo began conducting public surveys with zoo visitors to collect data for a five-year strategic plan scheduled to be completed in 2016.

## IDAHO FALL ZOO AT TAUTPHAUS PARK EDUCATION PROGRAM

Leading our community in wildlife education to help create the next generation of conservation stewards is core to the Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park's Education department. The goal is accomplished by providing programs at the zoo and throughout the community. In 2015, the zoo's Education department also oversaw the volunteer educator program and the Junior Zoo Crew and hired our new Education Curator, Sunny Katseanes.

### Accomplishments

- 22 Zoomobile outreach programs were conducted for a total of 1,742 people (1,304 children & 438 adults)
- 58 Guided Tours were conducted for a total of 1,138 people (796 children & 342 adults)
- 25 active Idaho Falls Zoo Educators contributed 2072 volunteer hours
- 44 Junior Zoo Crew members contributed 4,662 volunteer hours
- 42 formal on-site education programs with 356 participants
- Two (2) Spring break classes with 27 participants
- 29 Summer one day (including summer tots) Zoo School classes for 166 participants (126 children & 40 adults)
- Six (6) Summer week long Zoo Camps for 68 participants (62 children)
- Two (2) Fall Zoo School class with 20 participants (13 children & 13 adults)
- Seven (7) Winter Zoo School classes with 68 participants (55 children & 13 adults)
- 11,184 people attended 153 Animal Encounters Shows – “Where in the World is Chandler Sandiego.”
- Education Staff presented outreach programs at Ammon Elementary to about 400 participants and met with Elementary school students to discuss zoo careers, and one special JZC led Animal Encounters show for the Idaho Falls Sister City delegates from Japan (35 adults)
- Education department worked with JZC on his senior project. The senior project was about the new Quarters for Conservation program at the zoo.
- Education Curator held a new TPZ Educators volunteer training course for new and returning volunteers.
- Trained 17 returning and 27 new JZC. The 44 JZC members contributed 4,648 hours.
- Education department hosted Earth Day, International Migratory Bird Day (868), Bear Aware Day, and Frontier Day at the Zoo as well as hosted World Oceans Day. They assisted with Dream Night 2015, Wines in the Wild, Zoo Brew, and all other private special events.
- Provided committee and presenter support for Idaho Falls community events: Earth Day (approximately 1,395 attendees in the zoo; approximately 3,487 attendees in Tautphaus Park) and Water Awareness Festival.
- Taught a Friends for Learning class on Water Birds to about 36 participants.
- Participated in School District #93's Careers on Wheels career day and discussed zoo jobs.



### Volunteer Educators

- Volunteer Educators conducted 477 hours of public interaction on zoo grounds.
- TLC in the Habitat was covered by 367 hours from volunteer Educators and four (4) Zoo Corps members for a donation of 1,102 hours.
- Volunteer Educators and Education staff members participated in four (4) large outreach programs within the City of Idaho Falls including East Idaho Kids' Fair; Horse races at Sandy Downs; the War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo and the Snake River Roaring Youth Jam.

## TAUTPHAUS PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Tautphaus Park Zoological Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to assist the City of Idaho Falls in the promotion and continuous improvement of the Zoo, both for guests and the animals. The Society fulfills its mission by raising funds through memberships and hosting various fundraisers each year including Boo at the Zoo and Zoo Brews and Wines in the Wild. In 2015, there were 1,414 members of the Zoological Society.

### Tautphaus Park Zoological Society Board



Don Miley, President	Patrick Malone	Fernando Sandoval	Justine Helton
Gaylene Verdoorn, 1st VP	Gregg Losinski	Carole Walters	Tyler Gravatt
Brian Thompson, 2nd VP	Lisa Schultz	Dave Walters	Denise O'Brien
Kerry Martin, Secretary	Jen Hagers	Linda Milam	
Gaylene Verdoorn, Treasurer	Toby Vincent	Eric Ericson	

*ex Officio: Laurie Gravatt, Linda Beard, Greg A. Weitzel*

### Society Fundraising Events

- May 7 – Participated in Idaho Gives. Net amount: \$1,354.98 designated to the Dave Wilson Memorial Fund for education program scholarships for underprivileged and at-risk youth.
- June 7 – Beerfest, Net amount raised: \$32,780.13
- August 25 – Membership Picnic-Attendance: 310
- July 17 – Wines in the Wild – Attendance: 149, Net amount \$2,707.18
- September 11 – Zoo Brews-Attendance: 498, Net Amount \$9,714.07
- October 28, 29 & 30 Boo at the Zoo – Attendance: 8,382. Net amount \$25,505.82
- Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) Net Contribution for 2015 \$71,999.50
- Total contributions to date to ICF: \$247,112.98

### CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Conservation is one of the main goals at the Idaho Falls Zoo. Collectively, American zoos are well positioned to reach millions of people each year with the unique opportunity to connect with nature, learn about conservation issues around the globe, and take action to make a difference for wildlife.

AZA has tasked their membership to increase conservation funding to approximately 3% of their annual operating budget. The Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Parks manages a Conservation Fund for which revenues are solely generated through conservation donations.

- In 2015, the Zoo started a popular new program called, Quarters for Conservation: How Your Change Can Make a World of Change, that increased the Zoo's commitment to conservation by supporting exciting field conservation projects both locally and around the globe.
- Through the collection of quarters, the Zoo provides funding for wildlife conservation projects. Visitors and members get to be part of this exciting contribution to wildlife conservation by receiving a token to cast a vote representing their contribution choice to conservation. The Quarters for Conservation program helped to raise more than \$11,000 in 2015.

**IN JUNE 2015**, the Idaho Falls Zoo launched *Quarters for Conservation*, a program to help support conservation efforts locally as well as globally. As part of admission, zoo guests vote on the conservation effort of their choice.



## ZOO BY THE NUMBERS

**126,175 PEOPLE** visited the zoo and contributed \$479,210.91 in revenue.

**41 ANIMAL ACQUISITIONS** in 2015 (births, donations, trades, etc.) representing 17 different species.

**56 ANIMAL DISPOSITIONS** from (deaths, sale, donations, trades etc.).

**THE TAUTPHAUS PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** sponsored a Zoo Brew event which brought in 498 adults breaking another record for this event.

**22 ZOOMOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAMS** were conducted for a total of 1,742 people (1,304 children & 438 adults).

**58 GUIDED TOURS** were conducted for a total of 1,138 people (796 children & 342 adults).

**25 ACTIVE ZOO EDUCATORS** contributed 2,072 volunteer hours.

**24 ACTIVE ZOO CORPS** contributed 1,438 volunteer hours.

**44 JUNIOR ZOO CREW MEMBERS** contributed hours 4,662. volunteer hours

**5 INTERNS** contributed 1,582 volunteer hours.

**WORK DETAIL** contributed an estimated 2,709 work hours.

**23 WALMART WORK GROUP PEOPLE** donated 264 volunteer hours.



A total of **12,727 VOLUNTEER HOURS** were contributed to the Idaho Falls Zoo. The national estimated value for volunteer time was approximately \$22.55 per hour, which means **MORE THAN \$286,993 OF DONATED TIME** in the form of volunteer hours contributed to the zoo's success.



# GOLF DIVISION

**THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS** operates three different municipal golf courses that include Pinecrest, Sand Creek and Sage Lakes. All three facilities offer different golfing opportunities for players of all ages and abilities. Sand Creek also has a six hole short course designed for youth and beginner golfers.



## MISSION

The mission of the City of Idaho Falls Municipal Golf Courses is to provide a high quality golfing experience for players of all ages and abilities.

## VISION

The City of Idaho Falls Municipal Golf Courses will:

- Be recognized by all golfers as the premier municipal golf operation in Idaho and used a national example by the golf industry.
- Deliver exceptional customer service by meeting and exceeding expectations at all levels.
- Provide competitively priced golf to residents and visitors while remaining financially sustainable.
- Maintain and operate all three individual golf courses with enhanced conditions and excellent playability.
- Use best practices and innovative technology to improve the golf experience for all customers.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implementation of our Golf Operations Five-Year Business Plan, which concluded its 3rd year, continues to be a success. The Golf Fund has remained solvent and more than \$450k was raised for golf course capital improvements.
- In comparison to 2014, revenues from green fees (+5%), season passes (+4%), driving ranges (+8.4%), cart rentals (+8%), gift card sales (+3.4%) and gross merchandise sales (+7.6%) were all increased.
- Season Pass Sales increased 191 units for a total number of passes sold at 1,517.
- In 2015, we had more than 125,000 rounds vs. 111,098 rounds in 2014. Additionally, the short course at Sand Creek continues to be very popular with just over 10,000 rounds in 2015.
- Merchandise and Cafes: our gross margin was at 26%, up from 25% bringing in more than \$18,600 compared to 2014. Our Café Concessionaire did a great job in managing the restaurants at all three courses where we received just over \$15,000 in commissions. The liquor license issued to Pinecrest was welcomed by our patrons and most importantly did not create any problems.
- Sage Lakes Robbery: Unfortunately, in May the Sage Lakes Golf Shop was broken into where the total dollar cost of the robbery was around \$5,000. The City is investigating the implementation of video cameras at all three courses for the future security of our facilities.
- We market to our customers using our 52-week marketing plan including email blasts for notifications and specials and at the conclusion of 2012, we had 1,123 emails on file and 5,463 at the conclusion of 2015, for an increase of 4,340.

- In 2015, we introduced several new programs designed to grow the game of golf in our community. They included a New Men's League which produced 1,200 additional rounds; Family Golf Day with Big Hole Golf putting sized holes which produced 600 rounds; the PGA Junior League which captured 24 juniors and their parents for 8 weeks; the Men's State Amateur hosted at Pinecrest which brought many folks to town; and we continued to grow our 50+ company outings.
- We hosted a FREE golf day in April this year to encourage our infrequent golfers to think about golfing again. 958 players showed of which 650 were non-season pass players. We took in \$7,600 in non-green fee revenue and our Café grossed almost \$1,000 more in sales than the previous year on the same day.
- The professional staff at Sand Creek promoted the First Tee of Idaho for the second year. The purpose of the First Tee is to give young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to grow through both golf and character education and learn life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship.
- 2015 was another great year for raising dollars for local charities through the hosting of golf tournaments at our three golf courses as \$148,000 was raised for local charities in 2015.
- Director Weitzel and Manager of Golf Operations, Tim Reinke, were invited to speak about the Golf Operations Five-Year Business plan success at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress and the Idaho-Montana Parks and Recreation Annual Conference in 2015.



## Local Golf Associations

We have several local golf associations who work hard to promote the game here in Idaho Falls. They include the Idaho Falls Men's (530 Members), Ladies (100 members), Seniors (128 members), and Junior's Association (450 members) along with several well participated golf Leagues including the Working Women (110 members), Chapman Leagues (130 two-person teams), INL Site, Elks, to name a few.

## GOLF COURSES



**PINECREST PROJECTS** included the removal of several trees on the west side of the 13th fairway in proximity to the putting green due to disease issues. Most of the season focused on the irrigation system and the numerous repairs. Highlights included hosting of the IGA Men's State Amateur and a visit from the USGA Turf Advisory Service.



**SAND CREEK PROJECTS** included asphalt paths refurbished; new landscaping was installed at the triangle clubhouse area; a private landscaping company installed irrigation in The Dunes at Sand Creek subdivision drainage pond which is adjacent to the course and the Sand Creek maintenance staff took over the general mowing and upkeep of the pond. An irrigation audit was completed by Greg Baer Design Group and the Mayor's Citizens Review Committee toured Sand Creek Golf Course in April. The course is home to dozens of bird species, owls, kestrels, deer, etc.



**SAGE LAKES PROJECTS** included the aerification of all tee boxes and fairways; fixed problematic perimeter heads and valves between city property and residential areas; aerified newly seeded greens on Holes #2 and #3; changed mowing height of roughs from 3" to 2"; performed all normal upkeep and maintenance of course; winterized irrigation system and all golf course buildings; and cleaned all golf course furniture and equipment and stored for winter.

## GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

125,000 total rounds of golf were played at all three courses. Sand Creek was the busiest at almost 46,000 rounds, Pinecrest had 44,000 and Sage Lakes had 35,000.

The Idaho Falls Junior Association, one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest, had 450 members.

We opened for play on February 11, 2015; the Earliest Start ever!

Just over 1,200 golf lessons were given in 2015.

Our golf cart fleets traveled almost 43,200 18 hole rounds.

We sent out 82 email notifications which resulted in a total of 400,000 emails with just over 24% opened and read.

The First Tee of Idaho again was a success with around 150 participants.

We had 5,463 email participants in our POS system at the end of 2015.

The Pinecrest/Sand Creek and Sage Lakes Chapman Leagues enrolled 116 couples (332 people) which played just over 3,700 nine hole rounds.

Several community sponsors contributed just over \$60,000 to our golf program in 2015.

Dave Smith of TETON STEEL is a LIFETIME sponsor of our RANGE BALLS and Kelly Sayer of RON SAYER, INC. has purchased our PENCILS for the past 25 years.

We had our First EVER FREE GOLF DAY with almost 1,000 people enjoying the day!

\$148,000 was raised for local Charities through hosting of golf events at our facilities!

Wildlife Habitat at the courses include owls, kestrels, hawks, squirrels, birds, badgers, deer, coyotes, fox, and moose.

We sold 1,517 Season Golf Passes for Adults, Juniors, and Seniors!

\$132,000 spent in Tournament Entry Fees and almost \$18,000 in added money from our SPONSORS!

We had almost 350 Volunteer Hours provided to the courses in 2015.

Just over 60 formal Company Outings were held at our 3 Courses in 2015.

The Sand Creek Short Course had just over 6,500 paid rounds in 2015.

We had 273 people take advantage of our \$5.50 discount marketing coupon.

We initiated FAMILY GOLF DAY with BIG HOLES on Saturdays. We had just under 500 paid rounds for this fun day.

Started a new MEN'S LEAGUE which produced 1,200 add'l rounds; the PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE was a huge success!

We had 2,200 people who started out paying for 9 holes and then came back in and paid for the Back 9.

Staff conducted 38 Major Men's and Women's Golf Championships at our courses in 2015.

Our three Championship Golf Courses, just under 500 acres, the envy of many, one of which was rated the BEST Public Course in the entire State are managed by a very small staff of 12 Full Time employees, 50 Seasonal employees, and 7 part time Volunteers! Great job to all!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS hosts several large special events each year which require Parks and Recreation staff attention and coordination with other City services to accommodate large crowds.

### SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2015

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Biker Bunny Easter Egg Hunt              | Shriner Circus                        | Festival of Colors                         |
| Grassroots MX, RMX Series Motocross      | Stock Car Races                       | Christ Community River Baptisms/picnic     |
| Riverbend Communications Easter Egg Hunt | AYSO Soccer Camp                      | Demolition Derby                           |
| U of I Disc Golf Tournament              | South Fork Disc Golf Tournament       | Stock Car Races                            |
| Holy Rosary Fun Run/Event Fundraiser     | VMCCA Car Show                        | Annual Dog Training Trails                 |
| Spring Brews                             | BYSL Soccer Club                      | Carmus Jamboree/Music Fest/Car Show        |
| Earth Day                                | Farm Bureau Company Picnic            | H.K. Contractors                           |
| Idaho Falls Farmer's Market              | DOE Company Picnic                    | Cady Tucker Memorial Run                   |
| LDS Color Run                            | BMPC Company Picnic                   | Idaho Falls High school dinner/auction     |
| Farmer's Market                          | Lucy's Open Disc Golf Tournament      | Good Sam Disc golf tournament              |
| Job's Daughter Fun Run                   | Stock Car Races                       | Horse Racing                               |
| Water Festival                           | Running with the Bulls                | School District 91 Employee picnic         |
| Cinco De Mayo                            | 4th of July Celebrations              | Horse Racing                               |
| Pirates Downtown Event                   | IFHS Summer Soccer camp               | Friends Don't Count Chromosomes Fundraiser |
| Stock Car Races                          | Idaho Motocross Series                | Community Fest                             |
| Cub Scout Rocket Launch                  | Holy Rosary Fun Run                   | Tiger/Grizz Invitational XC Meet           |
| Bush Elementary Color Run                | Greater I.F. Association Picnic       | Horse Racing                               |
| Mental Health Awareness 5k               | Workplace 5k Marathon                 | Idaho Falls Symphony                       |
| Christian Motorcycle Assoc. Luncheon     | Barrel Racing                         | East ID Home Builder's Assoc Banquet       |
| 4th Grade Rendezvous                     | Idaho Foods (large company picnic)    | Demolition Derby                           |
| I.F. Exchange Club Flag Display          | Disc Golf Tournament w/Casey Kemmerer | Scout Expo                                 |
| Alive After 5                            | Stock Car Races                       | Dirty Drags & DYNO Competition             |
| Chesbro's Fundraiser/food drive/sale     | New Day church Concert Fundraiser     | South Fork Disc Golf Tournament            |
| Dirt Drags & Dyno Competition            | Eagle Rock Art Guild Art Festival     | Domestic Violence Fundraiser Event         |
| Bark for Life                            | BYSL Soccer Club                      | Run for Hunger                             |
| Beer Fest                                | Idaho State University Soccer Camp    | Festival of Lights                         |
| Adult Dance                              | Progrexion Company Party              | Fall Brews                                 |
| I.F. Arts Council River Concerts         | War Bonnet Roundup                    | Winter Brews                               |
| Mexican Rodeo                            | Water Springs Church Event            |  |
| New Artist Benefit Concert               | Community Night Out                   |  |
| Snake River Concert Series               | Roaring Youth Jam                     |  |
| Bonneville Youth Soccer Tournament       | McLaury Horsemanship Clinic           |  |



The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for community members and organizations to get involved and help with a myriad of services. In 2015, the Department welcomed a number of volunteers helping out in everything from coaching sports and swim teams, to planting flowers and helping with animals and education at the zoo. The City Council also approved the hiring of a full-time Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator beginning in 2016.

Overall, the Department had **1,558 VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTRIBUTED 31,978 VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2015**. The national estimated value of volunteer time is \$22.55 per hour, therefore the Department received more than \$721,102 in donated volunteer value in 2015.



ZOO	HOURS	VOLUNTEERS
Interns	1,582	5
Docent Zoo Educators	2,072	25
Zoo Corp	1,438	24
Jr. Zoo Crew	4,662	44
Work Detail	2,709	91
Work Detail (Walmart)	264	257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,727</b>	<b>452</b>

PARKS	HOURS	VOLUNTEERS
Horticulture	790	110
Sandy Downs	283	18
Noise Park	2,400	26
Trash Pick-up	425	9
Cemetery	398	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>193</b>

RECREATION	HOURS	VOLUNTEERS
Aquatic Center	960	30
Sports/Special Events	5,369	600
Ice Arena w/ Hockey	7,396	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,725</b>	<b>880</b>

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS	HOURS	VOLUNTEERS
Golf & Advisory Board	80	8
Shade Tree Commission	50	5
Parks & Rec Commission	220	12
Citizen Review Committee	880	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>33</b>



### CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY (COC) PLAN

The Department is looking forward to the continued implementation of the COC plan with the design and continued construction of the second priority project, the Greenbelt East and Riverside Drive (Broadway St to US-20) and extending the Riverwalk north.



### TAUTPHAUS AND HERITAGE PARK MASTER PLANS

Public meetings will be held to develop master plans that will chart the short and long-term future for the City's oldest and newest parks. The Department will be using instant polling at the public meetings and develop a new park planning website to allow residents to comment on proposed plans.

### RYDER PARK PHASE II CONSTRUCTION

The Department applied for a permit in 2015 that was granted to build a new pump station along the Snake River at Ryder Park that will allow the second pond to be built and remove the park from the City's potable water system. We will also be working with a group of partners to explore the development of an environmental/visitor center at the park.



### SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MASTER PLAN

The Department is looking forward to final design and implementation of the next phase of the project that will include new signage at all City parks.

### RECREATION PROGRAMMING PLAN AND CAPRA ACCREDITATION



Following recommendations from Mayor Casper's Citizen Review Committee, the Department will develop a formal recreation programming plan and complete the self-assessment to begin the process of becoming accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

## TRI-STATE PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE

The City of Idaho Falls and Department of Parks and Recreation, along with a diverse committee of professionals from Idaho, Montana and Wyoming will develop and hold the annual Parks and Recreation Conference in Idaho Falls in 2016.

## ATHLETIC FIELD AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

Following recommendations from the National Recreation and Park Association, the Division of Parks will develop athletic field and trail maintenance programs using today's best practices. The Division will also be completing restroom renovations along the Greenbelt and oil sealing several parking lots (made from road millings) to help the parking lots last longer.

## AQUATIC CENTER

The West Deist Aquatic Center will be replacing the hot tub and installing a new air quality ventilation system.

## RHINEHART TOT LOT SPRAY PARK

The Department will finalize the plan, feasibility and budget request to build a tot-lot spray park at Rhinehart Park for 2016-17 budget consideration.



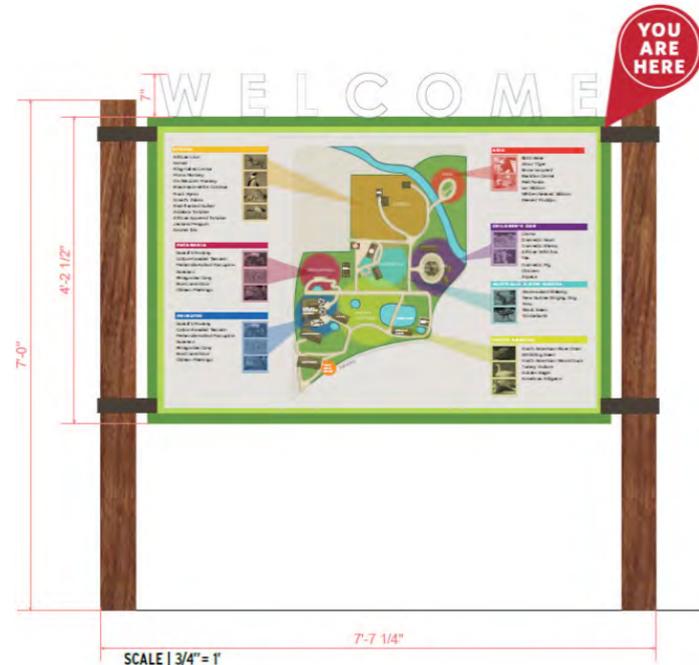
## NEW GOLF PROGRAMS



The Golf Division will be holding Family Golf with Big Hole Golf, a Free Golf Day and other special programs to attract beginners to the game. The Manager of Golf Operations will also research the development of a new outdoor pavilion at Pinecrest and purchasing a new indoor golf simulator to develop winter golf programs, leagues and lessons.

## IDAHO FALLS ZOO AT TAUTPHAUS PARK

The Zoo will complete a five-year strategic plan and continue water conservation efforts including installation of a water filtration system at the duck pond. Plans are in place to use recycled asphalt millings in the nonpublic service area of the zoo. Installation of asphalt in our service areas will improve working conditions and enhance safety for our staff and volunteers. As part of the City's signage and wayfinding campaign, the zoo will begin the installation of new animal graphics and directional signage. Completion of installation is scheduled for June, 2016.



## NEW ZOO EDUCATION CLASSES

The Education Department will expand the educational offerings at the zoo to provide more for all ages. New programs are being planned for family classes, adult and teacher classes, and Spanish speaking programs.

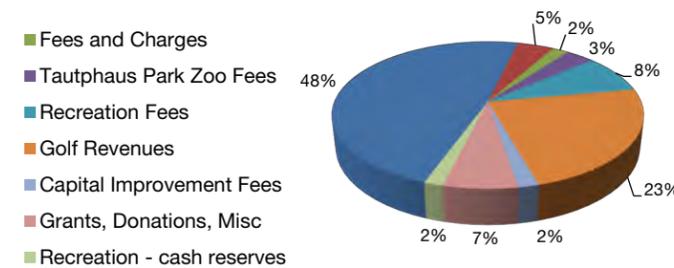
# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Mission of the City of Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Department is based on financial accountability where we strive to provide quality parks and recreation opportunities based upon cost efficiency and community needs. Each year, the Department has seen increased participation in our programs and facilities which creates more demand on our staff as well as our ability to adequately maintain and provide the type of facility improvements required by our residents.

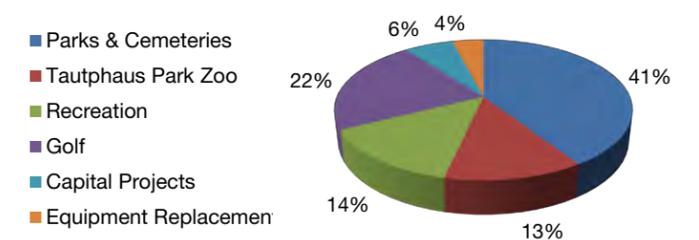
In 2015, the Department realized a cost recovery rate of more than 50%, which means more than 50% of the resources needed to run the Department were not generated through tax dollars. With the goal of developing a strategic fiscal plan to advance a sustainable capital maintenance and replacement program, the Idaho Falls City Council approved the establishment of a new Parks Capital Improvement Fund in 2013. City Council also approved a series of \$1 dollar surcharges at several park facilities to help fund the new program.

In 2015, the Parks Capital Improvement Fund raised more than \$197,000 in funds to help offset future capital improvement expenditures. The Department also raised more than \$700,000 dollars in grants and in-kind donations and participated in several public meetings and forums to review and discuss the budget that represents 6.2% of the total City budget and 14.2% of General Fund expenditures.

### 2015 DIVISION RESOURCES



### 2015 DEPARTMENTAL USE OF RESOURCES



### 2015 REVENUE

General Fund	\$5,314,420.42
Recreation Fund	\$495,801.08
Fees and Charges	\$219,519.36
Tautphaus Park Zoo Fees	\$385,391.14
Recreation Fees	\$934,907.50
Golf Revenues	\$2,585,003.11
Capital Improvement Fees	\$197,178.03
Grants, Donations, Misc	\$717,450.66
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,849,671.30</b>

### OTHER RESOURCES

Recreation - cash reserves	\$183,785.56
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$11,033,456.86</b>

### 2015 EXPENDITURES

Parks & Cemeteries	\$4,497,406.32
Tautphaus Park Zoo	\$1,406,003.69
Recreation	\$1,551,164.56
Golf	\$2,433,351.72
Capital Projects	\$700,605.57
Equipment Replacement	\$444,925.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$11,033,456.86</b>



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