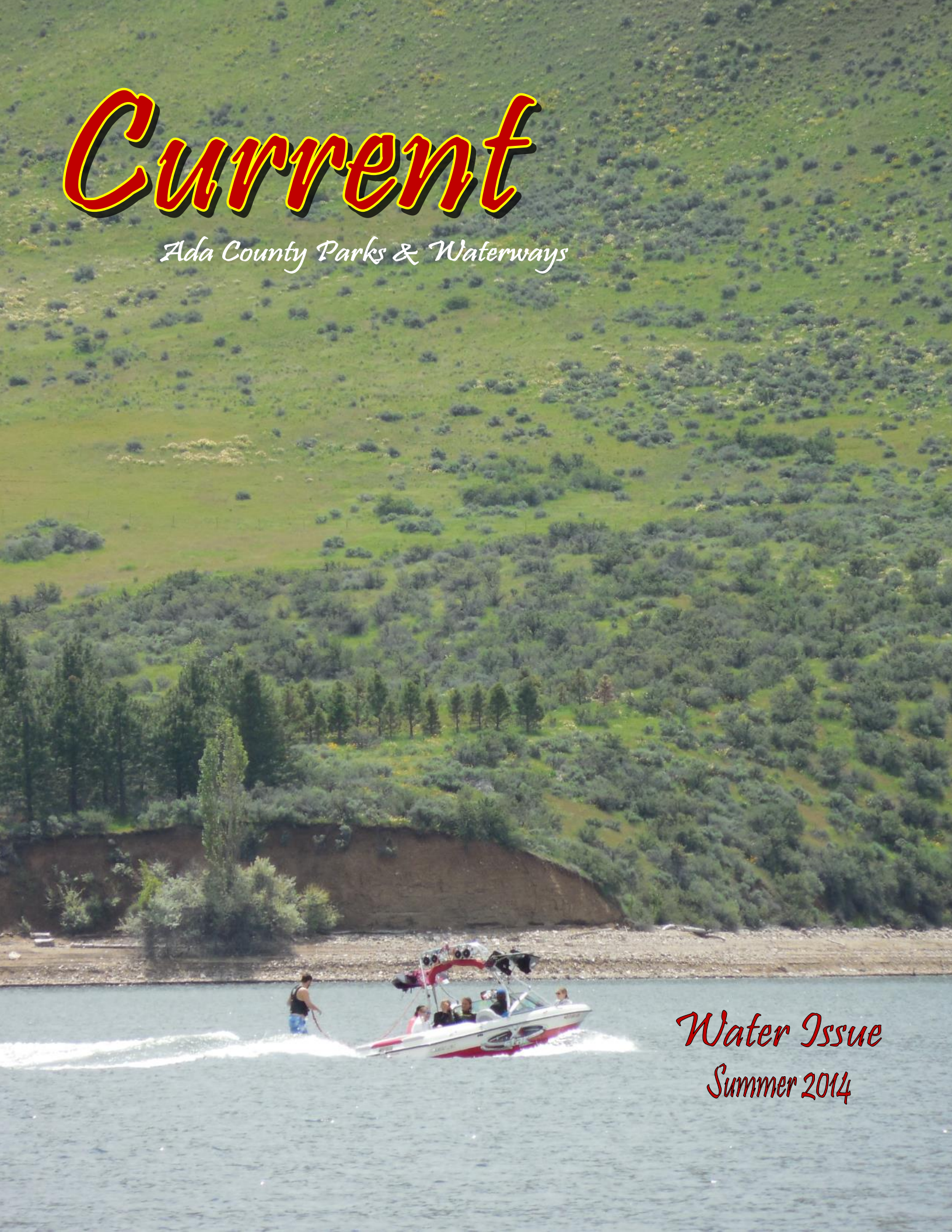


# *Current*

*Ada County Parks & Waterways*



*Water Issue  
Summer 2014*



# Current

**Current** *adjective* \kúrrənt\

: happening or existing now; most recent; of the immediate present; in progress

**Current** *noun*

: the swiftest part of a stream; a steady, smooth onward movement

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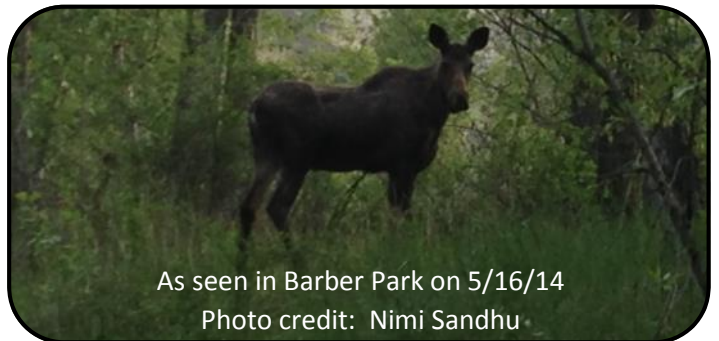
Scott Koberg—Director

Carolyn Nitz—Administrative Specialist

Candy Hahlbeck—Booking & Events Coordinator

Chris Osborn—Maintenance Mechanic

Moses Salazar—Maintenance Mechanic



As seen in Barber Park on 5/16/14  
Photo credit: Nimi Sandhu

# DIRECTOR'S CUT

Maybe we were asking for it. Tempting fate. Or maybe it was just bad luck and timing. Whatever the case, shortly after deciding to make our Summer edition of Current a “Water Issue” the primary irrigation pump that supplies water to Barber Park failed.

As the grass began turning from bright green to golden brown, we scrambled (with the assistance of Ada County Electrician Rich Rice) to replace the pump and electrical lines while also repairing all damaged sprinklers. Then, within a week, our secondary pump failed too. Since our entire staff takes great pride in the appearance of Ada County’s flagship park and we were just ramping up in preparation for the thousands and thousands of visitors we accommodate each summer during the Boise River float season, our own little water crisis was tough to stomach.



Now that we’re back up and running and Barber Park is once again in full form and ready for the long, hot summer we move on with the fresh reminder of just how important a dependable supply of water is to our Parks & Waterways Department. This goes well beyond the water for our sprinklers.

Given our active involvement and consistent efforts to improve recreational amenities at Lucky Peak Lake, the Boise River, the Snake River, Fivemile/Victory Wetland, and Hubbard Reservoir, Ada County is deeply invested in several public recreation opportunities that all rely on water supply. And although much of the western US is reeling from severe drought, locally things are looking good from a water supply and recreation standpoint. As we went to print on this edition of Current, Lucky Peak Lake was 100% full and the Boise River was flowing at 1,500 cfs (higher than 9 of the past 10 years on the same date) at Glenwood Bridge. This should come as great news to you water worshippers.

So as you look for ways to cool off from the summer heat, this issue of Current invites you to learn more about some of the people and places that make Ada County such a special place for water based recreation. For starters we’ll introduce you to our Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) and share some of Ada County’s recent improvements for boater safety and enjoyment up at Lucky Peak Lake. We’re fortunate to have a great group of citizen volunteers on the WAC and proud to be a partner in such a wonderful public recreation area.



Next up: for all you rafters, tubers, and kayakers looking to take a float (or several) down the Boise River this year we’ve put together the details you need to plan your trip including a Boise River Floater Map. You’re missing out if you let another summer pass by without experiencing this iconic local adventure.

Finally, we wrap things up by highlighting the Snake River Water Trail as well as some lesser known Ada County water spots in “Just Add Water” which — if our Barber Park grass could talk — is just what it would’ve been telling us to do!

-Scott Koberg, Director



# ADA COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Back row (l-r): Chris Blanchard, Dan Doster (Chairman), Jeff Schlagel, Joel Kerley  
Front row (l-r): Andrew Waldera, Tami Springer, Lt. Michael Schneider (Vice Chairman)

Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners under the authority of the Idaho Safe Boating Act, the seven member Ada County Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) consists of county residents who have an interest in improving the recreational boating and safety amenities offered by Ada County to the public. **They are community leaders serving voluntarily in an advisory capacity to the Board and they provide valuable input regarding the expenditure of funds deposited annually in the county vessel fund.** The WAC meets regularly at our Parks & Waterways Department office. For more information visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/Parks-Waterways/Advisory-Board-and-Committee/Waterways>.

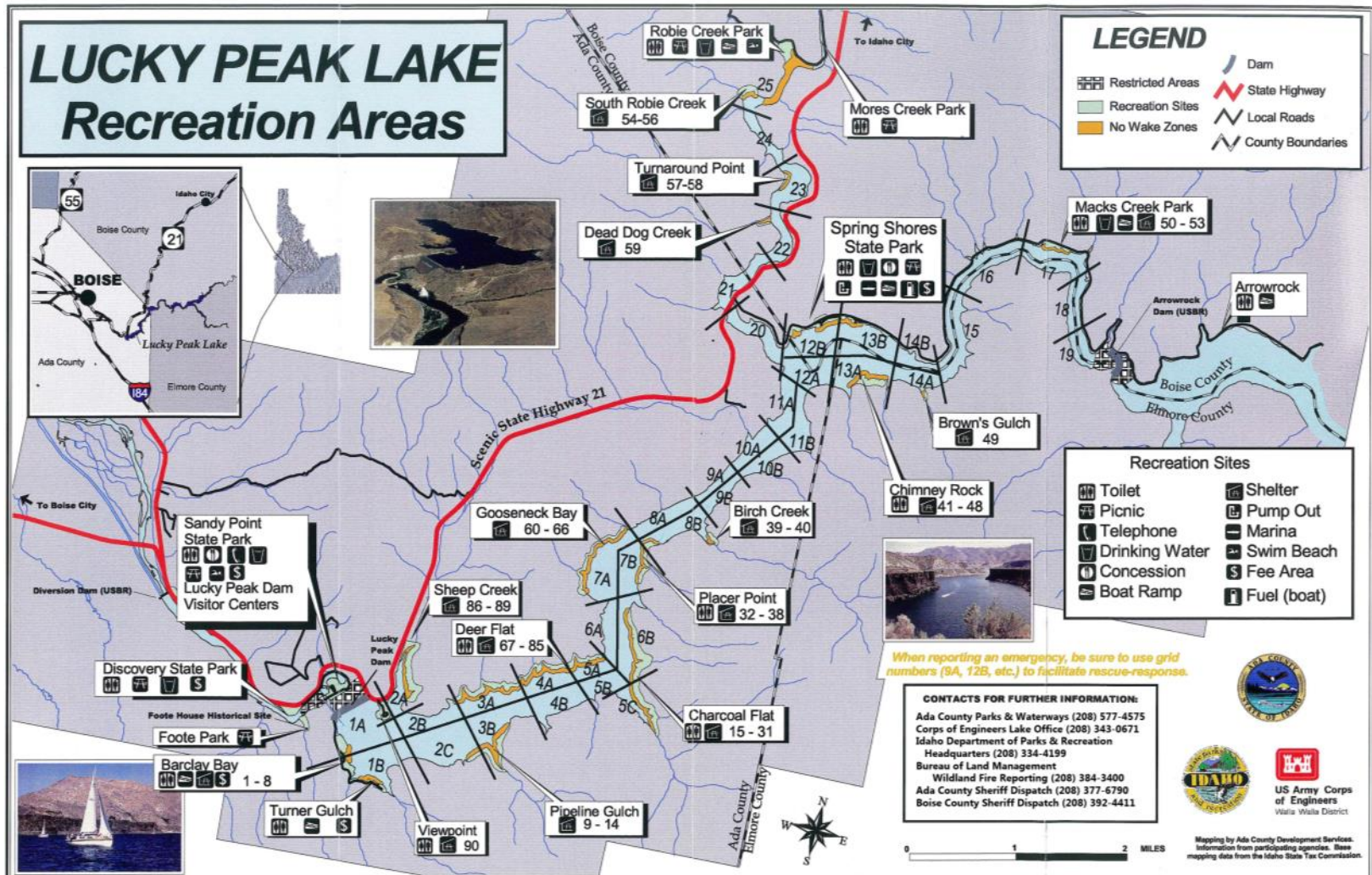
## **Never heard of the Idaho Safe Boating Act or the county vessel fund? Here's a quick summary:**

The Idaho Safe Boating Act was created to improve boating safety, to foster greater development, use and enjoyment of the waters of the state by watercraft, and to adopt certain standards for the safe operation and equipment of vessels. Included in this legislation is the requirement that owners of all motorized watercraft and certain non-motorized watercraft (all watercraft are referred to as "vessels" in the Idaho Safe Boating Act) must apply for and obtain a hull identification number that appropriately identifies their vessel. Each year thereafter vessel owners must apply for a certificate



of number and purchase validation stickers for their vessel. For vessels 0-12 feet in length the fee is \$20.00 and for vessels over 12 feet in length the fee is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 per foot for each additional foot over 12 feet. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation collects these fees in a state vessel account. The collected fees in the state vessel account are then apportioned among the counties based on the designations that owners make on their application. This is important because as a boat owner, you get to choose where your money goes.

So what does this mean if you're a boat owner in Ada County? It means that **if you do most of your boating up at Lucky Peak Lake or even on the Snake River near Swan Falls, be sure to designate Ada County as your sole county for boating activities each year when you purchase your validation stickers.** Doing so ensures that the full portion of your fees will go toward Ada County's vessel fund that is used locally for the protection and promotion of safety, waterways improvement, parking areas for boating purposes, improving boat ramps and moorings, search and rescue, and all things incident to such purposes including the purchase of real and personal property. If, during your boat renewal, you choose to designate a secondary county or no county at all, the Ada County vessel fund will not receive your entire fee to support these efforts. **At a minimum, if you select more than one county on your renewal make sure Ada County is listed as your primary county to ensure we receive 70% of your fees to use locally where you recreate.** Thanks for your support!





# Waterways Advisory Committee

## Q & A

***Tell us something you feel the boating public should know about the Waterways Advisory Committee?***

“That we work hard to look out for their best interests and to improve their experience as much as we can.”

- Andrew Waldera

“We are here to serve them and they should seek us out so we understand what they desire and wish so we can better serve them.” - Tami Springer

***What do you hope to accomplish during your service?***

“Make the facilities better for the boating public.” - Jeff Schlagel

“To be a productive board member and deliver recreation services that are inspiring to the public.”

- Chris Blanchard

***What inspired you to volunteer for a position on the Waterways Advisory Committee?***

“I am a water lawyer in my day job; I work with irrigators, Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. I am interested in the reservoirs and how they are operated and I thought this would be an interesting opportunity to learn more about it.” - Andrew Waldera

“I supervise the (Ada County Sheriff) Marine Patrol team and it is a good fit.” - Lt. Michael Schneider

***Do you have a favorite boating activity?***

“Cruising.” - Joel Kerley

“Wake boarding and wake surfing.” - Dan Doster

“I love to fish.” - Tami Springer

“Jet boating.” - Jeff Schlagel

***As a recreational boater, what do you think is the best thing about Lucky Peak Lake?***

“The docks and the closeness of it to the city.” - Joel Kerley

“I think the coolest thing is that it is so close to a large urban area and so it affords a large city to get out and experience nature.” - Chris Blanchard





# Ramping Up At Lucky Peak Lake



Thanks to the additional funding support provided by successful Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) grant proposals over the past several years, **Ada County has been able to leverage funding from our county vessel fund with matching state funds to create and enhance public recreational boater amenities up at Lucky Peak Lake.** The WIF program is one of a variety of grant programs

administered by Idaho Parks and Recreation to provide funding to government entities for the provision of equipment and for the creation and renovation of outdoor recreational facilities. We would not be able to provide the services we provide at Lucky Peak without the support of the WIF program. This includes the 100 total dock strings at 16 recreational sites on the lake that we installed, maintain, and currently continue to improve with composite decking.



Our most recent WIF project is also dock related. This Spring we were able to leverage a \$28,000 match from our Department with \$28,000 in WIF funding to design, purchase, attach and install **40 new aluminum gangway transition ramps from dock to shore at sites throughout Lucky Peak Lake. The result is a much safer and smoother transition for the public to access the day use facilities and shelters on the lake.**

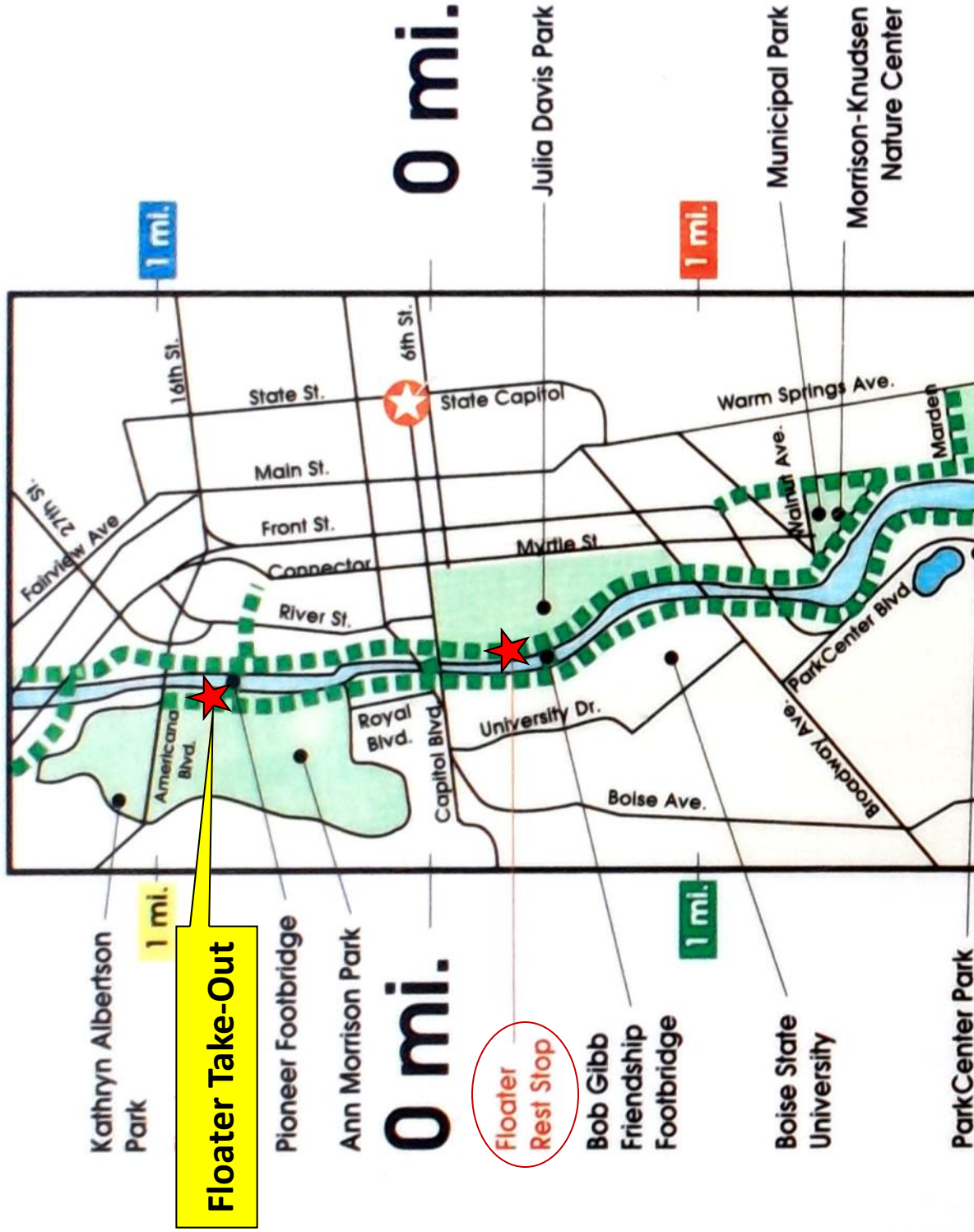
Each ramp we installed required site specific modifications and our crew worked diligently to make each one user friendly for boaters. With the lake 100% full and triple digit temps in the forecast now's the perfect time to hit the water and be one of the first to use the new convenient ramps made possible by your Idaho boater fees.



Lastly, in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers we made another improvement on Lucky Peak Lake at the Turner Gulch boat ramp and parking area. After-dark and multi-day users will now notice **two better and brighter energy efficient LED lights with a fuller pattern that we recently installed to provide greater vehicle security and enhance public safety.**



# Boise River Floater Map





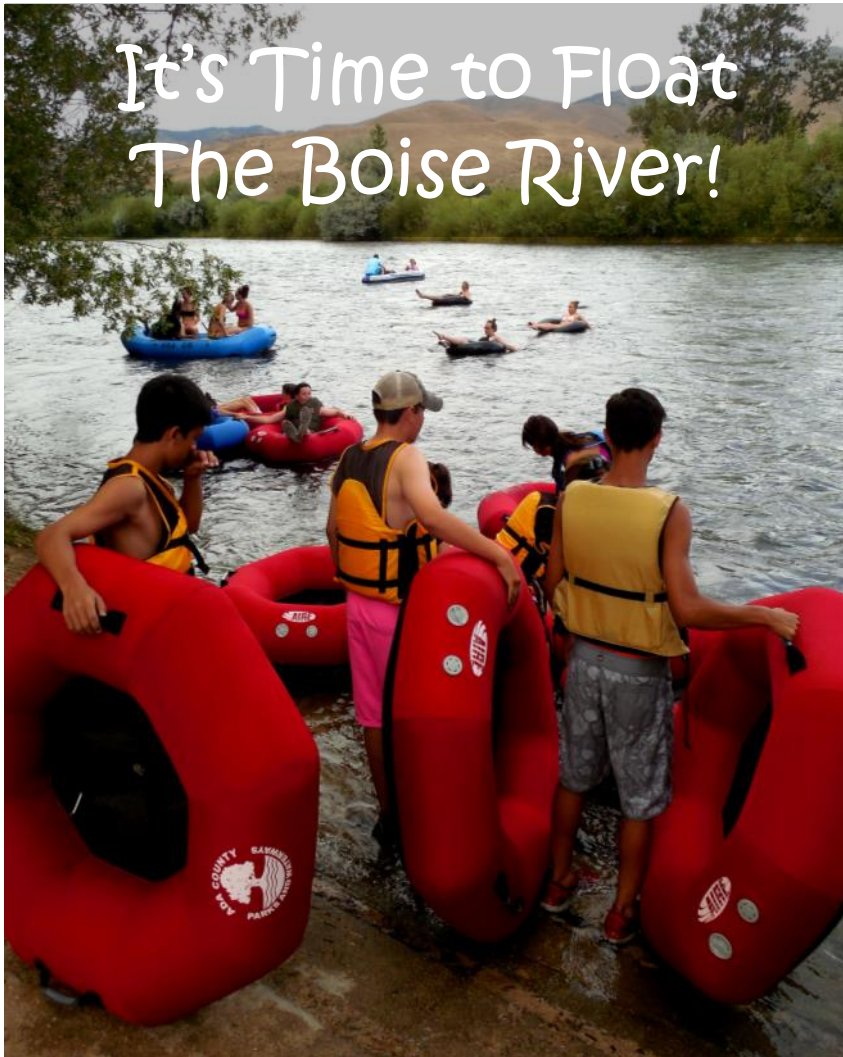


**BARBER PARK  
Floater Put-In**





# It's Time to Float The Boise River!



From a Tripadvisor.com online review:

*"Float the River!"* ○○○○○○

*"Nuff said, when you're in Boise during the summer it's time to float the Boise River and there's no better place to start than at Barber Park."*

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. But just for good measure here's a few more quotes from online reviews of the Boise River float experience:

*"I could do this over and over again! For a first timer, this was an absolute blast!"*

*"Such a fun way to kill a couple hours. It was in the 70's when I went and I was very comfortable. It doesn't have to be a thousand degrees out. Have fun!"*

*"When friends come to town in the summer a Boise River float trip at Barber Park is an absolute must do."*

With support from the Ada County Board of Commissioners, Ada County Sheriff Marine Patrol, Boise Fire Department Dive Rescue, and Connie Zeller of Epley's Boise River Rentals **the official opening of the Boise River Float season was announced on June 18th at the Barber Park beach.** On display during the opening event were the **new deluxe Aire Rocktagon River tubes** that have been added to the rental inventory just in time for float season.

Now that the season is in full swing we'd like to remind all floaters that **the keys to a fun trip are preparation, safety, and proper equipment.** The water in the Boise River can be cold and swift so always exercise caution and emphasize safety during your float. A well-fitted personal flotation device (PFD/ life vest), sunscreen, and drinking water are recommended for all floaters. Children 14 and under are required to wear an approved PFD. Additionally, all floaters are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for the weather as well as appropriate footwear to protect your feet. For additional tips and information on floating the Boise River please visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/Parks-Waterways/Float-the-River>. We'll see **you** on the river!







# Epley's Boise River Rentals

## Barber Park Raft, Tube, and Kayak Information

### 4 Person Raft Rental



Raft + 2 paddles + 4 vests =  
\$45.00 + sales tax

### 6 Person Raft Rental



Raft + 2 paddles + 6 vests =  
\$55.00 + sales tax

### 2 Person Inflatable Kayak Rental



Kayak + 2 paddles + 2 vests =  
\$35.00 + sales tax

### Deluxe Tube Rental



Deluxe Tube =  
\$12.00 + sales tax

### Tubes for Sale



Tube =  
\$25.00 + sales tax

### Vest Rental




\$5.00 each + sales tax

### Paddle Rental



\$5.00 each + sales tax

### \*All Rentals:

- Credit card deposit required with photo ID 
- Rental for 3 hours
- Must be 18 or older to rent
- Rental agreement forms required (everyone 18 and older must sign)
- Rental equipment must be returned to check in point at Ann Morrison Park prior to return time or late fees apply
- Rafts/Kayaks - late fee of \$30 per hour (per item)
- Tubes/Vests/Paddles - late fee of \$10 per hour (per item)

More info at: <http://www.epleys.com/boiselocation.aspx>





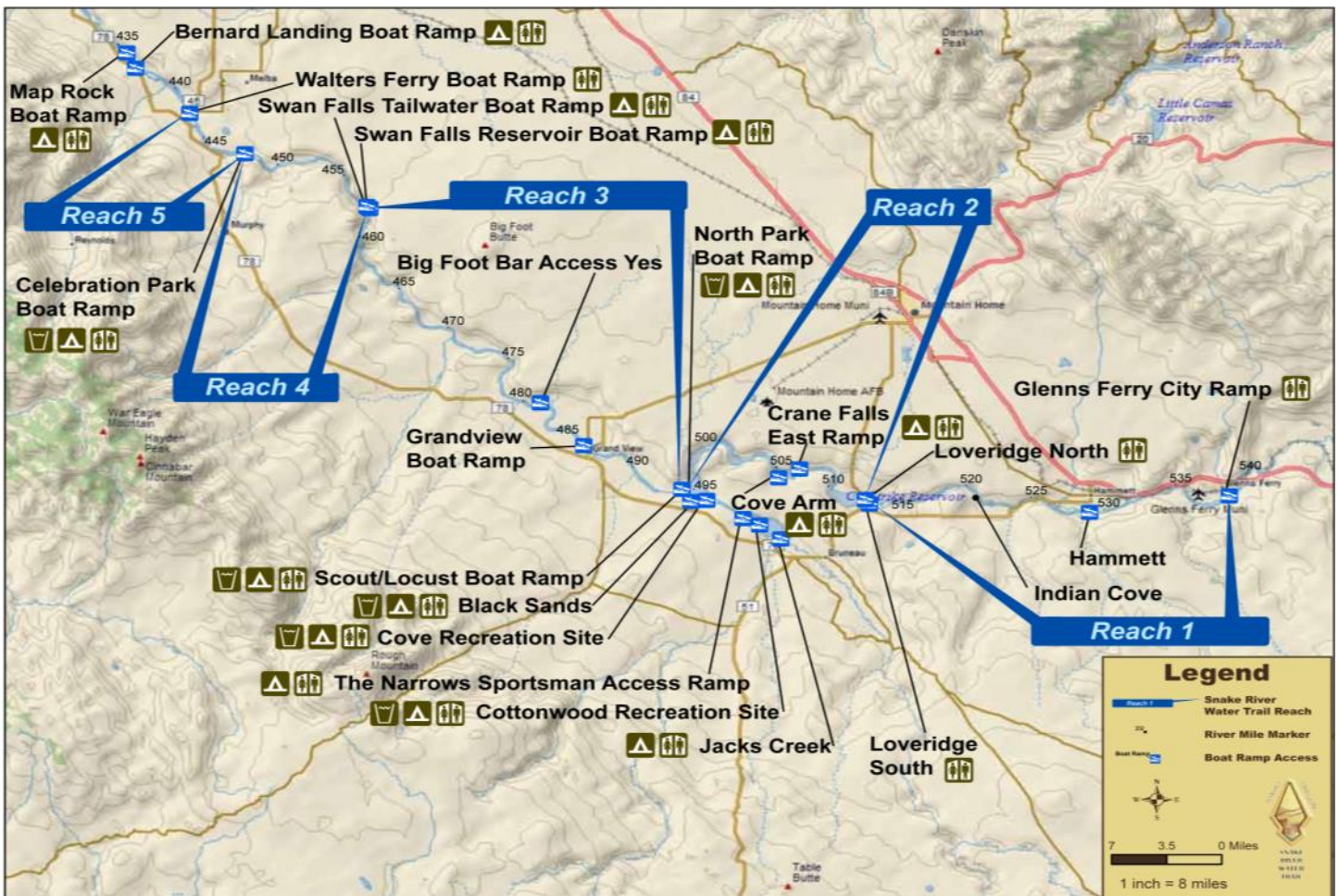


# Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail



All told there are 11 uniquely identified reaches in the 206 mile stretch of river from Glens Ferry to Farewell Bend State Park that make up the Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail. About 22 of those miles form the southern boundary of Ada County and fall within Reach 3 and Reach 4. Toward the end of Reach 3 the Swan Falls Reservoir Pool is a good warm water fishery that is also excellent for power boaters, flat water kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders, and canoeists looking to explore the river canyon. Reach 4 downstream from Swan Falls Dam is right in the heart of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and offers rugged cliff and canyon scenery with a few small rapids. Drift boats, canoes, rafts, SUPs, and kayaks are all appropriate for this reach but motorized vessels should be shallow draft and boat drivers should exercise caution to avoid shallow bottom, rocks, shoals, bars and other obstacles. This 10 mile reach ends at Celebration Park, a Canyon County facility with a boat ramp, visitor center, overnight camping and excellent cultural and historic displays.

**Ada County is proud to be a part of the Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail Coalition. To learn more and to access full reach descriptions please visit: <http://snakeriverwatertrail.org/index.html>**





# *Just Add Water*



Although not appropriate for the more active on-the-water recreation activities, **Hubbard Reservoir** and the **Fivemile/Victory Wetland** are two lesser known Ada County resources that offer a variety of unique passive water-based public recreation opportunities.

On the larger end of the spectrum is Hubbard Reservoir public recreation area — a 377 acre site that includes a trailhead, parking area, informational kiosk, and new vault toilet facility courtesy of Ada County in partnership with Idaho Department of Lands. From the trailhead on Stewart Road, miles of non-motorized multi-use primitive trails ramble through small seasonal wetland areas, mature riparian corridors, and ultimately lead visitors to **approximately 30 acres of permanent water in the Hubbard Reservoir “lake”**. This is a great spot for folks in southern Ada County looking to **explore, unwind, and observe many of the birds, waterfowl, and wildlife that visit this desert oasis**.

On the smaller side is the **Fivemile/Victory Wetland** — a unique park area consisting of a storm water retention pond, a series of small wetland marshes, and **a developed trail that leads users around the site to educational placards containing information regarding water quality, wetland plants, and wildlife habitat**. It’s located (you guessed it!) near the intersection of Five Mile and Victory Road and is accessible via a small parking area off of Victory. The park area, storm water pond, and wetlands were developed almost 20 years ago through a local, state, and federal partnership effort. Now, the area is jointly managed by Ada County Highway District and Ada County Parks & Waterways for water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, and public access. **It’s a nice spot for a quick break if you’re short on time and looking for a little fresh air and some outdoor education.**



Just add water to stay cool outside this summer!



# Barber Park

Education & Event Center

## SPECIAL RATES:

Monday - Wednesday

25% off any full-day event (8 am - 10 pm)

50% off any 5 hour time block  
between 8 am - 10 pm

## VENUE FEATURES:

Gorgeous natural setting

Large covered patio

Indoor stone fireplaces

Flexible open floor space

Huge picture windows

And much more!







## PERFECT FOR:

Weddings ♦ Receptions ♦ Educational Events  
Business Retreats ♦ Fundraisers ♦ Reunions  
Banquets ♦ Private Parties ♦ Picnics ♦ Memorials



Like us on Facebook!

Let us assist with all your event needs

Call to reserve your date today!

(208) 577-4576



[eec@adaweb.net](mailto:eec@adaweb.net) ♦ 4049 S. Eckert Rd. Boise, ID 83716

<https://adacounty.id.gov/Parks-Waterways/Education-and-Event-Center>





4049 Eckert Road  
Boise, ID 83716

Ada County

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