

YOUTH MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
Caldwell, Idaho
PROGRAM SUMMARY
August 14, 2020

The Youth Master Plan was adopted in 2011 by the Caldwell City Council. The Youth Master Plan outlines goals for combatting the most pressing issues facing youth – such as safety, after-school supervision, health, education, workforce readiness, and community involvement.

In 2012, the Youth Master Plan Committee became a vehicle for addressing youth issues, and for educating/training the community about programs already in place that are addressing youth issues. The committee is composed of City Staff representatives (Recreation, Library, Clerk, Fire, Police, Finance); representatives from the local School Districts and local high schools, and representatives from local community organizations and agencies (Southwest District Health Dept, The Mentoring Network, YMCA, Advocates Against Family Violence, the College of Idaho, Compassion Caldwell, Idaho Youth Ranch, Head Start).

Programs/activities/efforts that came out of the committee's focus:

- Transportation to attend after-school opportunities at the local YMCA was organized by Valley Regional Transit, Brown Bus Company, and Caldwell Transportation.
- Partnerships established, and donations received to construct a PAL/Recreation Center in a public area to accommodate the PAL Boxing Club, and City Recreation opportunities for families.
- The Idaho Job Service provided information to local businesses and government regarding the Career Information System.
- Annual Youth Forum began in 2013; the Forum is a 1-day leadership seminar, held on the local College of Idaho campus, that encourages high school students to take the lead in identifying needed changes in their school atmosphere, and in implementing activities and efforts to 'make the change' at their school.
- Organized a centralized "Career Fair" for students from Caldwell and Vallivue High Schools.
- Partnered with United Way and Bank On Treasure Valley to provide support for the "Bank On Treasure Valley" program. Flyers about the program included with approximately 17,000 utility statements.
- "Let's Move Caldwell" program was organized using the guidelines provided by the National League of Cities. Out of this, the first Annual Family Fun Day was organized in 2015; purpose is to show case the city parks and activities that are available to get kids and adults outside and moving.
- Through "Meet Me Mondays" we began a Caldwell community walking program in 2017, using the park/pathways along Indian Creek as the 'route'. This program is still active.

- Caldwell “Cyber Safety”, a program organized and maintained by police department staff, teaches kids (and parents) how to be safe and careful online, as well as how parents can stay up-to-date on the technology, apps, and more. To help parents know what their kids are up to and how they are using the internet.
- Began a college savings campaign for children in 1st – 5th grades. Titled “Caldwell Saves 1st”, this campaign educates families about financial topics – setting up a budget, banking, saving for college, etc. Once the educational classes are completed, the program uses funds donated from local organizations to reward students with a specific amount added to their savings each year when they meet savings and educational goals.
- The City began promoting Next Door, a neighborhood online group, on our website. NextDoor makes it easy for neighbors to establish their own virtual neighborhood watch, which is vital in strengthening community and combating local crime. We have also found it to be a great platform for disseminating information (and receiving feedback) on specific community events, Newsletters, city office closures, street chip sealing, road closures, upcoming workshops about items of community interest, and other information deemed important to the community.
- “We the Family” was initiated in 2019 to provide information to families via social media (Facebook). Postings include “free” events within the community, services, resources, and parenting helps.
- Each bi-monthly Youth Master Plan Committee meeting features an educational/training component. Community leaders present information on programs or organizations, or activities that they are involved with, and details of how others can get involved. This is one of the ways we find out what programs are already being offered by other agencies that meet our goals, so we can spread the word to the community.