

CHAPTER TWELVE: PARKS AND RECREATION



12.0 Introduction

Parks and recreational opportunities are issues of central interest to the community. Residents consider parks and recreation facilities to be significant factors contributing to the overall quality of life. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee discussed park upgrades, open space, the Payette Green Way, and future recreational opportunities. The City continues to progress on updating and improving all its facilities.

12.1 Parks and Open Space Benefits

Research from various parks and recreation consultants shows that parks and open spaces in a city can:

- 1) **Attract Investment** - Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
- 2) **Revitalize Cities** - Parks, gardens, and recreational open space stimulate commercial growth and promote city revitalization.
- 3) **Boost Tourism** - Open space boosts local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation.
- 4) **Protect Farms** - Protecting agricultural lands safeguards the future of farming economies and communities.
- 5) **Prevent Flood Damage** - Floodplain protection offers a cost-effective alternative to expensive flood control measures.
- 6) **Safeguard the Environment** - Open space conservation may be an inexpensive way to safeguard drinking water, clean air, and achieve other environmental goals.

12.2 Existing Conditions

There are eight parks or open space areas in Payette as shown in Exhibit 1 (12.3.) All parks are available for passive recreational opportunities. Organized recreational activities are sponsored by the Payette County Recreation District, discussed below along with other parks and regional facilities (Exhibit 2, 12.4).

12.3 Exhibit 1: City of Payette Parks and Regional Facilities

Park	Acreage
Bancroft Park	0.03
Central Park and Library	2.8
Centennial Park (north end)	7.9
Gateway Park (US 95 - Soccer Complex)	9.2
Payette Municipal Golf Course - Airport	245.7
Payette River Greenbelt	--
Hanigan Park (Armory)/ Dog Park (State owned, City maintained)	1.2
Kiwanis Park	19.4
Sherer Park	0.75
Triangle Park	1.1
Wilson Park (bottom of Perry Drive)	0.2

Source: City of Payette, 2017

12.4 Exhibit 2: Other Parks and Regional Facilities

Park	Acreage
Clay Peak Motorcycle Park (owned by Payette County, operated by the Payette County Recreation district)	100
District Office & Track	9.8
Middle School and Killerbrew Park (Field of Dreams Park)	70.3
Payette High School	21.3
Payette Primary School	11.1
Rudy Park	
Westside Elementary, pump and track	8.5/ 1.4

Source: City of Payette, 2017

12.5 Golf Course

The City-owned 18-hole golf course, Scotch Pines, is located on City property just north of the city. The golf course has a clubhouse, ancillary services, and a pro; it is leased to, and operated by, the Payette Municipal Development Corporation.

12.6 Swimming Pool

The City of Payette is fortunate to have an outdoor swimming pool/wading pool/hot tub and a covered swimming pool that can be utilized year round. The pools are open to the public, schools, and various swim groups. They are operated by the City, which is responsible for hiring employees and for coordinating its use.

12.7 Payette School District

The Payette School District has numerous recreational facilities for school and sports related activities and passive, unorganized recreational use at other times. There exists good coordination between the City, Recreation District, and School District, which should be encouraged to continue for the best utilization of the facilities for all patrons.

12.8 Clay Peak Motorcycle Park

Located off of Highway 52 in Payette, Idaho, this 200-acre motorcycle and ATV park is open year-round, from dawn until dusk. Two miles of trails utilize the best of natural terrain with added doubles, multiple tabletops and challenging sweepers.

Clay Peak is operated by Payette County. Several annual events are held here, check the Payette County Events Calendar for dates and times of upcoming events.

12.9 Other Parks and Regional Facilities

The following are other recreational opportunities in the region available to Payette residents.

12.9.1 Payette Greenway - The Payette Greenway is a river trail being developed between Kiwanis Park and Centennial Park along the Payette River. The City is working with the State Department of Lands on tentative plans to extend the trail into Fruitland and New Plymouth. The project is a joint venture of the County and the City, with the

City and several private organizations assisting with the maintenance and upkeep of the trail. Long-range plans anticipate adding a trailway along the east bank of the Snake River as the city grows west toward Rudy Park.

12.9.2 Payette River/ Snake River - Payette is located at the confluence of these two rivers. The rivers, located to the south and west of Payette, provide for an assortment of activities throughout the year. These include boating, hunting, fishing, floating, swimming and jet-skiing. Water-skiing is also possible on the Snake River. There are several public access points including the Centennial Park boat ramp.

12.9.3 Payette County Recreation District - The District, with offices located in Fruitland three miles south of Payette, was formed in 1976 and will celebrate its 41-year anniversary in November of 2016. The District encompasses all of Payette County and receives its revenue mainly from property taxes, a majority of which comes from city of Payette residents, based upon population and valuation, and program fees. The purpose of the District is to act as a coordinator of recreational services and programs in the County, for youth starting at age three through senior citizens.

Programs are available to every citizen in Payette County including soccer, fun runs, softball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, golf, summer camps, football, and basketball. The District also offers programs in Payette, utilizing the City parks and school facilities. The City and School District assist the Recreation District with field maintenance. Their goals include the following:

- Provide a variety of recreation programs to meet the needs of the population.
- Help develop multi-use facilities to implement recreation programs.
- Relieve local organizations of the expense and responsibility of existing programs.

12.10 Exhibit 3: Regional Recreation Facilities

Facility	Ownership	Activity	Acreage
Anthony Lakes	Private	Snow skiing	> 1,100
Black Canyon Reservoir	State	Water sports	31,200
Bogus Basin (Boise)	Private managed	Downhill and cross-country, other snow sports; hiking, biking	2,600
Brownlee Reservoir (Oregon)	State	Fishing and boating in 58-mile long reservoir	32
Brundage Mountain (McCall)	Private managed	Downhill skiing and other snow sports; summer hiking and biking	57.4
Eagle Island	State	Water sports; winter sports	29.75

Hells Canyon Recreation Area (including three Idaho Power Parks)	Federal	Fishing, boating, swimming, jet boating, white-water rafting, camping, photography	29 - 75
Leslie Gulch (Oregon)	State	Fishing, hiking, water sports, biking	279,000
Lucky Peak Reservoir	State	Water sports	307,000
Malheur River and Reservoir (Oregon)	State	Water sports	1,282
Owyhee Reservoir	State	Water sports	120,000
Payette National Forest	Federal	Camping, wildlife watching, river sports, hiking	2.3 million
Payette/ Snake/ Weiser Rivers (adjacent to Payette)	Federal	Water sports	
Rudy Park	County	Boat take-out	NA
Spangler (Mann Creek) Reservoir	State	Camping, wildlife watching, hiking, river and water sports	283
Succor Creek (Oregon)	State	Fishing, water sports, hiking, biking	69.4 miles

Prepared 2/18/18 by Planning Team

12.11 Planning Future Parks and Recreation Facilities

12.11.1 Park Classifications - Parks are described in many ways and each type has a different function and acreage requirement. The descriptions below will assist the City in determining the types of parks needed. This list should be used as a guide rather than as a mandatory determination.

Mini-Parks (Pocket): A mini-park is the smallest park classification and is used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. Although in the past mini-parks were often oriented toward active recreation, the new classification has a broader application that includes both active and passive uses. Examples include picnic areas, arbors, and sitting areas.

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities geared specifically for those living within the service area. Accommodating a wide variety of age groups, including children, adults, and the elderly, as well as special populations is important. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to successful design.

School Parks: By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school-park classification allows for expanding the recreation, social and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community open lands. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and the park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area. In some cases, school districts may not consider joint use of park facilities due to school security issues.

Community Parks: Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting recreational needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and other recreational opportunities not feasible - nor perhaps desirable - at the neighborhood level. They should be developed for both passive and active activities.

Natural Resource Areas: Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering.

Greenways: Greenways tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system. They also emphasize harmony with the natural environment. They allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community. They provide people with a resource-based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience, and can enhance property values.

Regional Parks (Sports Complex): Consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. Sports complexes should be developed to accommodate the specific needs of user groups and athletic associations based on demands and program offerings. They are usually strategically located as a community-wide facility.

Special Use: This classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single purpose use. Special use parks generally fall into three categories: 1) Historic/Cultural/Social Sites - unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities; 2) Recreation Facilities which are specialized or single purpose facilities and 3) Outdoor Recreation Facilities - examples include tennis courts, softball complexes and sports stadiums.

Park Trails: Park trails are multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment. They are the most desirable type of trail because they:

1) Emphasize harmony with the natural environment; 2) Allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through the City's park system and developed areas, including where possible through commercial and industrial parks; 3) Effectively tie the various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system and 4) protect users from urban development and associated vehicular traffic. Trails may vary in width due to the function of the trail. These are described below:

Type I: Single purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians and cyclists.

Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians; hard or soft surface.

Connector Trails: Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks around the community. The focus is as much on transportation as recreation. The significant difference between connector and park trails lies largely in their location. Park trails emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment with the park-like setting, while connector trails or recreation connector emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists to and from parks and around the community. They are separate single-purpose hard surfaced trails for pedestrians or cyclists typically located in right-of-ways.

On-Street Bikeways: Bikeways are paved segments of roadways that serve to safely separate bicyclists from traffic. They take the form of bike routes and bike lanes. The distinction between the two is a matter of exclusivity. While bike routes are essentially paved shoulders or segments of the roadway that serve to separate bicyclists from traffic, bike lanes are designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

All-Terrain Bike Trails, Cross-Country Ski Trails and Equestrian Trails: These trails are similar to park trails in that they emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment, although for somewhat different reasons. They are single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and lateral resource areas. They are most often located within natural resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special use facilities, such as golf courses. Loop trails are best with 7-10 miles as the standard for a half-day outing and with 10-20-miles the standard for a full day's outing. Since regional and state parks often develop and maintain these types of trails, the need for them at the local level is often limited.

12.12 The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

The NRPA has established guidelines on the amount of active and passive recreation facilities that should be provided per capita:

Exhibit 4: Active Recreation Area Guidelines

Type of Park or Facility	Acres
Neighborhood Park	2 acres/1,000 population
Mini-Park (Pocket)	0.25 to 0.5 acre/ 1,000 population
Playground Site	2.75 acres/ 1,000 population
School-Park Site	Variable - depends on function
Community Park	3.5 acres/ 1,000 population
Regional Park (Sports Complex)	15 acres/ 1,000 population
Tennis, Outdoor Basketball, and other Court Sports	1 acre/ 1,000 population
Athletic Field	20 acres, 1/5,000 - lighted, accommodate 200 people/acre
Basketball Court	1 acre/ 5,000 population
Golf Course	1-18 hole course (120 acres)/ 50,000 population
Football/ Soccer Field	2 acres/ 1,000 population
Indoor Recreation Facility	1 acre/ 1,000 population
Natural Resource Area (nature study, camping, biking)	10 acres/ 10,000 population
Park Trail	To be determined by community
Connector Trail	To be determined by community
On-Street Bikeway	To be determined by community
Greenway	To be determined by community
All Terrain Bike Trail, Cross Country Ski Trail, Equestrian Trail	To be determined by community
Play Area (for elementary school ages)	0.5 acres/ 1,000 population
Dog Park	Minimum: 3 acres Desirable: 5 acres Maximum: over 5 acres
Skateboard Park	Plan for: 50% skateboarders 30% in-line skaters 20% bicyclists There are no current national standards or guidelines for Skateboard Parks

Special Use	Variable - depends on function
Play Field (for older children and young adults)	1.5 acres/ 1,000 population
Baseball/ Softball Field	1 acre/ 3,000 population

12.13 City of Payette’s Connection Plan

The City has adopted a City of Payette Activity Connection Plan. The plan provides a description of each park site or area and recommended site and infrastructure improvements.

12.14 Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL 1: Maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities for Payette residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide an array of parks, open space, bicycle paths, pathways, greenbelts, recreational facilities and programs that are available to all Payette residents and visitors.

STRATEGY 1: Partner with the Payette School District #371, Payette County and the Payette Recreation District to maintain parks and support recreation needs in Payette County.

GOAL 2: Seek innovative funding sources for acquisition, planning, design, construction and maintenance of public parks.

OBJECTIVE 1: Continue to use resources in an efficient manner.

STRATEGY 1: Consider the private/public development of other recreational facilities including a recreation center, teen center, and other multi-purpose facilities to serve all residents.

GOAL 3: Continue to develop partnership with other agencies in order to provide additional recreation opportunities for the citizens of Payette.

OBJECTIVE 1: Support the joint use of parks and recreation facilities with the Payette School District #371.

STRATEGY 1: Adopted the City of Payette Activity Connection Plan.

GOAL 4: **Continue to work with the Payette Recreation District to develop more recreation programs and facilities in their service area.**

OBJECTIVE 1: Operate and maintain the pool to maximize utilization by the School District, Recreation District, private schools and other groups.

STRATEGY 1: Consider expanding the Payette Recreation District to include the Payette Municipal Pool.

GOAL 5: **Develop parks, facilities and activities that meet the needs of the citizens of Payette.**

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide a diverse recreation system.

STRATEGY 1: Ensure that parks are ADA accessible.

STRATEGY 2: Support increasing recreational opportunities for Payette's senior population.

STRATEGY 3: Support the creation of health, fitness and wellness recreation programs.

STRATEGY 4: Consider opportunities for baseball, basketball and soccer programs.

STRATEGY 5: Create a fenced dog park.

STRATEGY 6: Coordinate the planning of pathways with the Safe Routes to Schools effort.

GOAL 6: **Expand the bikeway and pathway system.**

OBJECTIVE 1: Seek opportunities to purchase, acquire easements or other means of access to properties to expand the greenbelt and pathway system.

STRATEGY 1: Connect residents to live, work and play activities throughout the city.

STRATEGY 2: Work with State agencies to extend pathways to Rudy Park

GOAL 7: **Connect the cities of Weiser, Fruitland and Payette with a pathway.**

OBJECTIVE 1: Partner with Payette County and the cities of Weiser and Fruitland to develop a master plan for extending a greenway and/or pathway.

STRATEGY 1: Physically connect these three cities by means of a greenbelt and/or pathway.