Barber Valley NA Meeting Agenda
13 December 2018 ~ Mill District Clubhouse

• Barber Valley Parks
  • Jennifer Tomlinson, City of Boise Parks Superintendent
• Boise River Wildlife Management Area
  • Krista Biorn, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Boise River Habitat District, IDFG
• Transportation – Celeste Miller, BVNA Board
• Neighborhood Investment Program – Heather Stegner
• Firewise – John Mooney, BVNA Board
• Trails – Steve Moore, BVNA Board
• Board Election – Steve Moore, BVNA Board
• Upcoming
  • 10 January: BVNA Board Election
  • February: BVNA Meeting Cancelled
BARBER VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Tomlinson
• Located north of the East Parkcenter bridge and just south of Warm Springs Avenue.

• Future amenities will include natural pathways, seating, public art, interpretive signage and wildlife viewing areas.

• Initial development to begin in April 2019
• Initial development to begin in Spring 2019
• “Green-up” will involve infrastructure, irrigation, etc. and will NOT include major amenities such as the pickleball courts
• Most amenities are not currently in the City budget and may not begin until after 2025 unless funding is acquired to begin development earlier
• “Float Parking” issues will be coordinated with other stakeholders (Ada County)
GREENBELT REPAIRS

- Expect Marianne Williams park repairs in May/June 2019
For BVNA Meeting Minutes
Graphics Excerpted from Boise City MOU – Master Plan Aerial

SUE HOWELL PARK
EDUCATION + DISCOVERY + EXPERIENCE
Phase 1 will begin in Spring 2019
• Joint development with Intermountain Bird Observatory (Boise State)
• Phase 1 amenities: turf, irrigation, paths and parking (paid for by the donor, Mr & Mrs Howell)
Execution of the remainder of park amenities indicated in this graphic is a function of City funding.
Wintering Wildlife on the Boise River Wildlife Management Area
32 WMA’s statewide

6 IN SOUTHWEST REGION = 96,000 ACRES

Serve as highly productive areas for wildlife

Management focus of maintaining highly functional wildlife habitat, as well as wildlife-based recreation

Management involves combination of restoring & maintaining important natural habitats that contribute to landscape-level habitat function
Each WMA is managed as part of a larger habitat district.

May include other lands owned or managed by IDFG for wildlife habitat or public access.

Unit 39 = 1.5 million acres.
BOISE RIVER WMA
BRWMA MISSION

- Sustain high-quality winter habitat for mule deer & elk
- Provide habitat for a diversity of other wildlife species
- Offer hunting, fishing, trapping & other compatible recreational activities on the property
Four distinct parcels:

- Boise Front
- Spring Shores
- Charcoal Creek
- McDonald
HABITAT

- **Shrub steppe**
  - Sagebrush
  - Bitterbrush
  - Rabbitbrush
  - Wheatgrass
  - Squirrel tail
  - Balsamroot

- **Riparian zones**
  - Cottonwood
  - Hawthorn
  - Dogwood
  - Willow
  - Wood’s rose

- **Higher Elevations**
  - Douglas-fir
  - Ponderosa pine
SO WHY IS THE BRWMA SO IMPORTANT TO BIG GAME SPECIES?
BIG GAME SEMI-ANNUAL MIGRATION

- 5,000 – 8,000 deer
- 500 – 1,200 elk
SUMMER RANGE

- Green up
- Higher elevation
- Cooler temperatures
WINTER RANGE

• Lower elevation
• Warmer temperatures
• Shelter
• Green up (spring)
WHY MIGRATE?

- To move from one region or habitat to another, especially according to seasons wildlife need:

  **Cover:**
  - Protection from predators
  - Protection from weather: summer heat & winter storms

  **Food & Water:**
  - General survival
  - Maintain good body condition
  - Prepare for mating & reproduction

  **Space (Habitat):**
  - Plenty of forage
  - Safely reproduce & raise young
  - Minimize disease transfer
NATURAL CHALLENGES TO MIGRATION

❖ Landscape: rivers, canyons, mountains
❖ Predators
❖ Weather
HUMAN CAUSED CHALLENGES TO MIGRATION

❖ DEVELOPMENT
Roads & highways; residential & commercial building; gas & oil/coal exploration, wind farms, hydroelectric power, power grids

❖ DISTURBANCE
Dogs off leash; off trail/road use; non-authorized recreational use (closures)
ONCE ON BOISE RIVER WMA

• Attempting to minimize their energy expenditures because of reduced available habitat & low quality forage

• Disturbance by humans & dogs during winter months = expending unnecessary energy = affect survival & reproduction

• Lower survival & reproduction = reduce overall population
IDFG MANAGEMENT EFFORTS TO ASSIST BIG GAME UTILIZING BOISE RIVER WMA

- Increase habitat capacity
- Reduce noxious weeds & invasive plants
- Reduce impacts of wildfires
- Maintain infrastructure
- Improve livestock management
- Reduce impacts of development
- Mitigate for habitat loss
- Improve game populations
- Minimize road kill mortality
- Increase/maintain hunting, fishing & trapping opportunities
- Manage public access
- Provide updated information
- Reduce impact of human activities:
  - Enforce laws & curtail illegal activity
  - Provide learning opportunities
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT WINTERING BIG GAME?

Remember ....

• Human or dog presence alone is enough to cause animals to move & act differently than they would have without that disturbance.

• A single instance of disturbance may not be that disruptive, but several days of that activity & disturbance may have a detrimental effect on an already stressed animal.

• The energy used by animals reacting to repeated disturbances becomes significant over time.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT WINTERING BIG GAME?

1) Refrain from recreating in areas where big game congregate during the winter/spring months
   - Even if access is allowed, please consider the potential stress caused to wintering big game. Remember, just because you can go somewhere doesn’t mean you should!
   - Females in poor condition may have smaller fawns that are less likely to survive than fawns born to females in good body condition
   - Avoiding these areas until late spring may help make a difference in long-term health of the herds
2) Keep dogs under control

- Although your dog may not chase big game animals, its presence alone may be enough to cause animals to expend unnecessary energy they would not have otherwise used.

- Diverts time away from important behaviors such as feeding and resting.

- To big game animals, a dog is a predator and the impacts of free-running dogs on wintering game can be substantial.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT WINTERING BIG GAME?

3) Recreate responsibly and legally by only using open roads and trails

❖ Stay on designated routes since big game can be disturbed by humans & dogs up to 800 feet from a trail/road
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT WINTERING BIG GAME?

4) Respect seasonal closures, especially during extreme winters, to minimize mortality of big game

- Displaced mule deer may be forced to move from higher quality range to lower quality habitat

- Providing secure areas for these animals to weather the storms, without additional stress from human disturbance, can improve their chances to survive the winter
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT WINTERING BIG GAME?

5) If you see people or their dogs harassing mule deer, report it to Idaho Fish and Game

- Southwest Regional Office
  208-465-8465

- Boise Headquarters
  208-334-3700

6) Watch from a distance

- Binoculars & spotting scopes provide the ability to watch wildlife from great distances

- Use equipment from a distance & the animals will be better off.
Thank you!

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Krista Biorn
Boise River WMA
13000 E SH-21
Boise, ID 83709
208.334.2115
krista.biorn@idfg.idaho.gov
Neighbor/Audience Questions for Krista

• Wildlife Corridors
  – Question was posed to Krista about lowering speed limits at the Maynard Gulch wildlife corridor
    • Krista noted that this is an ACHD traffic decision and enforcement is a Boise Police responsibility. She also noted that a wildlife underpass at that location is not feasible (not enough room)
    • The future protections for this wildlife corridor will be more fully explored when the Gregerson property acquisition is realized which will require coordination between IDFG and the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands (IFPL)
    • Krista also noted that the wildlife roadkill counts have been steadily decreasing over the past years which indicates both reduced wildlife crossings as well as slower vehicle speeds as the Warm Springs Corridor has become more congested with residential development. Historic roadkill counts were 75-100 annually and recent years the count has been approximately half as many – 35 to 50 total each year.

• Winter Closure of the Boise Front Segment of the Boise River WMA
  – IDFG has a proposal to close the Boise Front each year to more fully protect wintering big game herds
    • That proposal has not moved forward with the management group that controls the WMA, primarily because the mule deer population has remained relatively stable despite the increased residential development
    • However, neighbors are encouraged to continue to educate new residents about the WMA rules and try to recreate away from the WMA during the winter months (December through April).
BVNA Transport News

Celeste Miller, BVNA Board
Boise City to ACHD
2019
BVNA Prioritized List of Projects to City
For possible inclusion in the next ACHD Integrated Five Year Work Plan

• Neighborhood Comments led to our prioritized list which we submitted to the City on 10 December.
BVNA Submission to City for ACHD Project(s)

1. Comprehensive improvements to Warm Springs Ave. between Eckert Road and Highway 21
2. Expedite bridge re-construction to facilitate a bike and pedestrian underpass under Eckert Rd. to Alta Harris Park.
3. Work with ITD, ACHD, Idaho Fish and Game, COMPASS, and other wildlife conservation stakeholders to identify funding opportunities to construct a wildlife underpass along Warm Springs Ave. between Maynard Gulch and Pet Haven Gulch.
WSA “Project” - #1 Priority - Summary


- Proposal/Vision:
  - Coordinate a **licensing agreement** with ACHD for the City’s use of expanded right-of-way for park amenities (e.g. vehicle parking, ecological infrastructure, streetscape landscaping) consistent with entering and using the new park and IBO.
  - Consider **realignment of WSA** in the expanded right of way previously utilized by ITD as a truck weigh station. Realignment would move vehicle traffic to the eastern edge of the existing ROW creating the opportunity to incorporate the vacated western portion of the ROW into city park planning. This realignment and curvilinear routing (or inclusion of chicane treatment) would serve to manage vehicle speeds which would directly enhance safety in an area of increased pedestrian and bicycle activity as well as reduce the risk of vehicle/wildlife collisions at the major wildlife corridors between the Boise River/Barber Pool Conservation Area and Boise River Wildlife Management Area.
  - Include **bikeable shoulders** through the corridor and middle turning lane access along WSA at the following intersections – Entrance to Shakespeare, Sky Bar St., E. Graybull St., Maynard St., Glacier Dr. (2 intersections of Glacier), Highland Valley Road, Teresa Dr. (including an enhanced crosswalk at Teresa), and Bryan St.

- This project would support the City’s Transportation Action Plan vision of a minor arterial (WSA) coursing through an established suburban neighborhood with extensive cultural and natural features (e.g. native American trading, mining, lumber, irrigation, and Oregon Trail history).
Neighborhood Investment Program

Heather Stegner, BVNA Board
Neighborhood Signage

Timeline
- RFPs for designer options closed in November
- BVNA has choice between 4 vendors
- Selection expected before Thanksgiving
- NAs can choose amongst the City’s designers
  - Specified that we must be given 3 designs to choose from

Identity Kit
- Neighborhood Association Logo
- Logo must be able to be adapted into a sign
- Stop sign topper(s)

Volunteers Welcome for Signage Committee Work!
- Select designer in January 2019
- Interested? BVNABoise@gmail.com (or talk with any BVNA Board member)
Committee to Select Sign Design Vendor

City of Boise Instructions to BVNA

• These proposals are CONFIDENTIAL – you may discuss them at a neighborhood association meeting, but members should not discuss with any outside parties.
  • Do NOT contact any of the firms directly for any reason; any questions must go through the City purchasing department.

• We will ask a representative from the neighborhood association to come to a formal evaluation meeting (Date/time TBD – likely January) to share the feedback on behalf of BVNA.
  • At that meeting you will have the opportunity to identify which, if any, of the firms BVNA would like to work with for this project.
  • If BVNA is dissatisfied with the firms that have responded to the SFRP the City will re-issue the RFP.
HISTORICAL FIRE LOCATIONS
(larger than 300 acres 1970-2007)

BVNA
Firewise

- Patrick Wilder, Spring Creek
  - Committee Lead
- Joni Mattia
  - Committee Member
Firewise Status (December)

• Patrick Wilder is our Committee Lead
  • Joni Mattia is working with Patrick to scope our neighborhood response to educate the neighborhood and reduce the risk of wildfire in the Barber Valley

• We want and need more committee members to tackle this critical neighborhood challenge
  • If you’re new to the neighborhood, the 2016 Table Rock fire was a great motivator
  • If you were here for the 2016 Table Rock fire, you know how vulnerable we are living adjacent to the Boise River Wildlife Management Area and large open spaces

• Ongoing coordination with various local stakeholders
  • Primary interface with the Warm Springs Mesa NA Firewise Chairman (Tom Burns)
  • Checkout the Mesa NA Firewise webpage: http://www.warmspringsmesa.org/firewise-new-7-11-17
Firewise – We need to renew commitment

• Idaho Firewise South Project Manager Brett Van Paepeghem
  • First Action: Update Environmental/Area Fire Risk assessment to prepare for a Community Firewise Designation.
  • The risk assessment will identify priorities and ideas for potential projects in the BVNA area as it relates to community fire management.

• Boise Fire Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Captain Jerry McAdams
  • Will assist in the Risk Assessment.
  • Followup Action: Complete Risk Assessment and then present to BVNA

• Objective: identify a prioritized list of potential risk reduction projects, actions homeowners can take and further educational efforts.

• References
  • https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA
Barber Valley Trails & Paths

Steve Moore, BVNA Board
Peace Valley Overlook Reserve

- Parks and Recreation Commission
  - Recommended Naming
  - Recommended Master Plan
  - Awaiting final City Council approval

- Surprise – hiker only

- Trail completed by 2 BVNA volunteers on 20 November!!
  - We Owe Steve Moore (BVNA Board) and Marty Wilson (Terraces Neighbor) a HUGE thank-you for their labors.
BVNA Board Election – 10 January 2019
We Want & Need Your Expertise & Energy!

• Bylaws state “at least 3 and no more than 10”: 2 year staggered terms
• Current representation from the following neighborhoods:
  • River Heights (2)
  • Dallas Harris Estates (3)
  • East Valley (1)
  • Wade (1)
  • Brian (1)
  • Business (1)

• 5 open seats

• Short (1 paragraph) bio before 1 Jan
• Ballots distributed online or at Jan BVNA meeting
Upcoming Events & Miscellaneous

- 10 January – Annual Meeting and Board Election
- February meeting is cancelled
- Harris Ranch SP-01 Amendment will be heard by Council in February
- Greenbelt Repairs in Marianne Williams Park
  - Reference Interactive map/webpage: https://parks.cityofboise.org/parks-and-facilities/parks/greenbelt/greenbelt-construction-projects/
  - The City advised at the meeting to expect repairs on the Greenbelt in Marianne Williams park to be accomplished in the May/June timeframe.
- Barber Valley Self-Storage Facility (3000 S. Wise Way)
  - Applicant has submitted a Special Exception to construct a self-storage facility
  - City Council will conduct a public hearing at 6pm on 8 January (3rd floor City Hall)
  - BVNA has submitted a letter of support for the proposed facility
Board Business

• BVNA Election Logistics
  • Meeting Logistics
  • Election process? Who shall submit bios?
  • BVNA Board Contact list – email & phone (past due action)

• Neighborhood Signage
  • Committee or Board Selection of vendor – review of RFPs

• Past/Overdue Business.
  • The BVNA by-laws designate January as the annual meeting due to the elections of the board members (Section 2.4 and 4.3). However, it does not establish a specific day for the annual meeting, such as the second Thursday of the month. Could BVNA amend the by-laws to designate that specific day at an upcoming meeting, per the standards in Section 7.1?
BOARD MEMBER ELECTION:
Board members invest an average of 4-6 hours/month interacting with the various government entities that impact the Barber Valley. Serve in any capacity that interests you (i.e. development proposals, transportation, emergency management, parks and trails, etc)...!!

- Provide a short bio describing your interests and background (one paragraph is great) to BVNABoise@gmail.com by January 1st.

Mark your calendars for our monthly meetings, the second Thursday of each month, usually in the Mill District clubhouse.

Finally...keep up with neighborhood activity via Facebook (search for Barber Valley Neighborhood Association), Nextdoor.com or email BVNABoise@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.