THE IDEA GENERATOR
When You Were A Kid, What Did You Do For Fun?
Our Mission
To provide quality parks & recreation opportunities based upon *cost efficiency* & community needs.
The Department’s operational activities are separated into Parks, Recreation, Golf, Zoo & Administrative Divisions.

The Department relies on advisory boards & commissions such as the Parks & Recreation Commission, Shade Tree Committee, Golf Advisory Board & War Bonnet Board of Directors.
Staff & Volunteers

- 74 Full-Time Employees
- +300 Part-Time/Seasonal
- The Parks & Recreation Department had a **record number of volunteers** in 2017
- More than **2,418 volunteers** donated **47,452 hours** of time
- **Estimated value = more than $1,145,000+**
What Falls Under Parks & Recreation in Idaho Falls?

- 2,120+ Acres Maintained
- 43 Parks
- 46 Storm Water Detention Ponds
- 2 Cemeteries with 25,000 Headstones
- 24 Park Shelters
- 30+ Miles of Trails & Pathways
- 29 Public Restrooms
- 26 Baseball & Softball Fields
- 11 Tennis Courts
- 3 Basketball Courts
- 6 Pickleball Courts
- 23 Soccer & Football Fields
- 3 Golf Courses with 2 Driving Ranges
- Sandy Downs with 260 Horse Stalls
- 44 Public Right-of-Ways
- I.F. Raceway at Noise Park
- River Gardens at Taylors Crossing

- Maintain 20,000 Public Trees
- Archery Range
- Aquatic Center
- Ice Arena
- Recreation Center
- Idaho Falls Zoo
- Skyline Activity Center
- Melaleuca Baseball Field
- 24 Playgrounds
- 2 Fishing Ponds
- Mountain Bike Park at Ryder Park
- OHV Riding Trails at Noise Park
- Freeman Park Disc Golf Course
- Youth & Adult Sports & Programs
- 200 + Annual Special Events
- Idaho’s Oldest Rodeo, the War Bonnet Round Up
Connecting Our Community
“A Plan For Connecting The Idaho Falls Area Through Walking and Biking”
The Vision
A World Class Trail System

- Create a comprehensive and interconnected trail network
- Foster a Culture of Active Living
- Market as a Destination for Trail Users
Discover Idaho Falls
CHALLENGES & TRENDS
Less Active Lifestyles
Adult & Childhood Obesity Epidemic
Technology & Highly Stimulating Entertainment
Televisions are on more than 7.5 hours a day in the typical home.
Nature Deficit Disorder

The Green Hour
A Daily Dose of Nature for Happier, Healthier, Smarter Kids
Todd Christopher
Director of the National Wildlife Federation's GreenHour.org

Last Child in the Woods
Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder
Richard Louv
"This book is an absolute must-read for parents." — The Boston Globe
Aging Infrastructure
Idaho Falls Recreation Center – est. 1938
Idaho Falls Community Rec Center - 2003
Aquatic Center – est. 1986
Aging Population

1950 = 66.2 years
2015 = 78.9 years
65 Years = 12.7 Years

Life Expectancy
VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED - USA

Figure 2-2
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Per Capita, 1960–1995


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average VMT Per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>3,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>4,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>5,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>6,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>6,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>7,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>8,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>9,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development Trends & Urban Sprawl
How do we build our communities?
How do we build our communities?
Security of Public Facilities
Facing Funding Challenges
Competing for $$ in Today’s Tough Economy
Implementing the Vision

Park & Recreation Projects

Technical Feasibility

Political Will

Funding
THE IDEA GENERATOR