City of Caldwell

Parks and Recreation Master Plan





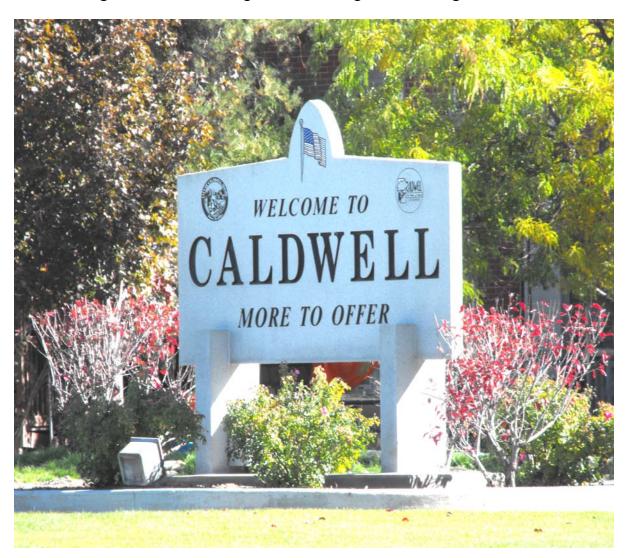
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PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



CITY OF CALDWELL FEBRUARY 2010

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

NEED FOR THE PLAN

The City of Caldwell Park and Recreation Master Plan was initiated in response to a number of factors, primarily increasing growth in Caldwell and the greater Treasure Valley and a desire to enhance the quality of life in the community. While citizens are proud of the City's existing parks, there is a need to identify a long-term vision for Parks and Recreation in Caldwell that will maximize the use of existing facilities and provide a model for growth that will enable the system to keep pace with the changing community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A primary goal of this plan is to address the current recreation needs of Caldwell's citizens while also providing a long-term perspective with broader implications for the economic and social vitality of the city. Specific goals and objectives, as identified by the steering committee, include:

- Inventory and evaluate the existing parks and recreation system.
- Maximize existing park and recreation facilities and opportunities.
- Identify park and recreation needs.
- Make recommendations for land acquisition and system growth.
- Provide general guidelines for development of new parks.
- Suggest design standards that will help to unify the system and identify individual parks as part of the whole.
- Provide recommendations for implementation of the plan over time.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Regional Setting

Located in Canyon County in Idaho's Treasure Valley, the City of Caldwell is roughly 20 miles from the state capitol of Boise, and about the same distance from the Oregon border. The major transportation route serving the area is Interstate 84.

Natural features of significance include the Boise River, which runs along the northern edge of town, and in highly scenic stretches, cuts a deep canyon through ancient basalt flows. The north side of town sits atop this massive basalt flow, adding topographical interest to parks and other properties in this area.

Demographic Information

Caldwell's population in 2000 was 25,957. The City's most current population estimate is 44,210 persons as of January 2009, a 66% increase (Figure 1) since 2000.

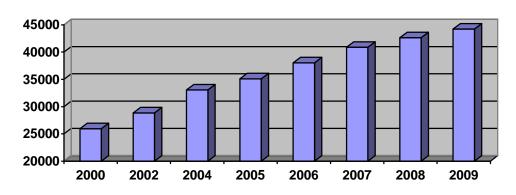


Figure 1. City Population Growth, 2000-2009

Caldwell's metropolitan planning organization, COMPASS, projects our population will reach 67,939 residents by 2030, gaining 23,729 potential park users in the next 21 years. Table 1 below projects Caldwell future population in five year increments.

TABLE 1. 2009 to 2030 City Population Projections.		
Year	Projected Population	
2009	44,210	
2015	55,673	
2020	60,434	
2025	64,357	
2030	67,939	

Source: Compass/U.S. Census Bureau, 2009

Table 2 breaks down Caldwell's population into age groups. The largest age group in Caldwell is the segment under 18 years of age (23.4%).

TABLE 2. 2008 Age Groups.		
Age Group	2008 Population	Percentage
18 Years and Younger	9,994	23.4%
19 to 34	7,462	17.5%
35 to 49	6,822	16.0%
50 to 64	9,372	21.9%
65 to 84	8,375	19.6%
85 Years and Older	675	1.6%

Source: Compass/U.S. Census Bureau, 2008



Existing Conditions

EXISTING CONDITIONS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The planning process focused on two important questions: "Where are we now?" and "Where do we want to be?" In answer to the first question, the existing parks and recreation system was inventoried and analyzed to determine a starting point for planning. Answers to the second question helped generate a community vision for parks and recreation in Caldwell, which gave direction to the plan. This interactive question and answer process helped highlight the differences between the reality of the existing park system, and the ultimate vision for that system. Ultimately this process led to the needs-based question of "What must we have in order to reach our vision?"

Established National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guidelines for community park and recreation facilities, as well as examples of other successful community park systems of similar size, provided a starting point for determining need. The goal of the needs assessment process, however, was to examine those guidelines within the context of Caldwell, Idaho, and adjust them as necessary to respond specifically to the needs of this community. This process of adjustment was based heavily on the results of the community meetings, as discussed below.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

A parks and recreation needs assessment was an important first step in the planning process. To gauge community needs, information was drawn from a number of sources, including a project steering committee, public workshops, and interviews with key stakeholders. A variety of public input opportunities were offered in order to reach a wide cross-section of residents and decrease the likelihood of bias towards specific interest groups.

Steering Committee

A steering committee was established at the outset of the planning process to oversee the direction of the master plan. This group of individuals represented the public interest with regards to parks and recreation and included the mayor, a city council member, and City of Caldwell employees.

Stakeholder Interviews

Key individuals involved in organizing and supporting recreation activities in Caldwell were provided a copy of the plan and offered their input.

Public Meetings

An open house was held in the planning process to involve the public in the plan and gather input. The informal and interactive meetings focused on key planning objectives such as community visioning and park facility needs.

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM

Parks System

In general, the City of Caldwell has a solid core of park and recreation facilities that are well-used and well-maintained. Caldwell's parks system offers a variety of standard amenities such as sports fields, courts, playgrounds, and picnic facilities. It also offers some unique features, including a municipal pool, skate park, rose garden, and items and exhibits of historical significance.

While Caldwell has several community parks that do a pretty good job of being "all things to all people," the City's growth is occurring in the south and east. Though some new park development is occurring in those areas, the majority of developed park land is in the northern part of town. It is important to identify facility needs in these high growth areas and work towards acquisition of key parcels before that land is developed and becomes too costly to obtain.

Caldwell has twenty (20) existing public parks, plus other public properties and related facilities that contribute to the recreational offerings of the community, bringing the total park land to 294.72 acres. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a general guideline of 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. While this is only a guideline, it is useful to know that Caldwell's existing park system acreage (at about 6.5 acres per 1,000 people) has been adopted by the City Council as the appropriate service level for future park additions.

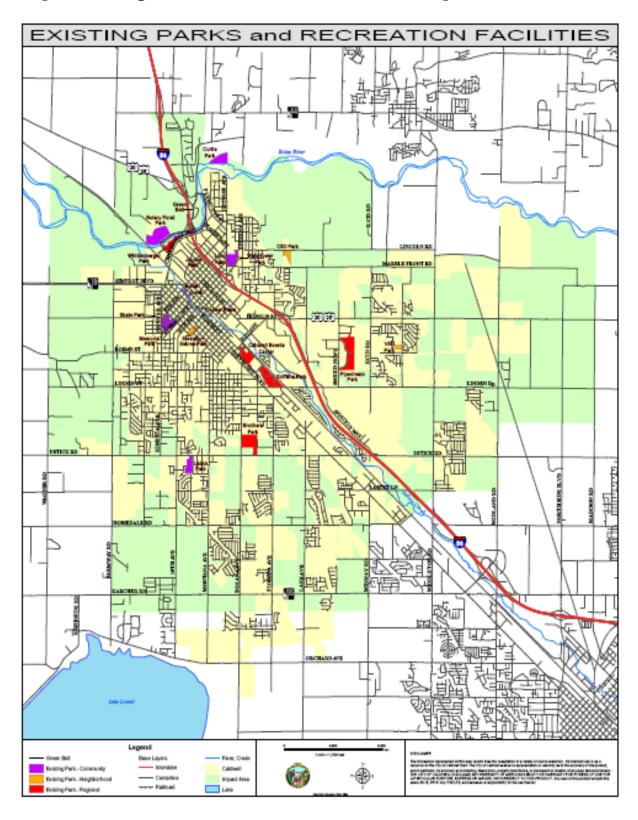
Table 3 on the following page lists the parks that serve our City. In total, there are five (5) regional parks, eight (8) community parks, and seven (7) neighborhood parks. Some parks were recently purchased and will be developed in the near future; others have been in existence for over 100 years.

Table 3. Summary of Existing Park Acreage.		
REGIONAL PARKS	ACRES	
Skyview (Pipedream) Park	45.00	
Brothers Park	34.00	
Griffith Park	30.00	
Caldwell Events Center	19.00	
Whittenberger Park	15.00	
Total Regional Park Acreage	143.00	
COMMUNITY PARKS	ACRES	
Luby Park	22.18	
Curtis Park	20.14	
Memorial Park	21.00	
Rotary Pond Park	38.91	
Ustick Park	15.13	
Indian Creek Park (Pathway)	5.00	
Greenbelt Park (Pathway)	1.50	
Pioneer Plaza Park	0.40	
Total Community Park Acreage	124.26	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	ACRES	
CSD Park (planned future park)	9.46	
VSD Park (planned future park)	5.00	
Sebree Park	5.00	
Jaycee Park	3.00	
Serenity Park	2.00	
Water Tower Park	2.50	
Skateboard Park (across from Memorial Park)	0.50	
Total Neighborhood Park Acreage	27.46	
TOTAL COMBINED PARK ACREAGE	294.72	

Sources: City Finance Director and Mapping Department, March 2009

The locations of these parks can be found in Map #1, which depicts existing city parks and other properties, such as schools, that contain open space areas.

Map 1. Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Map



Recreation System

Recreation programming for the City of Caldwell is provided and scheduled by the Recreation Superintendent. Other recreation staff includes an Assistant Sports Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant, who serves both the Parks and Golf Department. A Recreation Department brochure is distributed three times per year outlining scheduled recreational activities and park facilities.

Current recreational programming provides a wide variety of sports and activities (see Table 4) for all ages. Over the last 10 years the programs and classes have more than doubled. At the present time, the outdoor facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the community. This includes 20 baseball/softball fields, 13 soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, swimming pool, skate parks, and walking paths. The Recreation Department oversees the City's municipal pool located in Memorial park. This outdoor pool was built in 1973 which has the capacity for approximately 350 swimmers and is in reasonably good condition. Seasonal employment includes 15 employees under the supervision of the Recreation Superintendent.

However, City Recreation was lacking an indoor facility with classrooms and gym area. Caldwell fulfilled the desire of the community for an indoor pool and recreational facility when the YMCA was built in 2005. This state-of-the-art facility offers traditional programs for all ages including aquatics, fitness and youth activities.

The YMCA offers two gym areas, workout and weight area, rock wall climbing, running track, fitness classes and three different pool areas allowing people of all ages access to their aquatic programs. City Recreation currently occupies an area of the YMCA for gymnastic classes. This space is equipped with gymnastic apparatus as well as a large open area for tumbling, martial arts, dance classes and cheerleading. This provides the community a perfect opportunity for a one-stop indoor recreational facility.

On the following two pages, Table 4 highlights the numerous programs offered by the Caldwell Parks and Recreation Department.

Table 4. Recreational Programs.			
ADULT PROGRAMS	YOUTH ACTIVITIES		
SPORTS	SPORTS		
Coed Softball - Fall & Summer			
Men's Softball - Fall & Summer	Volleyball 4-6 grade Basketball 1-2 grade Clinic		
Men's Basketball League	Basketball 1-2 grade League		
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament	Basketball 3-4 grade League		
Christmas Classic Basketball	Basketball 5-6 grade League		
Tournament	basketball 5 0 grade League		
Men's Spring Softball Tournament	Basketball 7-9 grade Boys & Girls		
Coed Competitive Volleyball	Hoop Shoot Basketball		
Women's Competitive Volleyball	Flag Football 3-4 grade		
Recreational Volleyball League	Flag Football 1-2 grade		
Flag Football	Punt, Pass, Kick Football Competition		
Tennis Lessons	Golf Lessons		
Golf Lessons	Gymnastics Preschool		
Karate Lessons	Gymnastics Beginners		
Self Defense Classes	Gymnastics Intermediate		
Water Aerobics - Caldwell Pool & College of Idaho	Gymnastics Advanced		
	Gymnastics-Team Training		
SPECIAL INTERESTS - ADULT	Bowling		
Stamping/Scrapbooking	Sports Camps		
Card making	Basketball		
Dog Obedience	Baseball		
Beginning Oil Painting	Volleyball		
Acrylic Painting	Soccer		
Tole Painting	Short Sports		
Drawing Classes	Tennis Lessons/Beginner		
Beginning Spanish	Tennis Lessons/Intermediate-Adv Beginner		
Advanced Spanish	Sand Volleyball		
Knitting	Hershey Track Meet		
Digital Camera Instruction	Karate		
Photography	Rock Wall Climbing		
Holiday Floral Design			
Herb Classes	CLASSES/PROGRAMS - YOUTH		
Herbs/Culinary Use	Cheerleading		
Pottery	Youth Tumbling		
Beading	Ballet		
Drawing	Youth Dance Class		
Ceramics	Ballet		
Flower Arranging	Baton Twirling		
Candle Making	U of I Extension - 4-H Programs		
Food Garnishes	Babysitting 101		
Cake Decorating	GPS		
Dance Classes - Ballroom, Swing	Robotics		
Natural Body Care	Rocketry		
Basic Massage Therapy	Sewing		
Reflexology	Photography		
Headache Relief	Glam Camp		

Aromatherapy	Grow your own Pizza Garden
CPR/Professional Use	Science Wizards
CPR/Workplace/Adult	Pre-School Education
Financial Investing	Pre-Kindergarten Education
Candle Making	Fun Factory
Women's Self Defense	Youth Ceramics
Genealogy	Etiquette for Boys and Girls
Gardening	Art Classes
Indoor Plant Care	Create Greeting Cards
Dutch Oven Cooking	Kids Scrapbooking
Sewing/Beginners	Papermaking
Sewing/Beyond Beginners	Play Gym
Bookmaking	Ceramic & Clay Sculpting
Stamping Class	Craft Classes
Clay Sculpting	Holiday Craft
Karate	Hunters Safety
Shaolin Kun Fu Martial Arts	Fishing Camp
Concealed Weapons	Pinewood Derby
Model Railroading	Personal Defense
Back Country First Aid	Bookmaking
CPR Classes	Summer Day Camps
Fly Casting Class	Zoo Day
Fly Tying	,
Fly Fishing Adventure	POOL ACTIVITIES
Intro to Aviation	Swim Lessons / Preschool Level 1-6
Bird Dog Training	Lap Swim
Raising Financially Responsible	Family Swim Pass
Children	
Sign Language	Individual Swim Pass Adult / Youth
Basic Computer	Water Aerobics - Caldwell Pool
Microsoft Word	Water Aerobic - College of Idaho
Excel	
Basic Internet	
SENIOR CITIZEN TRIPS	
McCall Ice Carnival	
Cascade Train Ride	
Starlight Theatre / Garden Valley	
One 3 day trip	
One 7 - 8 day trip	

One 7 - 8 day trip
Source: Parks and Recreation Department, 2009

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Staffing

Currently, the City Parks Department is run by a Land & Facility Manager who oversees seven full-time employees, including a City Forester. 10 additional employees are hired seasonally to help with irrigation, trash pickup, restroom maintenance, lawn mowing, and the rose garden.

Operating Budget

The Parks Department annual budget is \$939,000. Approximately 40%, or \$376,000, is spent on maintenance and operations. The City Forester has a \$55,000 annual budget for street trees.

In addition, a special capital improvement fund provides funding for infrastructure replacement including restrooms, playgrounds, walking paths, landscaping, fields, and equipment. An impact fee fund provides funding for new park land, buildings, improvements and play equipment. Impact fees are growth generated and fund new parks as the City's population increases.

Administrative Structure

The Land & Facilities Manager also oversees operations of the City's cemetery. Additionally, cleaning and maintenance for all City buildings except the public library and police department fall under the supervision of this position. New park construction projects including irrigation systems, landscaping, ball field installation, restroom and playground construction are managed by the Land & Facilities Manager with a major portion of the work completed by public employees.

Land acquisition and use of park impact fees fall under the responsibilities of the City Finance Director. These two positions provide the necessary planning, budgeting, construction and maintenance to help keep Caldwell's parks up-to-date and consistent with the Master Plan.

Maintenance

In addition to maintaining Caldwell's city parks and greenbelt, the Parks Department also takes care of over 60 acres of non-recreational green space including freeway interchanges, the airport and other rights-of-way and median properties. Additionally, the City will sometimes help mow ball fields at Simplot Stadium and the College of Idaho.



Plan Recommendations

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This section makes general recommendations for the parks and recreation system at large, followed by specific recommendations for proposed and existing parks and open space.

Growth Projections

The City of Caldwell needs about 287 acres of park land for its current population, based on a recommended ration of 6.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents (see Table 5). Caldwell slightly exceeds the amount of park land recommended in this Plan by seven acres.

TABLE 5. Current Park Land Table.		
Current Population	Recommended Park Land	Actual Park Land
44,210	287 acres	294.72 acres

Sources: Compass/City Finance Director, 2009

By 2030, the city will need almost 442 acres, or an additional 148 acres of park land, to accommodate its projected population of 67,939 residents (see Table 6).

TABLE 6. 2015-2030 Park Acreage Projections.			
Year	City Population	Park Acreage Needed	
2015	55,673	362 acres	
2020	60,434	393 acres	
2025	64,357	418 acres	
2030	67,939	442 acres	

Source: Compass, 2009

Geographic Distribution of Park Land and Recreation Facilities

Suggested geographic distribution of this additional acreage is diagrammed by park type or recreation facility. Please take note that future parks are not specifically located on the plan map, rather they are generally identified in underserved areas within the City's area of impact. A goal is to locate parks so that all residents live within a one mile radius, or ten-minute walking distance, of a park. Ideally, new facilities are indicated in high growth areas to the south and east of town.

Individual Park Master Plans

It is recommended that the City provide master plans for all community and regional parks that do not currently have one. Ideally, the master planning effort should involve a public input process. Involving the community is optimal because it heightens awareness of available resources and instills a sense of pride and ownership in the park system, so that the resources are better cared for by the users. Also, for each park, as with the system as a whole, it is important to have an ultimate vision of where we are going. It is a reality that park development is costly, necessitating that many facilities be phased in over time.

A master plan enables the City to make incremental improvements with the confidence and certainty that they are ultimately contributing to a functional and aesthetic final product. Master plans are also useful to help generate support and interest in a project, whether it is to be funded by bonds, partnerships, or private donations.

Standardized Signage

Installation of standard signage is recommended for all park types, both new and existing. Signage is an important mechanism to visually link parks together, so that people recognize each park as part of the Caldwell Park System. The development of standardized signage for the City Parks and Recreation department is a project that should be undertaken separately and in detail, with heavy participation by city staff. Prototypical signs should be developed for the following purposes: Park Identification, Rules and Information, Playground Safety, Greenbelt Signage, etc. as well as low-key variations on those basic types that might be more appropriate for natural areas. Design of these signs should focus on cost-effective, attractive, vandal-resistant materials that are classical in style (avoiding trendy fonts or colors), so the park signs will look appropriate for many years to come.

Standardization of Materials and Site Furnishings

It is recommended that the City of Caldwell formalize a set of design standards for individual park elements such as site furnishings, construction materials, and paint colors and finishes. These standards would detail those elements that remain similar from park to park and those that might vary depending on park type. It is desirable to achieve an overall consistency among materials, colors, and furnishings, as these elements help lend visual continuity to the system. Furthermore, it is a more efficient approach, as these items

are carefully pre-selected based on cost, durability, vandal resistance, and long-term maintenance requirements.

Safety and Accessibility

Safety and accessibility are important issues throughout the park system, but perhaps more so with playgrounds. ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) and CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) provide guidelines for safety and accessibility that are updated periodically. These are still voluntary guidelines, but are widely accepted and implemented by public safety officials throughout the country. Risk management for the City should include periodic inspection of all City playgrounds by a NPSI (National Playground Safety Institute) certified playground inspector, with careful documentation of items not in compliance with those guidelines. Based on the results of those inspections, the City should implement a schedule or plan for bringing existing facilities into compliance or replacing those playground facilities that cannot be brought into compliance.

SITE-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXISTING PARKS

The following site-specific recommendations for improvements to existing parks are based on the results of citizen participation efforts handled during the formation of this Plan:

BROTHERS PARK

Brothers Park is a regional park adjacent to Caldwell High School. The park is mostly developed, but five acres are in need of improvements. This park also may need additional land in the future because the demand for additional soccer programs is increasing.

Some of the recommendations for Brothers Park include:

- Build a second restroom.
- Bury an irrigation ditch.
- Build a third and fourth parking lot on the south side of the complex and install overflow parking information signage.

CALDWELL EVENTS CENTER

No improvements proposed.

CSD PARK

This is a new neighborhood park that is not open for public use. Grass and irrigation will be installed and a Master Plan will be prepared in the near future.

CURTIS PARK

Curtis Park is an undeveloped "wilderness park" along the Boise River. While its location is somewhat remote, Curtis Park is visible from the Canyon Hill Cemetery above the park, on the opposite side of the river. Historically, the park was a stop along the old trolley route, where large social gatherings took place. Pilings from an old bridge that use to serve the park are still standing in the river and may have the potential to be re-used for a pedestrian crossing.

Curtis Park is a community park that offers picnic and overnight camping facilities on a reservation-only basis. It is used most often by Boy Scout Troops and other youth groups. The park is currently gated and locked. Keys are available from the Parks and Recreation department.

The entire Curtis Park site is located within the Boise River floodplain. An artesian well is located on site, but quality of that water for drinking is unknown. There is great potential for wildlife observation and habitat enhancement at Curtis Park due to the natural state and unique location along the Boise River.

Some recommendations for Curtis Park include:

- Build a pedestrian river crossing to connect Curtis Park to town, other parks, and the greenbelt. Investigate the feasibility of using existing piles from the former bridge, or develop a new structure altogether.
- Define the through signage park entrv and access improvements. Park access is currently indeterminate, unless visitors know exactly where they're going and already have a key. Signage should be installed out at the main road in addition to the actual park entry.
- Extend potable water.
- Upgrade restrooms.

GREENBELT PARK

Greenbelt Park is a community/linear park consisting of a heavily used pathway system along the Boise River. The asphalt path runs for several miles along the Boise River taking advantage of one of the outstanding natural features of the Caldwell area. Greenbelt Park is proximate to Whittenberger and Rotary Pond Parks, also located on or near the river corridor. Though this park is widely used, it was mentioned as a safety concern by many, largely due to its remote nature that limits passive surveillance by police and community members.

Recommended improvements to Greenbelt Park include the following:

- Install path side tables and benches to provide periodic "rest stops" along the river.
- Provide water access for canoes, kayaks, and fishermen as well as emergency river access.
- Formalize access points with signage.
- Build a pathway leading to Curtis Park.

GRIFFITH PARK

Griffith Park is located at Linden Street between Wilson Drain and the Union Pacific rail road. Griffith Park is a regional park and features three adult softball fields, a collegiate level baseball field, walking paths, and a restroom/concession building. This park is also used as auxiliary parking for the Canyon County Fairground/Caldwell Events Center area.

Recommended improvements to Griffith Park include the following:

- Add ball field lights.
- Add drinking fountains and picnic tables.
- Extend walking paths.
- Add playground equipment/tot lot in unused triangle areas.
- Add sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalk.

INDIAN CREEK PARK

Indian Creek Park is a community park located in downtown Caldwell with two 10 foot wide walking trails along the edge of the creek, pedestrian bridges, a gazebo, benches, lighting and landscaping.

The recommendations for Indian Creek Park are:

- Add additional furniture.
- Build a public restroom facility.
- Build a pocket park near 4th Avenue that highlights and honors the Japanese culture.

JAYCEE PARK

Jaycee Park is a neighborhood park located west of and adjacent to the Interstate 84 corridor. This park is impacted heavily from traffic noise off the interstate. Though small, the park contributes as a positive "image space" for the City due to its visibility from the interstate. Park features include restrooms, basketball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas, some of which are in need of improvement, as recommended below.

Recommended improvements for Jaycee Park include:

- Explore the potential of expanding into the vacant property northwest of the parking lot. This location would be great for volleyball and additional picnic facilities.
- Upgrade restrooms.
- Add sprinkler system.
- Add trees along Interstate 84 as an aesthetic buffer.

LUBY PARK

A community park near one of Caldwell's main "gateways," Luby Park offers a wide variety of facilities including a ball field, three (3) tennis courts and one (1) basketball court, restrooms, playgrounds, and picnic areas. It also is home to unique features such as the Rose Garden, and sits just below Caldwell's water tower, a prominent local landmark. Luby Park is generally in very good condition, with recent

improvements made to parking and circulation, as well as play equipment.

The following suggestions are recommended to further enhance Luby Park:

- Develop a perimeter pedestrian pathway.
- Add drinking fountains.
- Build a second picnic shelter and a connecting sidewalk.

MEMORIAL PARK

A community park near the center of town, Memorial Park is one of Caldwell's oldest and most-loved parks and offers a wide variety of recreational activities. In addition to picnic areas, open space, playgrounds, restrooms, ball courts, and three (3) lighted baseball/softball fields. Memorial Park offers unique community recreation amenities such as the Municipal Swimming Pool and Van Slyke Museum.

Recommended improvements to Memorial Park include:

- Provide additional signage especially relative to items of historical interest. Multiple park identification and rules signs are also needed.
- Landscape/signage enhancements.
- Update the museum and Johnston Cabin.
- In general, new facilities developed at Memorial should be sociocultural as opposed to athletic. Memorial's proximity to downtown, as well as its size, makes it a great location for community events.
- Develop facilities for special events such as small outdoor concerts, art festivals, and other activities. Improvements should include reinforced turf areas for vehicular access, and power and utility hook-ups for vendors.

PIONEER PLAZA PARK

This is a community/mini-park (pocket park) that is downtown, near Indian Creek. Site furnishings at Pioneer Plaza Park include benches and tables, as well as a drinking/water fountain.

Possible improvements to Pioneer Plaza Park would include:

- Extend the park.
- Build a kiosk that promotes and provides information on the Snake River Valley Scenic Byway and wine country.

ROTARY POND PARK

Development of this community park was spearheaded by the local Rotary Club, following a master plan done by Jensen Belts, Associates. Rotary Pond Park is the site of a former gravel pit, along the Boise River, near Whittenberger and Greenbelt Park. The area consists primarily of a pond with two gravel parking lots, six acres of grass, a sandy beach, an archery field and perimeter asphalt path. The pond is stocked with fish and is the site of a youth fishing derby.

The recommended improvements to Rotary Pond Park include:

- Install docks/piers.
- Pave the parking lots.
- Archery range landscaping improvements.

SEBREE PARK

No improvements proposed.

SERENITY PARK

No improvements proposed.

SKATEBOARD PARK

Skateboard Park is a neighborhood park adjacent to Memorial Park. Only a half-acre in size, it is used by skateboarders. Unfortunately, the facility is constructed of wood. This plan endorses upgrading the park to look like the skateboard facility at Skyview Park.

The only recommended change to Skateboard Park is:

• Permanent features at the existing skate park.

SKYVIEW (PIPE DREAM) PARK

This regional park was under construction at the time of this plan. The park currently has softball fields, BMX track, skate park, play ground structure and restroom facility.

Future amenities include:

- Jogging pathways.
- Water park features.
- Horse shoe pits.
- Landscaping.
- Climbing rocks.
- Jungle gym.
- Add restrooms and concession stand.
- Amphitheater.
- GALS quad center.
- Basketball courts.
- Benches and site furnishings.
- Barbecue grills, picnic facilities.
- Small pre-school age playground.
- Fencing around BMX park.

USTICK PARK

Ustick Park was designed and constructed by Caldwell Parks & Recreation staff with volunteer help from youth baseball organizations. This community park contains 4-plex youth baseball fields with a covered shelter in the center, little league baseball field, and restroom/concession building.

Recommendations:

- Add a playground.
- Baseball field lighting.

VSD PARK

This is a new neighborhood park that is not open for public use. A Master Plan will be developed for this park in the near future.

WHITTENBERGER PARK

Whittenberger Park, is located on the Boise River, though direct views of the river are limited by heavy vegetation in the riparian corridor. This regional park has a picnic shelter, one soccer field, one football field, and generous spectator parking for both – about 143 spaces. Whittenberger also fronts a major arterial road, so traffic noise is evident. The greenbelt path runs along the park's edge and parallels a roadside irrigation canal.

Possible improvements and additional amenities might include:

- Strengthen pedestrian connections to Rotary Pond Park and Greenbelt Park.
- Provide additional signage/landscaping enhancements.
- Develop a permanent restroom facility.
- Provide pre-school age playground.

PROPOSED PARK SITES

Map #2 on page 30 recommends locations and types of new facilities to be developed as part of Caldwell's Park & Recreation System. It is important to note that the locations shown are general, as opposed to site specific, and were determined based on typical service area radius for each park type to achieve good coverage of amenities for the community at large.

The recommended new facilities, primarily regional and community parks, should be developed according to the Guidelines for New Development in Section 4 of this document. The City is taking a stance against developing more neighborhood parks. As Caldwell continues to grow, new residential developments will be required to dedicate and maintain open space through a home owners association. The City wants to avoid developing neighborhood parks on the outskirts of the city because it duplicates the city's policy to establish useable open space in new residential developments.

This plan also identifies several other future locations where parks and open space will be needed. Since the growth pattern of this City is predominantly to the south and east, this plan focuses on park development in these areas.

Regional Parks

Three future regional parks are identified on the future parks map with an "R". The Department of Interior owns land on the northeast corner of 10th Avenue and Orchard Street. The City is attempting is purchase this land and turn it into a regional park (R-1). Another site is on the City's east side near the intersection of Highway 20/26 and Midway Road. Called the Tri-City Park (R-2), this park would serve as a link between the cities of Middleton and Nampa. A major pathway is also planned through this park along an existing railroad corridor (see the Pathways and Bike Routes Master Plan). The fairgrounds (R-3), next to the Caldwell Events Center, will be relocated. When this happens, the City could utilize this land as open space.

Community Parks

Eight community parks are planned on the future parks map. Community parks are designated with a "C". The area behind the new Treasure Valley Family YMCA is an ideal site to develop a new park (C-1). The greenbelt is proposed to be extended to Curtis Park (C-8).

Four community park sites (C-2, C-3, and C-6) are proposed in conjunction with a planned future school site in the Public Facilities Plan. These park/school sites will replicate what is happening on Marble Front Road where the new Van Buren grade school was recently built. The City will open a park adjacent to each of these proposed school sites. These parks will contain approximately 10-acres of land.

Neighborhood Parks

As mentioned earlier, neighborhood parks (designated with a "N") will not be a main feature in this plan. There is one area on the City's west side that is not near public or private open space. The City owns a well on approximately one-half acre of land on Sylvan Street. This is the only neighborhood park proposed in this Plan.

Table 7 below contains a breakdown of regional, community, and neighborhood parks proposed in this Plan. The names of these parks are unofficial and subject to change.

	TABLE 7. Proposed Park Land Table.			
NO.	PROPOSED REGIONAL PARKS	ACRES		
R-1	Lake Shore Park	29.57		
R-2	Tri-City Park	30.50		
R-3	Fairgrounds Park Expansion	12.06		
	Total Proposed Acreage - Regional Parks	72.13		
NO.	PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARKS	ACRES		
C-1	Values Park	7.15		
C-2	West Caldwell Park	10.00		
C-3	Vallivue Middle School Park	10.00		
C-4	South Caldwell Park	10.00		
C-5	Laster Park	5.00		
C-6	Lincoln Park	10.00		
C-7	Boise River Park	15.00		
C-8	Greenbelt Park Expansion	8.15		
	Total Proposed Acreage - Community Parks	75.30		
NO.	PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	ACRES		
N-1	Sylvan Pump House Park	0.38		
	Total Proposed Acreage - Neighborhood Parks	0.38		
	TOTAL PROPOSED PARK ACREAGE	147.81		
	EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	294.72		
	TOTAL PARK ACREAGE IN 2030	442.53		

Source: Parks and Recreation Steering Committee, 2009

SITE-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED PARKS

Although this Plan calls for 148 acres of new park land by the year 2030, specific additions to Caldwell's park system are planned through the year 2019. The following site-specific recommendations for improvements to the proposed parks are based on the results of staff input and citizen participation efforts handled during the formation of this Plan:

CANYON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS PARK (R-3)

This park is currently under the control of Canyon County and the Fair Board. This plan proposes the acquisition of this property so that it may be used in conjunction with the Caldwell Events Center.

LAKE SHORE PARK (R-1)

Located at the intersection of 10th Avenue and Orchard Street, this proposed regional park can eventually become the crown jewel of the Caldwell park system. Containing approximately 27 acres of land, this park has an excellent vista of Lake Lowell and the Owyhee Mountains. The master plan for this park calls for several improvements that will take approximately five years to complete.

Some of the proposed improvements for Lake Shore Park include:

- Well and well house.
- Two parking lots.
- Two shelter houses.
- Two restrooms.
- Walking pathways.
- Gazebos.
- Picnic tables and benches.
- Amphitheater.
- Sand volleyball.
- Frisbee golf.

- Splash park.
- Horseshoe pits.

LASTER PARK (C-5)

A community park is proposed near Laster Lane between Florida Avenue and Lake Avenue. The area where this park is proposed is experiencing new growth and development. There is a weak park presence south of Ustick Road (Ustick Park is the only park south of Ustick Road). Population growth in this region dictates a need for new park facilities. This site would be an ideal location for a dog park, similar to the new park built in the City of Nampa.

SYLVAN PUMP HOUSE PARK (N-1)

This property, owned by the City, currently consists of open lawn surrounding a small pump house structure on one-half acre of land. This property has the potential to be a neighborhood park.

The proposed improvements include:

- Benches and furnishings.
- Barbeque grill.
- Picnic tables.
- Pre-school age playground.

TRI-CITY PARK (R-2)

The goal of this park is to create a major recreational destination in eastern Canyon County. A major pathway (Tri-City Corridor) is proposed to run through this park. This pathway, if built, would provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to Nampa and Middleton.

The proposed site contains 30.5 acres of land and is located at the intersection of Highway 20/26 and Midland Road. This plan proposes the long range acquisition of this property and the creation of a Master Plan for this future regional park.

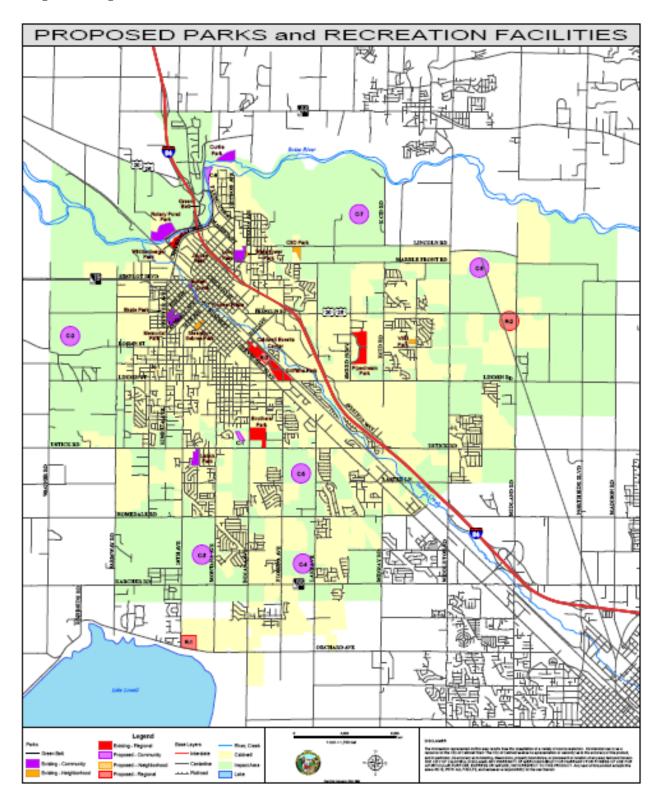
VALUES PARK (C-1)

Values Park is proposed to become a 7.15 acre community park behind the Treasure Valley Family YMCA. The park is a critical junction point connecting pathways from the YMCA Corridor and Lake Lowell Corridor (see Pathways and Bike Routes Master Plan).

The following improvements are proposed at Values Park:

- Walking paths.
- Basketball and volleyball courts.
- Picnic areas.
- Parking lot.

Map 2. Proposed Parks and Recreation Facilities







Guidelines for New Parks

GUIDELINES FOR NEW PARKS

SUGGESTED DESIGN STANDARDS BY PARK TYPE

The definitions and design criteria that follow are intended to guide the detailed design of new parks and open space for Caldwell. In a general way, this section aims to identify the elements, or combination of elements, that make up a "good" park and provide functional examples of how those elements might be arranged.

Based on NRPA Guidelines, the following standard park types are defined and uses are suggested. While each park type serves a unique function within the system, each type aims to provide a mix of complementary uses, and create an aesthetically pleasing, integrated environment for active and passive recreation. The use of similar design elements within all parks such as signage, materials, furnishings, and landscape treatments help to unify the park system, so that each individual park reads as part of the system as a whole.

Mini-Parks

As its name suggests, the mini-park is the smallest of the park types. These parks are used to address the need for recreation in urban and residential situations where there is limited space for large active recreation facilities. Pioneer Plaza Park in downtown Caldwell is an example of an urban mini-park.

Size: 2,500 square foot to 1-acre

Location: Densely developed urban and residential areas. May be

used to infill or make use of undevelopable lots.

Purpose: Urban beautification, mid-block pedestrian connections,

and unique recreation opportunities such as overlooks.

Facilities: Tot lots, overlooks, memorials, and seating/rest areas.

Design Parameters

• Because they are high maintenance relative to the limited recreation value they provide, as a general rule, mini-parks should only be developed if no other options exist for park development within a given area due to space limitations.

- Although there are no specific size requirements, these parks should be at least 2,500 square feet in size.
- Parking is usually not incorporated into these parks due to space limitations and because they serve a small area.
- Urban mini-parks may be located in vacant lots or small, otherwise unusable spaces. These small parks, perhaps more accurately described as plazas, can provide wonderful opportunities for urban renewal, beautification and public seating. Colorful, ornamental plantings can be used to brighten the commercial areas of downtown Caldwell.
- Residential mini-parks service small residential areas isolated from neighborhood or community parks. Tot lots, small court sports such as sand volleyball or half-court basketball, or midblock walkways, are all acceptable uses for residential miniparks.

<u>Possible Funding Sources</u>

• Urban beautification initiatives, neighborhood associations, businesses or citizenry may fund Mini-parks.

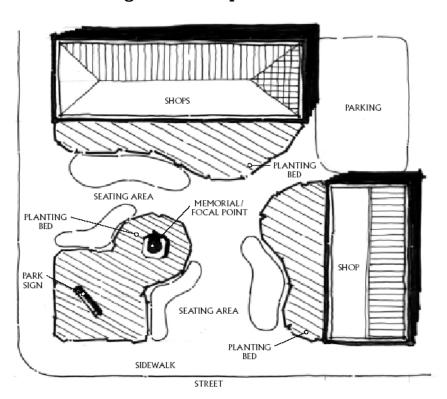


Figure 2. Sample Mini-Park

Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is the most common of the park types and functions as a basic unit of the park system. These parks are the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood, accommodating active and passive uses for all age groups. Sports facilities at neighborhood parks are generally intended for unstructured, open play, as opposed to scheduled sporting events. Examples include Jaycee and Sebree Parks.

Size: 10 acres or less. Typically under 5 acres.

Location: Approx. ½ mile distance, or less, from a housing

development not interrupted by physical barriers (major

roads, rivers, railroads, etc.).

Purpose: To serve as an extension of the backyard, the recreational

center of a neighborhood or area. To provide passive and active recreational opportunities for all age groups and abilities, as well as opportunities for shared use of

facilities with schools and community groups.

Facilities: Creative playground structures, court games (tennis,

volleyball and basketball), "informal" ball fields, open space, shuffleboard, horseshoe pits, picnic and seating

areas.

<u>Design Parameters</u>

- The programmatic requirements of the park should be defined with public input and feedback.
- Active recreational facilities should comprise of approximately 50% of the total area of the park and be limited to non-competitive fields and courts. The remaining area should be passive or unprogrammed open space.
- Approximately 1-2 parking spaces per acre should be provided for park users.
- Security lighting should be provided in the parking lot and along some of the more heavily used paths.
- Restrooms should be provided in larger neighborhood parks or as needed based on public feedback.
- Standardized park identification signage should be placed near the entry of the park. A park rules and regulations sign may be required to outline park hours and conditions of use.

Possible Funding Sources and Strategies

- Alliances with the public school system to share the cost of building new park facilities is a great way of sharing the cost of acquiring or improving the facilities of existing parks.
- Development Agreements In new neighborhoods, developers should be required to provide neighborhood parks according to Caldwell's standards and design to service that community.

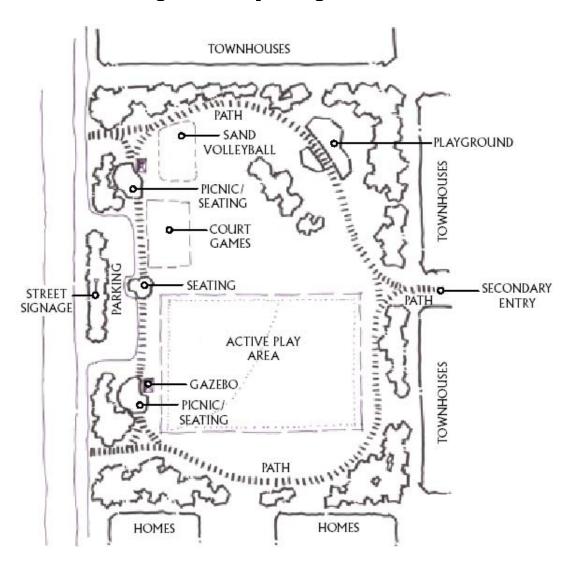


Figure 3. Sample Neighborhood Park

Community Parks

Community Parks may be used to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces while providing the community with recreation facilities not found in neighborhood parks. Examples include fairgrounds and parks similar to Memorial Park.

Size: Varies, but usually 5-25 acres

Location: Located near two or more neighborhoods, ½ to 3-mile

service area radius.

Purpose: To provide broader community-based recreational needs,

can be used for community gatherings and meetings such as fairs, may provide area for formalized ball games or tournaments, preserve unique landscapes open space.

Facilities: Space for special outdoor events, community center, pool,

larger creative play structures, skateboard parks, formal ball fields (softball, baseball, soccer and football), tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, restrooms, picnic areas, and trail systems. Community parks will occasionally be home to zoos, museums, community centers or other

public facilities.

Design Parameters

- The public feedback process for these parks should include service and athletic groups in the community. The design for the park should reflect the community's need for larger facilities with an eye to accommodating tournaments, fairs and performance type events.
- At least two-thirds of the available land should be dedicated to active recreational opportunities. The remaining area should be passive use or unprogrammed open space.
- Parking will be required to accommodate league sports and a drop-off area should be provided at a central location. Approximately 40 spaces should be provided per ball field plus 5 spaces per acre of park land.
- Large creative play structures should be planned for parks at this level. Along with play equipment for all age ranges, some structures should be ADA accessible.
- Ball fields and courts may be lighted based upon need and should be provided in the parking lots and along some of the more heavily used paths.

- Restrooms should be provided in community parks typically one or two, depending on park size. Restrooms should be centrally located to serve multiple facilities.
- Standardized park identification signage should be placed near the entry of the park. A park rules and regulations sign may be required to outline park hours. Directional signage may be needed to orient park users to facilities.

<u>Possible Funding Sources</u>

- New parks need to be planned well in advance of demand. Land for community parks should be purchased based on zoning and growth trends for the community. Master planning and phasing of park development should be completed once the area around the park is 70% developed.
- Local sports groups should be approached to help fund and/or maintain ball field facilities. Larger community groups and businesses may be approached to fund planting.

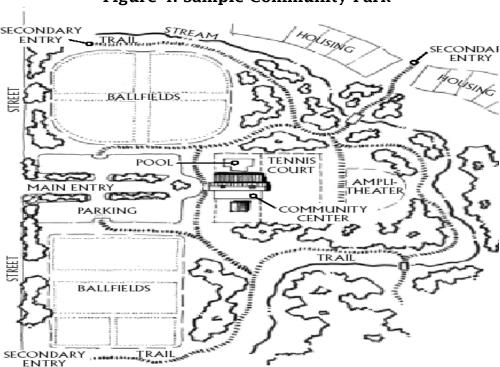


Figure 4. Sample Community Park

Regional Parks

Regional parks serve people from within and outside of Caldwell and offer a variety of specialized facilities such as sportsplexes, arenas, or golf courses. These parks often have a very large open space component including extensive trails systems and may be located to protect significant landscapes or ecologically sensitive areas. Regional parks can serve as the hub for a community-wide pathway system. Examples include Skyview Park, Rotary Pond Park and Whittenberger Park combined.

Size: 25+ acres.

Location: Based on available natural resources

Purpose: Similar to a community park in function, providing for the

recreational needs of the entire community, but at a larger scale, also may preserve unique landscapes and open

space, places of historical significance.

Facilities: Similar to community park with the addition of single-

purpose facilities such as swimming pools or "spray grounds", art park, arboretum, model boat racing, ornamental gardens, performing art facilities, indoor or outdoor theater space, or golf course. Regional parks may also provide a sportsplex, or concentration of ball fields,

suitable for tournament play.

<u>Design Parameters</u>

- The public feedback process for these parks should include service and athletic groups in the community. The design for the park should reflect the community's need for larger facilities with an eye to accommodating tournaments, fairs and performance type events.
- Parking requirements will vary depending on the types of facilities planned.

Possible Funding Sources

 A regional park should be a part of a long-range planning effort where the park is master planned prior to the purchase of land because the land requirements will vary greatly depending on the type of facility. Private industry may have an interest in developing facilities such as golf courses or sportsplexes on publicly owned land. The specialized nature of these facilities is best suited to this type of arrangement.



Figure 5. Sample Regional Park



Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION

PLANNING PROCESS

Over the course of the master planning process, significant steps were taken with regards to property acquisition and implementation of this plan. In recent years, the City has demonstrated a creative approach to providing recreational facilities through partnerships with the school districts and other public entities, as well as private donors. Sharing the costs of land acquisition and development, as well as use of the facilities themselves, helps maximize benefits to the community. This strategy has yielded highly successful results and should continue in the future. The following mechanisms and considerations will further aid in implementation of the Plan.

Impact Fee Program

A Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Feasibility Study was conducted by a consulting firm in 2004. The outcome of the study was the adoption of Ordinance No. 1451 (Parks and Rec. Impact Fees). Today, impact fees are used to acquire land, develop and construct parks and open space, and purchase or construct capital facilities and improvements.

Volunteers and Donations

One way to tap into the generosity of local community members is to make it easy for them to give when they feel so inclined. Typically, over the course of any year, there are a number of service groups and volunteers who wish to give their time and/or money and it is important to be able to respond to those wishes in ways that best benefit the community. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department for information on how to volunteer or make donations.

Land Dedication

Another way to add park land to the City is to have a developer donate land to the City. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance offers park land dedication as an optional amenity.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

This section summarizes the Master Plan's numerous recommendations. It serves as a prioritized checklist and quick reference tool to review the major projects recommended in this plan. The formal adoption by the City Council is only the first step in the

implementation process. The plan sets forth an agreed-upon road map of actions over the next 10 years.

Table 8 prioritizes the projects proposed in this plan over the next decade. Projects are recommended by budget year starting in FY 2010. High priority (short range) projects should be completed by 2012, medium range priority projects by 2015, and low priority (long range) projects by 2019.

Table 8. Implementation Schedule.					
PROPOSED PROJECT	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority		
TROTOGED TROJECT	(2010-2012)	(2013-2015)	(2016-2019)		
Brothers Park					
Parking Lot #3.	\$65,000				
Walking Path Expansion.	\$22,000				
Build restroom #2. Parking Lot #4.	\$100,000	\$65,000			
Signage for overflow parking at		\$65,000			
school.*	\$1,000				
Bury irrigation ditch.		\$18,000			
	ell School District				
Park master plan.	\$1,000	(CDD) I UIK			
Landscaping.*	\$5,000				
Irrigation.	\$25,000				
	Curtis Park				
Build pedestrian bridge over		\$300,000			
Boise River.		·			
Define park entry.*		\$3,000			
Extend potable water.		\$40,000			
Upgrade restrooms.		\$40,000			
	Fairgrounds Par	'k			
Land acquisition.			\$120,000		
Park master plan.	C ll+ Dl-		\$5,000		
Dathway construction	Greenbelt Park	\$24,000			
Pathway construction. Install path side tables and		\$24,000			
benches (6).		\$9,000			
Provide water access for canoes and kayaks.*		\$6,000			
Formalize access points with		\$500			
signage.*	Griffith Park				
Add softball field lights (3).	Gillittii i tark	\$90,000			
Add Wolfe Field lights.	\$150,000	450,000			
Wolfe Field triangles (2).	\$10,000				
Sidewalks.	\$20,000				
Playground equipment.	\$25,000				
Drinking fountains.	,	\$2,500			
Picnic tables (4).		\$6,000			
Extend walking paths.	\$25,000	,			
Playground equipment/tot lot in	\$50,000				
unused triangle areas.					
Indian Creek Park					
Add furniture.		\$3,000			
Restrooms.	\$100,000				

Table 8. Implementation Schedule.					
PROPOSED PROJECT	High Priority (2010-2012)	Medium Priority (2013-2015)	Low Priority (2016-2019)		
	Jaycee Park				
Upgrade restrooms.			\$30,000		
Expand park to the northwest,			\$10,000		
provide picnic/volleyball areas.* Add sprinkler system.			\$10,000		
Add landscaping along I-84.*			\$5,000		
Aud laliuscapilig alolig 1 04.	Laster Park		\$3,000		
Land acquisition.	Luster rurn		\$100,000		
Park master plan.			\$5,000		
Dog park.			\$150,000		
	Lake Shore Par	k			
Well.	\$200,000				
Well house.	\$150,000				
Topographic survey.	\$8,000				
Parking lot #1.	\$100,000				
Restroom #1.	\$100,000				
Irrigation, drain field #1, power.	\$95,000				
Playgrounds. Pathways.	\$115,000 \$80,000				
Landscaping and trees.	\$25,000				
Shelter house #1.	\$5,000				
Horseshoe pits (4).*	\$1,500				
Restroom #2.	Ψ1,500	\$100,000			
Splash park.		\$75,000			
Benches and picnic tables.		\$10,000			
Frisbee golf.		\$8,000			
Gazebo.		\$10,000			
Shelter house #2.		\$5,000			
Sand volleyball (2).		\$10,000			
Parking lot #2.		\$100,000			
Drain field #2.		\$15,000			
Amphitheater.		\$50,000			
Additional landscaping.		\$20,000			
Flag pole.*	Luby Park	\$3,000			
Develop a perimeter pedestrian	Luby Faik				
pathway.			\$20,000		
Add drinking fountains.		\$2,500			
Sidewalk near picnic shelter.	\$2,000	. , ,			
Secondary picnic shelter.			\$4,000		
	Memorial Park				
Provide historical signage.*		\$2,000			
Landscape/signage		\$1,000			
enhancements.*		·			
Update the museum.*		\$10,000			
Update Johnston Cabin.*	Diomesau Di D	\$10,000			
Evnand the nark	Pioneer Plaza Pa	rk	¢15 000		
Expand the park. Build an informational kiosk.	\$10,000		\$15,000		
bund an imormational kiosk.	Rotary Pond Par	rk			
Install docks/piers.	Notary 1 ona 1 a		\$8,000		
Pave the parking lot.			\$20,000		
Archery range	#F 000		,		
signage/landscaping.*	\$5,000				

Table 8. Implementation Schedule.						
PROPOSED PROJECT	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority			
TROTOSED TROJECT	(2010-2012)	(2013-2015)	(2016-2019)			
Skateboard Park						
Upgrade existing skate park.	\$25,000					
	kyview (Pipedream) Park				
GALS quad center structure.	\$25,000					
Landscaping.	\$15,000					
Irrigation.	\$25,000					
BMX park fencing.	\$30,000					
Jogging pathways.	\$36,000					
Master plan.	\$1,000	4100.000				
Water park features.		\$100,000				
Horse shoe pits (4).*		\$2,000				
Climbing rocks.		\$30,000				
Restrooms/concession stand.		\$100,000				
Basketball courts.		\$15,000				
Amphitheater.		\$60,000				
Jogging pathways.		\$20,000				
Barbeque grills.		\$2,000				
Picnic tables and benches.	1 5	\$10,000				
	ylvan Pump House	Park	¢= 000			
Benches and site furnishings.			\$5,000			
Install barbeque grill and picnic facility.			\$2,000			
Build a pre-school age playground.			\$10,000			
	Tri-City Park					
Land acquisition.			\$600,000			
Park master plan.			\$20,000			
	Ustick Park	T				
Playground equipment.	\$25,000					
Baseball field lighting.	\$130,000					
747 11	Values Park	414000				
Walking paths.		\$14,000				
Basketball/volleyball courts.	41=000	\$21,000				
Irrigation and landscaping.	\$15,000					
Irrigation	\$15,000					
Parking lot.	\$130,000	#20.000				
Picnic and barbeque shelters (4).	Cala al Diatolat	\$30,000				
	ue School District	(VSD) Park				
Park master plan.	\$1,000					
Landscaping.*	\$2,500					
Irrigation.	\$10,000	1-				
Strongthon podostrian	Whittenberger Pa	II K				
Strengthen pedestrian connections to Rotary Pond Park.*		\$5,000				
Signage and landscaping		#F.000				
enhancements.*		\$5,000				
Build a restroom facility.	\$100,000					
Provide pre-school age	,	***				
playground.		\$10,000				
TOTAL	\$2,008,000	\$1,462,500	\$1,139,000			

^{* -} Indicates a potential Eagle Scout project.

CONCLUSION

Community input over the course of this plan has shown that the citizens of Caldwell place a high value on parks and recreation. This common value provides a solid foundation and impetus for expansion of the parks and recreation system. As the plan is implemented, the parks and recreation system helps to perpetuate itself; the better the system gets, the more it benefits the community, and the more willing people are to allocate resources to improve and maintain our parks.