

Fourth of July Celebration!  
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## TAKE A WALK WITH US

The 2016 tour season has begun! Boise Parks & Recreation offers educational tours about the City’s cemeteries, the Boise Depot, park trees, and nature walks. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

**Boise Depot:** Learn the rich history of this iconic landmark and get an up-close look at Big Mike, a 1920-built steam locomotive. Boise Depot tours include an elevator ride to the top of the 96-foot bell tower, and are available the first Sunday of each month.

**Morris Hill and Pioneer Cemeteries:** Join us for a walking tour of Boise’s historic cemeteries and learn the history of the people interred there. Cemetery tours highlight some of the symbolism, customs and lore associated with final resting places. Tour dates are announced when determined and registration is required.

**Nature Tours:** Take a “Walk on the Wild Side” as we explore two of our most popular parks, Kathryn Albertson Park and the Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve. These tours highlight each park’s plants and wildlife in an educational presentation that features a peaceful setting and often animal encounters.

For information on available tours and dates, visit our web site at <http://bit.ly/BPRCommEd>.

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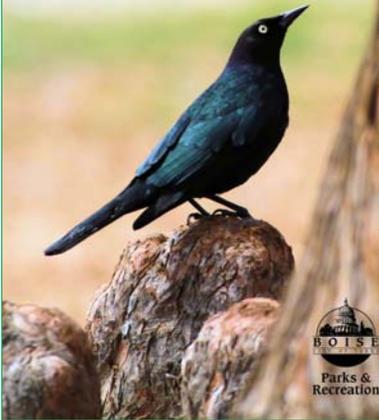
<http://parks.cityofboise.org/>

#### Like us on Facebook



**Parks & Recreation**

## FIELD GUIDE *to* BOISE'S BIRDS



### 1,000 COPIES AND COUNTING!

Our Field Guide to Boise's Birds is a hit! With sales on the verge of exceeding 1,000 copies, the community's interest in our guide has surpassed our wildest dreams. It's made all the hard work that Parks & Recreation staff and the guide's volunteer contributors put into the project over the last year and a half, well worth it. Thank you for everyone's kind words regarding the quality of the guide. We are grateful that people are finding it useful.

Interested in acquiring a guide? They are available for purchase at our Parks & Recreation Administration Office at 1104 Royal Blvd. (\$8.00 plus tax).



## FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The City of Boise's annual Fourth of July Celebration would not be possible without the generous support we receive from our volunteers. This year marks the tenth year that we have hosted the event, and we are once again seeking assistance for this year's celebration. Volunteers are needed in the following capacities:

**Park Entrance Attendants** - The park will be closed to vehicle traffic for the event. Volunteers are needed to monitor park entrances and conduct vehicle checks to ensure that only vehicles with the appropriate credentials enter the park.

**Fireworks Zone Monitors** - Volunteers are needed to monitor the perimeter of the fireworks zone to ensure that park visitors do not enter the area.

**General Assistance** - One thing we have learned coordinating prior year's Celebrations, is that throughout the course of an event we are sure to have the occasional unforeseen issue/need pop up. As such, we need General Assistance volunteers who will be available to fill roles/meet needs as they surface throughout the day. This may come in many forms including; filling volunteer roles due to no shows, helping at booths, manning entry gates, or helping in other areas that may require additional support.

Please [join us](#) to commemorate our nation's 240th birthday at the City of Boise's Fourth of July Celebration in Ann Morrison Park!

CONSERVATION STATION

# INSECT HOTEL



## *Plight of the Pollinators*

As the human population grows, so does our impact on the natural world. Buildings, roadways and crops, crowd out or completely eliminate the natural habitat needed by some species to survive. Pollinators are among those whose numbers are in decline.






### *Why it matters*

Pollinators—mainly insects, birds and bats—play a crucial role in the world's food supply by assisting plants in their ability to reproduce. One-third of the United States' food crops rely on pollinators. That's about one out of every three bites of food we eat, including many fruits and vegetables, dairy products (dairy cows eat alfalfa), chocolate, coffee and tea, wine, and even candy canes (peppermint). Beyond food, pollinators help provide such things as cotton clothing and bedding, colored dyes, and some medicines.

### *What we're doing about it*

The City of Boise has installed an "Insect Hotel" at this location to provide a safe nesting site for insect pollinators. Its proximity to flowering plants ensures an adequate supply of nectar for feeding, and the hotel's nooks and crevices offer a safe place for rearing offspring.



### *How you can help*

Anyone can provide habitat for pollinator insects. For building plans and ideas, contact Boise Parks & Recreation at (208) 608-7600.

**Other ways you can help:** Skip pesticides and herbicides and opt for natural gardening methods, buy organic whenever possible, and plant native sources of nectar in your yard.

CONSERVATION CONCEPT

**Mutualism:**  
A relationship between two species that benefits both (in this case, live pollinators and plants).



## CONSERVATION STATIONS



We are pleased to announce that our Conservation Stations have arrived, and are excited about the prospects of this new program. The purpose of the program is to educate park users on the environmental and ecological benefits of Boise parks. There's more to our City parks than throwing Frisbees!

Conservation Stations will be placed in parks throughout Boise, touching base on a variety of conservation related topics. These will include topics such as pollinators, wetlands, cavity nesters, bats, and others. The sky's the limit.

We've kicked the project off at a number of park locations including the Boise Urban Garden School, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, and our Parks & Recreation Administration Office, by installing insect hotels. The hotels are meant to provide habitat for a variety of pollinators including solitary bees, beetles, and lacewings. Accompanying the hotels are an interpretive sign addressing the "Plight of the Pollinators" (see above).

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Boise Parks & Recreation is grateful to our veterans for their service, and strongly supports our community honoring their sacrifice. As such, we were both proud and humbled

to have partnered with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Treasure Valley #1025, to bring a new monument to Veterans Memorial Park dedicated to our Vietnam War veterans. The Vietnam War Memorial is made of the same India Black Granite that was used for the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. Two hundred and seventeen names are etched into the stone, representing the Idaho residents who enlisted in the nation's military and died in Vietnam between 1961 and 1975.



The monument is long overdue for Idaho's capital city, and was a true community effort to bring to fruition. A number of local businesses donated both material and their time to construct the monument, and volunteers played a huge role in getting the park looking its best for the Memorial Day unveiling. Volunteers from the Meridian Technical Charter School, Gem State Adventist Academy, and JustServe helped remove leaves, weeds, and trash from the park, spread bark mulch in planting beds and trees throughout the park, add new safety surfacing to the playground, and clean

the parks existing war memorials. As far back as we can remember, this is the first time we've had all 177 trees mulched in the park!

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who helped make the Vietnam War Memorial a reality. The monument is a welcome addition to Veterans Memorial Park, and will serve as a valuable tool for educating future generations about the sacrifices our brave soldiers made during the Vietnam War.



### **THESE ARE NOT YOUR TYPICAL BLACK SHEEP...**

If you ask people what comes to mind when you mention the term black sheep, more often than not they will probably reference their trouble making sibling. These black sheep, however, are far from that!

To get the cemetery in tip top shape, the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets Blacksheep Division helped us shine up the historical Fort Boise Military Cemetery, in preparation for Memorial Day.

The crew painted perimeter fence, weeded and raked pathways, and cleaned all the monument stones in the cemetery. Upon completion, the cemetery looked great and we are grateful for their hard work.



## BOISE RIVERSWEEP

It's hard to believe that this year marks the 15th year since we launched the Boise RiverSweep. This popular event has been instrumental in cleaning up the Boise River, and every year we hear from participants that they are finding less and less trash. Which is outstanding!

As such, after this year we are scaling the Boise RiverSweep back from an annual event to something we'll hold when needed. In between events, we will continue to engage volunteers in keeping the river clean via other efforts.

If you would like to participate in this year's event and help us celebrate our 15th year, please sign up for the [Boise RiverSweep](#) on-line. Space is limited and participation will be granted on a first come, first serve basis.



## WE LOVE OUR TREES!

*"I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues." – Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*

Trees are an important part of any community's urban environment. They provide shade, produce oxygen, clean the air, provide wildlife habitat, and have a wide range of other benefits. Boise Parks & Recreation fully understands these benefits, and as such works hard to enhance and keep healthy Boise's tree canopy through its Community Forestry division.

To help with Community Forestry's efforts, a [Strategic Management Plan](#) has recently been completed. The Plan was a collaborative effort involving City staff, community stakeholders, and interested citizens, all of which worked diligently to establish goals and strategies that will guide our Community Forestry Program over the next ten years.

Volunteers have always played a major role in helping us meet our goals for Boise's tree canopy, and will continue to do so. Whether that's through planting additional trees during our Releaf Boise, regularly caring for trees through our Tree Steward program, or simply protecting trees by wrapping them with chicken wire via service projects, volunteers will continue to play an important role.

Thank you so much to the team that helped put the Strategic Management Plan together and we look forward to working with everyone to keep Boise "The City of Trees!"