

CROSSROADS

BY CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL &
NATURAL RESOURCES

NEW FACES

Introducing new full-time staff Alex Eells and Shawn Gray | p. 18-21

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

Trying out a new pilot program with the Boise School District | p. 24-25

BUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Bus scholarships help schools far and wide get to Celebration Park | p. 34-35



Brendan Blowers-de Leon and Robyn Foust volunteered to wait for the sunrise on the summer solstice.

Above: Sunrise on Guffey Butte.

Below: Brendan's time-lapse setup.

Opposite top: The view on Guffey Butte.

Opposite bottom-left: Brendan Blowers-de Leon removes graffiti.

Opposite bottom-right: Shay White pilots his jet boat up the Snake River.







Above: Canyon County Sheriff Marine Patrol Sergeant Jason Roberts, Canyon County Sheriff Kieran Donahue, and Nampa Fire Paramedic Tim Kirsch watch as Canyon County Commissioner Leslie Van Beek gives a speech to kick off 2022 National Boater Safety Week at Lake Lowell Park on May 21st.



Above: A family learns how to properly board a canoe in a fun way.

Below: Division Commander Scott Prestel of the US Coast Guard Reserve Division 11, District 13 speaks on water safety.

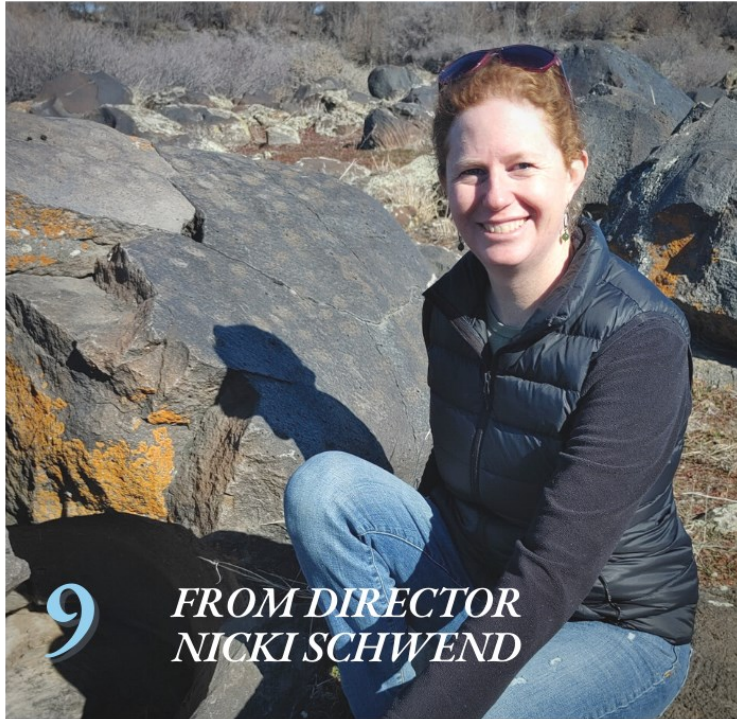


Above: Sheriff Donahue watches Adelaide Starry learn about boat capacity by building her own foil boat and seeing how many stones it took to capsize it.





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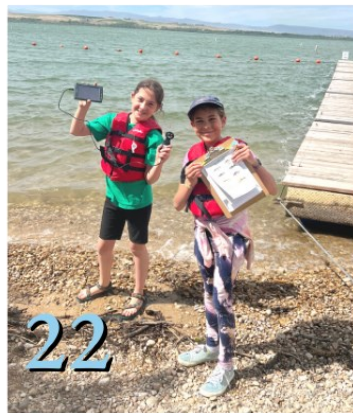
**FROM DIRECTOR
NICKI SCHWEND**



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DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Good weather means hard work at the parks department. Check out all we've accomplished!



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With community partners at Nampa Library, parks staff created a new loanable library kit for children and families to check out.

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We were busy this spring, but the number of students and schools that came to the parks made it worth it.



1115 ALBANY LANE
CALDWELL, ID 83605
208-455-6022
PARKSPROGRAMS@CANYONCOUNTY.ID.GOV



[HTTP://WWW.CANYONCOUNTY.ID.GOV/PARKS](http://www.canyoncounty.id.gov/parks)

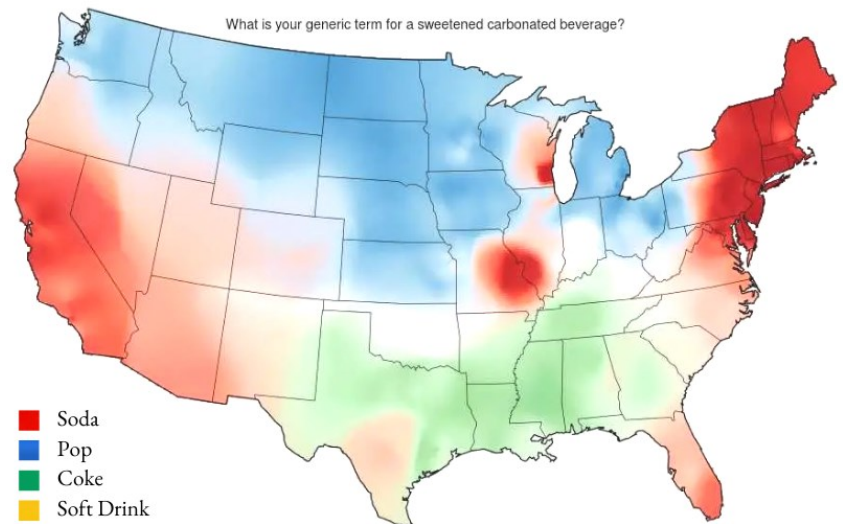
On the cover: The view through a natural arch at the top of Guffey Butte. Photo by Brendan Blowers-de Leon.

FROM THE DIRECTOR: NICKI SCHWEND

CURIOSITIES OF PHRASING

I heard a very interesting question the other day: When you have the air conditioning on at home and you want to cool the house down more, how do you phrase it? In other words, would you say “turn the A/C up” or would you say “turn the A/C down?” Are you basing your wording off the level of intensity at which the A/C is producing cold air (“Turn the A/C up”) OR are you wording it based on the A/C temperature setting being lowered (turn the A/C down)?

There are nuances to our communication that often times slip us by. We tend to assume that everyone in our culture communicates in the same way. We all share the same language and background; therefore, shouldn't we have a similar understanding and use of language? For the most part, it's true, but I'm sure we all have something that other people say that just doesn't sit right with us. It sounds weird in its phrasing, it rubs us wrong, or it just doesn't sit well with our understanding as to how certain communication works.



As an example, this heat map shows how differently Americans call a sweetened carbonated beverage.

Joshua Katz, Department of Statistics, NC State University

As an example. I used to work in a field that required a lot of radio communication – sometimes intense and overlapping radio communication where, for the most part, the most common phrase you heard all day involved “Do you copy?” “So-and-so, do you copy?” “Such-and-such group, do you copy?” Each new interaction started with a phrase involving “do you copy?” followed by back and forth communication. Every now and then a new individual would join the ranks and alter this common phrase to “Do you have a copy?” and it drove me up the proverbial wall. Everything about it made me twitch a bit. “Do you copy” made sense as I understood it. It means: Do you hear me? Did you get that? Do you understand? Did you hear the message? Did you hear the communication? Did you understand the information? Are you ready to receive more information?

**“DO YOU HAVE A
COPY?” A COPY OF
WHAT? A BOOK? A
PHOTO? A REPORT? ”**

All of these constructs that pass from the auditory canal to the brain, in which the listener then responds, “I Copy”, “Go for so-and-so”, or “Go for such-and-such” to convey that they are ready and listening for an exchange of information – a conversation on the radio.

As for “Do you have a copy?”, my brain didn’t like it. How do you “have” a copy of a verbal communication? I wanted to inquire on the radio, “Have a copy of what? A book? A photo? A report? What exactly is it you’re asking if I have a copy of?” Yet I managed to bite my tongue and play nice, keeping this dialogue inside my head. Yet, to this day, I don’t understand using that phrasing.



A recent conversation with Parks staff revealed that one of our staff couldn’t stand it when people offered for visitors to “Throw an atlatl” at Celebration Park. You see, the atlatl is actually the tool that is used to throw a dart. You don’t throw the atlatl, you use the atlatl to throw a dart. Similar to using a “Chuck-it” to throw a ball for a dog – you don’t throw the chuck-it (tool); the tool stays in your hand while it launches the ball (projectile). Instead of offering to “throw an atlatl” said employee would offer visitors the chance to “throw darts with an atlatl.” I had to take a second to ask myself how I phrased this

opportunity to people. Turns out, I’m in the category that drives her up the wall. I say “Throw an atlatl.” But why do I say it that way... because she’s technically correct.

I think I might have figured out why I fall into the category of “throw an atlatl.” I believe it is related to the commonly used phrase “shoot a gun.” If we were to say “Do you want to shoot a gun” we’re not actually asking if someone wants to shoot at a gun. We’re offering them the chance to use a gun (tool) to shoot a bullet. Like “throw an atlatl” we’re stating the action/verb as associated with the tool: an atlatl throws, a gun shoots. We’ve grown accustomed to understanding what shoot a gun means without giving it a second thought. ■



SO HOW DO YOU PHRASE THINGS?

TURN THE A/C UP *OR* TURN THE A/C DOWN

DO YOU COPY? *OR* DO YOU HAVE A COPY?

THROW AN ATLATL *OR* THROW DARTS WITH AN ATLATL

CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: INFRASTRUCTURE



Lake Lowell Septic Field Replacement

Due to inevitable aging of the existing infrastructure coupled with increased usage linked to the ever-growing local population, Canyon County Parks faced an unexpected urgency for a new septic drain field at Lake Lowell Park this summer. With quick help from County Commissioners, the Auditor's office, Southwest District Health, and Canyon County Facilities Department, a brand new, expanded drain field was installed in July 2022. With an increased capacity of nearly 1,200 square feet, it will better serve Park visitors and staff into the foreseeable future.

Work was completed by Master Plumbing of Caldwell in under a weeks' time, and the disturbed area is quickly returning to its previously beautiful lawn.

Above, center: Septic drain field installation.

East End Camping ADA Walkways

Finishing out the East End Campground project, Precision Grading & Excavation poured concrete connecting the existing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant camp sites with the new vault toilets which were installed this spring.

Assistant Director Laura Barbour oversaw this project. "Our goal for the East End was to improve safety, accessibility and user experience while maintaining the unique character of the place—remote-feeling, with scenic canyon views. Now that construction is wrapped up, we are excited to host visitors at the new and improved East End for years to come!" she said.

This fully completes the project at the East End, which was funded by Idaho State Parks RV Fund Grant.

Below: New walkways from camp sites to vault toilets.

CANYON COUNTY PARKS,
CULTURAL & NATURAL
RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: ON THE WATER

Lake Lowell Dock Placement

Every year, Lake Lowell opens to boating for many excited anglers on April 15th. Canyon County Parks owns and is responsible for maintaining the docks and placing them in the water for public access, both at the upper and lower damns.

With help from Canyon County Facilities, Canyon County Sheriff's Department (Marine Patrol), and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, boat docks, swim docks, and fishing docks were all placed and anchored. Facilities staff were assisted by Marine Patrol Sergeant Jason Roberts who used his patrol boat to help guide the docks into place. Finally, buoys were deployed and positioned appropriately to provide safe swim areas for visitors.

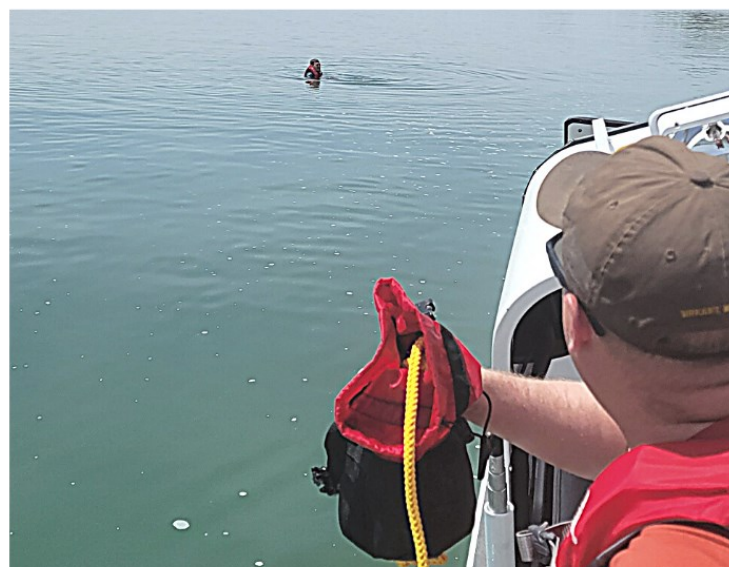


Staff Throw Bag Certification

Working at Celebration Park is a joy, but it's not without its challenges. One of those is the distance - which can be a big problem during an emergency, where law enforcement and paramedics can take 30 minutes or more to respond.

Due to this distance, combined with rising visitation, parks staff Dylan Starry and Eric Savadow were able to complete the Throw Bag Rescue Certification in order to better serve people who need rescue from the water.

Under Canyon County Sheriff's Deputies and Sergeant Roberts, Starry and Savadow made several practice saves. Thank you to the Canyon County Sheriffs' Department Marine Patrol staff!



Above, center: Lake Lowell dock installation.

Below: Dylan Starry prepares to throw the rope bag to Eric Savadow.



CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: ON THE GROUND



Greasewood Removal Project

Invasive species are a constant problem at Celebration Park. But this time, it was the native greasewood shrubs that caused the biggest headache.

In the area near the Crossroads Museum, greasewood had taken over as potential fuel for fire. To create a safer, aesthetically pleasing fire-wise landscape, most of the greasewood was removed from this area. The removed brush filled an entire 30-yard trash container. Our goal is to have the area round the Crossroads Museum as a fire-wise landscape example.

A special thanks goes out to Canyon County Facilities Director Rick Britton and his hard-working staff for their work to help keep our park beautiful.

Story Trail Update

Most visitors to Lake Lowell Park enjoy their time in the lawn, but there's another part of the park especially for kids: The Story Trail.

Periodically throughout the year, volunteers Michael and Candy Cisnell generously help out by selecting and placing children's stories along the story trail. This summer, parks staff redesigned and had new covers made to replace the old covers that were badly weathered. They were placed at Lake Lowell Park on each of 12 pedestals this July.

Canyon County Parks would like to thank Michael and Candy and all of our other volunteers for their generous donations of their time to help make this project a continued success.



Below: New forest green covers adorn the Story Trail pedestals at Lake Lowell Park.

Above, center: Greasewood removal, before and after.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION GRANTS

The Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has made its recommendations to the Canyon County Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2023. These grants are made possible by state law enabling a maximum of 1/12th of 1% of property tax to go toward Historic Preservation efforts in said county. This year's recommendations total \$74,936.

CANYON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The HPC recommended Canyon County Historical Society receive \$32,709 for the purpose of repairing and re-grouting the mortar of the Nampa Train Depot Museum. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is often used as a prominent symbol of Nampa and Canyon County.

The historic Nampa Train Depot is located in downtown Nampa at the intersection of 12th Ave. S. and Front St.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLETON

The HPC recommended the Historical Society of Middleton receive \$6,900 for a new interpretive sign for the Lee Moberly Museum Grounds. This building is currently the only NRHP listing in the Middleton Area.

The Lee Moberly Museum is located on E. Main St. in Middleton, where Main St. turns into Star Blvd.





MELBA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The HPC recommended Melba Valley Historical Society receive \$3,700 to upgrade exhibit and collection storage supplies and equipment.

The Melba Valley Museum is located at 310 Carrie Rex Ave. in downtown Melba.

NAMPA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The HPC recommended that the Nampa Public Library Foundation receive \$7,627 to transcribe their Nampa Oral History Discovery project.

The Nampa Public Library Foundation was formed in 2007 in order to help raise money for the Nampa Public Library and has supported various popular and beneficial Nampa Public Library programs.

Nampa Public Library is located in downtown Nampa at the intersection of 12th Ave. S. and 3rd St. S.



WARHAWK AIR MUSEUM

The HPC recommended the Warhawk Air Museum receive \$24,000 to fund a Veteran's History Project Digitization and Preservation Project.

The Warhawk Air Museum is located at the intersection of Airport Rd. and Municipal Dr. in Nampa.



Request for: ARTIFAKES for Celebration Park Educational Programs

Items we don't have and should have:

Hopper Mortar (basket attached)
Digging Stick
Burden Basket
Winnowing Basket
Seed Beater
Wosa (water basket)

Items that would be nice to add to the displays:

Axe-Adze
Sandals
Bark
Sage
Tule
Rabbit Fur blanket examples (to pass around when we talk about rabbit fur cloaks—size of a washcloth?)
Loop stirring stick (for cooking)

Items we need more examples of:

Compound atlatl darts
Shaft straighteners
Fishing Sinkers – Hooks
Rabbitsticks
Hand axes
Hammers (stone head and wood handle)
Examples of stone drill points (for pump drills)
Cordage from Great Basin Native Plants
Cattail leaves
Cedar bark
Sage bark
Milkweed
Dogbane



Celebration Park is lucky to know some very talented primitive technologists. Any help with supplementing our hands-on educational programs with Artifakes would be greatly appreciated. This list is by no means exhaustive. Any ideas or questions can be sent to Nicki Schwend, Director, Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources:

Nichole.schwend@canyoncounty.id.gov

Thanks!





Free

Fishing

Day 2022

Free Fishing Day was established by the Idaho legislature as the first Saturday after the first full week of June. On this day for the last 26 years, minus the last two covid years, the Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Council (SWI RC&D) hosts a Free Fishing Clinic for the citizens of Idaho. This year Project Coordinator Bill Moore and RC&D volunteer Rich Williams were available to lend a hand for all those who came out for the event. Through donations the RC&D was able to provide fishing poles and tackle to those in need. This is the one day a year families and friends can all come out together and fish, for free, without the need for a license. While no licenses are required, all fishing regulations, such as size and bag limits, still apply.

Free Fishing Day puts emphasis on teaching kids and families, but is open to everyone in the community. The day is focused around introducing and teaching the basics of fishing: choosing the right bait, casting correctly, reeling, and properly handling fish that have been caught.

This year the RC&D teamed up with a local Home Owners Association (HOA) and the Brown Like Me club to sponsor the event. It was a great success with about 20 families taking part in the event. Nearly everyone caught at least one fish and, more importantly, had a good time being outdoors.

Above: Pictured in the blue shirt, volunteer Rich Williams of the Brown Like Me club helps out, teaching kids to be outside and learn to fish.

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council assists sponsors in implementing projects by providing technical and financial information and coordinating activities through communication, education, and networking.



Hello, my name is Alex Eells, and I am thrilled to begin a new chapter in my career with Canyon County Parks, as the Outdoor Recreation Planner.

My love-for-the-outdoors seed was planted in southwestern Oregon where I grew up, near Grants Pass, Oregon. I would take a few steps out my backdoor and adventure awaited down an embankment and on to Jumpoff Joe creek. From our house, the Rogue River was only a few miles away, the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest to the west, and the Pacific Ocean less than 100 miles away. Recreation for my family included camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, off-roading, backpacking, and whitewater rafting. The only time I was not outside was when I was bedridden sick or grounded because I broke my parent's house rules.

Growing up I had a fascination for maps which gave me a desire to learn how to understand the world's landscapes

Canyon County Parks'
New Outdoor
Recreation Planner

on a local and global scale. I was the kid that could tell you the name and altitude of the tallest mountains in our region as well as across many parts of the world. Navigating became second nature to me before Google Maps became popular, which I only use today if I need to get to a specific address. Much of what I know about the outdoors is thanks to my father, who read the landscape like an open book, and learned from his father how to read and respect the land.

In 2010 my family moved to Canyon County where Idaho became our new outdoor adventure. There was so much to learn about Idaho's landscapes, history, and culture, and I absorbed it all like I was a sponge in a very large lake. My love and respect for the outdoors continued to grow from seed to tree, developing a root foundation. Living in Idaho, I started to familiarize myself with Idaho



geography like the Snake River, Boise Foothills, Craters of the Moon, Borah Peak at 12,662 feet, Hells Canyon Wilderness, Sawtooth Wilderness, and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. This once-unknown state started to become familiar enough to call home.

I graduated from Parma High School in 2014, and set a course to graduate from The College of Idaho, with a Bachelor's of Science Degree, majoring in Environmental Studies, Fall 2017. With this degree, there were so many fields that I could go down, it was overwhelming at the time. After taking a GIS course, I started applying to positions in that field and ended up at the Idaho Military Division where I worked with their Environmental Management and Construction Facilities Management Offices. Over a five-year period, I built up a resume which included experience in GIS, Planning, Environmental, and Real Property. I knew someday accumulating this experience would pay off, and after what it seemed like 100 applications and 25 interviews

With his life-long love for the outdoors, Alex Eells found his way from the Idaho Military Division to Canyon County Parks.

later, I was selected for the Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

I am very thankful and honored to be a part of this Canyon County Parks Department. I have many fond memories of the Canyon County parks, places I could fish, boat, hike, and learn more about Idaho's Natural and Cultural History. Having a sense of place and belonging in a landscape has always been important to me, because there will always be this desire to go back and give back. Wherever people find their sense of place or belonging in this world, I urge them to establish roots and then let them grow. ■

Previous page: Alex celebrating his bike into of Ardeth Lake in 2020.

Above: Alpine Lake is among Alex' favorite bikes in the Idaho Wilderness.

NEW STAFF

A MAN OF MANY SKILLS

It was a difficult summer at Celebration Park this year. Our former Maintenance Coordinator left in April, so that meant full-time staff and part-time Interpretive Specialists had to step up their game, taking on additional maintenance duties in order to keep the park safe, functional, and looking its best.

Near the end of summer, we were lucky to find Shawn Gray. Shawn started in August 2022 as our new Maintenance Coordinator. His job entails many facets of park maintenance including watering, care for plants, trail maintenance, and upkeep of decking and structures.

As a former US Army infantryman and security expert,

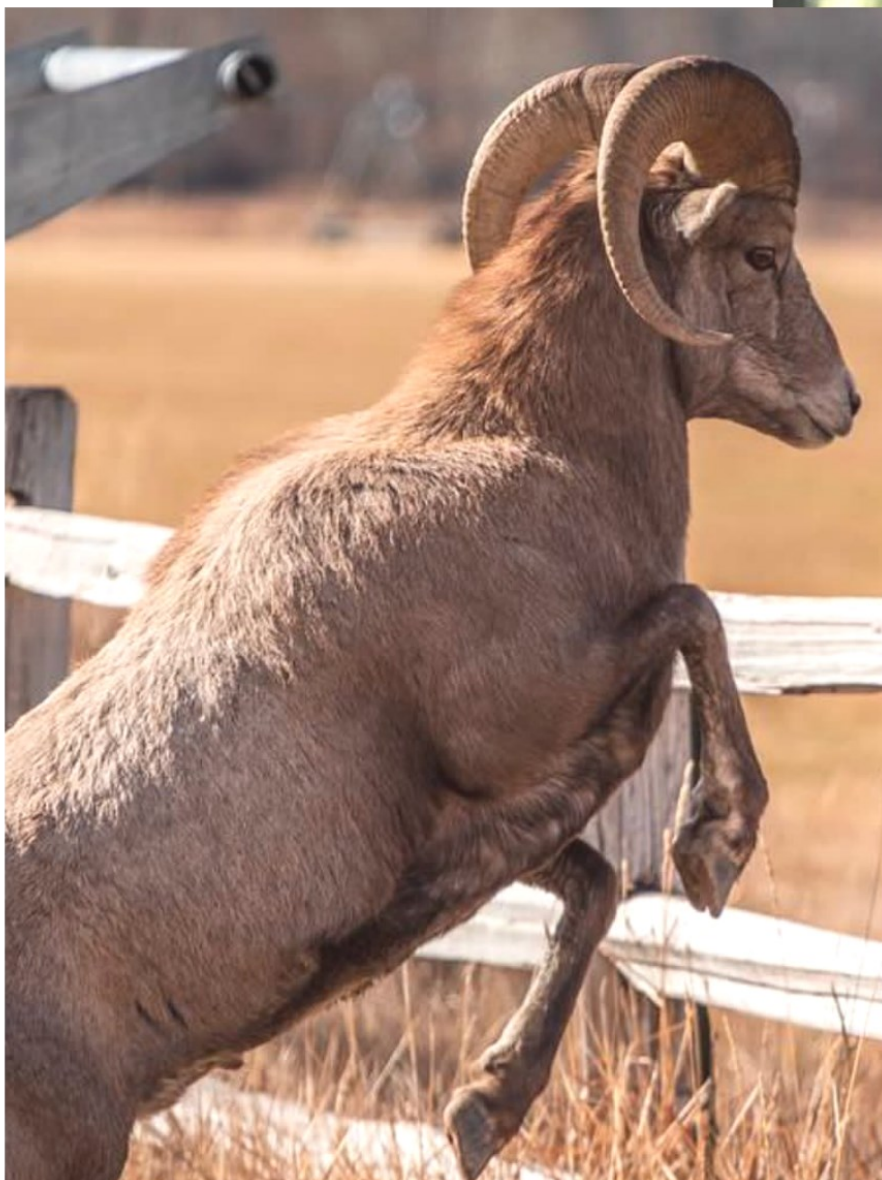


Shawn brings a new skillset to the job that we haven't had before.

But he also brings another skill that wasn't in the job description.

"I've been taking pictures professionally for a few years now," Shawn told us. "It started out as a hobby and developed into a fun side job."

Shawn's focus is product photography, but he's no slouch at close-ups and landscapes, either (see his picture on the back cover of this magazine).



Shawn also brings an interest in traditional skills. As an avid bowhunter, he is also able to help out with field trip supplies, helping procure bones, hides, antlers, and other materials traditionally used by indigenous people. Those materials are then used to create "arti-fakes" - modern-made artifacts in the traditional method that we can pass around to students in their hands-on lessons at Celebration Park.

"Traditional methods are important to me, because I feel that they're a way for us to tap into our history and keep close to our roots," Shawn said.

With the addition of Shawn, we are fully staffed at the Parks Department. With his help, we've been able to keep the park maintained to provide the best possible experience for visitors. ■

Previous, above: All of these photos were taken by Shawn during his exploits in Idaho's outdoors.

Canoe Science Camp



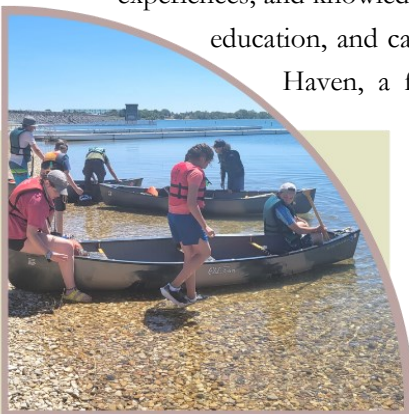
One thing we always strive to avoid in our educational programs at the Parks Department is stagnation. We're always seeking out new research and ideas in archaeology and ecology. For example, we recently read a paper by an archaeologist who wrote about using chemical dating techniques on the petroglyphs at Celebration Park. Some of the dates skewed our previously-held views, but we're happy to incorporate new data. That's what scientists do: change theories based on new evidence. But we also try to bring in new ideas in other fields, too.

So, this summer, we changed up our Canoe Science Camp quite a bit. While there was nothing wrong with our curriculum from last summer, we were really excited to bring in a whole new aspect of education to the students. With the help of Jessica Smith of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and Sergeant Jason Roberts of Canyon County Sheriffs' Department Marine Patrol, we were able to certify every summer camp student in paddle sports safety.

We had to cut a few things from last year's curriculum to fit the ten hours of education in, but we still held onto the core tenets of what we're teaching: macroinvertebrates, lake ecology, canoeing, and water quality testing, as well as lots of fun games!

Four interns joined our team this year: Haven Davis-Martinez returned again this season, as well as new interns Ryan Varon, Ripley Orr, and Sage Watson. Each brought their own unique skills, experiences, and knowledge to the camp, and all were able to learn leadership, outdoor

education, and canoe skills of their own. With the exception of Haven, a first-grade teacher in Boise, the interns were college students in related fields. Ripley studies at University of Idaho in Moscow, and Sage and Ryan study at Boise State University.



The core idea for Canoe Science Camp is to provide all students with the opportunity to experience water sports affordably. Outdoor recreation can be prohibitively expensive, so low fees allowed for students of all walks of life to try out canoeing without the hefty startup cost. This also allows local kids to learn about the principles of Leave No Trace – not disturbing or harming the environment we’re recreating in and leaving it better than we found it. We hope these kids take these principles with them and teach their own families and friends how to recreate safely and responsibly. By adding the new paddle sports safety aspect, we hope to help save more lives as well, as kids will bring home these ideas of life jackets, right-of-way, and safe boat operation. We also strive to include all learning styles, so in addition to science and canoeing, students were able to try some hiking, nature journaling, and even some art, all in hopes of helping them connect to the natural places they live, work, and play – right here in Canyon County!

We would like to extend our thanks to Jessica Smith at Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and Sgt. Roberts at the Canyon County Sheriff’s Department Marine Patrol. We’d also like to thank Eddie Owens and his staff at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for their hospitality to our students.



Summer 2022 Canoe Science Camp was generously supported by the Be Outside Idaho grant. This grant allowed us to purchase new analogue water testing kits, such as pH, dissolved oxygen, and even cyanobacteria test kits, all so kids could tangibly experience the science, rather than just see the numbers on the screen. These funds were also used to procure more first aid tools, preparing us for any number of emergencies. We are very grateful to Be Outside Idaho for their support of our educational programs. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

A PILOT PROGRAM WITH BOISE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY LAURA BARBOUR - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Celebration Park is Idaho's only archaeological park, and every year, thousands of students explore its wonders. But it's not often that students actually get to try the science themselves. In May of 2022, fifty-three 6th grade students from Lowell Elementary visited Celebration Park as part of a pilot program with the Boise School District. The goal:



an immersive, multi-day, hands-on educational experience for students in the outdoors, focused on ecosystems in and around the Treasure Valley.

For one of these days, students came to Celebration Park to participate in a simulated archaeological dig to learn about the stories told by artifacts left behind by ancient cultures. They also went on an ecology hike, where they collected transect data on plants to explore the impact of invasive species and changing wildfire regimes on the ecological community of Celebration Park.



With its ancient history of human presence on the landscape, Celebration Park is a unique outdoor classroom where students can explore how people, past and present, impact their environment—and how the environment impacts us. Humans have interacted with their landscapes for centuries, from the native people who lived, hunted, fished, built shelters, and made petroglyphs along the Snake River to the gold mining, dams and railroads of the 19th and 20th centuries. As Treasure Valley residents and recreationists, we must understand how humans interacted with this landscape in the past to help us understand our present, and possibly our future. The program was successful and has been scheduled for further development this fall and into the future.



Partners who participated in the 2022 Boise School District pilot program included: Idaho Fish & Game (the M.K. Nature Center); City of Boise (the Boise Urban Garden School and Foothills Learning Center); Bogus Basin; the Peregrine Fund (World Center for Birds of Prey); Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission; Ada Soil & Water Conservation District; Peaceful Belly Farm; and Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources (Celebration Park). ■

Read the school district's blog post!



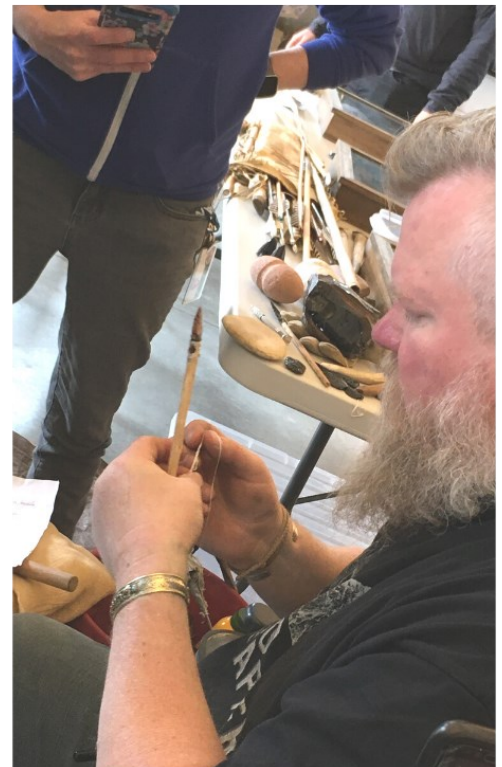
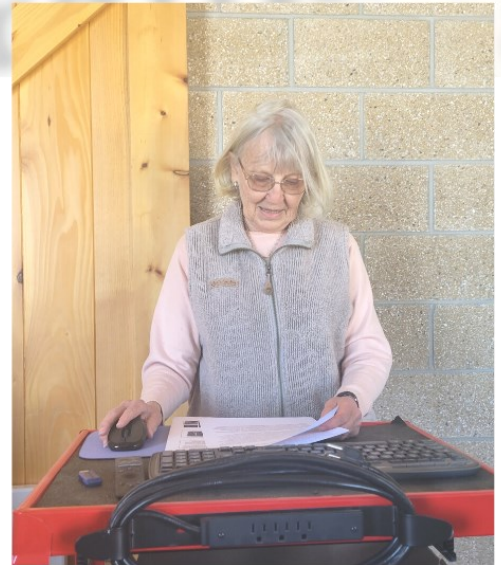
ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH 2022

May, 2022

Celebration Park

Late spring is a busy time at Canyon County Parks. April and May are the only months the Lake Lowell field trip is offered, and Stories in Stone at Celebration Park takes place practically every day. Only with the help from friends of the park could we make Archaeology Month in May a success each year. Idaho Archaeology Month is a statewide event organized and promoted by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office: <https://history.idaho.gov/iahpm>

For over 10 years, Archaeology Month has brought the subject of archaeology to park visitors in a way the layperson can understand. Programs Manager Eric Savadow said, “The intrinsic value of Archaeology Month lies in its avenues for people to learn about a topic that many of them might consider above their heads. Through tangible experiences, handling, and making artifacts and replicas, visitors can engage their five senses as they learn how indigenous people lived here. Visitors can engage true experts in archaeology, anthropology, and primitive technology and have the chance to ask questions and learn new skills in a casual setting.”





Melba Fun Run Classic Car Show

Every spring, Celebration Park sees a unique, fun group of cars and their owners converge on the parking lot. It's put on each year by the Western Idaho Model T Club as a benefit for the Melba Senior Center.

"The Melba Tour is fun and one of the many ways the Western Idaho Model T Club works on its mission to preserve and maintain the Model T Ford of historic age and preserve its historical value for current and future generations to enjoy," said Shawn Adamson, Vice President and Tour Chairman of the Western Idaho Model T Club.

2022 Melba Fun Run pictured above.

Flintknapping Demonstration and Practice

The Idaho Flintknappers have long been a friend to Celebration Park (see page 29 for details). They're always up to help out at events and contribute to our education programs. Rod Dotson and Bill Todd are two of the Idaho Flintknappers' finest and are regulars at Celebration Park.

During Archaeology Month 2022, Rod, Bill, and the rest of the Idaho Flintknappers held a demonstration and feedback session for anyone who wished to learn to make stone projectile points. This is a difficult skill to learn, but Rod and Bill patiently helped everyone work their way through (literally) these rocks.

Rod Dotson is pictured p. 26, bottom-right.

Dean Shaw – Fur Trading and Replicas

Fur trading was instrumental to the western expansion of the United States, yet much of the historical knowledge of how it was done has been lost. Dean Shaw works hard to bring that knowledge back. During his demonstration at Archaeology Month 2022, he showed how hides were treated and preserved for use among the indigenous people and European fur traders.

Dean also brought several species of plants that were used to make cordage and demonstrated how to spin these fibers into rope. Some of our education team were in attendance and now use these skills for educational purposes.

Dean Shaw pictured p. 26, bottom-left.

Carolynne Merrell – Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Idaho

Celebration Park is special for a number of reasons, but its petroglyphs are among its most interesting. These ancient markings have fascinated visitors for years. But they aren't the only petroglyphs in Idaho—far from it, in fact.

This year for Archaeology Month, we had archaeologist and rock art expert Carolynne Merrell speak on some of the many rock art sites found throughout Idaho. While leaving site-specific data out to protect sensitive sites, she showcased many petroglyphs and pictographs right here in our own state and talked about what makes them similar and unique. We were so happy to have Ms. Merrell and hope to include her again.

Carolynne Merrell is pictured p. 26, top-right.



RAPTOR FEST

The purpose of Raptor Fest is to promote and celebrate the amazing natural and cultural resources of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). This year, Canyon County Parks was invited back to staff a tent demonstrating some of those cultural resources. Staff brought pump drills and primitive fire tools for visitors to try, as well as artifacts and literature.

The hands-on exhibits are always a hit with kids, and with the cooperation of the NCA and their education birds, plus other vendors and food trucks, there are lots of exciting opportunities for education and fun. The event is held at Indian Creek Winery every year.

www.birdsofpreyncapartnership.org



OUTPOST DAYS

Outpost Days is the annual fundraiser for the Owyhee County Historical Museum. This year marked the 53rd event! Every year, blacksmiths, fur traders, horny toad races, classic cars, the Ft. Boise Garrison encampment, and silent and live auctions bring loads of visitors to the remote little town of Murphy.

Canyon County always brings the mobile atlatl range, which allows visitors to try their hand at the ancient style of hunting of many paleo people in this region (and around the world!).

Outpost Days comes with free admission into the Murphy School House, AG Annex Building, Marsing Depot, and Stamp Mill. An original Snake River Stampede Stagecoach is also on display to help bring the history of the west to life!

www.owyheemuseum.org/outpost-days



10,000 YEARS OF THANKS

A tribute to the Idaho Flintknappers



“
We couldn't do this
without your help, so
thank you.”

Director Nichole Schwend

Canyon County Parks staff wanted to take this opportunity to say a very big, heartfelt message of thanks and appreciation for the generous donations of several “arti-fakes” (modern replicas made using traditional methods). These will be used for the purpose of providing students with hands-on examples of native tools but without the risk of damage to priceless artifacts. This doesn't make these donations any less valuable in our eyes, though.

The Idaho Flintknappers are a group of enthusiasts who study and create tools in traditional ways. Most often, these stone tools are made from obsidian—projectile points mostly: arrowheads, spear points, and atlatl dart tips.

This summer, however, the Flintknappers created a number of fantastic tools and donated them to Canyon County Parks for use in field trip programs. These included a birch bark basket, a compound atlatl dart and tips (hafted with obsidian points), a primitive fire-making kit, shaft-straightening stones, pine pitch resin sticks, and more.

The Idaho Flintknappers do more than just donate though—they lead many classes on flintknapping arts throughout the year at Celebration Park, and we're so thankful for their continued support.

www.facebook.com/groups/4172251729469647



*Pictured above: Rod Dotson teaches a child flintknapping.
Pictured below: a birch bark basket, made and donated by the Idaho Flintknappers.*



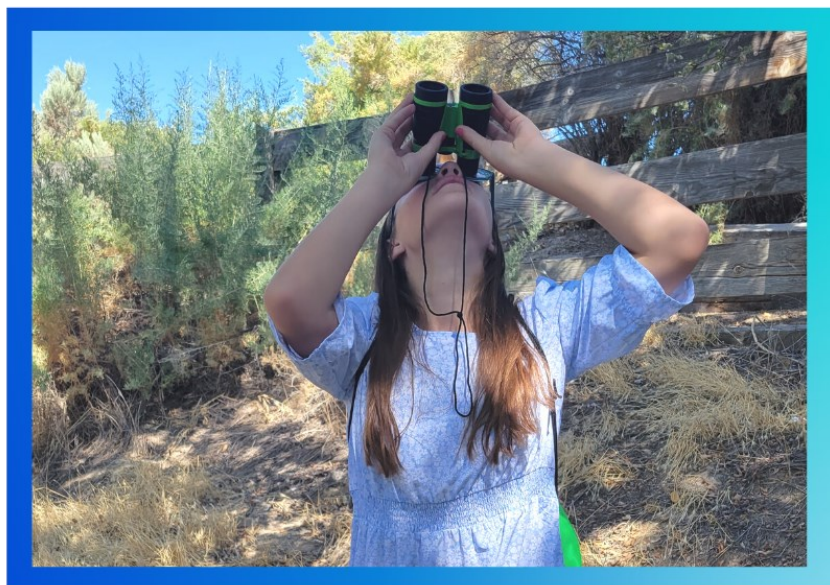
Nampa Library Kits

Michelle Rosenberger of the Nampa Public Library first approached staff at Celebration Park about the idea of collaborating on a new kit. Nampa Library has several of these kits for patrons to check out for a week at a time. They range from language-learning kits to STEM kits to financial help kits.

Visitor Services Specialist Dylan Starry created a Celebration Park Kit for kids to learn about our unique park and a few extra things not covered in tours. These included information on birds, a scavenger hunt, and information about some native and some invasive species of plants. In the scavenger hunt, kids are encouraged to try on life jackets, explore Guffey Bridge, seek out different birds, and other engaging activities. We also included some of our brochures and Stories in Stone student workbooks.

Donations from Ozlife allowed Nampa Library to provide magnifying glasses, binoculars, compasses, flashlights, and whistles to kids to aide in their Celebration Park adventures!

<https://nampalibrary.org>



Top: Mikaela Starry learns about sagebrush.

Center: Lexi Jones fits a life jacket.

Bottom: Taylor Starry searches for waterfowl.



Canyon County Parks

DESERT STUDIES

Boise State University

June 1st, 2022
Celebration Park

Since 1997 Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources has been partnering with the Anthropology Department at Boise State University to offer academic opportunities focused on Desert Studies. The mission of the Desert Studies Institute is to provide educational programs and scholarly presentations concerning the prehistory, history, ecology and politics of Idaho's desert environments and deserts worldwide. The programs are presented to enrich the understanding and appreciation of complex desert ecosystems in Idaho and to promote their perpetual preservation as educational resources for the future. Experts in various fields and niches provide insight into a wide variety of topics including prehistory, history, ecology and politics of Idaho's desert environments specifically, and worldwide generally. Celebration Park

hosted two Desert Studies Institute classes this summer for undergraduate and graduate students of Boise State or continuing education students.

Laura Barbour and Nicki Schwend taught a two-day Desert Ecology class where Laura provided expertise into the flora and fauna of the desert. Nicki provided the anthropological and archaeological perspective of humans and how they are linked with the desert ecology of the Snake River Plan throughout historic and prehistoric times. In-field learning, including a hike to Halverson Lake, focused on how native plants and animals, as well as human cultures have adapted to contend with the challenges of desert environments. This year, the class was taken almost exclusively by biology majors. Many seemed pleasantly surprised and shocked by the anthropological component and just how dynamic and interesting it was to factor in the archaeological

perspective.

Later, Nicki and Dr. Mark Plew, Distinguished Emeritus Archaeology Professor, co-taught an Ancient Peoples of Southern Idaho class focused on 16,000 years of Idaho prehistory. One day was spent on campus with lectures and discussions, and the second day provided students the opportunity to explore the archaeology of Celebration Park and the Snake River Canyon with demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on opportunities.





PLANTING NATIVE STARTS

The Treasure Valley Pollinator Project (TVPP) is a project under the Ada Soil & Water Conservation District which aims to promote pollinator habitat in the Treasure Valley. This program will get 64,000 flowering plants in the ground, educate participants on pollinator habitat and identification, and inspire community engagement and citizen science for pollinator counts and identification.

Participants could purchase any of four pollinator start packs: Cottage Garden mix, Medicinal Flowers mix, Vegetable Companions mix, and Idaho Natives mix. We were happy to be able to purchase two packs of the Idaho Natives mix and plant them in late spring, picking them up locally at Peaceful Belly Farms in Caldwell.

Jessica Harrold, Program Coordinator of Ada Soil & Water Conservation District said, “We wanted to show the impact people could have in their own backyard. Because we couldn’t do that in-person, we thought we’d do this in their own homes. Then people could learn about gardening and insects and show that no matter what they have, they can have a big impact on conservation, especially as a community.”

Interpretive Specialist Lily Brown, President of the Northwest Nazarene University Botany Club led the planting efforts. Alongside volunteers Jennifer Ternes, Carla Starry, and seven-year-old Adelaide Starry, we were able to plant over 40 juvenile plant starts. These included Penstemon, Yarrow, Lupine, Black-eyed Susan, Erigeron, Blue Flax, and Milkweed—a native plant vital to the Western Monarch Butterfly, as it’s the only food source their larvae can eat. Monarchs are an important pollinator species and visit Celebration Park on their migration route. They are also Idaho’s state butterfly and an endangered species.

We would like to thank our volunteers and staff for their hard work on this project—it’s good for the park and good for the earth!

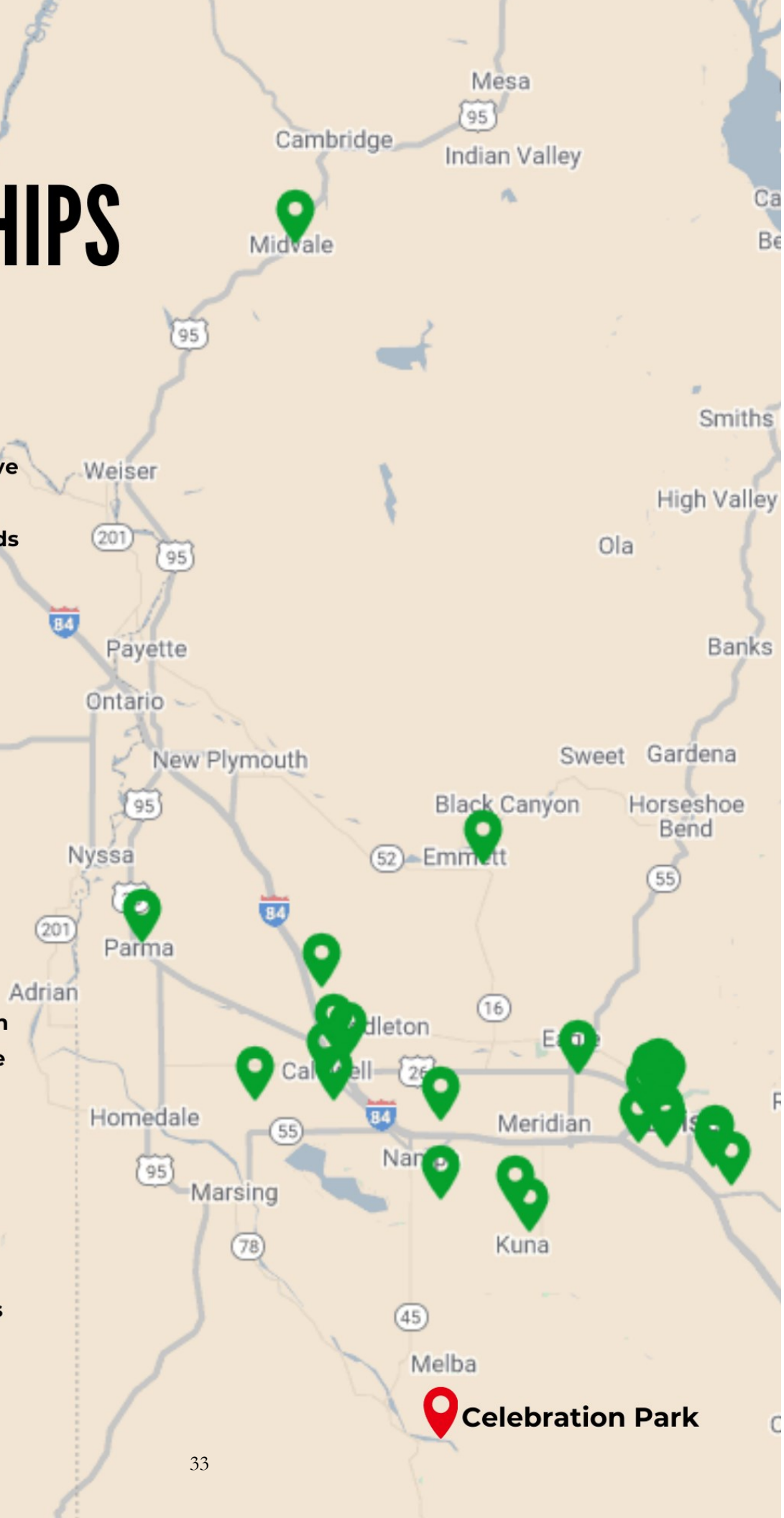


2022 BUS SCHOLARSHIPS

For 10 years, Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources and Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council have raised money through grants and donations to provide funds to school groups for transportation to Celebration Park and Lake Lowell Park.

"Field trips are the bread and butter of what we do at Canyon County Parks," says Parks Director Nichole Schwend. "By offering these bus scholarships, we hope to bring as many students from all walks of life to our parks, in the hopes of helping to create the next generation of stewards of the cultural and natural resources in our region."

Thanks to some generous grants and donations, the bus scholarship fund was able to send \$2,900 to nearly 30 school groups across the Treasure Valley.



2022 Spring Field Trips

Looking back on the spring season of our educational field trip programs

3,712 Students

Bus driver shortages greatly affected area schools' ability to conduct field trips, but Canyon County Parks still provided education to over 3,500 local students.



Title 1

72%

Approximately 70% of schools who participated were categorized as Title 1 schools* (schools that receive federal funding for low-income students)

4 Programs

We offer four different field trip programs for elementary-aged students and up.

- Stories in Stone (Grades 4+)
- Wildland Fire (Grades 5+)
- Lake Lowell (Grades 2-3)
- Winter Desert Ecology (Grades 5+)



44 school field trips took place at Celebration Park this spring.

College of Western Idaho	2/26/2022
Homeschool Co-Op	3/25/2022
Vineyard Christian Academy	3/28/2022
Monroe Elementary	3/29/2022
Koelsch Elementary	3/30/2022
Montessori Academy	3/31/2022
Horizon Elementary	4/1/2022
Highlands Elementary School	4/4/2022
Grace Jordan Elementary	4/5/2022
Desert Springs	4/6/2022
Amity Elementary	4/7/2022
Reed Elementary	4/8/2022
Reed Elementary	4/11/2022
MOSAICS Public School	4/12/2022
Cambridge Elementary	4/13/2022
Homedale Middle School	4/14/2022
Sacajawea Elementary School	4/15/2022
Liberty Elementary	4/18/2022
West Canyon Elementary	4/19/2022
Nampa Online Virtual Academy	4/20/2022
Nampa Chrstian Schools	4/22/2022
Elevate Academy	4/25/2022

Andrus Elementary	4/26/2022
West Canyon Elementary	4/27/2022
Trail Wind Elementary	4/28/2022
Taft	4/29/2022
Riverside	5/2/2022
Garfield Elementary	5/3/2022
Birch Elementary	5/4/2022
Purple Sage	5/5/2022
Whitney Elementary	5/10/2022
Maxine Johnson Elementary	5/11/2022
Basin Elementary	5/12/2022
Liberty Elementary	5/13/2022
Reagan Elementary	5/16/2022
Sherman Elementary	5/18/2022
Future Public School	5/17/2022
Midvale Elementary School	5/19/2022
Vallivue Elementary School	5/20/2022
Lowell Elementary	5/23/2022
Vale Elementary School	5/24/2022
Heritage Community Charter School	5/25/2022
Union School	5/26/2022
Union School	5/31/2022

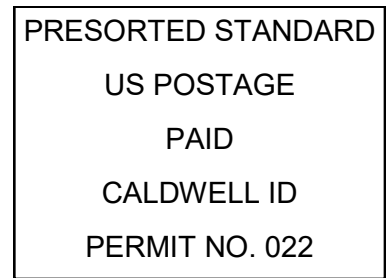
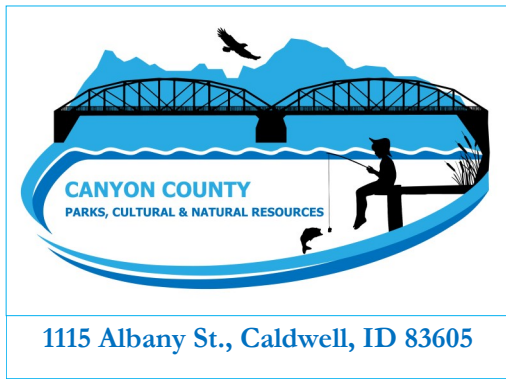
30 Summer Stories in Stone field trips took place at Celebration Park.

Boise Parks and Rec	6/3/2022
21st Century	6/1/2022
COSSA School	6/7/2022
Hisway DDA	6/8/2022
All God's Children Childca	6/9/2022
Vallivue Migrant Summer School	6/10/2022
Meridian Parks Camps	6/13/2022
Boys & Girls Club at Peregrine	6/16/2022
Boys & Girls Club at Peregrine	6/17/2022
Meridian Parks Camps	6/20/2022
Garden of Learning	6/21/2022
Kids are Special People	6/22/2022
Boise Parks and Rec	6/23/2022
Meridian Parks Camps	6/27/2022
Advantage Early Learning	6/28/2022
U of I group	6/29/2022
Tumble Time	6/30/2022
21st Century	6/1/2022
Garden of Learning	7/5/2022
Gateways Alternative	7/6/2022
Ten Mile Academy	7/8/2022
Meridian Parks Camps	7/11/2022

12 school field trips took place at Lake Lowell this spring.

Lake Ridge Elementary	4/21/2022
Cole Valley Christian Schools	5/3/2022
Carberry Elementary	5/10/2022
Wilson Elementary	5/11/2022
West Canyon Elementary	5/12/2022
Heritage Community Charter	5/18/2022
Ronald Reagan Elementary	5/19/2022
Lincoln Elementary School	5/20/2022
Marsing Elementary	5/24/2022
Star Elementary	5/26/2022
Silver Trail Elementary	5/31/2022
Cambridge Elementary School	5/5/2022





Return Service Requested



Photo by Shawn Gray—Snake River Sunrise.