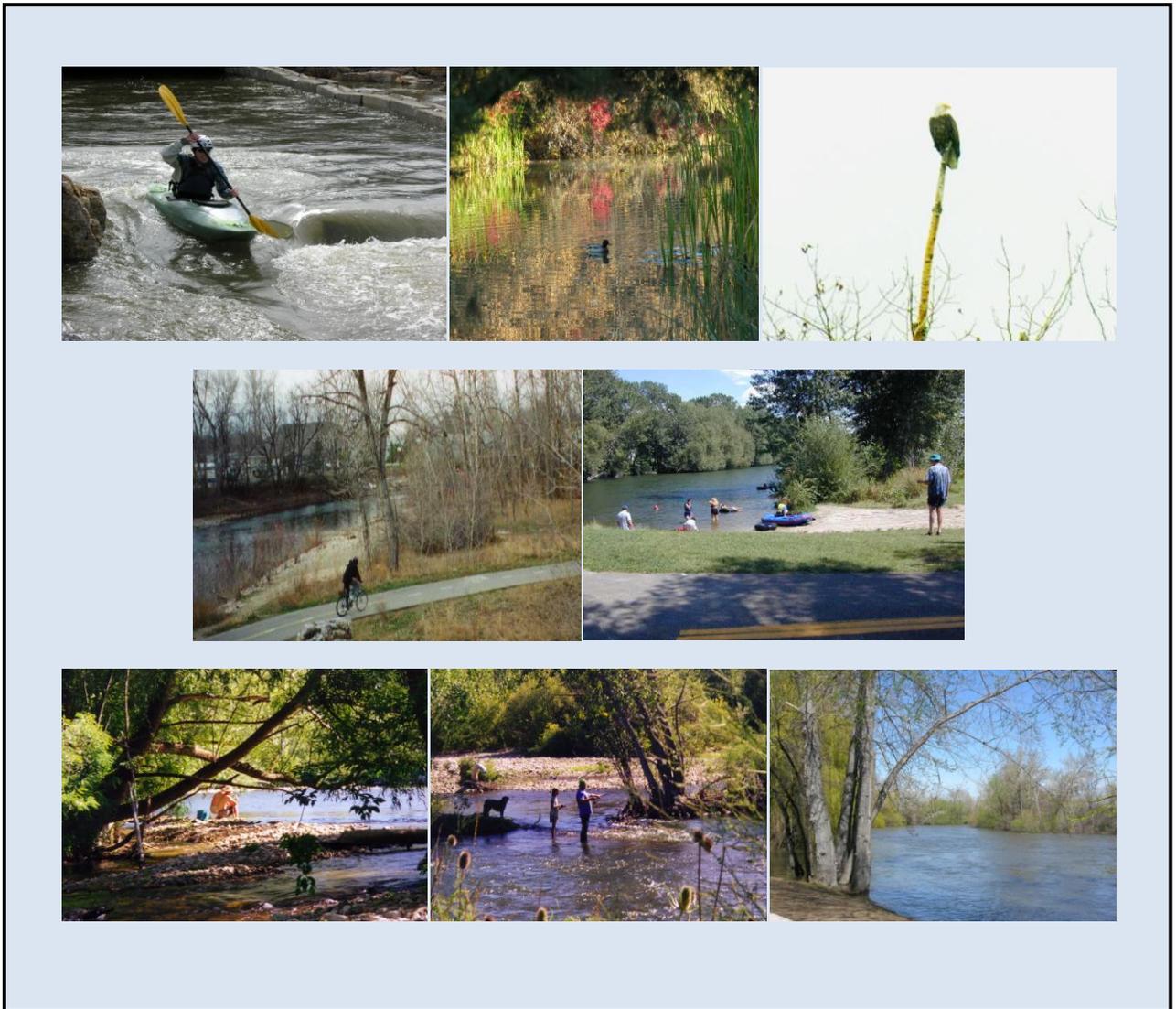


Garden City



Parks and Waterways Plan



Special Thanks

Thank you to the Contributors of the Garden City Master Parks and Pathways Plan adopted 4/12/2010 Resolution 924-10, The contributors include the Honorable John Evans, **Mayor**; **City Council**: Pam Beaumont; Elfreda Higgins; Mike Moser; Jeff Souza; **Parks and Waterways Committee**: Steve Bauer, Chairman; Lisa Schmidt; Bill Mullane; Susie Vader; Ray Westmoreland; Elfreda Higgins; Jeff Souza; **City Staff**: Delhie Block, Public Works Director; Jenah Thornborrow, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Christian Samples, Planner; Tina Fenske, GIS Administrator.

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Introduction

The vision identified in the 2006 Garden City Comprehensive Plan provides a new direction for city parks and facilities by establishing specific recommendations that include implementing a master parks plan, placing limits on private uses along the river, encouraging native landscaping near the river, providing for bike and pedestrian connectivity, and continuing to close gaps in the Greenbelt System.

In response to the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council established a Parks and Waterways Committee to preserve the natural assets of the Boise River inventory existing parks, pathways, and waterways; explore the role of parks, pathways, waterways and street rights-of-way in the City; and identify recommendations on how to meet the community vision. The Parks and Waterways Committee's work, along with other public involvement, resulted in the Garden City Master Parks and Pathways Plan.

Benefits of Parks and Waterways

The economic, social, health and environmental benefits parks provide to a community are well documented. Parks and waterways can bring investment into a city by serving as an amenity to attract new residents and businesses. Property owners close to parks are rewarded with increased property value. People living in close proximity to parks and multiuse pathways are more likely to exercise regularly because of the access to recreational activities. Furthermore, temperatures in urban environments are reduced by the green spaces that parks often provide, helping to negate the "heat island" effect. More importantly for Garden City, open spaces in parks can provide an economically astute way to absorb water in a flood event, reducing property destruction. In a wider sense, however, parks and waterways bring much more to a community. They provide recreational opportunities, bring the natural world into the city and allow people to enjoy open space, as well as view wildlife, plants, trees, and birds. Besides providing immeasurable ecological benefits, such as wildlife and riparian habitat, parks provide cultural, historical, and social opportunities and instill residents with a sense of community and pride.

Intent

This is a plan designed to provide standards for current parks, foresight for future parks and waterways, and guidance for informed, balanced policy and funding decisions. It is also a flexible document and should be amended as priorities and resources change over time. The plan is detailed through the following sections:

Section 1: Goals: Guide the development of plans, funding and ordinances.

Section 2: Existing Conditions: profiles existing parks and waterways systems in the City. It details an inventory of existing park infrastructure and the amenities each park provides. The impact of existing city code is discussed and improvements made to the Greenbelt since the last plans were explored.

Section 3: Future Opportunities: Discusses potential future parks needs and focuses on standards and locations for potential new parks.

Section 4: Goals and Action Steps: Identifies actions to accomplish these benchmarks. The recommendations are designed to be flexible and give policy makers multiple options to accomplish these goals.

Section 1: Goals

The City's vision for its parks, waterways, and waterways, as determined by the Comprehensive Plan, is to provide safe, clean and sustainable parks, pathways, and waterways that are accessible to everyone, foster a sense of community, and make the City a more vibrant, healthy place to live, work, and play. This plan has identified the following goals to implement this vision:

1. **Provide a range of recreational and educational opportunities accessible to everyone.** *Parks provide people with opportunities for recreation, personal growth, and learning. The City should help facilitate these experiences by providing flexible community, open and recreational spaces with multiple uses and purposes.*
2. **Establish and nurture community relationships to foster volunteerism and cooperation.** *Forging new partnerships while enhancing existing relationships is essential to fostering connections between the City's parks and citizens. The City should actively engage the public to encourage participation.*
3. **Promote environmental sustainability through education, preservation, and policy.** *The City should implement sustainable practices in park development and maintenance as well as preserve ecologically sensitive or beneficial land for future generations.*
4. **Increase accessibility to parks.** *Bringing people and parks together is vital for a healthy community. The City should consider increasing connectivity to parks through multi-modal pathways.*
5. **Focus on development and long term viability of parks and pathways.** *The City should seek out new opportunities for parks and completing multi-use pathways. Amenities and conditions at existing parks should be improved and maintained while being fiscally responsible.*

Section 2: Existing Conditions

Section 2A Administration

Funding

The purchase, maintenance and upkeep of the City's parks and Greenbelt are funded through the City's General Fund. Additional revenue sources that would generate a multi-faceted funding approach such as impact fees, reservation fees or grants is under development.

Garden City Code

The following Titles of Garden City Code govern or directly affect parks and pathways in Garden City:

Title 10: Public Parks

This code regulates conduct in parks and on the Greenbelt. The provisions include protection of park property, traffic rules, and rules for park usage and operation including allowed activities and operating hours. The ordinance also provides for the protection of trees on public property and for the mitigation of nuisance trees on private property. Title 10 does not have regulations for the design and placement of parks or the Greenbelt. The code also delegates the responsibility for maintaining the parks and Greenbelt to the Public Works Department.

Title 8: Land Use Development Code

Title 8 regulates residential and commercial development and uses throughout the City. While this title does not directly regulate park development, it has a significant impact on the location of new parks and existing park improvement. As the City's development code, Title 8 regulates the placement, density, and appearance of residential and commercial construction including tree, landscaping, and connectivity requirements, as well as for their uses. The location of future parks and amenities placed within a park or on the Greenbelt can be influenced by the proximity of residential uses to potential sites and by the density of nearby development. Attention should be placed upon locating parks where residential densities are greater and where there is a lack of parklands in relation to residences, particularly on the west side of the City.

Chapter 4, Section L contains provisions for common open space for developments. Although such open space would be privately held and maintained, these spaces should not be discounted, as they can provide recreation for their residents. The provisions also allow for such open space to be conveyed to the city to operate and maintain. This provision could be used to obtain new parkland in association with new development.

Procedures

The Parks and Waterways Committee meets regularly and provides input to Garden City Council, on parks, waterways, and rights-of-way plans and policies.

The City also has a Parks and Facilities Division that maintains the parks and Greenbelt. There are a number of ongoing enhancement programs in place. Examples include the annual planting of a tree on Arbor Day and the memorial bench program, which allows individuals or organizations to purchase a seating area to commemorate the memory of a friend or loved one.

Section 2B: Current Conditions: Existing Parks and Waterways

Parks and waterways provide a wealth of recreational activities for residents, including playgrounds, entertainment facilities, open space and opportunities for fishing and relaxation. The City owns and maintains seven parks within the city limits: River Pointe, Riverside, Westmoreland, Mystic Cove, Riverfront, Heron View and Waterfront Parks. Additionally, there is a nature path along the northwestern portion of the Boise River and the Boise River Greenbelt runs through the City on the north and the south side of the river. Also, there are six parks adjacent to the city limits that serve Garden City residents, but are currently operated by other jurisdictions. Lady Bird Park is located in Garden City’s Area of Impact but is in Ada County’s jurisdiction, and Boise River Park, Ester Simplot Park, Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve, Veteran’s Memorial Park and Willow Lane Athletic Complex are located in the City of Boise’s jurisdiction. Furthermore, Plantation Golf Course, while privately maintained, provides a large recreational open space within the City.

Dividing the parks into categories, based on the overall types of primary benefits each park provides, can provide guidance for future improvement decisions. Designating parks into multiple categories helps capture the essence of the park and can help preserve the identities and amenities each provides. This is especially important when considering park improvements and expansions. A park designated as a “Place to Be” has facilities which allow patrons to gather without engaging in a specific recreational activity. A “Natural and Beneficial” park contains wetlands or open space capable of absorbing flood waters. An “Educational” park contains points of interest designed to inform the public. A “Recreational” park contains facilities, such as play equipment, that are designed for specific recreational activities.

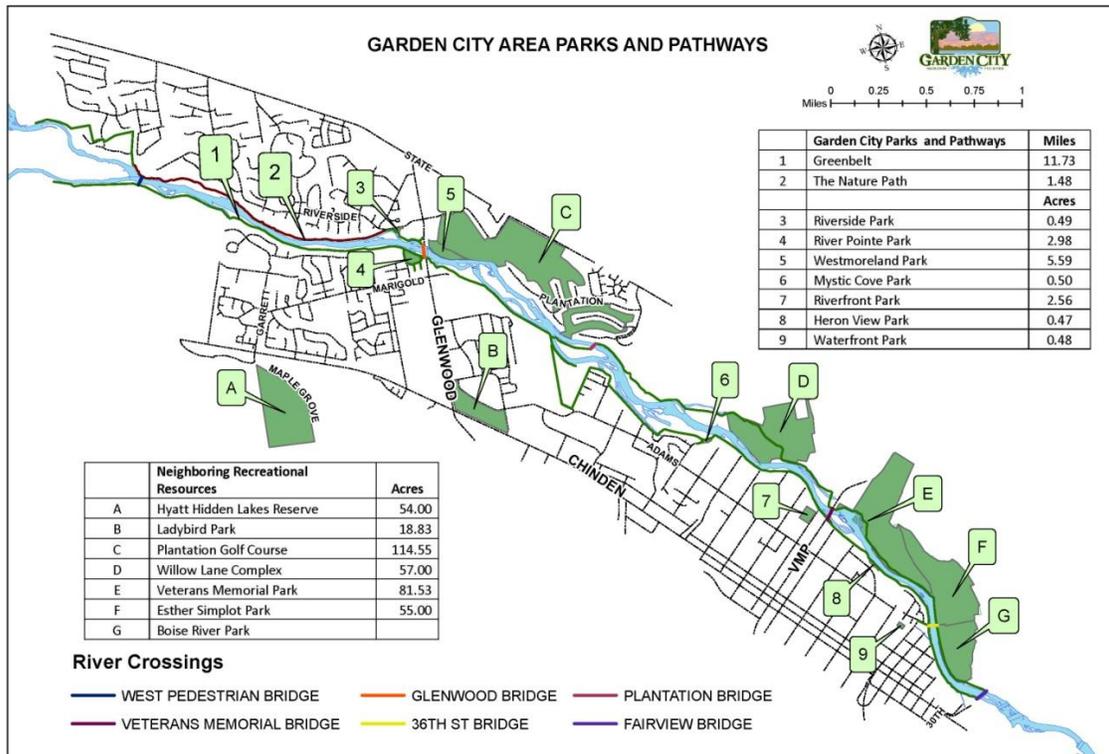
Table 1: Existing Parks and Pathways Recommended Categories

		Recommended Categories			
		Place to Be	Natural and Beneficial	Educational	Recreational
1	Greenbelt	X	X	X	X
2	Nature Path	X	X	X	
3	Riverside	X	X		x
4	River Pointe	X	X	X	
5	Westmoreland	X	X		X
6	Mystic Cove		X		
7	Riverfront				X
8	Heron View	X			
9	Waterfront	X	X		
Neighboring Resources					
A	Hyatt Hidden Lakes	City of Boise Jurisdiction			
B	Lady Bird Park	Ada County Jurisdiction			
C	Plantation Golf Course	Private Amenity			

D	Willow Lane Athletic Complex	City of Boise Jurisdiction
E	Veteran's Memorial	City of Boise Jurisdiction
F	Esther Simplot Park	City of Boise Jurisdiction
G	Boise River Park	City of Boise Jurisdiction

The parks are located throughout the City, mostly along or within walking distance of the Boise River Greenbelt (refer to Figure 1: Existing City Parks). The following discussion quickly identifies each of the parks and their assets.

Figure 1: Garden City Area Parks



Garden City Facilities

1. Garden City Greenbelt

The City recognizes the vital importance of the Boise River Greenbelt to the City's citizens and the region. The Greenbelt provides easy access to the Boise River and recreational activities. It connects the City to Boise City on the east side and runs to Eagle and Ada County on the west. The Greenbelt consists of a paved multi-modal pathway that serves for recreation and as a non-motorized transportation corridor on the south side of the river and an unpaved pedestrian-only nature trail north of the river west of Glenwood.

The Greenbelt is characterized by a gallery forest of black cottonwoods with an understory of native and introduced shrubs. The cottonwoods throughout the

Treasure Valley are threatened by the regulation of flows at the dams and encroachment by development along the river. The river's riparian zone supports a diversity of wildlife that adds to the enjoyment of the Greenbelt. Cottonwoods provide large woody debris for fish habitat and places for cavity-nesting birds like falcons, woodpeckers, and wood ducks. Visitors to the Greenbelt regularly see mink, great blue herons, ospreys, mergansers, mallard ducks, Canada geese and kingfishers. Fisherman access the river to catch rainbow trout, brown trout and the highly prized steelhead trout that are stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

2. Garden City Nature Path and Long Lake

The Nature Path is 8,000 linear feet of an unpaved pedestrian-only portion of the Greenbelt on the northwest side of the City. The Nature Path runs along the north bank of the Boise River approximately from Strawberry Glenn Road (immediately south of Riverside Drive) to the bike pedestrian *West Bridge* at the head of Eagle Island (roughly at North Ulmer Lane).

The Nature Path offers an opportunity to relieve some pressure on nature found along the Greenbelt by reducing through travel through the corridor. Additionally, the Nature Path increases Greenbelt access for users that may be intimidated or ill at ease on other sections of the Greenbelt by creating a calmer pathway for slow or unsteady walkers.

Long Lake is located along the Nature Path, with public access on its southern bank. However, access is limited by the lake's steep banks. Long Lake is not stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, but wildlife utilizes the lake as an ecologically sensitive habitat area.

3. Riverside Park and Riverside Pond

Located upstream from the Nature Path and adjacent to Riverside Pond, Riverside Park is ideally placed to provide park patrons outdoor recreation. Riverside Pond is regularly stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and has been designated a family friendly fishing area by the department. Besides fishing, the pond is frequented by waterfowl such as ducks and geese, creating a wildlife viewing area. The park's location provides direct access to the Greenbelt Path and Nature Pathway.

4. River Pointe Park

River Pointe Park reflects the City's motto "Nestled by the River" through its location saddled against the Boise River and the amenities it provides. The park has been designed to incorporate native plantings surrounding a small, wildlife rich pond and includes ample viewing areas throughout the year. The park's interpretive signage reflects the diversity of plant and animal species in the park and their impact on the environment. The park is perfectly located with easy access to Garden City Hall and Library and provides education in association with the Library's children's program. River Pointe Park's open space also serves as a floodplain resource.

5. Westmoreland Park

As the City's largest park, Westmoreland Park provides 5.6 acres of recreational opportunities near the Glenwood Bridge. The park has abundant open space and picnic areas spread throughout. With the park's adjacency to the Boise River, it is also used by anglers throughout the year to catch trout and steelhead. The park also

contains a wildlife preservation area off limits to foot traffic, which allows water fowl and other animals to live undisturbed. Westmoreland Park is a floodplain resource, with open space capable of absorbing flood waters.

6. Mystic Cove Park

Mystic Cove Park serves as a small recreational area located along the Greenbelt at the end of E. 48th St. The park's play equipment and open space provide recreation for all ages. The park is dotted with seating areas and its proximity to the Boise River provides wildlife viewing and nearby fishing opportunities. The park is served by parking along E. 48th St. and includes bicycle parking. Mystic Cove Park's location in the floodway makes it a potential resource to take on water during a flood event.

7. Riverfront Park

With its play equipment, open space, and seating areas, Riverfront Park is a great destination for children and adults alike. Located at the end of E. 42nd St. and next to the Boys and Girls Club of Ada County, the park is only a short walk to the Greenbelt. The park's amenities also include on-site parking, bicycle parking and restrooms. The park is also landscaped with shade trees enhancing the large open space area surrounding the play equipment. With its proximity to the Boise River, Riverfront Park is a potential floodplain resource.

8. Heron View Park

Nestled between the Garden City Senior Center on Reed St. and the Greenbelt, Heron View Park is the newest addition to the City's collection of parks. The park's amenities include on-site parking, picnic areas, open space, and shade trees. The park's location adjacent to the Senior Center and between residential and commercial uses diversifies the patronage this park receives. Its proximity to the Greenbelt enables accessibility to people across the City while its location along the Boise River has potential for river access and staging area for patrons of Boise's River Recreation Park.

9. Waterfront Park

Waterfront Park serves as a compact recreation area in the City. Located at 308 E. 36th St. behind the Learning Lab and adjacent to the Garden City Head Start, this park offers large shade trees, open space, and seating areas. The park's centrally located drainage swale presents a challenge to adding new amenities. Despite this issue, the park provides recreational opportunities to the community.

Boise River

The Boise River is a tributary of the Snake River and the watershed encompasses approximately 4,100 square miles. Garden City only covers four square land miles, yet there are about 6.7 miles of Boise River bank in Garden City. Garden City does not maintain the Boise River for recreational purposes.

Facilities Not Owned and Operated by Garden City

A. Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve

The Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve or Hyatt Wetlands is a 44-acre haven for birds, animals, and people. It is also the site of an innovative stormwater treatment project featuring sand filters, stormwater piping, a porous pavement parking lot, restroom, an

access bridge, pathways, public art, and educational kiosks. The park is a passive park where people can enjoy the natural amenities the reserve has to offer. The site includes wildlife habitat, trailheads, pathways, and features interactive educational elements and interpretive signs to inform the public about water resource impacts and water re-use opportunities within urban developments.

B. Lady Bird Park

Lady Bird Park, located at Expo Idaho serves Garden City residents. The 18 acre Lady Bird Park is located on the south side of the Fairgrounds. It includes open space, sports recreation areas, and seating areas. The Thurman Mill irrigation canal spans the north side of the park. The park is accessible from Glenwood, Chinden, or Adams streets. The Comprehensive Plan recommends the creation of a future, large scale park within the Expo Idaho site, should the site redevelop. Relocating Lady Bird Park northward to the Boise River floodplain would accomplish this goal as well as provide for floodplain protection opportunities.

C. Plantation Golf Course

While privately maintained, the 81 acre Plantation Golf Course is a large open space, recreational amenity within Garden City. The golf course also is almost located entirely in the floodplain and provides considerable property for potential flood waters. The City cannot maintain or provide enhancements for the park because it is a private facility.

D. Willow Lane Athletic Complex

Willow Lane Athletic Complex is a 57-acre, special use park, adjacent to the Boise River Greenbelt. The athletic complex features several softball fields, a soccer field, wetlands, playground, and dirt jump (bike) park.

E. Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is located just north of the City limits along Veteran's Memorial Parkway. It is operated by the City of Boise through a lease agreement with the State of Idaho. The park's amenities include play equipment, fishing, picnic areas and memorials to honor veterans who have served in the military. The park is accessible from Veteran's Memorial Parkway Bridge for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles.

F. Esther Simplot Park

Esther Simplot Park is a 55-acre site encompassing approximately 23 acres of ponds suitable for fishing, wading and swimming just across the 36th Street bike and pedestrian bridge from Garden City.

Park features include trails, docks, wetlands, boardwalks, shelters, grassy open areas, a playground, bridges and restrooms. A meandering stream will connect the park's two ponds with Quinn's Pond.

Not only does this park serve Garden City residents as a park, this park will be an incredible asset to Garden City's flood capacity as it is developed in a manner that will direct flood water through the park rather than to the already developed Garden City side in case of a flooding event.

G. Boise River Park

The Boise River Park is located in the Boise River and adjacent ponds between 34th Street in Garden City past Veteran's Pond. This park caters to river sports ranging from kayaking to boogie boarding and surfing.

Phase I, which includes the Harry W. Morrison Dam with wave shaper and viewing area off of the Boise Greenbelt, was opened in 2012. Phase II, which will include features in the river and along the shoreline for 1/2 mile downstream from the dam, will be completed as funds are raised for the project.

Although located in the City of Boise, the Boise River Park serves Garden City residents and is connected by 36th Street bike and pedestrian bridge crossing the river.

Section 2C: Current Conditions: Preservation and Enhancement Recommendations for Existing Parks and Waterways

Amenities

Boise River Preservation

The Boise River is Garden City’s most valuable asset. Aside from limited access points to the river for emergency and recreational purposes, the river should be maintained as a natural amenity. Garden City ordinances that require enhanced setbacks from the river and natural vegetation adjacent to the river should remain. The benefits of the Boise River should not be isolated to benefit only the properties directly adjacent to the river. Where development is allowed adjacent to the river, developments that constrain the use of, access to, or privatize the river should be limited. Development that facilitates public access to and public use of the river is more appropriate in order to allow everyone to enjoy the amenity.

Enhancement Recommendations for Existing Parks and Waterways

The City can offer patrons a sense of stability by providing a standard set of amenities in all park facilities, such as waste receptacles and dog waste stations. This can reduce costs and streamline facility management. Standardization of these amenities enables the City to calculate costs prior to selecting new park locations or improving existing facilities.

Implementation should be conducted by setting standards to retrofit existing parks and implement in new parks. However, when selecting a location for each amenity, their proximity from each other should be considered. Because of the linear nature of the Greenbelt, standardization of Greenbelt amenities should be based on location, population, and usage along the pathway. Special attention should be given to entry points along the Greenbelt as well as distances between amenities and whether a park is adjoining the Greenbelt. Amenity standardization should take compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into consideration. The below table identifies amenities that are deficient, and makes a recommendation for improvements.

		Recommended Improvements								
		Restroom	Dog Waste Station	Seating	Shade Trees	Parking	Connectivity or access to facility	Play Equipment	Access to River	Other
1	Greenbelt		X	X		X	X		X	Drinking fountain
2	Nature Path					X	X			
3	River Pointe	X	X							
4	Riverside	X	X				X			
5	Westmoreland	X	X				X		X	Interpretive signage to display the parks

										natural features
6	Mystic Cove				X	X*				*Parking should be off street
7	Riverfront									
8	Heron View	X	X	X	X					Drinking fountain; changing room
9	Waterfront									
A	Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve	<i>Increase bike and pedestrian connectivity to the reserve</i>								
B	Lady Bird Park	<i>Not in Garden City Jurisdiction; however, the City recommends that the park be relocated to the floodplain</i>								
C	Plantation Golf Course	<i>Private Amenity</i>								
D	Willow Lane Athletic Complex	<i>Increase bike and pedestrian connectivity to the complex</i>								
E	Veteran's Memorial	<i>Not in Garden City's Jurisdiction</i>								
F	Esther Simplot Park	<i>Parking in Garden City needed; potentially pocket parking or on street</i>								
G	Boise River Park	<i>Parking in Garden City needed; potentially pocket parking or on street</i>								

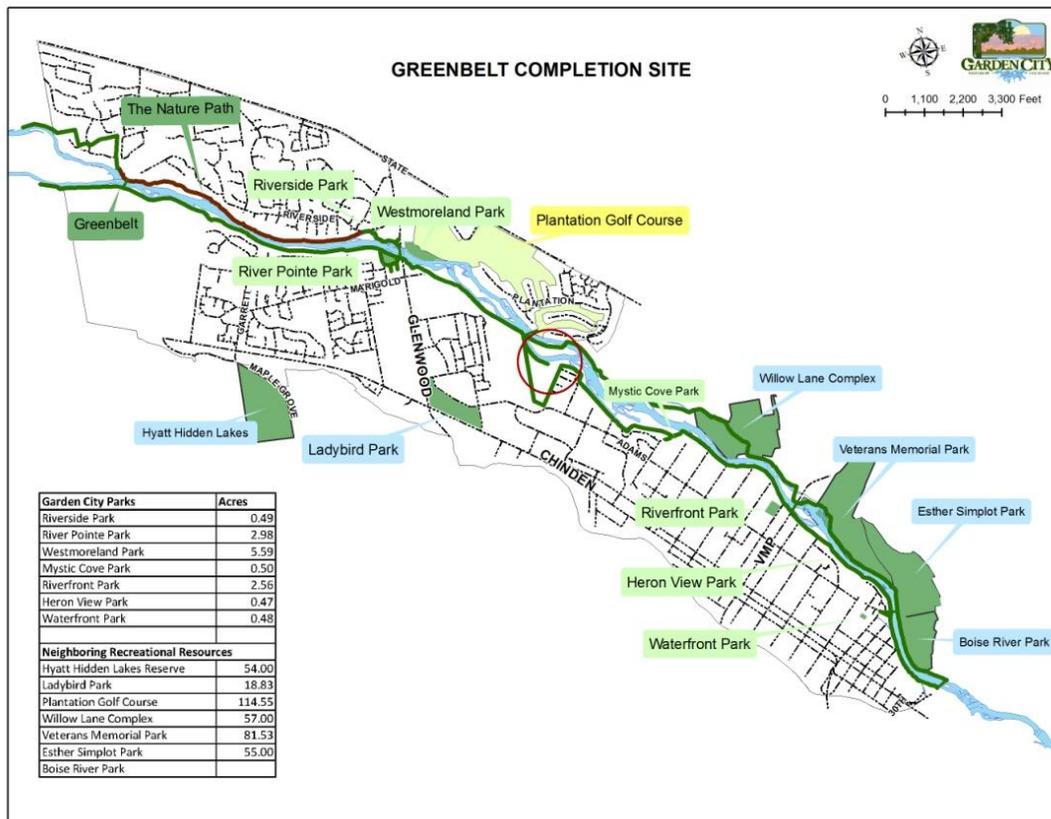
Expansions of Existing Facilities

In addition to the recommended improvements there are expansions to existing facilities that would make maximize the benefit of the existing facilities. These facilities include completion of the (Boise River) Greenbelt, addition of river access points and expansion of Riverside Park.

Greenbelt Completion

Connecting the Greenbelt with adjoining jurisdictions is a vital goal for the City and its residents.

Figure 2: Greenbelt Completion Sites



Although most of the Greenbelt was completed in accordance with the 1990 Plan, a gap remains at 52nd St. Currently, users must get off at this point and detour through 52nd and Remington streets to reconnect to the Greenbelt along the property between Kent and Glenwood. There are several options that would result in completing this connection. Plantation Island could be annexed into the City, and a bridge from the Greenbelt at 52nd Street could connect the island to the southern pathway system. Purchase of impeding properties could be considered, but it may be cost prohibitive. A pathway between the existing residences and the river may be a possible location for a Greenbelt that would likely be submerged during high water events. Lastly, an easement through nearby properties should be considered to provide a closer connection to the Greenbelt, especially as these properties redevelop. The City should actively negotiate with nearby property owners to secure these easements.

Creating a sense of place along the Greenbelt is important to establish a lasting connection between patrons and the pathway. Delineating the Greenbelt into sections should be considered as a method of creating place, as patrons would be more aware of significant locations along the pathway. This may be achieved through minimal interpretive signage documenting criteria such as historic sites and unique natural

features. Utilizing unique public art and pedestrian furniture along the pathway would also contribute to making portions of the Greenbelt stand out from others. Dividing the Greenbelt by Comprehensive Plan designations may also provide the City an opportunity to customize amenities along the pathway to reflect the spirit of each designation.

Greenbelt Access at 42nd Street

While there is a Greenbelt access at 42nd Street, it crosses a private parking lot and is not well defined. With the number of children in the area due to the park, Boys and Girls Club, and Anser, the City has been asked to better define the access and separate the access from vehicles. This will likely require reconfiguration of the parking lot.

Road Greenbelt Interface Improvements

Where roadways connect with the greenbelt, improvements should be made to ensure that the interface of the improvements provide for a safe and effective transition for the bicycles and pedestrians to the roadway. Some locations may be appropriate for pocket parking lots.

Greenbelt and Nature Path Access

The Greenbelt and Nature Path should be easily accessible to all public and for emergency services. Where there are long stretches of Greenbelt or Nature Path without access points, new access points should be added if and where feasible. The targeted length of access point intervals is a quarter of a mile or less in distance from one another.

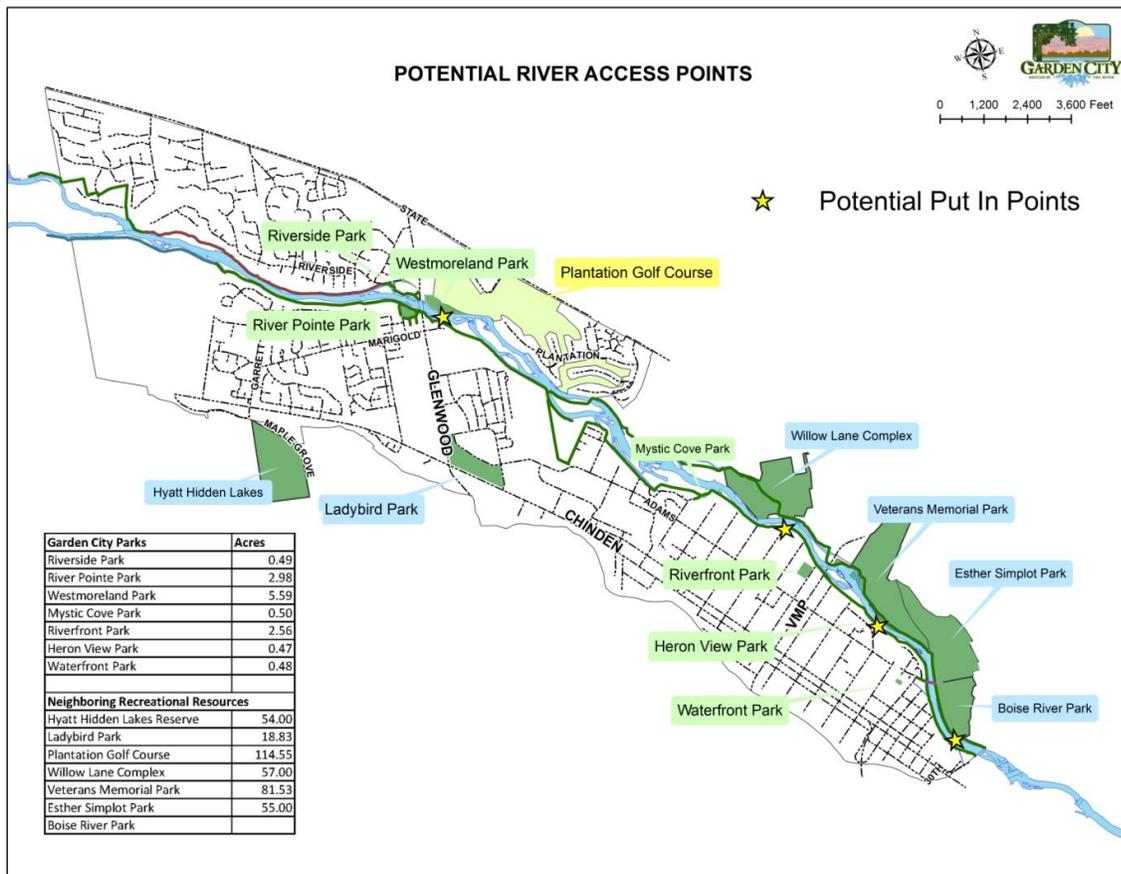
Gateway Signage

Gateway signs are located on the Greenbelt at the gateways into Garden City or Garden City neighborhoods. These signs are large enough for a statement, and may be landscaped.

River Access Points

With the City's proximity to the Boise River and the recreational opportunities it offers, identifying potential suitable access points for non-motorized river floatation is critical. Designating points of entry helps to promote river floating in the city, implement potential improvements at these sites, and by recommending specific locations, users have easier access to the river. These points can also serve as emergency access points by first responders. Amenities, such as trash and recycling facilities, restrooms and changing rooms, and bicycle parking, should be considered as nearby future improvements. The access points were chosen based on their ease of use, ability to withstand erosion from foot traffic, and proximity to available parking. Each of these points has limited parking availability, so additional parking spaces should be considered as an improvement.

Figure 3: Potential Access Points



Access Point 1: Westmoreland Park Access Point

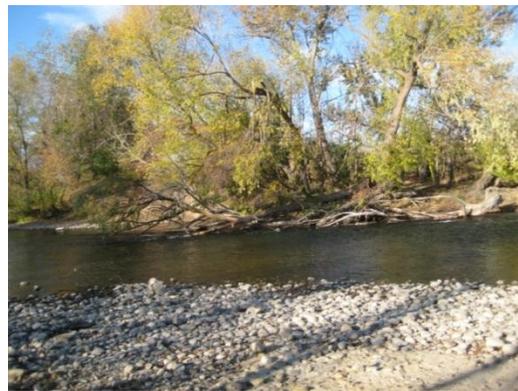
Description: This access point consists of an easy sloping grade consisting of rocks and river sediment. The park provides parking facilities to both park users and boaters. Vehicle access is discouraged by boulders placed within the pathway leading to the access point. This point could serve as an exit point for users entering from the Willowlane Athletic Complex or as an entry point for anglers or for floating to locations further downstream. Additional parking needs can be accommodated by the Ada County Greenbelt parking lot across the river from the park.



Access Point 2:

City owned property at the end of E. 44th St. at the Greenbelt.

Description: The gentle gradient, consisting of gravel and cobble, can sustain normal foot traffic associated with non-motorized floating. Direct vehicle access is prohibited by natural vegetation. On-street parking is available on E. 44th St., but in the event of overflow parking, cross-parking agreements should be considered for nearby private properties.



Access Point 3: Heron View Park

Description: The City owns 3856 Reed Street, the property where the Senior Center is located. This property is adjacent to the south bank of the Boise River just downstream of Phase II of the Boise River Park. This location could serve as a river access takeout point, restroom and changing facility, and provide for additional parking.

Access Point 4: Greenbelt upstream from the Boise River Park.

Description: This location was selected to lessen degradation to river banks near the Boise River Park. The location is above the Thurman Mill Irrigation Diversion, which is utilized as a wave maker. This location offers access to the park on the Garden City side of the river. Parking should be secured upstream of the Boise River Park, as patrons will utilize it and paddling upstream is not likely.

Park Expansion

Riverside Park Expansion

Riverside Park's amenities and proximity to the Greenbelt and residences make it a desirable place for riparian recreation. The adjoining Riverside pond is a popular fishing destination for all levels of anglers. In recent years the pond has been equipped with ADA accessible docks and improved parking.

Figure 4: Riverside Park Expansion



The City owns the property parcels S0524438900 and S0525120600 identified in red in Figure 4. Complete access to the pond is important to citizens and all options should be explored. A Greenbelt or bike path connection from Glenwood to Strawberry Glenn may be appropriate. The pathway could be split to allow for a more rustic experience and an improved path for commuters. Idaho Transportation Department owns right-of-way between Glenwood Street and the adjacent park. This right-of-way could serve as a part of the park, provided an appropriate right-of-way license agreement is approved. Offsite parking may also be appropriate.

Rights-of-Way Improvements

Safe and comfortable access for all modes of transportation is important, and is part of the connectivity of public spaces. The City has adopted policies requiring detached sidewalks with tree buffers adjacent to public rights-of-way. There are a number of streets, particularly in the east end of the City that do not contain or contain partial sidewalk. Anytime that this system can be improved, either through public or private efforts, it is advantageous.

ACHD allows for bike paths or shared bike ways on some public streets. The below recommendations include considerations to destination locations, regional connectivity, and safe routes to schools.

Safety Crossing of Chinden at 33rd Street

A safety crossing at Chinden and 33rd would provide a safe and comfortable crossing of Chinden to connect both sides of Chinden to the City's Live Work Create hub. This connection also provides a direct connection to the Greenbelt.

Bike Pathway Connection 43rd and Ustick to 42nd and Chinden

There is an informal pathway that is currently utilized as a bike and pedestrian connection at 43rd Street and Ustick. Much of the bike pedestrian traffic, including Anser School students, then crosses Chinden at 42nd Street. The connection at 43rd and Ustick should be improved and formalized with a designated bike path on 43rd Street to Chinden with a formalized comfortable bike pedestrian crossing. This will serve as a regional connection for commuters, provide a safe route to school, as well as provide access to the neighborhood commercial node at 42nd Street.

Bike Pathway Connection through Plantation Subdivision

Providing a connection through Plantation would facilitate a Safe Route to School for students south of the Boise River or east of Plantation Golf Course. This would necessitate a crossing of State Street at Ellen's Ferry Drive. The crossing will also facilitate interaction between Boise and Garden City residences and businesses. This connection dovetails with Northwest Boise Walking and Biking Plan.

Bike Pathway Connection and Crossing of State and Glenwood

Garden City receives consistent feedback that State Street causes a barrier for Garden City students to access their schools in Northwest Boise without having to be driven. Parents have remarked that utilizing Bogart to access Shadow Hills Elementary or Riverglen Jr. High is safer, yet for some, it is notably further than the intersection at Gary Lane. The redesign of the intersection of Glenwood and State Street may alleviate this concern. Garden City would also encourage exploring an additional bike connection from Saxton Dr. to Gary Lane that could eventually connect to Strawberry Glenn south of State Street. This bike path aligns with the VRT stop at Saxton Dr.

Bike Pathway Connection and Crossing of Chinden and Coffey Street

The connection of Mountain View and Coffey Street would allow for movement from the bench, including Capital High School students (via Morton Street) to Greenbelt access.

Bike Pathway Connection on Garrett

Currently Garrett Street is very dangerous for pedestrians and bikers. Garrett is a bike connection between the Greenbelt and Maple Grove, including the West Bridge river crossing. Improvements should be completed on Garrett to accommodate children utilizing the public school bus system (including completing the roughly 230' of missing sidewalk on the west side of Garrett), ensuring locations to walk off the road and an identifiable location out of the weather to wait for buses, and a safe bike route.

Section 3: Future Opportunities

As Garden City has grown, so has the need to identify potential future parks and improvements. The parks under City control contain 13.2 acres of park land, or over one acre per every 1,000 residents.

Artisan Path

There have been multiple requests from business owners, including a group of artists to identify a way where patrons of one business can feel comfortable visiting their business and moving to the next business via walking or biking. The pathway could include adjacent art and informational signage. The pathway could be created in existing rights-of-way and could be achieved with minimal cost; however, it may require a paradigm shift that not all accesses need to be primarily vehicular in nature.

Multiuse Path Waterways

Multiuse paths along the irrigation ditches and drainage ditches in Garden City, specifically Settlers Canal and Thurman Mill, could be options to further connectivity through the Garden City.

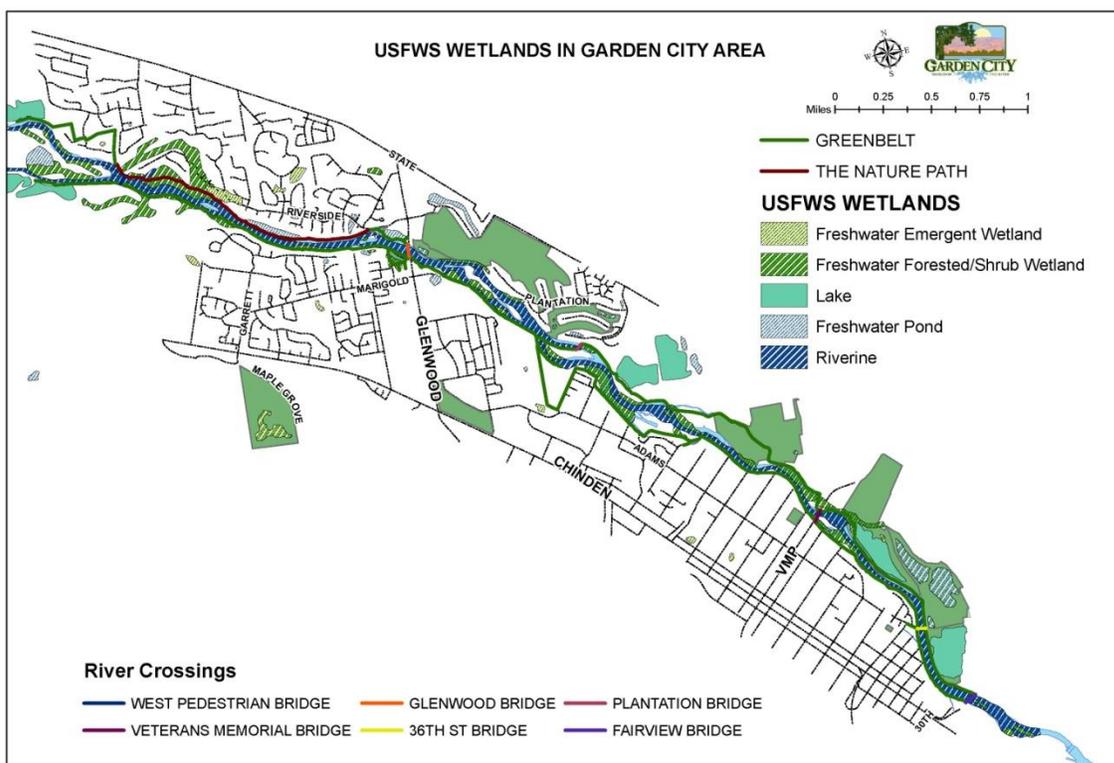
Parks and Pathway Standards

The City should engage in the development of parks adjoining the City. Additionally, and more principally, the City should continue to develop and expand parks and facilities to better serve its residents and meet the vision established by the Comprehensive Plan. Criteria to rate potential new park land should be developed to maximize the benefits of each purchase by ensuring purchases are fiscally responsible and promote the sustainability and protection of the City's natural and built assets. Such criteria should include historical, cultural, or social significance; esthetics; ecological importance; opportunities for recreation or community events; flood zone; stormwater; safety; maintenance; and connectivity to residents and public. Specific amenities that could be included are dog waste stations, trash receptacles, and seating areas.

Protection of Wetlands and Natural Habitat

Sustainability, or the concept that a resource or facility should be managed to allow its use for future generations, can be applied to protecting Garden City’s natural habitat areas, which have a close connection with the parks and the Greenbelt. Locating parks and implementing sustainable parks and pathway maintenance policies can ensure the healthy enjoyment of these facilities for years to come. Preserving natural habitat areas in the City ensures the continued presence of plants and wildlife and maintains these natural places for future generations. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified natural habitat locations within the City:

Figure 7: Garden City Natural Habitat and Wetlands



The City owns property with identified natural habitat, which preserves them from future development. The Area of Impact on the west side of the City has significant areas identified as natural habitat. The City should preserve these areas through direct purchase and development of new parks or integration into existing parks or the City could obtain conservation easements for these habitat areas during new development or redevelopment of affected property.

Floodplain Capacity

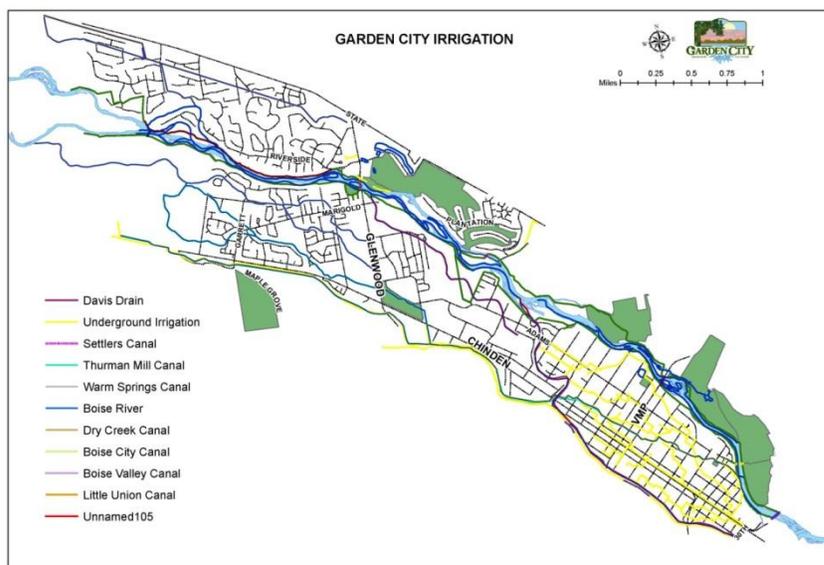
The Boise River, while important to the City’s growth, may be subject to occasional flooding. According to data provided by the 2016 update to the National Flood Insurance Program Flood Insurance Rate Map, roughly three quarters of the City is maybe within the 100-Year Flood Zone or the higher risk floodway:

The role parks can play in flood protection is important. These open spaces serve as beneficial land by providing for the absorption of flood waters. By absorbing this water on parkland, the amount of water diverted to homes and businesses can be reduced, which may reduce potential flood damages. The value of park land in flood protection should be considered when locating future parks or expanding existing facilities to ensure economic and environmental sustainability.

Irrigation

Irrigation waterways can contribute to the sustainable operation of parks. By utilizing irrigation water to maintain parks, pressure on the city’s water system is reduced, thereby saving water for homes and businesses. Irrigation waterways can be utilized as an amenity to enhance the natural look of a park. Irrigation and drainage areas also provide pathway opportunities.

Figure 9: Garden City Irrigation



Drainage

Parks can also contribute to providing adequate drainage throughout the City. As indicated previously, parks located within the flood plain can absorb water during a flood event. A park located adjacent to a drainage ditch, such as the Davis Drain, roadways, or even a drainage system for private runoff can provide a similar benefit to storm water during a rain event. Utilizing drainage ditches as criteria for new park location or existing park location can contribute to a more adequate, city wide drainage system.

Social Benefits

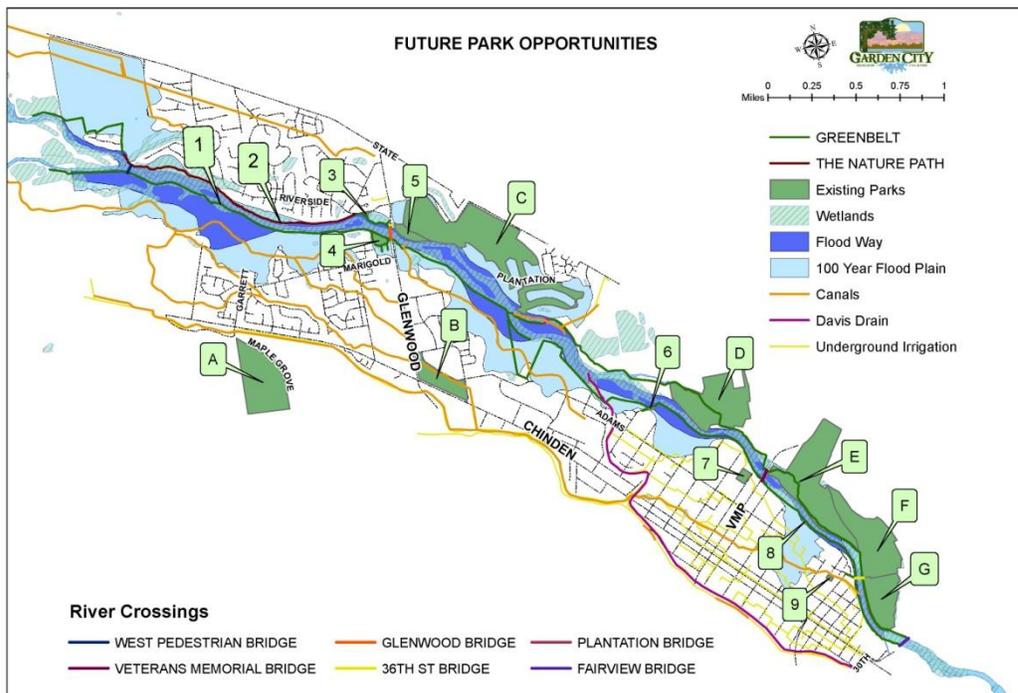
An increasingly popular method of determining the true cost pricing of public administration decisions is known as the “triple bottom line”— a cost benefit analysis of accurately looking at economic, ecologic, and social capital— the pillars of sustainability. The term social equity implies that everyone has, among other things, access to resources. The commonly documented benefits of increased social equity include decreased spending on prisons, security enforcement, welfare, and other social services while creating new potential markets.

Parks and pathways are a resource that can provide social benefits to city residents as well as the public throughout the community. However, in Garden City’s disproportionately large sector of underprivileged citizens, access to parks may produce more concentrated benefits. Parks have been attributed to promoting social equity through access to affordable recreational activities and improved environmental health which reduces direct and indirect costs associated with long term health ailments. Moreover, parks are also widely noted for fostering a sense of place, which is linked to reduction in poverty and increase of education and community involvement, all of which are linked to reduction in crime.

Future Parks Map

As already noted in this plan, when identifying future locations for future parks, flood capacity, protection of wetlands and natural habitat areas, connectivity, irrigation, social equity and economic reasonability should all be taken into consideration. Future park land would be acquired as gifts from patrons or purchased when resources permit. The following Future Parks Planning Map includes data from the following: the National Flood Insurance Rate Map, Fish and Wildlife wetland and natural habitat, existing roads and planned roads and pathways, drainage, and known irrigation canals and ditches. Reviewing these data together can assist in determining the most beneficial locations for future parks.

Figure 11: Future Park Opportunities Map



Typically parks are located on property already owned by the City or on property that has been gifted to the City. If the City were to seek property for additional parks wetlands and habitat are the highest priorities for future acquisitions, as they are the most significant properties to preserve from a sustainability standpoint. Preservation

of the community's wetlands habitat acts as a buffer to the ground water from contaminants, preserves the most biologically diverse property and is crucial for flood capacity.

The land that is almost equally important to procure for future parks are the properties located in the floodplain. As noted in the section related to floodplain, maintaining open spaces in areas that are subject to flooding can reduce residential and commercial structure damage and loss significantly in event of a flood. Furthermore, leaving open or reopening property in the floodplain diminishes risk of a property takings suit by a property owner downstream claiming that reduction in upstream capacity caused downstream flooding.

A third essential criteria includes proximity to irrigation and drainage ditches and canals so that potable water is not utilized in the maintenance of the parks property, and the parks may potentially be utilized for drainage capacity. Additionally, locating along the irrigation and drainage easements enhances opportunities for the existing easements to be modified to couple as pathway easements, increasing connectivity opportunities.

Other considerations when exploring new park acquisitions or existing park expansions not identified in the above map are additional economic implications, proximity to the parks and type of intended park.

Section 4: Goals and Action Steps

This section is intended to lay out guidelines designed to offer multiple options when considering park and Greenbelt policy decisions.

1. Goal: Provide a range of recreational and educational opportunities accessible to everyone.

Action Step: Create individual design and maintenance plans for new and existing parks. When developing master park plans, seek out public input and involvement through community outreach.

Action Step: Standardize park and Greenbelt amenities based on criteria, including the size of the park and proximity of the park or Greenbelt to residential development.

Action Step: Create landscaping standards that emphasize native landscaping and Xeriscaping, wherever possible in a park. Consider landscaping standards that beautify a park, but are cost effective to maintain. Incorporate recreational green space designs that promote multi-use recreational opportunities.

Action Step: Incorporate safety and security into park designs.

2. Goal: Establish and nurture community relationships to foster volunteerism and cooperation.

Action Step: Provide an ongoing mechanism that ensures that public input is actively sought and considered in all major decisions concerning Garden City parks and pathways.

Action Step: Publish upcoming events and activities in the Garden City Newsletter.

Action Step: Continue to encourage lectures to speak about parks, pathways, and river issues, such as the Boise River Lecture Series.

Action Step: Increase park and pathway information on the Garden City Website. Provide links to outdoor activities within Garden City and adjoining jurisdictions. Implement an online parks reservation system through the site.

Action Step: Establish a parks volunteer program or appoint a volunteer coordinator to serve as a liaison between the City and partners.

Action Step: Negotiate partnerships with jurisdictions to work together on projects, knowledge sharing and funding opportunities.

3. Goal: Promote environmental sustainability through education, preservation, and policy.

Action Step: Establish a 70' minimum setback from the 6500 cfs line prohibiting development and a "no-mow" zone along Boise River. Under unusual circumstances the City Council may consider adjusting the setback. Allow only native plantings within the setback.

Action Step: Create park designs and maintenance standards which are low to no impact on the environment and preserve native habitat.

Action Step: Consider new park locations that take sustainable placement into consideration, including amount of sunlight, and access to irrigation water.

Action Step: Identify critical natural and riparian amenities through a natural resource study and preserve them. Incorporate natural preservation requirements into future development ordinances.

Action Step: Integrate sustainable practices into parks and pathways development and maintenance.

Action Step: Incorporate fiscal responsibility into maintenance practices.

Action Step: Install interpretive signage to highlight significant or historic features of parks.

Action Step: Require dedication of public open space during redevelopment.

Action Step: Adopt maintenance policies and practices that utilize low water, native plant species into new and existing landscaping, and selecting herbicides and pesticides that do not have a detrimental impact to the public and natural habitat areas.

Action Step: Conducting a comprehensive analysis of existing policies to further integrate sustainable practices.

4. Goal: Increase accessibility

Action Step: Establish pathways along irrigation easements or other locations where existing or future easements may be utilized for dual purposes.

Action Step: Add identifiable directional signage for bikes, pedestrians and motorists, especially for Greenbelt access points.

Action Step: Create pocket parking opportunities for people to easily access the Greenbelt.

Action Step: Create pathway design standards, including landscaping, lighting, paving, drainage. Consider placing interpretive signage along significant locations or natural features. Consolidate regulatory signage to reduce visual clutter.

5. Goal: Focus on development and long term viability of parks and pathways.

Action Step: Continue to provide funding from general revenues for parks and Greenbelt.

Action Step: Consider assessing a park impact fee on new residential development or redevelopment to pay for new park or Greenbelt acquisitions or capital improvements

Action Step: Work with citizen partners to form a non-profit organization dedicated to raising parks and pathway revenue.

Action Step: Establish a comprehensive memorial program designed to provide improvement revenue.

Action Step: Explore the feasibility of a parks bond to pay for significant parks and Greenbelt improvements and acquisitions.

Action Step: Implement user fees for park reservations or activities. Develop park amenities capable of attracting revenue.

Action Step: Implement a parks satisfaction survey every five to ten years to solicit citizen input and identify potential parks and Greenbelt needs.

Action Step: Conduct a facilities assessment to identify existing park and Greenbelt conditions.